

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

Rod Sargent, randdebsarge@beu.midco.net 880.8238

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross

October 6, 2024

10:00am

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
“The River” Worship Service
October 6, 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: “Holy”, “Crown Him With Many Crowns” ELW 855, “God of Wonders”

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

SONG OF BAPTISM: “We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus”

SERVICE OF BAPTISM

SPECIAL MUSIC: “You Are Loved”

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

FIRST READING: Genesis 2:18-24

¹⁸The Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.” ¹⁹So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. ²¹So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²²And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

Did you know

Trunk or Treat is scheduled for Sunday, October 27 at 2 pm. Weather permitting it will be held outside. There are sign up sheets for helpers and for those who wish to decorate their trunks. A box underneath the easel is for the collection of candy. We will have hot cider and hot chocolate to keep cozy, as well. This has always been an enjoyable experience for the young and “older kids” at heart who have participated. See you there.

Reformation Sunday is also October 27. Traditionally that is also Confirmation Sunday. However, the three young men confirming their faith this year are Easton Karvo, Brandon Kunz, and Liam Johnson. They have chosen to be confirmed on Wednesday, October 30, at our 6:15 pm service. Join them for supper and cake starting at 5 pm, and celebrate this occasion with them in worship!

All Saints Day is Friday, November 1st. Join friends from all over Bismarck at a Taize’ worship that evening at St. George’s Episcopal Church, 601 N. 4th Street, Bismarck, at 6 pm.

All Saints Sunday is November 3rd. Be sure to join us, live or online, for worship, and in the couple of weeks before, write the names of your deceased loved ones on paper doves which will be placed on our All Saints Banner and carried in during the opening hymn. Please call the office if you’d like us to do this for you!

Skills for Bridging the Gap

We encounter difference around us – in religion, culture, and politics. With the right skills, we can learn how to respectfully and bravely reach across the divide. This 4 session series is on **Wednesdays at 10 am** (October 2, 9, 16, 23) **at Faith Lutheran Church** and **Thursdays at 7 pm** (October 3, 10, 17, 24) **at Bismarck UCC**. The Thursday class at the UCC is available in person and online. Call the UCC church office at 701-223-2915 or Pastor Lisa for the zoom link.

Calling all artists! We are headed into new seasons, and seasons of the church year as well. Would you like to decorate the bulletin board in our narthex anew? Pinterest (so we hear) is full of great ideas, and we know you are too! Let pastor or the office know of your interest!

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

Being **baptized today** is Viella Dream Martin daughter of Preston and Janessa Martin. Welcome Viella into God’s family and your family here at LCC.

Study on St. Paul Some of you are planning to go on the footsteps of Paul trip next March. We will be starting a book study in October 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.

Altar Focus for October Our focus this month is the 50th anniversary of ELCA World Hunger. We want to be part of the generation to wipe out world hunger! Make a donation to help ELCA World Hunger’s work locally, nationwide and globally with feeding programs, animals, water wells, health care and nutrition, and job skills. You can do this at www.elca.org/hunger, and also when you buy “good gifts” for people during Advent!

If you prefer to give actual items rather than money for your altar focus donation, we have members who have concentrated on buying the backpacks for the Fresh Start Kits for adults and youth leaving incarceration. Let’s continue this month by trying to get all the supplies to fill them! Thanks for your efforts so far!

LCC is in need of **Communion Assistants, Readers and Ushers, coffee hosts and dishwashers** for Sundays. Your help is greatly needed! Call the office to volunteer or sign up on the clip board for coffee hosts and dishwashers.

²³Then the man said,
“This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
this one shall be called Woman,
for out of Man this one was taken.”
²⁴Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 8

¹O LORD, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.
²**Out of the mouths of babes and infants
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,
to silence the enemy and the avenger.**
³When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
⁴**what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?**
⁵Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
and crowned them with glory and honor.
⁶**You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,**
⁷all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
⁸**the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.**
⁹O LORD, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

¹Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

^{2:5}Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. ⁶But someone has testified somewhere,

“What are human beings that you are mindful of them,
or mortals, that you care for them?

⁷You have made them for a little while lower than the angels;
you have crowned them with glory and honor,

⁸subjecting all things under their feet.”

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, ⁹but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *“Thy Word”*

WEEKLY CALENDAR of October 6, 2024

Today, October 6:

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

Monday, October 7:

Needlework Group 9am

Tuesday, October 8:

Wednesday, October 9:

**Book Club 1:30pm
Supper 5pm
Living Water Service 6:15pm
Church School, Confirmation
7pm**

Thursday, October 10:

**Church Council 6:30pm
Quilting 1pm
AA Meeting 8pm**

Friday, October 11:

Wired Word 1:30pm

Saturday, October 12:

Men's Bible Study 10am

Sunday, October 13:

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

Upcoming Events

Gather Bible Study Oct. 17

Women's Bible Study Oct. 18

Trunk or Treat Oct. 27 2pm

Confirmation Service Oct. 30

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, Arvid Mugaas, Diane Klein, Peg Ahlness, Libby Martin, Kira Willadsen, Kerry Carpenter, Linda Marson, Lonnie Sunde, Jacob Hynek, Art Wheeler, Reece Fischer, Jeri Mutcher, Lindsey Steiger, Lyndon Jahner, Joel Crane, Paul Kuch, Christ Gerr, Sher Harildstad, Robyn Richter

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones—Archie Johnson

GOSPEL READING: Mark 10:2-16

²Some Pharisees came, and to test [Jesus] they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” ³He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” ⁴They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.” ⁵But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. ⁶But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ⁷‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, ⁸and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

¹⁰Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. ¹¹He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; ¹²and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

¹³People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” ¹⁶And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

SERMON: Pastor Lisa Ahlness

SONG OF THE DAY: *“The Church’s One Foundation” ELW 654*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH: *“Open Our Eyes”*

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING: *“Create In Me”*

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

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

INVITATION TO OUR LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: *"Abide"*

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION: *"The Lord Be With You"*

SENDING SONG: *"Now Thank We All Our God"* ELW 839

DISMISSAL: *"They'll Know We Are Christians"*

INTRODUCTION

Today's gospel combines a saying that makes many of us uncomfortable with a story we find comforting. Jesus' saying on divorce is another of his rejections of human legislation in favor of the original intent of God's law. Jesus' rebuke of the disciples who are fending off the children should challenge us as well. What does it mean to receive the kingdom of God as a child does?

"THE RIVER" and "LIVING WATER" WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Lillian Crook

Ushers— Joel & Suzanne Toso and John Kraft

Communion Assistants—Roger & Esther Anderson, Sally Grenz

Altar Guild— Heather Martin, Mavis Pommerer, Ruth Jensen, Suzanne Toso

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 Sayler, 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