

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

Phone: 223-1001

Website: www.churchofthecross.org

Winter Hours: Mon.– Thursday 8–3pm Fri 8 to noon

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

Staff:

Lisa Ahlness, **Pastor**

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2025 Church Council Members

Scot Long, President, scotglong@gmail.com 400.2169

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“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross

February 9, 2025

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

“The River” Worship Service

February 9, 2025

INTRODUCTION The fifth Sunday after Epiphany continues to highlight unlikely instruments and circumstances appointed to reveal God’s glory. “Who will go for us?” God asks. A person of unclean lips, a former persecutor of the church of God, and three fishermen who couldn’t catch a thing. More surprising still, perhaps, is that we are also called.

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: “Holy is the Lord”, “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!” ELW 413

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG: “The Heart of Worship”

GREETINGS OF PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: “Here I Am ,Lord” ELW 574

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

We Hear God’s Word

FIRST READING: Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)

Isaiah says, Here am I; send me

¹ In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ² Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³ And one called to another and said:

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

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

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

⁴ The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵ And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

⁶ Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷ The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” ⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!” [⁹ And he said, “Go and say to this people:

‘Keep listening, but do not comprehend;
keep looking, but do not understand.’

¹⁰ Make the mind of this people dull,
and stop their ears,
and shut their eyes,
so that they may not look with their eyes,
and listen with their ears,
and comprehend with their minds,
and turn and be healed.”

¹¹ Then I said, “How long, O Lord?” And he said:

“Until cities lie waste
without inhabitant,
and houses without people,
and the land is utterly desolate;
¹² until the LORD sends everyone far away,
and vast is the emptiness in the midst of the land.

¹³ Even if a tenth part remain in it,
it will be burned again,
like a terebinth or an oak
whose stump remains standing
when it is felled.”

The holy seed is its stump.

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 138

I will bow down toward your holy temple. (*Ps. 138:2*)

¹I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;

**²I bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithful-
ness;
for you have exalted your name and your word
above everything.**

³On the day I called, you answered me,
you increased my strength of soul.

**⁴All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD,
for they have heard the words of your mouth.**

⁵They shall sing of the ways of the LORD,
for great is the glory of the LORD.

**⁶For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly;
but the haughty he perceives from far away.**

⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;
you stretch out your hand,
and your right hand delivers me.

**⁸The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.**

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—Joel Toso

Ushers—Larry & Verlaine Jahner, Janice & Keven Martin

Communion Assistants—Tracy Wolf, Sally Grenz, Tracy Geiermann

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

I am the least of the apostles

¹ Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ² through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

³ For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴ and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

GOSPEL SONG: “Kyrie”

GOSPEL READING: Luke 5:1-11

Jesus calls the disciples to fish for people

¹ Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, ² he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. ⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.” ⁵ Simon answered, “Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.” ⁶ When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. ⁷ So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸ But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!” ⁹ For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; ¹⁰ and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.” ¹¹ When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

SERMON Pastor Lisa Ahlness

SONG OF THE DAY: "Will You Come and Follow Me" ELW 798

APOSTLES' CREED

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

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING: "Let Us Be the Church"

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD'S PRAYER: *Spoken*

INVITATION TO OUR LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: "You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore" ELW 817

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: "Forever"

DISMISSAL

WEEKLY CALENDAR of February 9, 2025

Today, February 9:

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

Monday, February 10:

Needlework Group 9am

Tuesday, February 11:

Wednesday, February 12:

Book Club 1:30pm
Supper 5 pm
Living Water Service 6:15 pm
Church School, Confirmation
River Practice 7pm

Thursday, February 13:

Church Council 6:30pm
Quilting 1:00pm
AA Meeting 8pm

Friday, February 14:

Wired Word 1:30pm

Saturday, February 15:

Altar Guild Meeting 9:30am
Men's Bible Study 10am

Sunday, February 16:

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