

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:

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Cell: 220.9011 / lisaahlness@hotmail.com

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Beth Greff, **Worship Coordinator**

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Joel Crane, **Wednesday Worship Coordinator**

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2024 Church Council Members

Mike Geiermann, President, mgeiermann12@gmail.com 471.5122

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Jessi Karvo, Secretary, jfish321@gmail.com 426.7439

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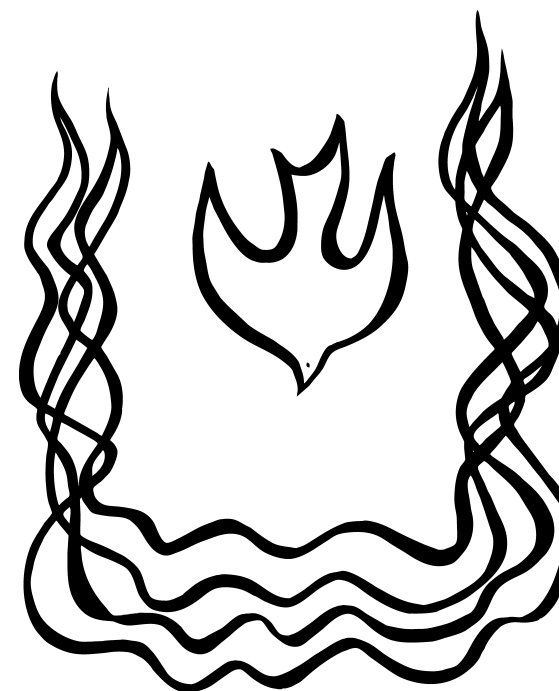
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“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross

December 15, 2024

10:00am

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
“The River” Worship Service
December 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: “The First Noel” ELW 300, “Beautiful Savior“ ELW 838, “Your Little Ones, Dear Lord” ELW 286

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SONG: “Light One Candle to Watch For Messiah”

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE The Lee family

GREETINGS OF PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG : “Angels We Have Heard on High” ELW 289

APOSTLE’S CREED

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

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING: “O Little Town of Bethlehem” ELW 279”

OFFERING PRAYER

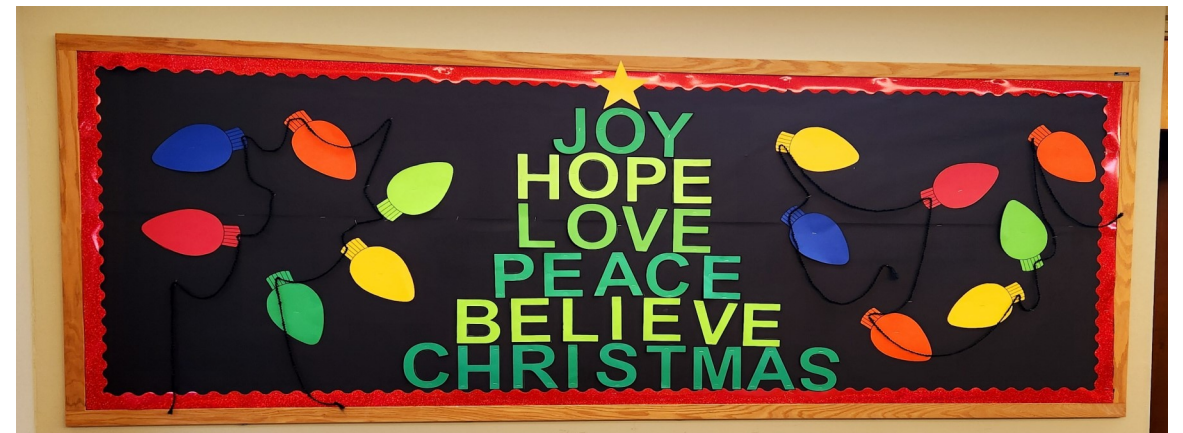
The Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2025 immediately following the worship service. All reports are due to the office by Friday, January 3.

