The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross

November 15, 2026

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

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Introduction

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us

We Come Together

PRELUDE: "Light Dawns on a Weary Land", "Christ Be Our Light"

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

OUR CONFESSION, GOD'S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: "Kyrie Elieson"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

We Hear God's Word

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7,12-18

7 Be silent before the Lord God,
for the day of the Lord is at hand!
The Lord has prepared a sacrifice;
he has consecrated his guests.

12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who settle like dregs in wine,
those who say in their hearts,
"The Lord will not do good,
nor will he do harm."
13 Their wealth shall be plundered

and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

14 The great day of the Lord is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter;
the warrior cries aloud there.
15 That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

17 I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the Lord,
their blood shall be poured out like dust
and their flesh like dung.
18 Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the Lord's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed,
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 9:1-8 (9-11) 12

1 Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.
2 Before the mountains were brought forth
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,

from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
3 You turn us back to dust
and say, “Turn back, you mortals.”
4 For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past
or like a watch in the night.
5 You sweep them away; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning;
6 in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.
7 For we are consumed by your anger;
by your wrath we are overwhelmed.
8 You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
9 For all our days pass away under your wrath;
our years come to an end like a sigh.
10 The days of our life are seventy years
or perhaps eighty, if we are strong;
even then their span is only toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.
11 Who considers the power of your anger?
Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you.

SECOND READING:1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to
have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of the
Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 When they say, “There is peace and security,”
then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant
woman, and there will be no escape! 4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in
darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; 5 for you are all children of light and
children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. 6 So, then, let us not fall
asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, 7 for those who sleep sleep at
night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let
us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of
salvation. 9 For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through
our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we

may live with him. [11] Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

GOSPEL SONG: “Word of God Speak”

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

[Jesus said to the disciples:] [14] “For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; [15] to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once [16] the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. [17] In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. [18] But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. [19] After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. [20] Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ [21] His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ [22] And the him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ [24] Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, [25] so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ [26] But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? [27] Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. [28] So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29] For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. [30] As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

SERMON: Pastor Sondra Krogstad

SONG OF THE DAY: “How Great is Our God”

APOSTLES’ CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING: “Praise and Thanksgiving”

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION T OUR LORD’S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: “How Great Thou Art”

COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICTION/SENDING SONG: “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

“THE RIVER” AND “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness
Scripture Reader—Debbie Patterson
Communion Assistants—Sheila Suess, Tracy Wolf
Ushers—Josh Hocker
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—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, Glen Hyland, Doug Johnson, Cherie Krueger, AJ Marx, Kathy Morrison, Mark Murie, , Amanda Sagsveen
Percussionist—Kari Harris
Violinist—Fynn Sagsveen
Accompanists—Gerri Sarsten, Eve Kath, Noura Eldredge
Sunday Worship Coordinator—Peder Gulleson
Living Water Worship Team
Living Water Singers—Bria Blanchard, Caroline Collins, Keira Collins, Joel Crane, Annabelle Ellison, Brandi Ellison, Amanda Sagsveen
Percussionist—Kari Harris
Guitarists— Joel Crane, Peder Gulleson

Prayers: For those struggling with health and other concerns:
Earl Larson, Nancy Dockter, Heidi Renner, Diane Klein, Libby Martin, Kira Willadsen, Sher Harildstad, Shirley Holder, Joyce Wahl, Jeff Christianson, Heather Martin, Daryl Hodnefield, Jagger Lindsey, Emmett Wolf, Don Becker, Dave Kunze, Marvin Leer, Laurie Stenehjem, Breezy Uffelman, Jim Moore, Mark Doerner, Mike Doerner, Liam Keller, Jordan Sargent, Pat Schmidt, Kennedy Belley

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones:
Dale Ellison, Bill Sorenson

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. Anyone is welcome to attend. Led by Marjo Hewitson followed by her fearless readers.

November 18 **The Book Club for Troublesome Women** by **Marie Bostwick**
December— A Happier Life by **Kristy Harvey**
January—The Things We Never Say by **Elizabeth Strout**

November Altar Focus: Food and Warm Things! The Emergency Food pantry would really appreciate anything that is shelf stable; vegetables, mac & cheese, canned tuna or chicken, soups, instant potatoes. And Bridges of Hope is in need of women's winter coats large sizes preferably.

Thank you Pastor Sondra for being with us today sharing your wisdom.

United Way "Walk a Mile in My Shoes" Event Nov. 18 – noon til 1 p.m.

Come to the Center for Opportunity – 1140 S. 12th Street in Bismarck – to walk together to raise awareness of homelessness. There will be a tour and lunch to follow. For more details, scan the QR code on the poster in the narthex, or contact Rachel Lee, Volunteer and Events Coordinator at 701-255-3601 or rlee@msaunitedway.org

No Longer Hidden Homeless Event Nov. 18 7 p.m.

