

**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

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527-9582/ lcctreasurer@midconetwork.com

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Peder Gulleson, **Sunday Worship Coordinator**

680.8787/theriver@midconetwork.com

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2025 Church Council Members

Scot Long, President, scotglong@gmail.com 400.2169

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

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Molly Traynor, mktraynor@hotmail.com 202.0891

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“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

The River

A Blended Worship Service



**Lutheran Church of the Cross
November 30, 2025**

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

November 30, 2025

We Come Together

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

PRELUDE: "Rejoice", "Rejoice Believers", "My Lord What a Morning"

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE The Karvo Family

OUR CONFESSION, GOD'S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: "O Come O Come Emanuel"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

We Hear God's Word

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

Weapons of war transformed into instruments of peace

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ² In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³ Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us

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!

Parents and Grandparents— our annual **Children's Christmas Program** planning is underway and we would love if your family could be a part of this tradition. Contact Sarah Dahl with questions. 701-226-6844.

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. Please bring **by Wednesday, December 3rd** so that confirmation students can deliver the donations that evening.

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. 701-390-3049

Join us for some fun-filled evenings of fellowship, flavor, and friendly competition at our **Chili Cook Off** and **Knoephla Soup 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 Soup 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.

Your offerings have allowed the Church Council to approve an increase in benevolences to help support feeding ministries within our community this month. **The Emergency Food Pantry, Dream Center, Soup Café, and Ministry on the Margins** expressed gratitude for the donations in this time of great need. This support will allow them to serve more families in the days to come. Thank you for helping to share God's love.

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: 12/3, 12/7, 1/7 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.

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.

As we approach the **holiday season**, December is often a time when we come together to **give generously**. This year, we invite you to consider directing your special donations to a local helping agency that provides food or clothing to those in need. Your support can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who are struggling during this time of year.

his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴ He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 122

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the *Lord*." (Ps. 122:1)

¹ I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."

² **Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

³ Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;

⁴ **to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**

⁵ For there are the thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

⁶ **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.**

⁷ Peace be with- in your walls and quietness within your towers.

⁸ **For the sake of my kindred and companions, I pray for your prosperity.**

⁹ Because of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek to do you good."

SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14

Salvation is near; time to wake from sleep

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION SONG: “Jesus Messiah,”

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 24:36-44

The sudden coming of the Son of Man

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

SERMON Pastor Lisa Ahlness

SONG OF THE DAY: “Blessed Be Your Name”

OFFERING PRAYER

APOSTLES’ CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING SONG: “He Came Down”

Hi Parents,

Our annual LCC Kids’ Christmas Program planning is underway! We would love if your family could be a part of this tradition.

ALL kids, big and small, welcome!

 Speaking and nonspeaking parts are available

 Service hour opportunity for Confirmation kids

Sign up

HERE



December2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

19th 3:00-4:00 Intro and Rehearsal

20th 3:00-4:00 Dress Rehearsal

21st 10:00 Christmas Program



Questions?

Contact: Sarah Dahl, 701-226-6844

sarahdahlmba@gmail.com



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 Soup Cook-Off

- Competitors: Please have your knoephla 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



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

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD'S PRAYER

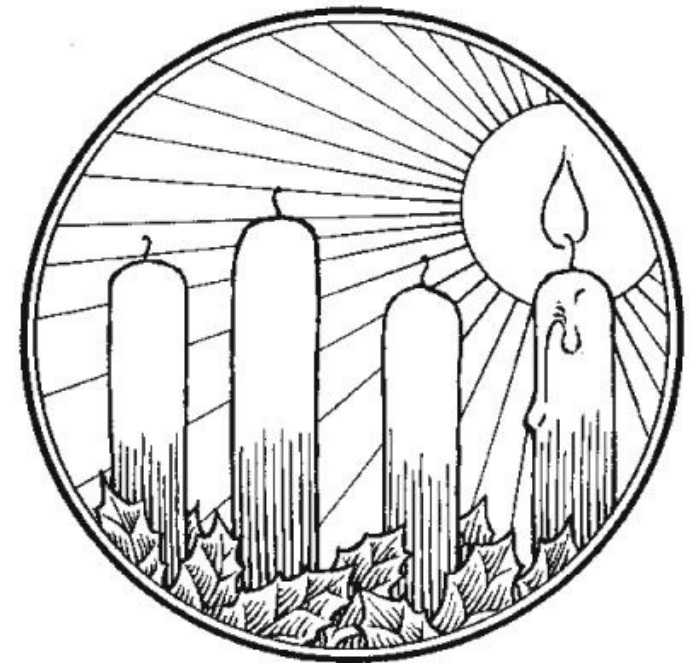
INVITATION TO OUR LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: "Glorious Day (Living Here Loved Us) "

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: "Light of the World"



“THE RIVER” and “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness
Scripture Reader— Joel Toso
Communion Assistants—Doug Johnson, Suzanne Toso, Tracy Wolf
Ushers—Daniel McKinney, Marylee Gregware, Suzanne & Joel Toso
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 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

A special thank you to the families that have sponsored “Heat the Church” in November: Myrtice Behan, Pastor Lisa, Cheryl Neu, Dawn Slag, Sheila Suess and Josh Hocker, Art Wheeler, Riveland Family

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR of November 30, 2025

Today, November 30:	9:00 am River Practice 10:00 am River Service 11:00 am Coffee Hour
Monday, December 1:	9:00 am Stitching Group Sweet Adeline’s Practice
Tuesday, December 2:	
Wednesday, December 3:	5:00 pm Chili Cook-Off 6:15 Worship 7:00 pm Church School, Confirma- tion, River Practice, Jesus and The Women Bible Study
Thursday, December 4:	1:00 pm Quilting 7:00 pm AA Meeting
Friday, December 5:	1:30 Wired Word Group
Saturday, December 6:	10:00 am Men’s Bible Study
Sunday, December 7:	9:00 am River Practice 10:00 am River Service, Church School 11:00 am Coffee Hour

Upcoming Events:
December 3rd, 10th, 17th, at 5:15pm: December Advent Meals
December 21st at 10:00am: Children’s Christmas Program