

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

December 22, 2024

10:00am

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
“The River” Worship Service
December 22, 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: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”, “It Came Upon A Midnight Clear”, “Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel”

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SONG: “Light One Candle to Watch For Messiah”

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE The Geiermann family

GREETINGS OF PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG : “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” ELW 276

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

We Hear God’s Word

FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a

RESPONSIVE READING: Luke 1:46B-55

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

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 Lids and Jeans. Patty Hanson has made several trips to Carrie Kids delivering the jeans. Thank you for the tremendous effort. **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 past 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 Geiermanns 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 **Pancake breakfast** contribution to Camp of the Cross was \$4,328. A very good effort with "thanks" to all who contributed. The **Cookie Walk** event yesterday contributed total was \$756. This amount was delivered to the Heavens Helpers Soup Cafe. Again, many "thanks" to all who purchased the good cookies making this contribution effort successful. The Council, at its last meeting, decided to make Benevolent gifts of \$500 each to the Dream Center, Ministry on the Margins, Heavens Helpers Soup Cafe and the Great Plains Food Bank. Those contributions have been delivered. Another example of our Congregation sharing with the community to those in need.

Jim & Kay Miller took the food LCC had collected to the Emergency Food Pantry last week. When they arrived today to get a list of badly needed items they found 28 people standing in line. So many people had come throughout the day that the workers had been doling out numbers to handle the crowd. They are in need of powdered milk, tuna, pasta sauce, raviolis and SpaghettiOs. Thanks Jim and Kay for bringing this to our attention.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY: *“Angels From the Realms of Glory”*

APOSTLE’S CREED

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

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING: “Christmas Offering”

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

BENEDICTION: “Final Blessing”

SENDING SONG: *“Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone” ELW 267*

DISMISSAL: *“Soon and Very Soon”*

WEEKLY CALENDAR of December 22, 2024

Today, December 22:	River Service 10:00am Coffee Hour 11:00am
Monday, December 23:	Needlework Group 9am
Tuesday, December 24:	4:30pm Music Prelude 5:00pm Christmas Eve Service 10:00 Candlelight Service
Wednesday, December 25:	Christ is Born
Thursday, December 26:	AA Meeting 8pm
Friday, December 27:	Wired Word 1:30pm
Saturday, December 28:	Men's Bible Study 10am
Sunday, December 29:	River Service 10:00am Coffee Hour 11:00am

Upcoming Events

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

"THE RIVER" and "LIVING WATER" WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness
Scripture Reader—Cherie Krueger
Ushers—Larry & Verlaine Jahner, John Kraft, Kay Koch
Communion Assistants—Mavis Pommeer, Ken Will, Tracy Wolf
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, Dana Wheeler, Keaton Westlake