

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

Art Wheeler, **Treasurer**

527-9582/ lcctreasurer@midconetwork.com

Beth Greff, **Worship Coordinator**

400-2087/ theriver@midconetwork.com

Joel Crane, **Wednesday Worship Coordinator**

498-2604/cranejoel58@gmail.com

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 mshady2000@gmail.com 471.5600

Jessi Karvo, Secretary jfish321@gmail.com 426.7439

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“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross

January 7, 2024

10:00am

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
“The River” Worship Service
January 7, 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

“Hope for Everyone”, “Better is One Day” “His Glory Appears”

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: “We Three Kings”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

- ¹Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
²For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
³Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

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 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, 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 next 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.



⁴Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
⁵Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

¹Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.
²**May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.**
³May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
⁴**May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor.**
⁵May he live while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
⁶**May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.**
⁷In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.
¹⁰**May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles
render him tribute,
may the kings of Sheba and Seba**

RESPONSIVE READING continued:

¹¹May all kings fall down before him,
all nations give him service.

¹²**For he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.**

¹³He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.

¹⁴**From oppression and violence he redeems their life;
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12

¹This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in 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.
January: The Reading List by Sara Nisha Adams
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.

The **reports for the Annual Meeting** scheduled for Jan. 21 are due January 10 by noon. Send them electronically to churchsecretary@midconetwork.com. The Annual Report booklet needs to be handed out one week prior to the scheduled event.

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.)

Quilting resumes Jan. 11th at 1pm. All interested quilters both young and old are welcome! Come have some fun and coffee too.

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!

WEEKLY CALENDAR of January 7, 2024

Today, January 7:	River Service 10:00am Coffee 11:00am
Monday, January 8:	Needlework Group 9:00am
Tuesday, January 9:	
Wednesday, January 10:	Book Club 1:30pm Supper 5pm Living Water Service 6:15pm Church School, Confirmation, River practice 7pm
Thursday, January 11:	Quilting 1pm Church Council 6:30pm AA Meeting 8pm
Friday, January 12:	
Saturday, January 13:	Men's Bible Study 10:00am River practice 4pm
Sunday, January 14:	River Service 10:00am Coffee 11:00am

Future Events

Annual Meeting & Potluck January 21, 2024

¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *"Thy Word"*

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 2:1-12

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

SERMON: Pastor Sondra Krogstad

SONG OF THE DAY: “Angels From the Realms of Glory” ELW #275

APOSTLES’ CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH: “Open Our Eyes”

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING: “What Child is This” Flute/Piano Duet

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD’S PRAYER *spoken*

INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: “Ding Dong Merrily! He is Born!” Flute/Piano Duet

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION *spoken*

SENDING SONG: “Shine, Jesus, Shine” ELW #671

DISMISSAL: “This Little Light of Mine” ELW #677

Introduction The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.

“THE RIVER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Deb Carpenter

Greeters—

Ushers—

Communion Assistants—

Altar Guild—Patty Hanson, 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