

Lutheran Church of the Cross
1004 E Highland Acres Rd.
Bismarck ND 58501

Phone: 223-1001

Website: www.churchofthecross.org

Winter Hours. Mon.– Thursday 8–4pm Fri 8 to noon

Summer Office Hours: Mon.- Fri. 8:00 am—noon

Staff:

Lisa Ahlness, **Pastor**

Cell: 220.9011 / lisaahlness@hotmail.com

Connie Werner, **Secretary** cell 400.5852

Office 223-1001 / churchsecretary@midconetwork.com

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400-2087/ theriver@midconetwork.com

Joel Crane, **Wednesday Worship Coordinator**

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Gerri Sarsten, Joel and Jan Gilbertson, Beth Greff **Accompanists**

2023 Church Council Members

Mike Humann, President mknhumann@bis.midco.net 527.3376

Janice Martin, Vice President msladyj2000@gmail.com 471.5600

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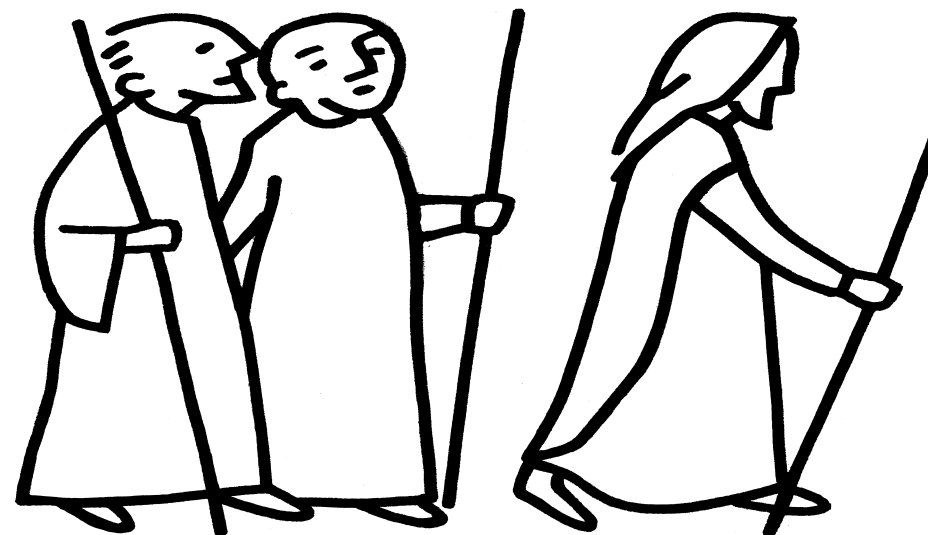
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“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross

January 14, 2024

10:00am

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
“The River” Worship Service
January 14, 2024

WE COME TOGETHER

You are invited to sing with the Worship Team as we gather for worship. All songs and worship liturgy will be projected on the screens for your use.

PRELUDE MUSIC

“Abide With Me” ELW 629, “Mighty to Save”, “Here in the House of the Lord”

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: *“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name:*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]

¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the Lord called, “Samuel! Samuel!” and he said, “Here I am!” ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call; lie down again.” So he went and lay down. ⁶The Lord called again, “Samuel!” Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call, my son; lie down again.” ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said,

Coffee hosts, dishwashers, and Wednesday evening meal hosts needed going forward.

The annual **Men’s Retreat at Camp of the Cross** is coming up on Jan 26th. It is a great and wonderful time for reflection and bonding with fellow Christian men (primarily from LCC). This year we will be using the book “Just Like Jesus” by Max Lucado as a study guide. It will be led by Cory Taylor.

You can register on-line at <https://www.campofthecross.com> or, if you prefer, just give the camp a call at (701) 337-2246. The registration fee for the retreat, lodging and meals is \$90.00.

I sincerely commend this retreat to all men (of any age). Feel free to talk with some of the past attendees for more details or call and talk with Janie (701)301-9917. We’d love to see you there! Here’s the tentative agenda:

Friday:

5:00 - 7:00 pm Registration & hors d’oeuvres at the Fellowship Center

7:00 pm Introductions & Bible study

8:30 pm Evening Activity

Saturday:

8:00 am Breakfast

9:00 am Bible study

10:30 am Break

12:00 pm Lunch

1:00 pm Service Project

4:00 pm Break

5:30 pm Supper

6:30 pm Bible study

8:00 pm Worship

Sunday:

8:00 am Breakfast

9:00 am Bible study

10:30 am Service Project

12:00 pm Lunch & Farewell

PRICING: \$90/person - Retreat center

Opportunities to Serve Aboard!

