

**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**

Cell: 220.9011 / lisaahlness@hotmail.com

Connie Werner, **Secretary** cell 400.5852

Office 223-1001 / churchsecretary@midconetwork.com

Art Wheeler, **Co-Treasurers**

527-9582/ lcctreasurer@midconetwork.com

Sarah Dahl, 226.6844/sarahdahlmba@gmail.com

Peder Gulleson, **Sunday Worship Coordinator**

680.8787/theriver@midconetwork.com

Joel Crane, **Wednesday Worship Coordinator**

498-2604/cranejoel58@gmail.com

2025 Church Council Members

Scot Long, President, scotglong@gmail.com 400.2169

Mike Geiermann, Vice President, mgeiermann12@gmail.com 471.5122

Jessi Karvo, Secretary, jfish321@gmail.com 426.7439

Janice Martin, msladyj2000@gmail.com 471.5600

Rod Sargent, randdebsarge@beu.midco.net 880.8238

Molly Traynor, mktraynor@hotmail.com 202.0891

Kathryn Spilman, healthandskinbykathryn@gmail.com 527.6867

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

The River

A Blended Worship Service



**Lutheran Church of the Cross
November 16, 2025**

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

November 16, 2025

We Come Together

Introduction

The end is near. There is no doubt about it. The warnings are dire. The tone of today's texts is ominous. But the baptized know how to live in the meantime. The baptized are strengthened for the living of these days in word and sacrament. The baptized rally around the invitation of the apostle: "Do not be weary in doing what is right."

PRELUDE: "Here I Am To Worship", "The Heart of Worship"

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

OUR CONFESSION, GOD'S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: "Shout Out To The Lord"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

We Hear God's Word

FIRST READING: Malachi 4:1-2a

A day of blistering heat for the arrogant; a day of healing sun for the righteous.

¹ See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evil-doers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ^{2a} But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

Pies will be needed for the **Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship Service**. Let Pastor Lisa know if you are able to provide a pie or two. Coffee servers will be needed as well that evening, including set up and clean up.

Kay Miller reports that the **Bismarck Emergency Food Pantry** is serving 70+ families per day. They are in dire need of shelf stable items: vegetables, mac and cheese (that can be made with water), canned tuna or chicken, and packets of items such as soups, instant potatoes, etc.

We are collecting the following items for **Foster Hope**: snack packs, fruit snacks, crackers/cheese packs for children, and warm coats, boots, hats, gloves and scarves of all sizes.

Thank you for the donations of food and warm things. We need help **delivering** our altar focus **donations** this month! If you can deliver shelf-stable food and winter accessories please reach out to the church office or Pastor Lisa.

We are in need of **office volunteers** while Connie Werner recovers from knee surgery. If you have an hour or two here or there, would you be willing to assist by answering the phone in the church office, taking messages, and being a friendly face to greet those who stop in? If so, please sign up on the clipboard near the hallway to the bathrooms, or call the church office to indicate your availability.

Come experience the beautiful liturgy and music of **Holden Evening Prayer** in worship at 6:15 pm on Wednesdays in Advent: December 3rd, 10th and 17th. The theme of these worship services will be "The Power of Yes":

Our annual **Cookie Walk** will be held on **Sunday, December 14th**. Get out your favorite recipes and dust off your cookie sheets! We invite bakers to sign up, as we need at least 10-15 bakers to make a go of this. If you'd like to utilize our **Thrivent Grant** for the purchase of your ingredients please contact Sally Grenz.

Join us for some fun-filled evenings of fellowship, flavor, and friendly competition at our **Chili Cook Off** and **Knoephla Cook Off** followed by a **Holiday Hor d'oeuvres Pot Luck** throughout **Advent**. Bring your best recipes or simply come to sample.

Wednesday, December 3rd: Chili Cook Off

Wednesday, December 10th: Knoephla Cook Off

Wednesday, December 17th: Holiday Hor d'oeuvres PotLuck

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. Led by Marjo Hewitson followed by her fearless readers.
December—”When Breath Becomes Air” by Paul Kalanithi
January —”All the Colors of the Dark” by Chris Whitaker
February—”The Briar Club” by Kate Quinn

FIND YOUR BALANCE Stress Relief & Support, a monthly stress management offering held at UCC the third Thursday Sept. 28 through April 16. 6:00-7:15 pm.

Jesus & Women Bible Study: 11/19, 12/3, 12/7 at 7:00 in Youth Room

The November and December Sunday Worship Duties are now scheduled. The schedules have been sent out electronically. Copies are also on the round table in the narthex. No reminders will be sent out during the secretary’s absence.

Community Thanksgiving Worship Service here at LCC Tuesday, Nov 25 at 7pm. Sister Idelle Badt from Stepping Stone Ministries will be the speaker. Hosted by UCC, LCC, Faith Lutheran, Lord of Life, Annunciation Monastery, McCabe Methodist, Legacy Methodist and St. George’s Episcopal. Pie social to follow.

The order form for the **Christmas poinsettias** is out. You’ll find it in the narthex and/or at the back of the church. When completed please place it in the offering plate or in the secretary’s plastic bin next to her door.

Heat the Church is once again being offered to recognize loved ones’ birthdays, wedding anniversaries, and other significant dates in your family. The money raised will go towards LCC utilities. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex—thank you to all who participate!