This is an event to raise awareness of the local youth homelessness issue. Last year alone, 394 students in the Bismarck Public School System were identified as homeless. We want to make a difference by gathering people to stand in representation of those identified. We will take a picture of the people present by creating the number 394 with lights. All are welcome!! Where: Century High School – Olson Gym (Please enter through door 22 – just north of the main gym doors – there are other events going on in the commons area.)

Mock-In "Woven Together By God" November 20 6th through 12th graders are invited and encouraged to bring friends to this event, to be held at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 1143 N. 26th Street in Bismarck on Friday, Nov. 20th from 6-10 p.m. Scan the QR code on the poster at church to register or contact Pastor Lisa. Dinner will be served! Games, crafts and a devotion will all be part of this fun evening!

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at Legacy United Methodist Church

The ecumenical Thanksgiving worship service will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 24th at 7 pm at Legacy United Methodist Church, 4600 Durango Drive. It will be followed by a pie social. Our speaker will be Fr. Tom Graner of CATCH ND (Communities Acting Together for Change and Hope), a nonprofit organization in North Dakota that works as a private sponsorship organization to welcome foreign-born families and refugees into rural communities

Heat for the Day sign-up sheets in the narthex.

Next Thursday will be the last scheduled quilting for the year.

The church is open over the noon hour Monday through Thursday.

We are in desperate need for new people to step up and sign up to be ushers, readers, and communion assistants. Please don't wait to be asked.

LCC's updating the adaptive equipment guidelines. The blue wheelchair and maroon Rollator walker are available for check out for 1 week. The devices will be located by the back door. Please complete sign out form on the shelf. If equipment is needed for a longer duration, we want to share a community resource. Do you know of about NDAD healthcare equipment loan program/HELP? North Dakota Association for the Disabled /NDAD's Healthcare Equipment Loan Program (HELP): provides free equipment loans of up to 90 days. Items include wheelchairs, various types of walking devices (walkers, crutches, canes), shower chairs, toilet riser, wheelchair ramps and more.
LCC will not be taking donations of adaptive equipment, due to space, liability, maintenance, and need for proper fitting. NDAD also accepts used clean adaptive equipment. Please support this community association by donating like new medical equipment items.
Located in: Northbrook Shopping Center
Address: 1929 N Washington St Ste W, Bismarck, ND 58501
Phone: (701) 751-0739
For more information visit NDAD website https://ndad.org/

Lutheran Church of the Cross

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Christmas Light Show

Come Shine at the Christmas Light Show!!

Preschool to 5th Grade

Rehearsal	Dress Rehearsal	Program
Dec. 5	Dec. 12	Dec. 13
3:00 – 4:00 PM	3:00 – 4:00 PM	During Church Service

Scan to Sign Up!



Contact: Sarah Dahl | sarahdahlmba@gmail.com | 701-226-6844

Weekly Calendar of November 15 - 21

Sunday, November 15	**9:00 am River Practice**
	10:00 am River Service/Jesus & Me
	11:00 am Coffee Hour
	5:30 pm Living Water Practice
Monday, November 16	**9:00 am Stitching Group**
Tuesday, November 17	**6:30 pm Church Council**
Wednesday, November 18	**1:30 pm Book Club**
	5:00 pm Supper
	6:15 pm Living Water Service
	7:00 pm Church School
	River practice
	Confirmation
Thursday, November 19	**10:30 am Gather Bible Study**
	1:00 pm Quilting
Friday, November 20,	**1:30 pm Wired Word**
Saturday, November 21	**10:00 am Men's Bible Study**

<u>Upcoming Events</u>
Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service Tuesday, November 24 7pm
Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 25
Christmas Program December 13



Gospel PraiSing Fiesta!

Nourish the Body

Mayas Mexican Restaurant



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

Nourish the Soul

SUNDAYS
11:30 AM-1:30 PM

Christian Music
presented by:
Colleen Reinhardt
Julie Ternes
& Guests

September 6, 2026
September 20, 2026
October 4, 2026
October 25, 2026
November 15, 2026
November 29, 2026
December 13, 2026 - Christmas Fiesta

Free-will donations September through December will support Community Action Food Pantry.

Presented by: Gospel PraiSing (GPS) Ministries,
a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.
Julie Ternes 701-226-0356

Lutheran Church of the Cross

1004 E Highland Acres Rd
Bismarck, ND 58501
701.223.1001
Website: www.churchofthecross.org
Winter Hours: Mon-Thurs 8-3, Fri 8 to 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-Treaurers**
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

Church Council Members

Mike Geiermann, President, mgeiermann12@gmail.com 471.5122
Rod Sargent, Vice President,reanddebsarge@beu.midco.net 880.8238
Kathryn Spilman, Secretary, healthandskinbykathryn@gmail.com 527.6867
Janice Martin, msladyj2000@gmail.com 471.5600
Molly Traynor, mktraynor@hotmail.com 202.0891
Eve Kath, evekath20@gmail.com 516.3891
Luke Toso, luke.toso@gmail.com 651.925.7267

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”