

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

Janice Martin, mrladyj2000@gmail.com 471.5600

Sarah Dahl, sarahdahlmba@gmail.com 226.6844

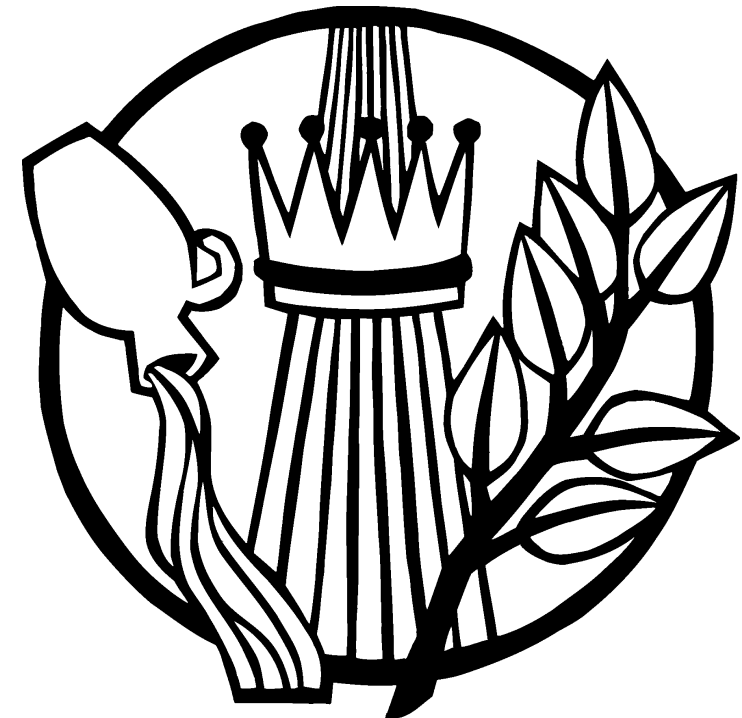
Scot Long, scotglong@gmail.com 400.2169

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“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross

September 15, 2024

10:00am

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
“The River” Worship Service
September 15, 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: “Great is Thy Faithfulness” ELW 733, “Come Thou Fount”,
“Trust and Obey”

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing” ELW 886

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴The Lord God has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he awakens—
awakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

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, enjoys working with numbers and wants to serve the congregation in an exciting and important manner, should indicate their interest to Pastor Lisa, Council Present Mike Geiermann or Council Vice President Mike Humann.

Art Wheeler

The fourth quarter daily devotional; **Christ in Our Home** is out in the narthex.

Confirmation and Church School Think scavenger hunt! September 11: 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. Offering envelopes as well as other information is placed there. Check it out.

The inside **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.

The Communion Assistant, Reader, and Usher schedule is posted under the monitor by the back door. Copies are available under the monitor. When a conflict arises, find your own replacement but notify the church secretary by Thursday so the name can be changed in the bulletin. Thank you for your help with this.

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.
October: Hello Beautiful by Ann Napolitano
November: The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post by Allison Palaki

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 “In the Footsteps of Saint Paul” by Edward Stourton. 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.

The Altar Focus for September will be the Fresh Start Kits for people leaving the State Penitentiary and the Youth Correctional Center.

LCC is in need of **coffee hosts and dishwashers, Communion Assistants, Readers and Ushers** for Sundays. Your help is greatly needed!

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!

The **Confirmation** schedule, the Jesus and Me Sunday schedule, plus the Worship on Wednesday Schedule is out in the narthex for the taking and was placed in the newsletter.

⁷The Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
⁸he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
^{9a}It is the Lord God who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 116:1-9

¹I love the LORD, because he has heard
my voice and my supplications.
²**Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**
³The snares of death encompassed me;
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.
⁴**Then I called on the name of the LORD:
"O LORD, I pray, save my life!"**
⁵Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;
our God is merciful.
⁶**The LORD protects the simple;
when I was brought low, he saved me.**
⁷Return, O my soul, to your rest,
for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.
⁸**For you have delivered my soul from death,
my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling.**
⁹I walk before the LORD
in the land of the living.

