

Lutheran Church of the Cross  
1004 E Highland Acres Rd.  
Bismarck ND 58501

Phone: 223-1001

Website: [www.churchofthecross.org](http://www.churchofthecross.org)

Winter Hours: Mon.– Thursday 8–4pm Fri 8 to noon

Summer Office Hours: Mon.- Fri. 8:00 am—noon

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*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

# The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross

December 29, 2024

10:00am

*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS**  
**“The River” Worship Service**  
**December 29, 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:** “Let There Be Peace on Earth”, “All Creatures of Our God and King”, “All is Well”

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GREETINGS OF PEACE**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS**

**GATHERING SONG:** “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” ELW 288

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

*We Hear God’s Word*

**FIRST READING:** 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

<sup>18</sup> Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. <sup>19</sup> His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. <sup>20</sup> Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, “May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord”; and then they would return to their home.

<sup>26</sup> Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and with the people.

**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.

**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!

**Pastor Sondra,** We so appreciate you! Your nickname has either got to be “flexible”, or “adaptable” or perhaps “I’m just willing to help wherever I can” because you have been there for us. We thank you.

**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

**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.

Jim & Kay Miller took the food LCC had collected to the Emergency Food Pantry. The Emergency Food Pantry has let it be known that they are in need of: powdered milk, tuna, pasta sauce, raviolis and SpaghettiOs. Thanks Jim and Kay for bringing this to our attention.

**High School Lock-In** January 10 7pm to 7am Saturday January 11.. All 9-12 grade youth are encouraged to attend. It is hosted by Camp of the Cross Ministries and will be held at Trinity Lutheran here in Bismarck. Check out the flyer to register by scanning the QR code.

**Quilting** will resume the second Thursday in January. January 9 at 1pm. See you there!

## RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 148

<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD!  
Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise him in the heights!  
<sup>2</sup>**Praise him, all his angels;  
praise him, all his host!**  
<sup>3</sup>Praise him, sun and moon;  
praise him, all you shining stars!  
<sup>4</sup>**Praise him, you highest heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens!**  
<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
for he commanded and they were created.  
<sup>6</sup>**He established them forever and ever;  
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**  
<sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps,  
<sup>8</sup>**fire and hail, snow and frost,  
stormy wind fulfilling his command!**  
<sup>9</sup>Mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars!  
<sup>10</sup>**Wild animals and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds!**  
<sup>11</sup>Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the earth!  
<sup>12</sup>**Young men and women alike,  
old and young together!**  
<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
for his name alone is exalted;  
his glory is above earth and heaven.  
<sup>14</sup>**He has raised up a horn for his people,  
praise for all his faithful,  
for the people of Israel who are close to him.  
Praise the LORD!**

## **SECOND READING: Colossians 3:12-17**

<sup>12</sup> As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** "All Hail King Jesus"

**GOSPEL READING:** Luke 2:41-52

<sup>41</sup> Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup> And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup> When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup> Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup> When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. <sup>46</sup> After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup> When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." <sup>49</sup> He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand what he said to them. <sup>51</sup> Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

<sup>52</sup> And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

## **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 Saylor, 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, Jeff Thomas, Dana Wheeler, Keaton Westlake

**For those dealing with the death of these loved ones—**Janice King, Meredythe Bagley

**“THE RIVER” and “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS**

**Pastor**—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**Scripture Reader**—Suzanne Toso

**Ushers**—Floy Marx, Larry & Verlaine Jahner

**Communion Assistants**—Roger & Esther Anderson, Heather Martin

**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 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

**SERMON** Video sermon from the Synod office

**SONG OF THE DAY:** *“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”*

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

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

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**OFFERING:** “Christmas Offering”

*WE SHARE THE MEAL*

**PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL**

**LORD’S PRAYER:** *“Lord’s Prayer”*

**INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER**

**COMMUNION SONG:** “Christmas Amazing Grace”

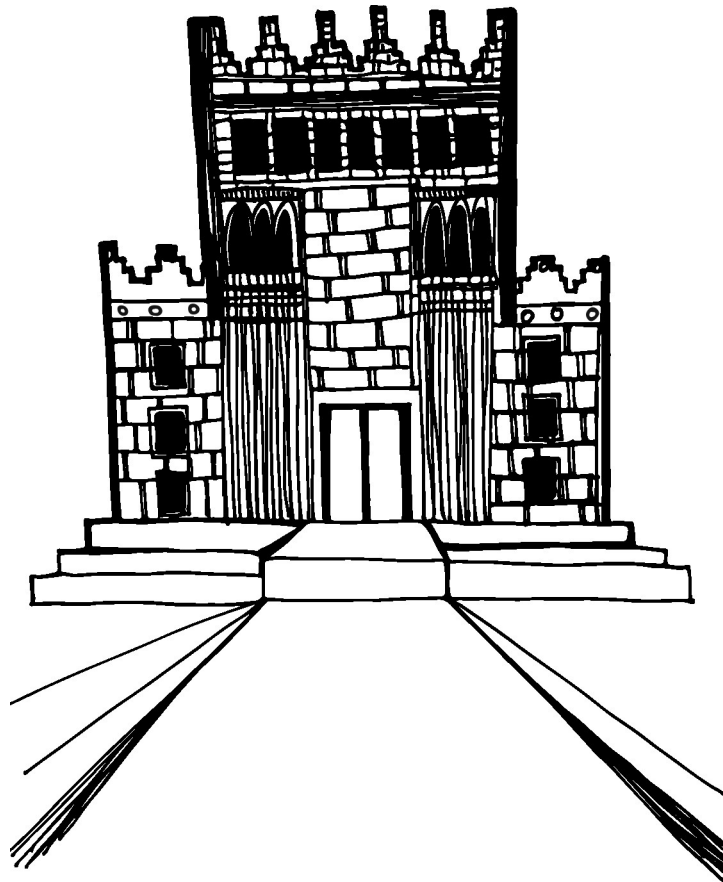
**COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION:** “The Lord Be With You”

**SENDING SONG:** “Hark the Glad Sound”

**DISMISSAL:** *“Go Tell It on the Mountain” ELW 290*

**Introduction:** On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God “to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God,” who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” It is Christmas, still.



## **WEEKLY CALENDAR of December 29, 2024**

***Today, December 29:***

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

***Monday, December 30:***

**Needlework Group 9am**

***Tuesday, December 31:***

***Wednesday, January 1***

**New Year's Day closed**

***Thursday, January 2:***

**AA Meeting 8pm**

***Friday, January 3:***

**Wired Word 1:30pm**

***Saturday, January 4:***

**Men's Bible Study 10am**

***Sunday, January 5:***

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

### **Upcoming Events**

Annual Mtg January 12, 2025