

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

**Phone: 223-1001**

**Website: [www.churchofthecross.org](http://www.churchofthecross.org)**

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

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

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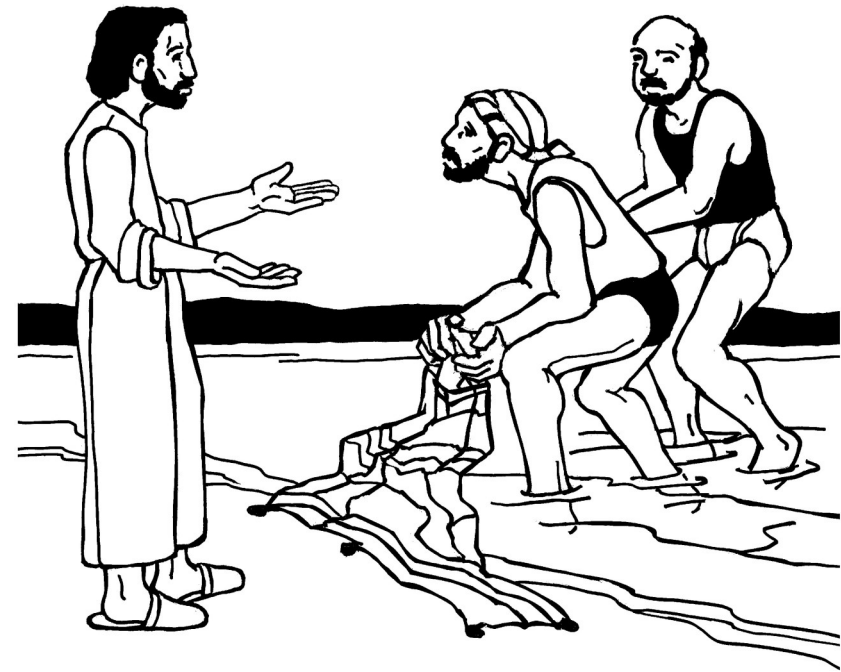
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*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

# The River

A Blended Worship Service



**Lutheran Church of the Cross  
January 25, 2026**

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

# LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

January 25, 2026

*Third Sunday After Epiphany*

## We Come Together

**PRELUDE:** “Jesus Calls Us O’er the Tumult”, “Beautiful Savior”

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GREETINGS OF PEACE**

**OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS**

**GATHERING SONG:** “Thy Word”

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

## We Hear God’s Word

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:1-4**

<sup>1</sup> There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the Lord] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naph-tali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land be-yond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

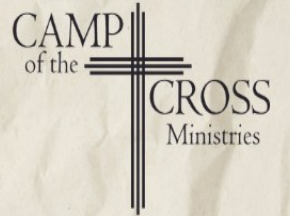
<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied exultation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

# Men’s Retreat 2026

*Tentative Schedule*

Jan. 30—Feb. 1



## Friday:

1:00 - 3:00pm: Registration

3:00 - 4:00pm: Fellowship Time

4:00 - 5:30pm: Session 1 Bible Study

5:30 - 7:00pm: Supper and Fellowship Time

7:00pm and on: Free Time for the Remainder of the Night

*\*\*subject to change by  
CCM staff as needed\*\**

## Saturday:

9:00 - 10:00am: Continental Breakfast

10:00 - 11:30am: Session 2 Bible Study

11:30am - 12:30pm: Free Time

12:30 - 1:30pm: Lunch

1:30 - 3:00pm: Service Project

3:00 - 4:30pm: Session 3 Bible Study

4:30 - 5:30pm: Group Activity/Free Time

5:30 - 7:00pm: Supper and Fellowship  
Time

7:00 - 8:30pm: Session 4 Bible Study

8:30pm and on: Free Time for the  
Remainder of the Night

## Sunday:

9:00 - 10:00am: Breakfast

10:00 - 11:00am: Session 5 Bible  
Study

11:00 - 11:15am: Small Break

11:15am - 12:30pm: Session 6  
Bible Study

12:30 - 1:30pm: Lunch

1:30pm: Dismissal and Goodbyes

# Gospel PraiSing

## Fiesta!

Nourish the Body      Nourish the Soul

Mayas Mexican  
Restaurant



1601 W. Century Ave, Bismarck, ND  
Lunch - order off menu  
(at patron's expense)

SUNDAYS  
11:30 AM-1:30 PM

Christian Music  
presented by:  
Colleen Reinhardt  
Julie Ternes  
& Guests

Jan. 4 - Jennifer Braun & Kathy Perkerewicz

January 25 - Shana Klee

February 8 - Clarence Saylor

February 22 - Kimberly Fix & Jennifer Braun

March 8 - DeAnn Bueligen

March 22 - Leon & Alicia Heick

April 12 - Keylee Hertz Barnett



Free-will donations will assist ND Adult & Teen Challenge.