Lists are being organized for 2024 for many ways to serve. Barb Norby is our captain for the many worship jobs. If you would like to help by being a greeter, an usher, a scripture reader, or a communion assistant, she is the one to call. Barb’s number is 701-220-4058. These are not strenuous jobs, but are definitely important! Let us know of your willingness to serve.

If you would like to try out serving on the production team (running the projection slides, livestreaming, or assisting with the sound board, let Beth Greff know. Again, not strenuous but very important! Appropriate training is supplied. Best way to reach Beth is her email: theriver@midconetwork.com, or let the office know.

Heat the Church The calendar has been placed on the round table in the narthex. December through February is \$25 day. March \$10 Choose the date(s) that have special meaning in the lives of your families. Donate in the memory of someone, or acknowledge a special event or purpose. Donations may be mailed or one may choose to use electronic giving. Thank you for continuing this tradition.

Thank you Pastor Krogstad for being with us these two Sundays. We appreciate you and your insights that you share with us from the Scriptures.

Happy New Year, Ladies!

We have a deposit made for a **retreat at Camp of the Cross**: March 1 and 2, 2024! We will drive up on Friday afternoon eat in town then head out to the camp. Saturday we will have a continental breakfast and a late lunch leaving camp late afternoon on Saturday.

Now: I need your help; suggestions for discussion and who could lead the discussion. I know this is a short notice but that is the only time we could have the Retreat Center or wait until next year. Hopefully the weather is good for that weekend and we can enjoy sometime together.

Please check your calendars let me know if you are interested and any ideas you have for study! ASAP pass the word around.

Sally Grenz

Sallygrenz@hotmail.com

701- 390-3049

Artists Needed for upcoming Bulletin Boards!

Isn't it fun to see the creativity that our various talented artists put into designing the seasonal bulletin board in the narthex? Thanks to Lillian Crook for the lighted Advent board, and to Heather and Libby Martin for the "Good News" Christmas one. Would you like to do one too? We will soon need one for Epiphany, and after that one for Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14. Let Pastor Lisa or the office know of your interest!

You may take your poinsettias home. **Thank you** to all who donated the lovely poinsettias which make the sanctuary so beautiful.

The Annual Meeting Report and 2024 Budget is at the back of the church. The meeting is next week after church. Pot-luck too!



"Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." [¹¹Then the Lord said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. ¹²On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever."

¹⁵Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." ¹⁷Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." ¹⁸So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him."

¹⁹As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.]

Responsive Reading: Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18

¹O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

²You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

³You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.

⁵You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

¹³For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

RESPONSIVE READING continued:

¹⁴I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

¹⁵My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

**In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.**

¹⁷How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸**I try to count them — they are more than the sand;
I come to the end — I am still with you.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

¹²“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. ¹³“Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food,” and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. ¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, “The two shall be one flesh.” ¹⁷But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. ¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Lutheran Church of the Cross, and to “The River” Blended Worship Service this morning! If you are visiting with us today, please take a moment to sign the guestbook in the narthex.

Book Club Choices: Meets the 2nd Wednesday at 1:30pm in the Library.
February: Other Birds by Sarah Addison Allen
March: Good Night Irene by Luis Alberto Urrea
April: The Paris Daughter by Kristen Harmel
Consider coming to the Book Club. We have interesting and lively discussions of each book. A variety of subjects are read but usually works of fiction.

There is a **laundry basket** located out in the annex for our members to donate winter gear for those that go without. Collecting used or new hats, mittens, gloves, & scarves. Thank you for your contribution to our community! The basket will remain in the narthex until warm weather arrives again. Kathryn Spilman takes the donated items and distributes them to the library patrons that go without warm gear. We are also collecting warm outerwear for Closet 701. (Both are the Altar Focus for January.)

