

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 8–3pm Fri 8 to noon

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

**Staff:**

Lisa Ahlness, **Pastor**

Cell: 220.9011 / [lisaahlness@hotmail.com](mailto:lisaahlness@hotmail.com)

Connie Werner, **Secretary** cell 400.5852

Office 223-1001 / [churchsecretary@midconetwork.com](mailto:churchsecretary@midconetwork.com)

Art Wheeler, **Co-Treasurers**

527-9582/ [lcctreasurer@midconetwork.com](mailto:lcctreasurer@midconetwork.com)

Sarah Dahl, [sarahdahlmba@gmail.com](mailto:sarahdahlmba@gmail.com) 226.6844

Peder Gulleon, **Sunday Worship Coordinator**

680.8787/[theriver@midconetwork.com](mailto:theriver@midconetwork.com)

Joel Crane, **Wednesday Worship Coordinator**

498-2604/[cranejoel58@gmail.com](mailto:cranejoel58@gmail.com)

**2025 Church Council Members**

Scot Long, President, [scotglong@gmail.com](mailto:scotglong@gmail.com) 400.2169

Mike Geiermann, Vice President, [mgeiermann12@gmail.com](mailto:mgeiermann12@gmail.com) 471.5122

Jessi Karvo, Secretary, [jfish321@gmail.com](mailto:jfish321@gmail.com) 426.7439

Janice Martin, [mrladyj2000@gmail.com](mailto:mrladyj2000@gmail.com) 471.5600

Rod Sargent, [randdebsarge@beu.midco.net](mailto:randdebsarge@beu.midco.net) 880.8238

Molly Traynor, [mktraynor@hotmail.com](mailto:mktraynor@hotmail.com) 202.0891

Kathryn Spilman, [healthandskinbykathryn@gmail.com](mailto:healthandskinbykathryn@gmail.com) 527.6867

*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

# The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross  
February 16, 2025

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

# LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

## “The River” Worship Service

February 16, 2025

### INTRODUCTION .

Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the “blessed are” and the “woe tos” are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him, and offers power to heal us all.

*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:** “Come As You Are”, “Let Us Be the Church”

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING SONG:** “Let It Rise”

**GREETINGS OF PEACE**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS**

**GATHERING SONG:** “All Are Welcome” ELW 641

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

*We Hear God’s Word*

**FIRST READING:** Jeremiah 17:5-10

*Blessed are those who trust the LORD, they are like trees by water*

<sup>5</sup> Thus says the LORD:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals  
and make mere flesh their strength,  
whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

<sup>6</sup> They shall be like a shrub in the desert,  
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,  
in an uninhabited salt land.

**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. We have had many sign up for the Chosen study - one group is full, the other still has room for a few people. Let Tom Harris or Pastor Lisa know if you'd like to jump in! Studies begin soon! Sign up is located in the Narthex. !

Check out the poster **Gospel PraiSing Fiesta!** Twice a month on Sundays GPS ministries will be singing at Mayas Mexican Restaurant from 11:30—1:30. Enjoy a meal, listen to Gospel music and if you wish, make a donation which 100% will go to St. Vincent dePaul Society. To find out more about the St. Vincent dePaul ministry go to <https://svdpbismarck.org>

**New Member Class March 16** Are you interested in joining or learning more about Lutheran Church of the Cross? You are invited to join Pastor Lisa on Sunday, March 16, at 11:15 after worship in the Sunday School room next to the youth room, near the offices and the back door to the parking lot. If that date won't work for you, let Pastor know and you can meet with her another time. All are welcome!

**First Communion Class** At LCC, all baptized children are welcome to receive communion, with parents' permission and a plan for instruction. To that end, we will offer a first communion class on Saturday, April 12 from noon—1:30pm. Children will bake communion bread together, and then spend some time learning about the sacrament of Holy Communion. We usually do this class for children from 1-3 grades or whenever your child is interested and ready to learn. First communion will be celebrated on Maundy Thursday, April 17th, at the 7pm service. Let Pastor Lisa know of you children' 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.  
March: The Mighty Red by Louise Erdrich  
April: The Language of Cottonwoods by Clay Jenkinson

**Altar Focus for February: Ministry on the Margins Coffee House**  
MOTM is a place of safety and rest throughout the night for those in need. All people are welcome. Food and coffee are served to those who spend the night. Some great needs are disposable hand and foot warmers (such as “Hot Hands”), protein or granola bars, jerky packs or beef sticks, decaf coffee and powdered coffee creamer. (Blankets too, if you have some!) Your donations will help a ministry that serves those who are often forgotten at a time when many are at risk from the cold. Thank you!

**A NEW BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN IS IN THE WORKS!**  
In this 7 session study on the Gospel of John, Melissa Spoelstra will encourage you to slow down and linger with the living Word. Books are being ordered and the day and time have been chosen. The study will start this Wednesday at 7pm in the classroom next door to the library. You are encouraged to come to supper and worship each Wednesday for fellowship.

