

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:**

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

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*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

# The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross  
February 2, 2025

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

# LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

## “The River” Worship Service

February 2, 2025

**INTRODUCTION** The glory of God is often revealed when and where it is least expected. God uses our lips to declare that glory, inexperienced and hesitant though they may be. God uses our love to demonstrate that glory and so urges us to exercise it. God uses Jesus of Nazareth, water and the word, bread and wine, to reveal God’s glory where and when God chooses. Take heed, lest the glory of God slip through our midst unnoticed.

*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:** “God of Wonders”, “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” ELW 636

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING SONG:** “Awesome God”

**GREETINGS OF PEACE**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS**

**GATHERING SONG:** “Forever”

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

*We Hear God’s Word*

**FIRST READING:** Jeremiah 1:4-10

*I appointed you a prophet to the nations*

<sup>4</sup> Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,

<sup>5</sup> “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

**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!

**Time and Talents** sheets are placed with the bulletins and throughout the narthex. Take one and fill it out. Or Don’t want to fill it out 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. We are in dire need of ushers, readers, and communion assistants. HELP!

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. Their donation of \$4339 went to Ministry on the Margins January 5. To find out more about the St. Vincent dePaul ministry go to <https://svdpbismarck.org>

**Thank you** to those who are contributing to the Heat the Church fund.

**Thank you** to Lillian Crook for the creative bulletin board! The lights are showing in this picture!



## 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.  
March: The Mighty Red by Louise Erdrich  
April: The Language of Cottonwoods by Clay Jenkinson

**Thank you** Rev. Knutson for being with us again today sharing your wisdom.

Who likes **treats**? We all do! Coffee just tastes better with a treat. If there are not treats out some Sundays.....well bake some and bring them to LCC. Sign up on the clipboards. Dishwashers are needed as well!

Two ongoing collections are **pop tops** (the ring that breaks off pop cans) and **cancelled stamps**. Both can be collected and then brought to the church. Place them in the large oak credenza, far right two drawers that are labelled appropriately.

### **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.

“Life. It seems to move at a break-neck pace. Days are filled with noise, screens, and appointments. Sometimes worry and fear are constant companions. The chaos can leave you looking for a place to be still, but that resting spot always seems to be an elusive destination. Jesus offers a different kind of life. He offers peace. He is peace.”

This study features 7 video sessions, 25– 30 minutes each, with 6 weeks of personal study to be completed during the 7 group sessions. The study is designed to be like a 3 legged stool; video, homework, and discussion. Of course you can tailor this to your needs, if time does not allow.

There is a sign up sheet in the narthex. Please include your phone number or call me at 701.880.8237 if you might be interested but have questions. We will discuss and choose a time that works for us; it may be early morning to early evening or anywhere in-between. Thanks! Deb Sargent

<sup>6</sup> Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” <sup>7</sup> But the Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you.

<sup>8</sup> Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.”

<sup>9</sup> Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me,

“Now I have put my words in your mouth.

<sup>10</sup> See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

### **RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 71:1-6**

From my mother’s womb you have been my strength. (*Ps. 71:6*)

<sup>1</sup>In you, O LORD, I take refuge;  
let me never be put to shame.

<sup>2</sup>**In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;  
incline your ear to me and save me.**

<sup>3</sup>Be to me a rock of refuge,  
a strong fortress, to save me,  
for you are my rock and my fortress.

<sup>4</sup>**Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,  
from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.**

<sup>5</sup>For you, O LORD, are my hope,  
my trust, O LORD, from my youth.

<sup>6</sup>**Upon you I have leaned from my birth;  
it was you who took me from my mother's womb.  
My praise is continually of you.**

**SECOND READING: 1Corinthians 13:1-13**

*If I speak without love, I am a noisy gong*

<sup>1</sup> If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant <sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. <sup>7</sup> It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

<sup>8</sup> Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. <sup>9</sup> For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; <sup>10</sup> but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. <sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. <sup>13</sup> And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

**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 Saylor, 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, Robyn Richter, 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—**Luella Clarence, Ed Kraft,

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

**Pastor**—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**Scripture Reader**—Sarah Dahl

**Ushers**—Steve & Cheryl Neu, John Kraft, Lee Jensen

**Communion Assistants**—Sheila Koffler, Tracy Geiermann, Ruth Jensen

**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

**GOSPEL SONG:** “*Jesus Messiah*”

**GOSPEL READING:** Luke 4:21-30

*Jesus says a prophet is not accepted in his hometown*

<sup>21</sup> Then [Jesus] began to say to [all in the synagogue in Nazareth,] “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” <sup>22</sup> All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” <sup>23</sup> He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” <sup>24</sup> And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown. <sup>25</sup> But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; <sup>26</sup> yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. <sup>27</sup> There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” <sup>28</sup> When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. <sup>29</sup> They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. <sup>30</sup> But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

SERMON Pastor Knutson

SONG OF THE DAY: "Ancient Words"

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH: "Lord Listen to Your Children Praying" ELW 572

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING: "Oceans"

*WE SHARE THE MEAL*

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD'S PRAYER: *Spoken*

INVITATION TO OUR LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: "Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling" ELW 608

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: "God Be With You Till We Meet Again",  
"This Little Light of Mine" ELW 677

DISMISSAL:

## WEEKLY CALENDAR of February 2, 2025

**Today, February 2:**

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

**Monday, February 3:**

**Needlework Group 9am**

**Tuesday, February 4:**

**Wednesday, February 5:**

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

**Thursday, February 6:**

**Quilting 1:00pm  
AA Meeting 8pm**

**Friday, February 7:**

**Wired Word 1:30pm**

**Saturday, February 8:**

**Men's Bible Study 10am**

**Sunday, February 9:**

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

### **Upcoming Events**

Book Club Feb. 12 1:30pm

Church Council Feb. 13 6:30pm

Altar Guild Meeting Saturday, Feb. 15th 9:30am

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