

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

2024 Church Council Members

Mike Geiermann, President, mgeiermann12@gmail.com 471.5122

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

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

August 25, 2024

10:00am

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
“The River” Worship Service
August 25, 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: “Better is One Day”, “In the Garden”, “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” ELW 834

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: “Lead On, O King Eternal” ELW 805

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

FIRST READING: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

¹Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ^{2a}And Joshua said to all the people, ¹⁴“Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. ¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

¹⁶Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; ¹⁷for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight.

Dear Friends in Christ,

A Note from your treasurer

I joined the LCC Council in 2011 and was given the General Financial Operating portfolio to oversee. I worked closely with several new Treasurers over the next four years. In 2015, I was appointed Treasurer and have tried to serve the congregation since.

I have had the honor and privilege of serving the Church of the Cross for a number of years. I believe a successor should be found who will continue the Treasurer’s duties. Communicating with the Council, I will continue to function as Treasurer until a new Treasurer has been fully trained and is ready to complete all responsibilities.

Any LCC member who has an interest in accounting or bookkeeping, enjoy working with numbers and want to be part of the congregation in an exciting and important manner, should indicate to Pastor Lisa, Council Present Mike Geiermann or Council Vice President Mike Humann.

Art Wheeler

Help **Wanted!** LCC is looking for folks that would be interested in helping out in our Tech area - specifically Projection, Streaming, and Sound. If you have a good ear for music or an interest in computers we would love to visit with you. Please contact Beth Greff at the phone number or email listed on the back of the bulletin. Please prayerfully consider becoming a part of our Team!

Confirmation and Church School starting up again!! And so is fall programming here at LCC. September 4: Confirmation Orientation for grades 6, 7, 8 at 7 p.m. September 8: Rally Sunday – come meet your church school teacher during worship, and fun activity afterward! Think scavenger hunt! September 11: Rally Wednesday – Confirmation Small Group night and meet your church school teacher night for younger students with scavenger hunt! September 25: Confirmation Large Group Service project: assemble school kits for Lutheran World Relief and 9th grade + mentors Five Promises meeting, both at 7 p.m.

Did you know

that **extra monthly newsletters** are on the oak cabinet for the taking. Envelopes for tithing as well as other information is placed there. Check it out.

The **plants** are watered on Thursdays by a specific person. Extra waterings by others are causing confusion to the plants and the waterer.

Faith and Care Groups 1-6 for the upcoming year are listed on the secretary’s wall just outside her door.

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.
September: The Women by Kristin Hannah
October: Hello Beautiful by Ann Napolitano
November: The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post by Allison Palaki
Consider coming to the Book Club. You’ll meet people with a common interest: the love of reading. We have interesting and lively discussions of each book and even rate the book from 1—10. A variety of subjects are read but usually works of fiction. Come share your favorite reads with us.

Thank you Sharon Kormos for being with us today. We appreciate your time and insights.

Study on St. Paul to begin in September. Some of you are planning to go on the footsteps of Paul trip next March. We will be starting a book study in September as we prepare – you don’t have to be going on the trip to join in! The book is called “Paul Among the People” by Sarah Ruden. It is available on Amazon, Barnes and Noble and Kindle, or wherever you normally get books! Let Pastor Lisa know what days/times work best for you and watch for further info! (Another recommended title is “Paul” by N.T. Wright, if you’d like to read more about the apostle.

August Altar Focus continues to be **School Care Kits** plus **Ministry on the Margins** has put out an urgent call for pillows, bedding, blankets, towels, soap. They don’t have to be brand new but should be in good shape.

LCC is in need of **coffee hosts and dishwashers** for Sundays this summer. Our taste buds don’t seem to diminish during these hot spells not even our need for hot coffee. So volunteer and share in this ministry of fellowship for our church.

The **Baby care kits are coming** together. 11 Receiving blankets are needed to complete the rest of the kits. Please put the receiving blankets in the multipurpose room.

