

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

Phone: 223-1001

Website: www.churchofthecross.org

Office Hours: 8a-4p Monday—Thursday; 8 to noon Friday

Summer Hours: Mon– Fri. 8:00am–noon

Staff:

Lisa Ahlness, **Pastor**

Cell: 220.9011 / lisaahlness@hotmail.com or
lccpastor@midconetwork.com

Connie Werner, **Secretary** cell 400.5852

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Art Wheeler, **Treasurer**

527-9582/ lcctreasurer@midconetwork.com

Beth Greff, **Worship Coordinator**

400-2087/ theriver@midconetwork.com

Gerri Sarsten, Joel and Jan Gilbertson, Beth Greff **Accompanists**

2023 Church Council Members

Mike Humann, President mknhumann@bis.midco.net 527.3376
Janice Martin, Vice President msladyj2000@gmail.com 471.5600
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“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross
July 16, 2023

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
“The River” Worship Service
July 16, 2023

WE COME TOGETHER

You are invited to sing with the Worship Team as we gather for worship. All songs and worship liturgy will be projected on the screens for your use.

PRELUDE MUSIC

*“Light Dawns on a Weary World” ELW #726, “Here in the House of the Lord”,
“Shall We Gather at the River”*

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: *“Holy, Holy, Holy” ELW #413*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it
¹²For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Book Club Choices: Meets the 2nd Wednesday at 1:30pm in the Library.
July: So Long Chester Wheeler by Catherine Ryan Hyde
August: The Prayer Box by Lisa Wingate

Vegetable Delight

1 can sweet corn
1 can French style beans
1 can peas
1 jar pimentos
1 bell pepper, diced small

Mix and bring to boil: oi, sugar, and vinegar. Cool; then mix with all other ingredients. Marinate overnight in fridge. Makes a lot. Serve with slotted spoon. Very colorful. Note: Keep in fridge.

Ray Staiger

2 stalks celery, chopped fine
1 bundle green onions, chopped
1/4 c. oil
1 c. sugar
1/2 c vinegar



Summer Picnics and Outdoor Worship.

The second Wednesday of each month this summer, we will gather for a picnic and brief outdoor worship. We will grill hamburgers, hotdogs, and chicken breasts, and provide paper products, silverware, drinks and fixings. Bring something to share, if you can, but come and enjoy! We do have some chairs and tables, but feel free to bring your favorite chair if you like. The summer Wednesdays will be August 9th. We will plan for food to be ready at 5:30 and worship at 6:30 p.m. Hope to see you there!

“**Father the Camp**” needs are listed on a colorful poster throughout LCC. Check out their needs.

The sound booth has a **listening assisted device** available for anyone to use. Please ask Lavern in the sound booth for the device and headset.

The **Burleigh County Senior Center** is in need of someone (s) delivering meals to seniors in our community. Nearly 300 meals are delivered daily to homebound seniors. Whether you can deliver once a month, 1 day a week or 5 days a week they will work with your schedule. They even offer mileage reimbursement. Call 255-4648 and ask for Trisha or Andrea and they'll provide more information or email: andread@burleighsenioradults.org

The **Church Council meeting** for July has been switched to Monday, July 17 at 6:30pm.

Camp of the Cross' Ministries' Night Out at the Ballpark is scheduled for August 4th. Tickets are \$15 or \$25. Visit larkstickets.com for more information. On August 8th CCM is also sponsoring **Prairie Masters Golf Tournament** at the Garrison Golf Club. All proceeds from the tournament will go towards providing faith filled experiences to campers at Camp of the Cross. Check out more information at info@campofthecross.com.

Congratulations to the golfers; Kerry Carpenter and Tom Wade plus others who brought home the winning trophy as member church league champions from The Hillview Cup Missouri Slope Foundation Golf Tournament. Perhaps a new tradition has started!

¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Responsive Reading Psalm 65: (1-8)9-13

¹Praise is due to you,
O God, in Zion;
and to you shall vows be performed,

²**O you who answer prayer!
To you all flesh shall come.**

³When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us,
you forgive our transgressions.

⁴**Happy are those whom you choose and bring near
to live in your courts.**

**We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,
your holy temple.**

⁵By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance,
O God of our salvation;
you are the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the farthest seas.

⁶**By your strength you established the mountains;
you are girded with might.**

⁷You silence the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves,
the tumult of the peoples.

⁸**Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;
you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.**

⁹You visit the earth and water it,
you greatly enrich it;
the river of God is full of water;
you provide the people with grain,
for so you have prepared it.

¹⁰**You water its furrows abundantly,
settling its ridges,**

softening it with showers,
and blessing its growth.

