

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

**Phone: 223-1001**

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

**Office Hours: 9a-4p Monday—Thursday; 9-1pm Friday**

**Summer Hours: Mon– Fri. 9:00am–1:00pm**

**Staff:**

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**Gerri Sarsten, Organist**

**Joel & Jan Gilbertson, Worship Team Accompanists**

**2020 Church Council Members**

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# Lutheran Church of the Cross



*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

**September 13, 2020**

**1004 E. Highland Acres Road  
Bismarck, ND**

**Faith and Care:** Kay Koch, Barb & Bob Wilson

**Altar Guild:** Jean Kraft, Kim Humann, Ruth Jensen, Sharon Narum

**Prayers, Births, Deaths, Concerns**

Please contact Connie in the church office 223.1001, if you have a prayer request, or if you will be entering the hospital and would like a pastoral visit.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

*(We encourage you to take this list home and pray for these people.)*

**For those struggling with health issues:** Maxine and Bryce Hill, Reece Fischer, Tracy Martinson, Earl and Marlene Larson, Ann Hillesland, Roger Bakke, Erwin and Linda Marson, son in law and daughter of Hattie Martinson; Jim and Linda Kramer, Quinton and Arlene Wolff, parents of Wayne Wolff; Nick Irwin, cousin to Patty Hanson; Bonnie Spies, Robin Johnson's sister; Lois Dolan, Kevan Sorenson, Kristina Neuharth, Lori Dvorak, Ray Staiger, Mary Weinberg, mother of Terry Grenz; Ray Humann; father to Mike Humann, Rebecca Tetlie; cousin to Pastor Lisa, Gerald "Stork" Nordquist, father of JoDee Saylor, grandfather of Jon Ternes, Al Samuelson, JoRae Sarsten; mother of Kraig, Diane Stotz, Gary Johnson, Pastor Jackie Bloom, JoDee Saylor, Bernice Walton, Nancy Dockter, Dennis Dohrmann; brother to Art, Ken Will, Dale Heaton; Gary Heaton's uncle, Deb Carpenter, Kim Schultz, Don Witt; Pr. Lisa's brother in law, LorRaine Riveland, Christian Helfridge; grandson of Wood's friend, Jean Schafer; daughter of Bernice Walton, LaVonne Hultin, Roger Pommerer, Mike & Tracy Geiermann, Megan & her baby; a granddaughter of Patty Hanson's friend, Cheryl Moore, Tekla Bekkedal, Colton Crane, Lakin; Art Dohrmann's niece.

**For those dealing with the death of a loved one—the families and friends of:**

**For ELCA Missionaries:** Willie and Anne Langdji

***Dates to Remember:***

*September 16 Blood Drive 4:30 -6:30pm. 9th Grade Mentor mtg. 6:30*

*September 30 Confirmation Orientation (6th–8th grades), 9th Gr.*

*5 Promises 7:30pm*

*October 4 Church school starts 9am, Online Sunday School option*

*October 7 Wednesday Worship, Church School, Confirmation starts*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Welcome to Lutheran Church of the Cross's Worship Service!** If you are visiting with us today via livestreaming or in person, we welcome you.

**Stewardship Reflection for Sunday September 13, 2020 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost** ~ *Matthew 18:21-35* At that point, Peter got up the nerve to ask, "Master, how many times do I forgive a brother or sister who hurts me? Seven?" Jesus replied, "Seven! Hardly. Try seventy times seven." The parable is not suggesting that a ledger be kept for offenses or forgiveness, but rather that forgiveness is a gift of grace – a reflection of God's love. God's forgiveness knows no end and so we should offer our relationships a grace that knows no boundaries. **SOURCE**, Faith Simonieg-Assistant to the Bishop for Stewardship and Generosity

**Stewarding the Common Good**

Jesus taught, "*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*" –**Matthew 22:38**  
In Genesis 4, God asks Cain the whereabouts of Abel, his little brother whom Cain has just murdered in a jealous fit. Answering God's question, Cain snarkily retorts, "Am I my brother's keeper?" The correct answer for Cain is, "Yes, you are your brother's keeper." And the principle applies to us, too.

Woven through Scripture is God's clear priority that we love and care for one another. The imperative finds clearest expression in the life and words of Jesus, who repeatedly teaches us to love everyone – friend, family, neighbor – even enemy. *No exceptions.*

Love for neighbor is a stewardship issue because we are responsible to care for all that God has entrusted to us, including community, relationships, and the welfare of others. Stewarding the common good is an essential component.

As North Americans, we have not done a very good job of stewarding the common good because our culture teaches us to "look out for number one," as opposed to looking out for everyone. Consider how much of our political division and brokenness in criminal justice, education, healthcare, economics, and government results from our thinking "what's good for me," rather than "what's good for everybody."

Stewarding the common good often involves giving up some measure of what would be good just for us. We sacrifice out of love to provide what is good for our neighbor. Is anything more Christian?

This year, especially as politics and division has embroiled and divided our country, study how the theme of loving our neighbor and stewarding the common good is woven through Scripture. What does it mean for you and the church? Think. Pray. Act. --Rob Blezard Copyright © 2020