The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross

November 8, 2026

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

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Introduction

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the Lamb.

We Come Together

PRELUDE: "10,000 Reasons", "Just As I Am (I Come Broken)"

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

OUR CONFESSION, GOD'S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: "Will You Come & Follow Me"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

We Hear God's Word

FIRST READING: Amos: 5:18-24

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord!
Why do you want the day of the Lord?
It is darkness, not light,
19 as if someone fled from a lion
and was met by a bear
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall
and was bitten by a snake.
20 Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?

21 I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them,
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
24 But let justice roll down like water
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

RESPONSIVE READING: PSALM 70

1 Be pleased, O God, to deliver me.
O Lord, make haste to help me!
2 Let those be put to shame and confusion
who seek my life.
Let those be turned back and brought to dishonor
who desire to hurt me.
3 Let those who say, “Aha, Aha!”
turn back because of their shame.
4 Let all who seek you
rejoice and be glad in you.
Let those who love your salvation
say evermore, “God is great!”
5 But I am poor and needy;
hasten to me, O God!
You are my help and my deliverer;
O Lord, do not delay!

SECOND READING:1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

13 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. 15 For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the

coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. [16] For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. [17] Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. [18] Therefore encourage one another with these words.

GOSPEL SONG: "Word of God Speak"

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.
2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3 When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' 7 Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' 10 And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. 11 Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' 12 But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' 13 Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

SERMON: Pastor Brian Knutson

APOSTLES' CREED

SONG OF THE DAY: "City of God"

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING: "People Need the Lord"

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD'S PRAYER Sung

INVITATION T OUR LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: "Each Day"

COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICTION/SENDING SONG: "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

"THE RIVER" AND "LIVING WATER" WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness
Scripture Reader—Kathy Morrison
Communion Assistants—Mavis Pommerer, Doug Johnson
Ushers—Debbie Patterson, Tracy Wolf
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, Deb Patterson, 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:
Bill Sorenson, Noah Miller

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 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.

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at Legacy United Methodist Church Youth 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!

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

Heat for the Day **Sign-up sheets in the narthex.**

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

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

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.) When: Wednesday, Nov. 18, 7 p.m.

Second Annual Lefse "Fry Day" Wednesday, Nov. 11 from 1-3 pm!

Yes, we know it's a Wednesday, but c'mon – that's clever. ☺ We're frying lefse!!Whether you're an old hand or brand new at the art; whether you're a lefse lover or have no idea what that is, you are welcome to join in. Kids are off school that day so please bring them to see what all the fun is about. This is a tradition that should be carried on for many more generations, and not just Norwegians! If you have a lefse turning stick or rolling pin, please bring them. We have plenty of griddles. There is a signup in the narthex; Everything needed will be provided.

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

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