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 98

In righteousness will the *Lord* judge the world. (*Ps. 98:9*)

- ¹ Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.
- ² **O LORD, you have made known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**
- ³ You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- ⁴ **Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**
- ⁵ Sing to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.
- ⁶ **With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**
- ⁷ Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world and those who dwell therein.
- ⁸ **Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge
the earth.**
- ⁹ The LORD will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

SECOND READING: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

The coming of the Lord Jesus

⁶ Now we command you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother or sister living irresponsibly and not according to the tradition that they received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not irresponsible when we were with you, ⁸ and we did not eat anyone’s bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you. ⁹ This was not because we do not have that right but in order to give you an example to imitate. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: anyone unwilling to work should not eat. ¹¹ For we hear that some of you are living irresponsibly, mere busybodies, not doing any work. ¹² Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION SONG: “Jesus Messiah”

WEEKLY CALENDAR of November 9, 2025

<i>Today, November 16:</i>	9:00 am River Practice 10:00 am River Service 11:00 am Coffee Hour
<i>Monday, November 17:</i>	9:00 am Stitching Group Sweet Adeline s Practice
<i>Tuesday, November 18:</i>	
<i>Wednesday, November 19:</i>	5:00 pm Supper 6:15 Worship 7:00 pm Church School, Confirmation, River Practice, Jesus and The Women Bible Study
<i>Thursday, November 20:</i>	10:30 Gather Bible Study 1:00 pm Quilting 7:00 pm AA Meeting
<i>Friday, November 21:</i>	1:30 Wired Word Group
<i>Saturday, November 22:</i>	10:00 am Men’s Bible Study
<i>Sunday, November 23:</i>	9:00 am River Practice 10:00 am River Service, Church School 11:00 am Coffee Hour

Upcoming Events:
Nov. 25 7:00 pm Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship at Church of the Cross



Seasoned with Joy

Advent Food and Fellowship

DECEMBER 3:

Chili Cook-Off

- Competitors: Please have your chili at the church by 5:00 p.m.
- Connoisseurs (all are welcome): tasting and voting begin at 5:15 p.m.



DECEMBER 10:

Knoephla Cook-Off

- Competitors: Please have your knoepla at the church by 5:00 p.m.
- Connoisseurs (all are welcome): tasting and voting begins at 5:15 p.m.

DECEMBER 17:

Hors d'oeuvres Potluck

- Bring your favorite holiday hors d'oeuvres or snack to share in the potluck-style meal.
- No voting--- purely fellowship



GOSPEL READING: Luke 21:5-19

Jesus speaks of wars, endurance, betrayal, and suffering for his sake.

⁵When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, [Jesus] said, ⁶“As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.”

⁷They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” ⁸And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is near!’ Do not go after them.

⁹“When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” ¹⁰Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

¹²“But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, ¹⁵for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹By your endurance you will gain your souls.”

Organizers: Sarah Dahl: 226-6844 and Janet Bassingthwaite: 391-1058

SERMON Pastor Brian Knutson

SONG OF THE DAY: “How Great Thou Art”

OFFERING PRAYER

APOSTLES’ CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING SONG: “Jesus Name Above All Names”

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: “Beautiful Savior”

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: “A New Hallelujah”

“THE RIVER” and “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Brian Knutson
Scripture Reader— Cherie Krueger
Communion Assistants—Kay Koch, Esther & Roger Anderson
Ushers—Kay Koch, Daniel McKinney, Marylee Gregware, Larry Jahner
Altar Guild—Cherie Krueger, Kelly Olson, Verlaine Jahner
Faith and Care Group 2— Sheila Seuss & Josh Hocker, Sheila & Ron Koffler
River Worship Team—
Sound Board Technicians— Larry Wolf, Karen Will.
Projection Team— Jace Kunze, Val Kunze, Rod Sargent, Art Wheeler
Streaming Team— Mark Kunze, Karen Will, Art Wheeler
River Singers— Joel Crane, Mike Geiermann, Marlene Grabow, Sally Grenz,
Paul Gurholt, Doug Johnson, Cherie Krueger, AJ Marx, Kathy Morrison, Mark
Murie, Deb Patterson, Amanda Sagsveen
Percussionist— Kari Harris
Violinist—Fynn Sagsveen
Accompanists—Luke Weber, Gerri Sarsten, Jan & Joel Gilbertson, Eve Kath
Sunday Worship Coordinator—Peder Gulleeson

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 Gulleeson
Accompanist —Luke Weber
Sound—Peder Gulleeson
Wednesday Worship Coordinator—Joel Crane

Prayers
For those struggling with health and other concerns:
Tracy Martinson, Earl Larson, Nancy Dockter, Hattie Martinson, Carter Weigel, Josey
Hanson, Heidi Renner, JoDee Sayler, Diane Klein, Libby Martin, Kira Willadsen, Kerry
Carpenter, Sher Harildstad, Shirley Holder, Jerry Hanson, Joyce Wahl, Jeff Christian-
son, Arvid Mugaas, Pete Barrette, Heather Martin, Katie Leer, Daryl Hodnefield, Lorna
Mathais, Jagger Lindsey, Sandy Drevecky, Emmett Wolf, Peg Ahlness, Don Becker,
Connie Werner, Dave Kunze, Marvin Leer, Katie Leer, Jim Kennedy

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones:
Jackie Kraft Kolpack, Keaton Westlake, John Hertzgard, Judi Fockler