**¹¹You crown the year with your bounty;
your wagon tracks overflow with richness.**

¹²The pastures of the wilderness overflow,
the hills gird themselves with joy,

**¹³the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,
the valleys deck themselves with grain,
they shout and sing together for joy.**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:1-11

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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.

July Altar Focus: Baby Care Kits and School Kits

• Please include sizes between 6 and 24 months. Varying the sizes of the clothing items included will make the Baby Care Kit useful as the baby grows.

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH BABY CARE KIT

TWO lightweight cotton t-shirts (no Onesies ®)

TWO long or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)

TWO receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, between 36” and 52” square

FOUR cloth diapers, flat fold preferred

ONE jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap

TWO pairs of socks

ONE hand towel, dark color recommended

TWO or three bath-size bars of gentle soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping; no mini or hotel size bars

TWO diaper pins or large safety pins

School Care Kits (list found on the square card table in the narthex)

4 70 sheet notebooks

1 16 or 24 crayons

1 pencil sharpener

1 12 inch ruler

1 blunt scissors

5 unsharpened #2 pencils w/erasers

5 black or blue ballpoint pens

1 2 1/2 eraser

1 drawstring backpack 14” x 17”. No standard backpacks please.

WEEKLY CALENDAR of July 16, 2023

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|----------------------------|---|
| Today, July 16: | Worship Service 10:00am Coffee 11:00am |
| Monday, July 17: | Stitching Group 9am Sweet Adelines practice 6-9:30pm Church Council 6:30pm |
| Tuesday, July 18: | |
| Wednesday, July 19: | |
| Thursday, July 20 : | AA Meeting 7:30pm |
| Friday, July 21: | Wired Word 1:30pm |
| Saturday, July 22: | Men's Bible Study 10:00am |
| Sunday, July 23: | River Service 10:00am Coffee 11:00am |

Upcoming Events

Aug. 9 Picnic and worship

Aug. 10 Church Council

Aug. 16 Block Party with UCC

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *"When We Gather"*

GOSPEL Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!"

¹⁸"Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

SERMON Pastor Lisa Ahlness

SONG OF THE DAY: *"Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)"*

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH: *"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"*

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING: *“What A Friend We Have in Jesus” ELW #742*

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD’S PRAYER: *“Lord’s Prayer”* (Gilbertson)

INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: *“Let Us Break Bread Together” ELW #471*

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION: *“The Lord Be With You”*

SENDING SONG: *“Sent Forth By God’s Blessing” ELW #547*

DISMISSAL: *“Mighty to Save”*

Introduction God’s word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord’s table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

“THE RIVER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Deb Carpenter

Greeters—

Ushers—John & Jean Kraft, Mike & Tracy Geiermann

Communion Assistants—Sheila Koffler, Donna Belisle, David Drovdal

Altar Guild—Jean Kraft, Barb Thomas, Sharon Narum, Verlaine Jahner

Faith & Care— Cheryl Moore & David Kraft, Suzie & Redge Finck

River Worship Team—

Sound Board Technicians— Lavern Hanson

Projection Team— Jace Kunze, Rod Sargent, Art Wheeler

Streaming Team— Tom Harris, Mark Kunze, Karen Will

River Singers— Deb Carpenter, Kerry Carpenter, Sally Grenz, Paul

Gurholt, Doug Johnson, Cherie Krueger, AJ Marx, Amanda Sagsveen,

Gerri Sarsten, John Saylor, Claudia Thompson, Tom Wade,

Barb Wilson, Tracy Wolf, Marlene Grabow

Guitarists—Tom Wade, Marin Traynor

Percussionist— Kari Harris

Violinist—Fynn Sagsveen

Flutist—Beth Greff

Accompanists—Jan & Joel Gilbertson, Gerri Sarsten, Beth Greff

Prayers, Births, Deaths, Concerns

Please contact Connie in the church office 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 and other concerns:

Reece Fischer, Tracy Martinson, Ann Hillesland, Erwin and Linda Marson, Arlene Wolff, John Behan, Bob Roesler, Earl Larson, Nancy Dockter, Lori Marx, Pastor Jerry Erickson, Hattie Martinson, Carter Weigel, Kerry Carpenter, Mary Ternes, MaryBeth Osborn, Vicky Moser, Jeff Thomas, Chelsea Sorenson, Jean King, Kacy Toso, baby Faya Luna, and Toso family, Sharon Tabert, Jim Miller, Heidi Renner, Peg Ahlness

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones—

Glen Blanchard, Patty McVane, Ed Decker, Allen Shreve, Gladys Bain