A **special thank you** to Tracy Geiermann for the valentines from God who loves us! A perfect reminder. Thanks also to her granddaughter Stella for passing out valentines to her church family!

We are grateful for our talented artists who put up the varied, interesting and inspiring **seasonal bulletin boards** in the narthex. Lillian Crook created the universe currently displayed. We will be needing new ones for Lent (begins March 5) and Easter (April 20) seasons. Let the office or Pastor Lisa know if you will do one!

- <sup>7</sup> Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,  
whose trust is the LORD.
- <sup>8</sup> They shall be like a tree planted by water,  
sending out its roots by the stream.  
It shall not fear when heat comes,  
and its leaves shall stay green;  
in the year of drought it is not anxious,  
and it does not cease to bear fruit.
- <sup>9</sup> The heart is devious above all else;  
it is perverse—  
who can understand it?
- <sup>10</sup> I the LORD test the mind  
and search the heart,  
to give to all according to their ways,  
according to the fruit of their doings.



## RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 1

They are like trees planted by streams of water. (*Ps. 1:3*)

<sup>1</sup>Happy are those  
who do not follow the advice of the wicked,  
or take the path that sinners tread,  
or sit in the seat of scoffers;

<sup>2</sup>**but their delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and on his law they meditate day and night.**

<sup>3</sup>They are like trees  
planted by streams of water,  
which yield their fruit in its season,  
and their leaves do not wither.

<sup>4</sup>**The wicked are not so,  
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.**

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

<sup>6</sup>**for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.**



## 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, JoDee Sayler, Arvid Mugaas, Diane Klein, Libby Martin, Kira Willadsen, Kerry Carpenter, Linda Marson, Lonnie Sunde, Jacob Hynek, Art Wheeler, Reece Fischer, Lindsey Steiger, Lyndon Jahner, Joel Crane, Paul Kuch, Christ Gerr, Sher Harildstad, Carolyn Wegerle, Pr. Phil Leer, Peg Ahlness, Jeff Thomas, Dana Wheeler, Keaton Westlake, Brady Staloch, Austin Jamtgaard, Mark Thompson, Shirley Holder

**For those dealing with the death of these loved ones—**Bonnie Mathias, Luella Clarence

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

**Pastor**—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**Scripture Reader**—Deb Sargent

**Ushers**—Joel & Suzanne Toso, Steve & Cheryl Neu

**Communion Assistants**—Cherie & Roger Krueger, Tracy Wolf

**Altar Guild**—Jean Kraft, Sarah Dahl, Cherie Krueger

**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**—Joel Crane, 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 Gulleson

**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, Peder Gulleson

**Accompanist**—Luke Weber

**Sound**—Peder Gulleson

**Wednesday Worship Coordinator**—Joel Crane

## **SECOND READING: 1Corinthians 15:1-11**

*Christ has been raised, the first fruits of those who have died*

<sup>12</sup> Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup> If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; <sup>14</sup> and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. <sup>15</sup> We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. <sup>17</sup> If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

<sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

**GOSPEL SONG: “You Are My All in All” (Chorus)**

## **GOSPEL READING: Luke 6:17-26**

*Jesus speaks blessings on the poor and hungry; woes on the rich and full*

<sup>17</sup> [Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>18</sup> They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. <sup>19</sup> And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

<sup>20</sup> Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the kingdom of God.

<sup>21</sup> “Blessed are you who are hungry now,  
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,  
for you will laugh.

<sup>22</sup> “Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup> Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

<sup>24</sup> “But woe to you who are rich,  
for you have received your consolation.  
<sup>25</sup> “Woe to you who are full now,  
for you will be hungry.  
“Woe to you who are laughing now,  
for you will mourn and weep.  
<sup>26</sup> “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did  
to the false prophets.”

**SERMON** Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**SONG OF THE DAY:** “*All My Hope*”

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:** “*Blessings*”

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**OFFERING:** “*The Old Rugged Cross*”

*WE SHARE THE MEAL*

**PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL**

**LORD’S PRAYER:** *Spoken*

**INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER**

**COMMUNION SONG:** “*Canticle of the Turning*”

**COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION**

**SENDING SONG:** “*Build Your Kingdom Here*”

**DISMISSAL**

## WEEKLY CALENDAR of February 16 2025

**Today, February 16:**

**River Practice 9:00 am  
River Service 10:00am  
Coffee Hour 11:00am  
Living Water practice 5pm**

**Monday, February 17:**

**Needlework Group 9am  
President’s Day**

**Tuesday, February 18:**

**Worship & Music Committee  
5:30 pm**

**Wednesday, February 19:**

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

**Thursday, February 20:**

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

**Friday, February 21:**

**Wired Word 1:30pm**

**Saturday, February 22:**

**Men’s Bible Study 10am**

**Sunday, February 27:**

**River Practice 9:00 am  
River Service 10:00am  
Coffee Hour 11:00am  
Living Water practice 5pm**

### **Upcoming Events**

April 25 & 26 Women’s Retreat at Camp of the Cross