

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

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527-9582/ lcctreasurer@midconetwork.com

Peder Gulleon, **Sunday Worship Coordinator**

680.8787/theriver@midconetwork.com

Joel Crane, **Wednesday Worship Coordinator**

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2024 Church Council Members

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Jessi Karvo, Secretary, jfish321@gmail.com 426.7439

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“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross
January 12, 2025

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
“The River” Worship Service
January 12, 2025
Baptism of Our Lord Sunday

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to worship! Today’s festival rejoices in God’s blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God’s children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we “pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire.” On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God’s Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.

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.

WE COME TOGETHER

PRELUDE: “*Shall We Gather at the River*” ELW 423 “*We Are Called*”

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SONG: “*Our God*”

GREETINGS OF PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: “*Kyrie Eleison*” ELW 184

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

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!

Do you have a creative bent? Is there an artist wanting to burst forth and display your inner being? Whether or not you are a Pinterest fan, like to doodle, still color using crayons or markers on construction paper we could use you. Bulletin boards draw people in. People stop and pause to ponder. The message no matter how simple makes us think.. We can either see ourselves in the message or the message can encourage us to step outside our comfort zone.

Time and Talents sheets are placed with the bulletins. Take one and fill it out. Or if you’d prefer just send an email to churchsecretary@midconetwork.com saying how you would like to help out the church. The expression “Many hands make light work” is so true. Your talents and skills are needed. Please return it to the secretary’s plastic bin by her door.

Thank you to Lillian Crook for the creative bulletin board!



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.
February: Montana 1948 by Larry Watson

The **Emergency Food Pantry** is so appreciative of the food LCC has recently donated. They continue to need canned goods and other non perishable goods.

We welcome **Peder Gulleson** to Lutheran Church of the Cross as the Sunday Worship Coordinator. Take the opportunity to chat with him. If you've had a secret desire to sing with The River singers, but have never done so, he'd love to have you join the group and come to the practices Wednesday evening and Sunday mornings before church.

Faith and Care Group 3 will be coordinating the Annual Meeting Potluck today. Thank you!

We need you to stay today for the **Annual Meeting** today. It's important to have a quorum for people to be elected and approval of the budget. We are thankful to the people who choose to be nominated and are willing to serve the congregation. It takes a village and everyone has something to offer.

The lovely **poinsettias** you see beautifully displayed in the sanctuary may now go to your home. Take them after church/potluck today. Thank you again to the decorators who placed them around in the sanctuary.

We need **people to volunteer** for Wednesday meals for the months of January and February. Us Lutherans like their coffee and treats on Sundays, who would like to volunteer for that? Sign up on the clipboards. Dishwashers are needed as well!

We Hear God's Word

FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:1-7 *When you pass through the waters, do not fear, for I am with*

^{you}
¹ But now thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
³ For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
⁴ Because you are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
⁶ I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
⁷ everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

RESPONSIVE READING: PSALM 29

The voice of the *LORD* is upon the waters. (*Ps. 29:3*)

⁰A Psalm of David.

¹Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;
worship the LORD in holy splendor.**

³The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,

the LORD, over mighty waters.

⁴The voice of the LORD is powerful;

the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;

the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

⁶He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,

and Sirion like a young wild ox.

⁷The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

⁸The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;

the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

⁹The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl,

and strips the forest bare;

and in his temple all say, "Glory!"

¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;

the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.

¹¹May the LORD give strength to his people!

May the LORD bless his people with peace!

SECOND READING: Acts 8:14-17 *Prayer and laying on of hands for the Holy Spirit*

¹⁴ Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵ The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶ (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷ Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

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, Brady Staloch, Austin Jamtgaard, Mark Thompson

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

“THE RIVER” and “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Lillian Crook

Ushers—Joel & Suzanne Toso, Alex & Kathryn Spilman

Communion Assistants—Mike & Kim Humann, Verlaine Jahner

Altar Guild—Cherie Krueger, Sharon Narum, Valerie Kunze, Ruth Jensen

Faith and Care Group 3—Mavis Pommerer, Melissa & Jay Volk

River Worship Team—

Sound Board Technicians—Larry Wolf, Karen Will

Projection Team—Caden Kunze, Jace Kunze, Val Kunze, Rod Sargent,
Art Wheeler

Streaming Team—Mark Kunze, Karen Will, Art Wheeler

River Singers—Marlene Grabow, Sally Grenz, Cherie Krueger, AJ Marx,
Mark Murie, Amanda Sagsveen, Tom Wade

Percussionist—Kari Harris

Violinist—Fynn Sagsveen

Accompanists—Luke Weber, Gerri Sarsten, Jan & Joel Gilbertson

Sunday Worship Coordinator—Peder Gulleason

Living Water Worship Team

Living Water Singers—Caroline Collins, Keira Collins, Joel Crane,
Annabelle Ellison, Brandi Ellison, Amanda Sagsveen

Percussionist—Kari Harris

Guitarists—Kolton Harris, Joel Crane

Accompanist—Luke Weber

Sound—

Wednesday Worship Coordinator—Joel Crane

GOSPEL SONG: *“Thy Word”*

GOSPEL READING: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The baptism of Jesus with the descent of the Holy Spirit

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

SERMON Pastor Lisa Ahlness

SONG OF THE DAY *“Baptized in Water” ELW 456*

APOSTLES’ CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG: *“I’ve Got Peace Like a River”*

OFFERING PRAYER

WEEKLY CALENDAR of January 12, 2025

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD'S PRAYER: *Spoken*

INVITATION TO OUR LORD'S SUPPER

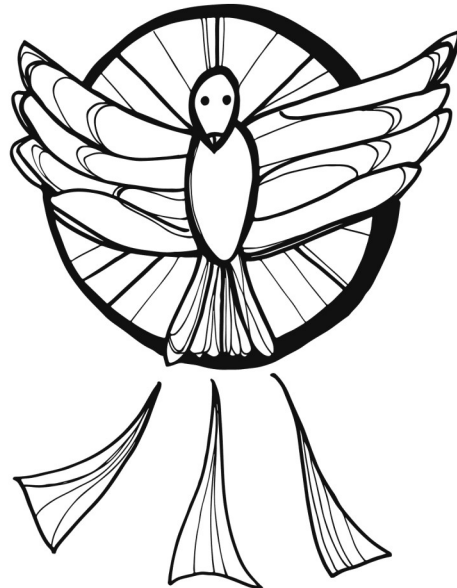
COMMUNION SONG: "10,000 Reasons"

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" ELW 543

DISMISSAL



Today, January 12:

**River Service 10:00am
Annual Meeting 11:00am
Potluck 12:00pm Grp 3**

Monday, January 13:

Needlework Group 9am

Tuesday, January 14:

Wednesday, January 15:

**Supper 5 pm
Living Water 6:15 pm
Church School, Confirmation
River Practice 7pm**

Thursday, January 16:

**Gather Bible Study 10:30am
Quilting 1:00pm
AA Meeting 8pm**

Friday, January 17:

Wired Word 1:30pm

Saturday, January 18:

Men's Bible Study 10am

Sunday, January 19:

**River Service 10:00am
Coffee Hour 11:00am
Living Water practice 5pm**

Upcoming Events