Still More Opportunities to Serve! Our nominating committee is seeking to fill positions of many types for the upcoming year(s). We don't always know if someone is enthusiastic about a particular kind of serving, if we don't know them ourselves. Here's what we need:

1. Camp of the Cross representatives (3) to annual meeting in late February.
2. Missouri Slope Annual representatives (2) to annual meeting in late September.
3. WND Synod Assembly Voting Members (3). Meets in Watford City May 30-June 2nd. Congregation covers expenses.
4. Endowment Committee: 2 people. Term is three years.
5. LCC Church Council: 1 person. Term is three years.

If you are interested in any of these, do let Heather Martin, Jessi Karvo, Mike Geiermann, Gerri Sarsten, Melissa Long or Pastor Lisa know!

Martin Luther Kind Day January 15th. Office is closed.

WEEKLY CALENDAR of January 14, 2024

Today, January 14: River Service 10:00am
Coffee 11:00am

Monday, January 15: Office closed MLK Day

Tuesday, January 16:

Wednesday, January 17: Supper 5pm
Living Water Service 6:15pm
Church School, Confirmation,
River practice 7pm

Thursday, January 18: Quilting 1pm
AA Meeting 8pm

Friday, January 19:

Saturday, January 20: Men's Bible Study 10:00am

Sunday, January 21: River Service 10:00am
Annual Meeting
Potluck

Future Events

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *"Praise the Name of Jesus"*

GOSPEL READING: John 1:43-51

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

SERMON: Pastor Sondra Krogstad

SONG OF THE DAY: *“Here I Am Lord” ELW 574*

APOSTLES’ CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH: *“Open Our Eyes”*

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING: *“Offering”*

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD’S PRAYER *“Lord’s Prayer”*

INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: *“Each Day”*

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION *“The Lord Be with You”*

SENDING SONG: *“Sent Forth By God’s Blessing” ELW 547*

DISMISSAL: *“Trading My Sorrows”*

Introduction All the baptized have a calling in God’s world. God calls not just pastors and deacons but also the youngest child, like Samuel. The story of the calling of Nathanael plays with the idea of place. Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes from Nazareth. But where we come from isn’t important; it’s where—or rather whom—we come to. Jesus refers to Jacob, who had a vision in a place he called “the house of God, and . . . the gate of heaven” (Gen. 28:17). Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael will meet God.

“THE RIVER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Art Wheeler

Greeters—Scott & Melissa Long

Ushers—Keven & Janice Martin, Scott & Melissa Long

Communion Assistants—Mavis Pommerer, Verlaine Jahner, Melissa Long

Altar Guild—Jean Kraft, Sharon Narum, Valerie Kunze, Ruth Jensen

River Worship Team—

Sound Board Technicians— Larry Wolf, Francis Greff

Projection Team— Caden Kunze, Jace Kunze, Rod Sargent, Art Wheeler

Streaming Team— Mark Kunze, Karen Will, Art Wheeler

River Singers— Deb Carpenter, Kerry Carpenter, Marlene Grabow, Sally Grenz, Paul Gurholt, Doug Johnson, Cherie Krueger, AJ Marx, Amanda Sagsveen, John Saylor, Tom Wade, Barb Wilson

Guitarists—Tom Wade, Kolton Harris, Joel Crane

Percussionist— Kari Harris

Violinist—Fynn Sagsveen

Flutist—Beth Greff

Accompanists—Jan & Joel Gilbertson, Gerri Sarsten, Beth Greff

Prayers, Births, Deaths, Concerns

Please contact Connie in the church office if you have a prayer request, or if you will be entering the hospital and would like a pastoral visit.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

(We encourage you to take this list home and pray for these people.)

For those struggling with health and other concerns:

Reece Fischer, Tracy Martinson, Ann Hillesland, Erwin and Linda Marson, Arlene Wolff, Bob Roesler, Earl Larson, Nancy Dockter, Lori Marx, Hattie Martinson, Carter Weigel, Kerry Carpenter, Josey Hanson, Mary Ternes, Jeff Thomas, Jean King, Jim Miller, Heidi Renner, Peg Ahlness, Jacob Walby, Kristy Forrest, JoDee Saylor, Colter Lee, Arvid Mugaas, Elizabeth Hoglund

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones—

Dennis Dohrmann