

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

Phone: 223-1001

Website: [www.churchofthecross.org](http://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](mailto:lisaahlness@hotmail.com)

Connie Werner, **Secretary** cell 400.5852

Office 223-1001 / [churchsecretary@midconetwork.com](mailto:churchsecretary@midconetwork.com)

Art Wheeler, **Treasurer**

527-9582/ [lcctreasurer@midconetwork.com](mailto:lcctreasurer@midconetwork.com)

Beth Greff, **Worship Coordinator**

400-2087/ [theriver@midconetwork.com](mailto:theriver@midconetwork.com)

Joel Crane, **Wednesday Worship Coordinator**

498-2604/[cranejoel58@gmail.com](mailto:cranejoel58@gmail.com)

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

**2023 Church Council Members**

Mike Humann, President [mknhumann@bis.midco.net](mailto:mknhumann@bis.midco.net) 527.3376

Janice Martin, Vice President [msladyj2000@gmail.com](mailto:msladyj2000@gmail.com) 471.5600

Jessi Karvo, Secretary [jfish321@gmail.com](mailto:jfish321@gmail.com) 426.7439

Cherie Krueger, [cheriekrueger@gmail.com](mailto:cheriekrueger@gmail.com) 226.7514

Mike Geiermann, [mgeiermann12@gmail.com](mailto:mgeiermann12@gmail.com) 471.5122

Sarah Dahl, [sarahdahlmba@gmail.com](mailto:sarahdahlmba@gmail.com) 226.6844

Scot Long, [scotglong@gmail.com](mailto:scotglong@gmail.com) 400.2169

*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

# The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross

January 21, 2024

10:00am

*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS**  
**“The River” Worship Service**  
**January 21, 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**

*“Just As I Am” (I Come Broken), “Thy Word”, “People Need the Lord”*

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GREETINGS OF PEACE**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS**

**GATHERING SONG: “I Love to Tell the Story”**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

*WE HEAR GOD’S WORD*

**FIRST READING: 1 Jonah 3:1-5,10**

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” <sup>3</sup>So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. <sup>4</sup>Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” <sup>5</sup>And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

The annual **Men’s Retreat at Camp of the Cross** is coming up on Jan 26<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto: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.

**Ladies, Good News!**

LCC Women's Retreat March 1 & 2, 2024 at Camp of the Cross! Cost \$100. Checks written to Church of the Cross.

Deacon Beth Anderson has agreed to facilitate our discussion "Embracing Our Spiritual Gifts"!

We will gather at LCC and drive to Garrison, eat dinner in town, head to Retreat Center at Camp of the Cross. Saturday, Continental Breakfast, discussion, lunch, more discussion, free time and leave by 5 PM.

Please let Sally Grenz know if you plan to attend the weekend sharing time together! Sally Grenz [Sallygrenz@hotmail.com](mailto: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, the Audit Report and the 2024 Budget** is at the back of the church. The meeting is TODAY! Potluck too! Thank you to the Faith and Care group for taking care of the potluck.

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

**Responsive Reading: Psalm 65:5-12**

<sup>5</sup>For God alone my soul waits in silence,  
for my hope is from him.

<sup>6</sup>**He alone is my rock and my salvation,  
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.**

<sup>7</sup>On God rests my deliverance and my honor;  
my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

<sup>8</sup>**Trust in him at all times, O people;  
pour out your heart before him;  
God is a refuge for us.**

Selah

<sup>9</sup>Those of low estate are but a breath,  
those of high estate are a delusion;  
in the balances they go up;  
they are together lighter than a breath.

<sup>10</sup>**Put no confidence in extortion,  
and set no vain hopes on robbery;  
if riches increase, do not set your heart on them.**

<sup>11</sup>Once God has spoken;  
twice have I heard this:

that power belongs to God,

<sup>12</sup>**and steadfast love belongs to you, O LORD.**

**For you repay to all  
according to their work.**

## SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

<sup>29</sup>Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, <sup>30</sup>and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, <sup>31</sup>and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** *“Praise the Name of Jesus”*

## GOSPEL READING: Mark 1: 14-20

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

<sup>16</sup>As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” <sup>18</sup>And immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup>As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup>Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

## 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.)

### **Opportunities to Serve Abound!**

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](mailto:theriver@midconetwork.com), or let the office know.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR of January 21, 2024

**Today, January 21:** River Service 10:00am  
Annual Meeting 11:00am  
Potluck

**Monday, January 22:** Needlework Group 9am

**Tuesday, January 23:**

**Wednesday, January 24:** Women's Bible Study 9am  
Supper 5pm  
Living Water Service 6:15pm  
Church School, Confirmation,  
River practice 7pm

**Thursday, January 25:** Quilting 1pm  
AA Meeting 8pm

**Friday, January 26:**

**Saturday, January 27:** Men's Bible Study 10:00am

**Sunday, January 28:** River Service 10:00am

### Future Events

**SERMON:** Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**SONG OF THE DAY:** "Jesus Calls Us; O'er the Tumult ELW 696

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:** "Open Our Eyes"

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**OFFERING:** "Change My Heart, O God" ELW 801

**OFFERING PRAYER**

*WE SHARE THE MEAL*

**PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL**

**LORD'S PRAYER** *Spoken*

**INVITATION TO OUR LORD'S SUPPER**

**COMMUNION SONG:** "Break Thou the Bread of Life"

**COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION** *Spoken*

**SENDING SONG:** "Will You Come and Follow Me" ELW 798

**TABLE PRAYER**

**DISMISSAL:** "Step By Step"

**Introduction:** As we continue through the time after Epiphany, stories of the call to discipleship show us the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.



## **“THE RIVER” WORSHIP MINISTERS**

**Pastor**—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**Scripture Reader**—Cherie Krueger

**Greeters**—Larry & Verlaine Jahner

**Ushers**—Lee Jensen, Kay Koch, Larry & Verlaine Jahner

**Communion Assistants**—Ruth Jensen, Heather Martin, Sheila Koffler

**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