Altar Focus: Carrie’s Kids Boys jeans seem to be in high demand. Whether you take a “pant hanging ornament” off of the tree or not, all sizes are needed in regular, slim and husky. You needn’t wrap them. The bag you purchase them in is sufficient or no bag at all. Thank you for your generosity with this ministry that LCC supports. **Our second Altar Focus for December is Good Gifts**, which is a program of our denomination, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We have catalogs available on the table in the narthex and ornaments on the small tree You can choose something, make the appropriate donation to LCC and memo it “Good Gifts” (there are cute cards on the table for you to send the recipient as well), or you can do everything online at www.elca.org/goodgifts

Wanting more from LLC? Adult education committee is seeking interests in The Chosen Series- This drama about the life of Jesus Christ introduces Jesus and the calling of his initial disciples, with a discussion after each episode. Sign up is located in the Narthex. Watch groups and discussions start February 2025!

The lighting (actually the bulbs and the electrical panels have been changed this week.) Notice the BRIGHTNESS of the lights. John Kraft spent 3 days along alongside the electricians figuring the new lighting system out. **Thank you John.**

Thank you to whomever who created this bulletin board! A simple but wonderful message so appropriate for the season.



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: What She Left Behind by Ellen Marie Wiseman
February: Montana 1948 by Larry Watson

Thanks to the Lee’s for being a part of the Advent candle lighting this morning.

Beth Greff is resigning as Worship and Music Coordinator as of December 31, 2024. We thank her so much for her service and dedication to all things worship and music related, and for all she has done for both the River and Living Water teams! Please take a few moments to thank her for her service.

The **Christmas Caroling** event has been cancelled.

The last of the **Advent Meals and Worship** is Dec. 20th: Beef Barley Vegetable Soup by Lady J’s - 8th graders assist

Poinsettia Order Forms The poinsettia order forms are at the back of the church and placed throughout the narthex. Please fill the form out and return it to the plastic bin next to the secretary’s office or place it in the offering plate. Cost is \$18/plant and the forms need to be turned in by December 18.

Thank you to all who helped put on the program today and a special thank you to those who participated in the Christmas Program. We appreciate your enthusiasm!

As your stomach growls during the service don’t forget there is a **Cookie Walk** in the multipurpose room today. All funds raised will go towards Heaven’s Helpers Soup Kitchen. There is also a **birthday cake for Jesus** in the Fellowship Hall.

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD’S PRAYER: *“The Lord’s Prayer”*

INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: *“His Glory Appears”*

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

CHILDREN’S PROGRAM

SENDING SONG: *“Joy to the World” ELW 267*

DISMISSAL: *“Go Tell It on the Mountain”*

WEEKLY CALENDAR of December 15, 2024

Today, December 15:	River Service 10:00am Coffee Hour 11:00am Cookie Walk 11:00am
Monday, December 16:	Needlework Group 9am
Tuesday, December 17:	
Wednesday, December 18:	Advent Supper Living Water Service Church School, Confirmation
Thursday, December 19:	AA Meeting 8pm
Friday, December 20:	Wired Word 1:30pm
Saturday, December 21:	Men's Bible Study 10am
Sunday, December 22:	River Service 10:00am Coffee Hour 11:00am

Upcoming Events

**Christmas Eve Dec. 24 4:30 Music Prelude Service 5:00 pm
Candlelight Service 10:00pm**

Online Apparel Store Dec. 2-16
Annual Mtg January 12, 2025

“THE RIVER” and “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness
Scripture Reader—No readings today
Ushers—Scot & Melissa Long, Floy Marx
Communion Assistants—Mike & Kim Humann, Doug Johnson
Altar Guild—Jean Kraft, Donna Belisle, Cheryl Neu, Cherie Krueger
Faith and Care Group 2— Deb & Rod Sargent, Myrtice Behan
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

Prayers, Births, Deaths, Concerns

For those struggling with health and other concerns:

Tracy Martinson, Ann Hillesland, Arlene Wolff, Earl Larson, Nancy Dockter, Lori Marx, Hattie Martinson, Carter Weigel, Josey Hanson, Heidi Renner, Kristy Forrest, JoDee Sayler, Arvid Mugaas, Diane Klein, 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, Carolyn Wegerle, Pr. Phil Leer, Peg Ahlness, Deb Carpenter, Meredythe Bagley, Jeff Thomas

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones—Janice King