He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 34:15-22

15 The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous,
and his ears are open to their cry.
**16 The face of the LORD is against evildoers,
to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.**
17 When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears,
and rescues them from all their troubles.
**18 The LORD is near to the brokenhearted,
and saves the crushed in spirit.**
19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the LORD rescues them from them all.
**20 He keeps all their bones;
not one of them will be broken.**
21 Evil brings death to the wicked,
and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.
**22 The LORD redeems the life of his servants;
none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 6:10-20

¹⁰Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *“Jesus, Name Above All Names”*

GOSPEL READING: John 6:59-69

[Jesus said,] ⁵⁶“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

SERMON: Rev. Sharon Korsmo

SONG OF THE DAY: *“Blessed Assurance” ELW 638*

APOSTLES’ CREED

WEEKLY CALENDAR of August 25, 2024

Today, August 25:

**River Service 10:00am
Coffee Hour 11:00am**

Monday, August 26:

Needlework Group 9:00am

Tuesday, August 27:

Wednesday, August 28:

Women’s Bible Study 9am

Thursday, August 29:

AA Meeting 8pm

Friday, August 30:

Wired Word 1:30pm

Saturday, August 31:

Men’s Bible Study 10am

Sunday, September 1:

**River Service 10am
Coffee Hour 11:00am**

Future Happenings

Women’s Bible Study Aug. 28 9am

Rally Sunday Sept 8

Rally Wednesday Sept 11

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:

Tracy Martinson, Ann Hillesland, Arlene Wolff, Bob Roesler, Earl Larson, Nancy Dockter, Lori Marx, Hattie Martinson, Carter Weigel, Josey Hanson, Heidi Renner, Kristy Forrest, JoDee Sayler, Colter Lee, Arvid Mugaas, Diane Klein, Peg Ahlness, Kaylynn Harris, Libby Martin, Deacon Janie Hague, Kira Willadsen, Kerry Carpenter, Linda Marson, Lonnie Sunde, Jacob Hynek, Art Wheeler, Reece Fischer, Jeri Mutcher, Mark Kunze, Lindsey Steiger, Lyndon Jahner, Joel Crane, Paul Kuch, Christ Gerr, Sher Harildstad

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones—Syver Vinje, David Gron-dahl, Ramona Larson, Gorden Mutcher, Elizabeth Hoglund

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH: *“I Love you, Lord”*

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING: *“Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow” ELW 884*

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD’S PRAYER: *“The Lord’s Prayer”*

INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: *“It is Well”*

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

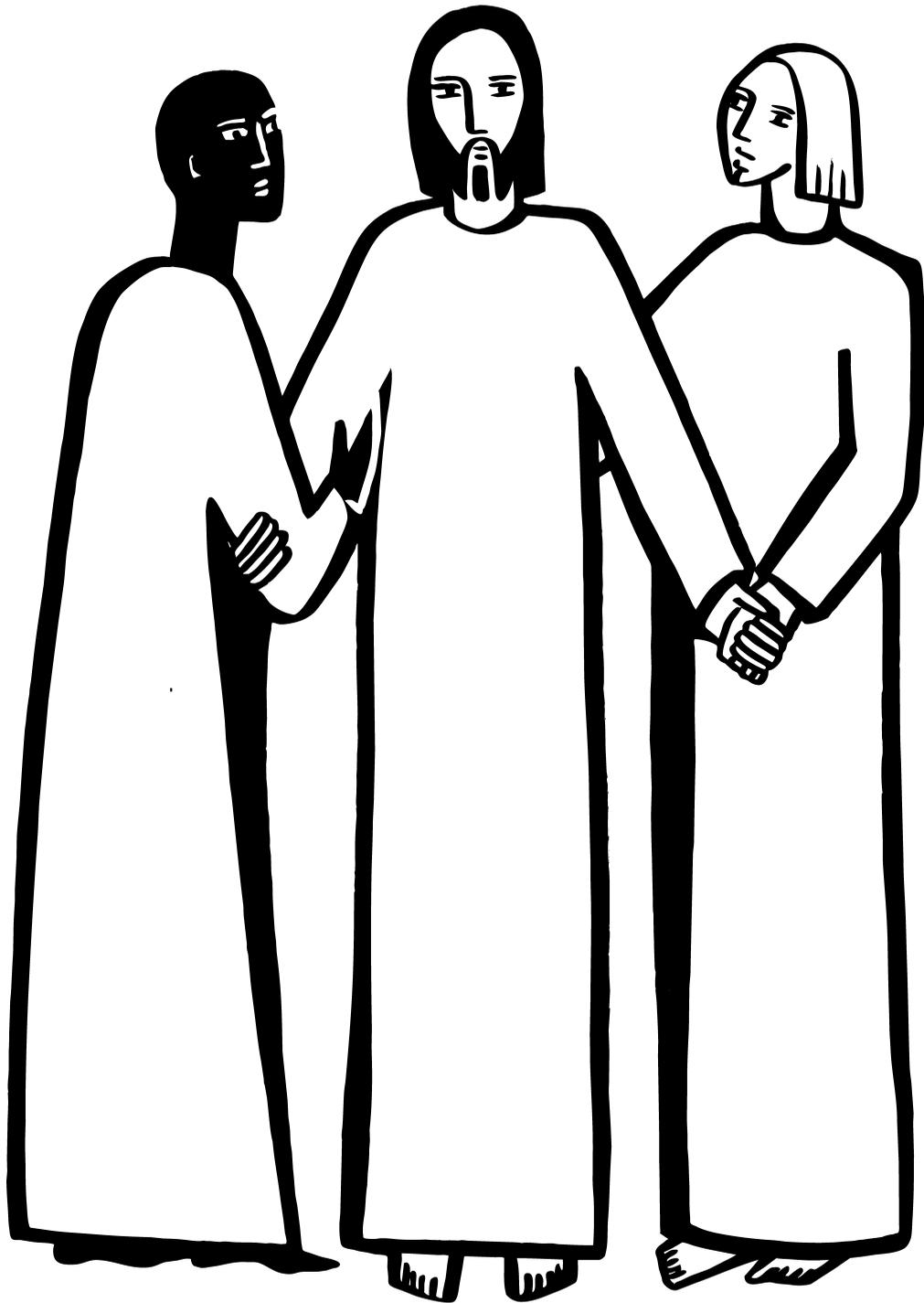
BENEDICTION: *“The Lord Bless You and Keep You”*

SENDING SONG: *“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer” ELW 618*

DISMISSAL: *“On Our Way Rejoicing” ELW 537*

INTRODUCTION

In today’s gospel many people take offense at Jesus’ invitation to eat his flesh and drink his blood; even many of Jesus’ disciples peel off. This is the backdrop in John’s gospel for Peter’s confession of faith. “To whom can we go?” asks Peter, in words we sometimes sing just before the gospel is read. “You have the words of eternal life.” In order to take such a stand, as Peter and Joshua did, Paul tells us to arm ourselves with the word of God. We pray in the Spirit that we might be bold ambassadors of the gospel.



“THE RIVER” and “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Murray Sagsveen

Ushers—David & Kathy Drovdal, Mike & Tracy Geiermann

Communion Assistants—Melissa Long, Lynn Grabow,

Altar Guild— Jean Kraft, Mavis Pommerer, Joyce Wahl, Cheryl Neu

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 Saylor, Tom Wade, Barb Wilson

Percussionist— Kari Harris

Violinist—Fynn Sagsveen

Flutist—Beth Greff

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

Living Water Worship Team

Living Water Singers—Joel Crane, Amanda Sagsveen, Brandi Ellison, Annabelle Ellison, Emmeline Chopourian-Jack, Kerry Carpenter, Keelin Traynor, Deb Carpenter

Percussionist—Kari Harris

Guitarists— Kolton Harris, Joel Crane

Accompanist and Sound—Beth Greff