

Lutheran Church of the Cross  
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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:**

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

**2023 Church Council Members**

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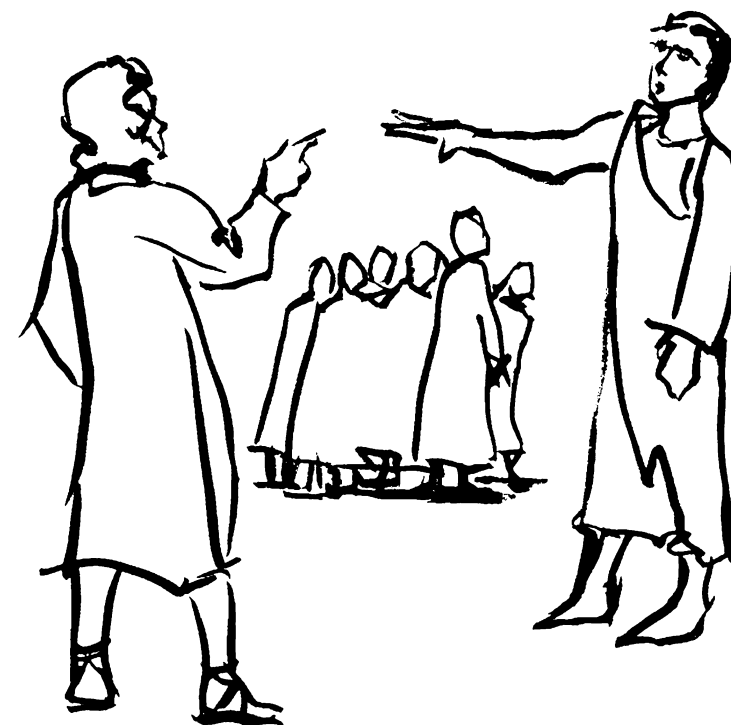
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*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

# The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross

January 28, 2024

10:00am

*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS**  
**“The River” Worship Service**  
**January 28, 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**

*“Baptized and Set Free”, “Because He Lives (Amen)”, “Draw Me Close”*

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GREETINGS OF PEACE**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS**

**GATHERING SONG: “10,000 Reasons”**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

*WE HEAR GOD’S WORD*

**FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 18:15-20**

[Moses said:] <sup>15</sup>The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. <sup>16</sup>This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” <sup>17</sup>Then the Lord replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. <sup>19</sup>Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable.

**Election results from Annual Meeting:**

**Council:** re-elected Mike Geiermann, elected Rod Sargent, each to a three year term.

**Endowment Committee:** Daryl Hodnefield and Kylie Blanchard to 3 yr. term Scot Long will serve as council liaison.

**Camp of the Cross Annual Meeting reps:** to February 2 meeting Kari Harris, Mark Kunze, Mike Humann and Pastor Lisa

**Missouri Slope Annual Meeting reps:** to late September meeting: LorRaine Riveland, LaVern Hanson & Pastor Lisa

**Nominating Committee:** one constitutional change that passed was that the term served by nominating committee members would change from one year, non renewable to 2 year terms which can be renewed once. Pursuant to that change, current members were asked to serve one more year: Melissa Long, Gerri Sarsten, Heather Martin, Jessi Karvo, Mike Geiermann.

**Audit Committee:** the other constitutional change passed at the annual meeting was to make it an option to use a professional auditor to audit the books, rather than a committee of church members. This means our long term practice now aligns with our constitution.

**Synod Assembly Voting Members:** Assembly will be held May 31—June 2 in Watford City. John & Janet Doerner, Jean Kraft and Pastor Lisa are going. Murray Sagsveen will also be in attendance in his role as WND synod attorney.

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

**THANK YOU:** to Jean Kraft's Confirmation group, Sunday JOP Church School children and leaders, and Wednesday evening's Church School children for making Valentines for Helping Hands to deliver to our Seniors and Shut Ins Helping Hands Committee at LCC

Helping Hands would like show our gratitude to **Jim Miller and Paul Gurholt** for using their wood working skills to make Crosses this past year. Thank you for sharing your skills with Church of the Cross community!

If you save pop top tabs and would like them to be delivered to McDonald House please leave on the credenza across from the large bulletin board.

**Heat the Church** The calendar is 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.

<sup>20</sup>But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.

#### **Responsive Reading: Psalm 111**

<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 8:1-13

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup>Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; <sup>3</sup>but anyone who loves God is known by him.

<sup>4</sup>Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” <sup>5</sup>Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—<sup>6</sup>yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

<sup>7</sup>It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. <sup>8</sup>“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. <sup>9</sup>But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? <sup>11</sup>So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. <sup>12</sup>But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup>Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

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

## 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.)

**"Attention all Altar Guild members** - We will be having our yearly meeting on Saturday, Febr 3rd at 9:30 am. We will go over the 2024 yearly calendar and share any questions and review any info in our duties. Look forward to seeing you all. Cherie Krueger"

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 28, 2024

<b>Today, January 28:</b>	<b>River Service 10:00am Coffee Hour 11:00am</b>
<b>Monday, January 29:</b>	<b>Needlework Group 9am</b>
<b>Tuesday, January 30:</b>	
<b>Wednesday, January 31:</b>	<b>Supper 5pm Living Water Service 6:15pm Church School, Confirmation, River practice 7pm</b>
<b>Thursday, February 1:</b>	<b>Quilting 1pm AA Meeting 8pm</b>
<b>Friday, February 2:</b>	<b>Wired Word 1:30pm</b>
<b>Saturday, February 3:</b>	<b>Men's Bible Study 10:00am</b>
<b>Sunday, February 4:</b>	<b>River Service 10:00am Coffee Hour 11:00am</b>

### **GOSPEL READING: Mark 1:21-28**

<sup>21</sup>[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. <sup>22</sup>They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup>Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup>and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." <sup>25</sup>But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" <sup>26</sup>And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup>They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." <sup>28</sup>At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

**SERMON:** Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**SONG OF THE DAY:** "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

**APOSTLES' CREED**

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

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**OFFERING:** "Above All"

**OFFERING PRAYER**

*WE SHARE THE MEAL*

**PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL**

**LORD'S PRAYER** *"Lord's Prayer"*

**INVITATION TO OUR LORD'S SUPPER**

**COMMUNION SONG:** *"New Doxology"*

**COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION** *"Lord Be With You"*

**SENDING SONG:** *"Jesus Shall Reign" ELW 434*

**DISMISSAL:** *"Because He Lives (Amen)"*

**Introduction:** In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.

**"THE RIVER" WORSHIP MINISTERS**

**Pastor**—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**Scripture Reader**—Lillian Crook

**Greeters**—Lynn Grabow

**Ushers**—Roger Krueger, Tracy Wolf, Scot & Melissa Long

**Communion Assistants**—Roger & Esther Anderson, Kay Koch

**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, Mark Murie, Amanda Sagsveen, John Sayler, 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 Sayler, Colter Lee, Arvid Mugaas, Elizabeth Hogle, Diane Klein, Kaylynn Harris, Pam Morris

**For those dealing with the death of these loved ones—**

Dennis Dohrmann