SECOND READING: James 3:1-12

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

2For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. 3If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. 4Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. 5So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! 6And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. 7For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, 8but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. 10From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. 11Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? 12Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

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

GOSPEL READING: Mark 8:27-38

27Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” 28And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” 29He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” 30And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

31Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

34He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up

WEEKLY CALENDAR of September 15, 2024

Today, September 15:

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

Monday, September 16:

Needlework Group 9am

Tuesday, September 17:

Wednesday, September 18:

**Women’s Bible Study 9am
Supper 5pm
Living Water Service 6:15pm
Church School, Confirmation
7pm**

Thursday, September 19:

**Gather Bible Study 10:30am
Quilting 1pm
AA Meeting 8pm**

Friday, September 20:

Wired Word 1:30pm

Saturday, September 21:

Men’s Bible Study 10am

Sunday, September 22:

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

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, 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—Archie Johnson

their cross and follow me. 35For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. 36For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? 37Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? 38Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and

SERMON: Pastor Lisa Ahlness

SONG OF THE DAY: *“Lift High the Cross” ELW 660*

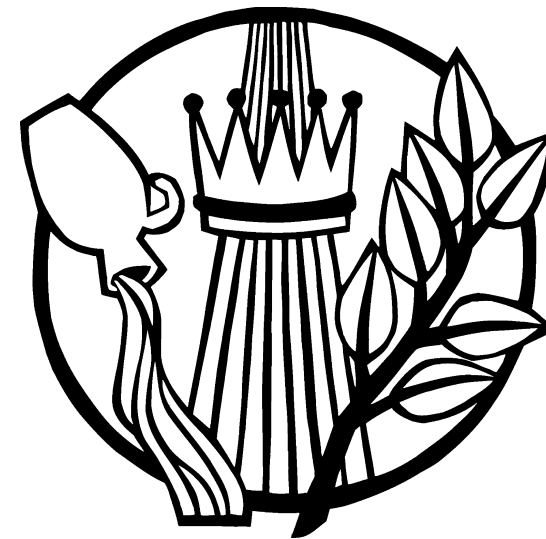
APOSTLES’ CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH: *“Let Us Pray for Peace”*

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING: *“Morning Has Broken” piano duet*

OFFERING PRAYER



WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD'S PRAYER: *Spoken*

INVITATION TO OUR LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: *"Blessed Assurance" piano duet*

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION: *"The Lord Be With You"*

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

DISMISSAL: *"My Lighthouse"*

INTRODUCTION

Three weeks ago we heard Peter's confession of faith as told in John's gospel. This week we hear Mark's version, when Peter says, "You are the Messiah." In John, the stumbling block is Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world. In Mark too the scandal has to do with Jesus' words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus' words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of *messiah*) in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3); so we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.

"THE RIVER" and "LIVING WATER" WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Esther Anderson

Ushers—Larry & Verlaine Jahner, Art Wheeler & Tracy Wolf

Communion Assistants—Art Wheeler, Sally Grenz, Janice Martin

Altar Guild—Heather Martin, Ruth Jensen, Sharon Narum, Verlaine Jahner

Faith and Care Group 1—Nikki Taylor, Janet Bassingthwaite, Annie Bergrud

River Worship Team—

Sound Board Technicians—Larry Wolf, Francis Greff

Projection Team—Caden Kunze, Jace Kunze, Val 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—Luke Weber, Beth Greff, Gerri Sarsten, Jan & Joel Gilbertson

Living Water Worship Team

Living Water Singers—Deb Carpenter, Kerry Carpenter, Caroline Collins, Keira Collins, Joel Crane, Annabelle Ellison, Brandi Ellison, Beth Greff, Amanda Sagsveen

Percussionist—Kari Harris

Guitarists—Kolton Harris, Joel Crane

Accompanist—Luke Weber

Sound—Beth Greff