

**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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2025 Church Council Members

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“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

The River

A Blended Worship Service



**Lutheran Church of the Cross
December 21, 2025**

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

December 21, 2025

We Come Together

PRELUDE: “Angels from the Realms of Glory (Emmanuel)”
“Glory (Let There Be Peace)”

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

SONG: “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE The Kath Family

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: “Oh Come, All Ye Faithful”



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.

Thank you for your generosity in 2025! Please remember to submit your **donation by December 28th** to apply it toward the 2025 tax year.

The Annual LCC **Cookie Walk** generated a record \$846 for Heaven’s Helpers Soup Café! Thank you to the hard-working bakers and all who helped make this a event a huge success!

Last week, two **Christmas caroling groups** brought joy and holiday spirit to 11 locations! Thank you to all who shared their voices and Christmas cheer.

Book Club Choices: Meets the 2nd Wednesday at 1:30pm in the Library. Led by Marjo Hewitson followed by her fearless readers.
January — “All the Colors of the Dark” by Chris Whitaker
February— “The Briar Club” by Kate Quinn

We are in need of **Ushers** and **Communion Assistants** at both **Christmas Eve Services**. If you can help, please sign up on the clipboard in the Narthex.

Jesus & Women Bible Study: 1/7 at 7:00 in Youth Room

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 the families that have sponsored days.

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.

Join us in welcoming **Connie** back to work this week! She was greatly missed! Thank you to all the office volunteers who stepped in to help as she recovered from surgery.

WEEKLY CALENDAR of December 21, 2025

Today, December 21:	9:00 am River Practice 10:00 am River Service, Children's Christmas Program 11:00 am Coffee Hour 4:00 pm Blue Christmas Service @ Faith Lutheran
Monday, December 22:	9:00 am Stitching Group
Tuesday, December 23:	
Wednesday, December 24:	5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service 10:00 pm Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols
Thursday, December 25:	Merry Christmas! 8:00 pm AA Group
Friday, December 26:	
Saturday, December 27:	10:00 am Men's Bible Study
Sunday, December 28:	9:00 am River Practice 10:00 am River Service 11:00 am Coffee Hour



LCC Children's Christmas Program
Mary Said YES!
Original Version by: Rev. Andrea Riske-Metcalf

<u>Prologue:</u> Elizabeth and Zechariah Song: "10,000 Reasons"	<u>Act 3:</u> Shepherds Song: "Go Tell it on the Mountain"
<u>Act 1:</u> Mary Song: "Magnificat"	<u>Act 4:</u> The Wise Ones Song: "The First Noel"
<u>Act 2:</u> Joseph Song: "Away in a Manger"	<u>Epilogue:</u> All The Rest of Us Song: "Joy to the World"



APOSTLES’ CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING SONG: “In the Bleak Midwinter”

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER

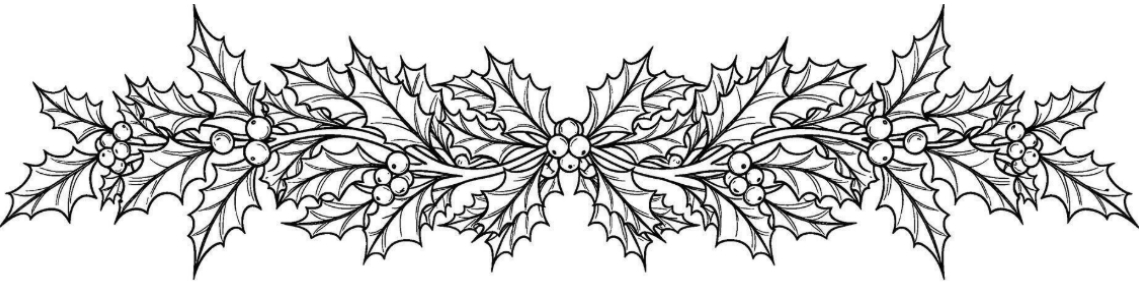
COMMUNION SONG: “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: “Go Tell in on the Mountain”

POSTLUDE ““Angels from the Realms of Glory (Emmanuel)”



“THE RIVER” and “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader— Tracy Geiermann

Communion Assistants—Roger & Esther Anderson, Tracy Wolf

Ushers—Tracy & Mike Geiermann, Suzanne & Joel Toso

Altar Guild—Jean Kraft, Val Kunze, Cheryl Neu, Cherie Krueger

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

Prayers

For those struggling with health and other concerns:

Tracy Martinson, Earl Larson, Nancy Dockter, Hattie Martinson, Josey Hanson,
Heidi Renner, JoDee Sayler, Diane Klein, Libby Martin, Kira Willadsen, Kerry
Carpenter, Sher Harildstad, Shirley Holder, Jerry Hanson, Joyce Wahl, Jeff
Christianson, Arvid Mugaas, Pete Barrette, Heather Martin, Katie Leer, Daryl
Hodnefield, Lorna Mathais, Jagger Lindsey, Emmett Wolf, Peg Ahlness, Don
Becker, Connie Werner, Dave Kunze, Marvin Leer, Katie Leer, Jim Kennedy,
Janie Hague, George Harris, Ken Will

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones:

Terry Grenz, Lori Marx, Jackie Kraft Kolpack, Keaton Westlake, John Hertzgard,
Judi Fockler