

**Lutheran Church of the Cross  
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*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

# **The River**

A Blended Worship Service



**Lutheran Church of the Cross  
January 11, 2026**

*“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”*

# LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

## January 11, 2026

Baptism of Our Lord

### We Come Together

**PRELUDE:** "Wade in the Water", "Hosanna (Praise is Rising)"

### WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### GREETINGS OF PEACE

#### OUR CONFESSION, GOD'S FORGIVENESS

#### GATHERING SONG: "Shall We Gather at the River"

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### We Hear God's Word

#### First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9

<sup>1</sup> Here is my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my spirit upon him;  
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

<sup>2</sup> He will not cry out or lift up his voice  
or make it heard in the street;

<sup>3</sup> a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;  
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

<sup>4</sup> He will not grow faint or be crushed  
until he has established justice in the earth,  
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

### 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.  
January—"All the Colors of the Dark" by Chris Whitaker  
February—"The Briar Club" by Kate Quinn

**Jesus & Women Bible Study:** 1/14 at 7:00 in Youth Room

The **Annual Meeting** is scheduled for Sunday, January 25 following the service. Plan on staying after the meeting for a delicious, potluck meeting. Get your reports in to the secretary no later than January 19. The proposed budget for 2026 is out on the tables in the narthex. Please pick up your copy.

You may take your **poinsettias** after today's church service. Thank you for purchasing them. The white plastic bags are out in the narthex for you to use.

**Pastor Sondra Krogstad**, we appreciate you! Thank you for preaching and helping out in so many other ways. We are glad you came into our lives!

**Communion Assistants, Ushers, Scripture Readers. We need you!** Fill out the schedule that's in the narthex.

I would like to **thank you** all for the kindness, prayers and support through my mother's illness and death. Thanks also to Pastor Sondra for the pastoral support, and to Helping Hands for the meal for my gathered family. We appreciate all these things so very much! **Pastor Lisa**

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

**Pastor**—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**Scripture Reader**—Deb Patterson

**Communion Assistants**—Verlaine Jahner, Mavis Pommerer, Melissa Long

**Ushers**—Larry Jahner & Daniel McKinney, Melissa & Scot Long

**Altar Guild**—Cherie Krueger, Ruth Jensen

**Faith and Care Group 3**—Melissa & Jay Volk, MaryLee Gregware & Daniel McKinney

**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, 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, Daryl Hodnefield, Lorna Mathais, Jagger Lindsey, Emmett Wolf, Don Becker, Connie Werner, Dave Kunze, Marvin Leer, Jim Kennedy, Janie Hague, George Harris, Ken Will

### **For those dealing with the death of these loved ones:**

Josey Hanson, Katie Leer, Peg Ahlness, Terry Grenz, Jackie Kraft Kolpack,

<sup>5</sup> Thus says God, the LORD,  
who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,  
who gives breath to the people upon it  
and spirit to those who walk in it:

<sup>6</sup> I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;  
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;  
I have given you as a covenant to the people,  
a light to the nations,

<sup>7</sup> to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

<sup>8</sup> I am the LORD; that is my name;  
my glory I give to no other,  
nor my praise to idols.

<sup>9</sup> See, the former things have come to pass,  
and new things I now declare;  
before they spring forth,  
I tell you of them.

## **RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 29**

<sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup> Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;  
worship the LORD in holy splendor.

<sup>3</sup> The voice of the LORD is over the waters;  
the God of glory thunders,  
the LORD, over mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup> The voice of the LORD is powerful;  
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

<sup>5</sup> The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

<sup>6</sup> He makes Lebanon skip like a calf  
and Sirion like a young wild ox.

<sup>7</sup> The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

<sup>8</sup> The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

<sup>9</sup> The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl  
and strips the forest bare,  
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"

<sup>10</sup> The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.

<sup>11</sup> May the LORD give strength to his people!  
May the LORD bless his people with peace!

#### **Second Reading: Acts 10:34-43**

<sup>34</sup> Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup> We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, <sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup> not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

#### **GOSPEL SONG: "Word of God Speak"**

#### **Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17**

<sup>13</sup> Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you

come to me?" <sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. <sup>16</sup> And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

**SERMON:** Pastor Sondra Krogstad

**SONG OF THE DAY:** "How Great is Our God"

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**OFFERING SONG:** "Baptized in Water"

**OFFERING PRAYER**

## **WE SHARE THE MEAL**

**PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL**

**LORD'S PRAYER (Sung)**

**INVITATION TO OUR LORD'S SUPPER**

**COMMUNION SONG** "Spirit of Gentleness"

**COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION**

**SENDING SONG:** "Blessed Be Your Name"