Presented by: Gospel PraiSing (GPS) Ministries  
Julie Ternes 701-226-0356

<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

### RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 27:1, 4-9

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?  
The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?  
<sup>4</sup> One thing I asked of the LORD;  
this I seek:  
to live in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life,  
to behold the beauty of the LORD,  
and to inquire in his temple.  
<sup>5</sup> For he will hide me in his shelter  
in the day of trouble;  
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;  
he will set me high on a rock.  
<sup>6</sup> Now my head is lifted up  
above my enemies all around me,  
and I will offer in his tent  
sacrifices with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.  
<sup>7</sup> Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;  
be gracious to me and answer me!  
<sup>8</sup> "Come," my heart says, "seek his face!"  
Your face, LORD, do I seek.  
<sup>9</sup> Do not hide your face from me.

Do not turn your servant away in anger,  
you who have been my help.  
Do not cast me off; do not forsake me,  
O God of my salvation!

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18**

<sup>10</sup> Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. <sup>11</sup> For it has been made clear to me by Chloe’s people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. <sup>12</sup> What I mean is that each of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” <sup>13</sup> Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup> I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup> so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup> I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. <sup>17</sup> For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

<sup>18</sup> For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

**GOSPEL SONG:** “Ancient Words”

**GOSPEL: Matthew 4:12-23**

<sup>12</sup> Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup> He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup> so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

<sup>15</sup> “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,  
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—  
<sup>16</sup> the people who sat in darkness  
have seen a great light,  
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death  
light has dawned.”

<sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

**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.  
February—The Briar Club by Kate Quinn  
March—The Quiet Librarian by Allen Erskin  
April—Theo of Golden by Allen Levi  
May—The Correspondent by Virginia Evans  
June—Wild Dark Shores by Charlotte McConnaghy  
July—Atmosphere by Taylor Jenkins Reid  
August—Hamnet by Maggie O’Farrell

**Jesus & Women Bible Study:** 1/28 at 7:00 in the Youth Room.

The **Annual Meeting** is scheduled for **TODAY** following the service. Plan on staying for the important Annual Meeting and afterwards for a delicious, potluck meeting. We thank the Faith & Care Group 3 for organizing the potluck and cleaning up afterwards.

**Communion Assistants, Ushers, Scripture Readers. You are needed!** Fill out the schedule that’s in the narthex.

We are always willing to add people to the **prayer list** when prayers are needed. By the same token when they need to come off the prayer list the office would appreciate being told.

Weekly Calendar of January 25, 2026

Today, January 25, 2026:	River Practice 9am River Service/ Church School 10 am Annual Meeting 11am Potluck Living Water practice 5pm
Monday, January 26, 2026:	Stitching Group 9am
Tuesday, January 27, 2026:	
Wednesday, January 28, 2026:	Supper 5pm Worship 6:15pm Church School/Confirmation 7pm River Practice 7pm
Thursday, January 29, 2026:	Quilting 1pm AA Meeting 8pm
Friday, January 30, 2026:	Wired Word 1:30pm
Saturday, January 31, 2026:	Men’s Bible Study 10am

<sup>18</sup> As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. <sup>19</sup> And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” <sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup> As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. <sup>22</sup> Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

**SERMON:** Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**SONG OF THE DAY:** “Will You Come and Follow Me” ELW 798

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**OFFERING SONG:** “Healing of the Nations”

**OFFERING PRAYER**

## WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: “I Want to Walk As A Child of the Light” ELW 815

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

**Pastor**—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**Scripture Reader**—Deb Sargent

**Communion Assistants**—Molly Traynor, Melissa Long

**Ushers**—Debbie Patterson, Tracy Wolf, Scot & Melissa 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, Diane Klein, Libby Martin, Kira Willadsen, 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