

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: 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](mailto:lisaahlness@hotmail.com) or  
[lccpastor@midconetwork.com](mailto:lccpastor@midconetwork.com)

Connie Werner, **Secretary** cell 400.5852

Office 223-1001 / [churchsecretary@midconetwork.com](mailto:churchsecretary@midconetwork.com)

Art Wheeler, **Treasurer**

527-9582/ [lcctreasurer@midconetwork.com](mailto:lcctreasurer@midconetwork.com)

Beth Greff, **Worship Coordinator**

400-2087/ [theriver@midconetwork.com](mailto:theriver@midconetwork.com)

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

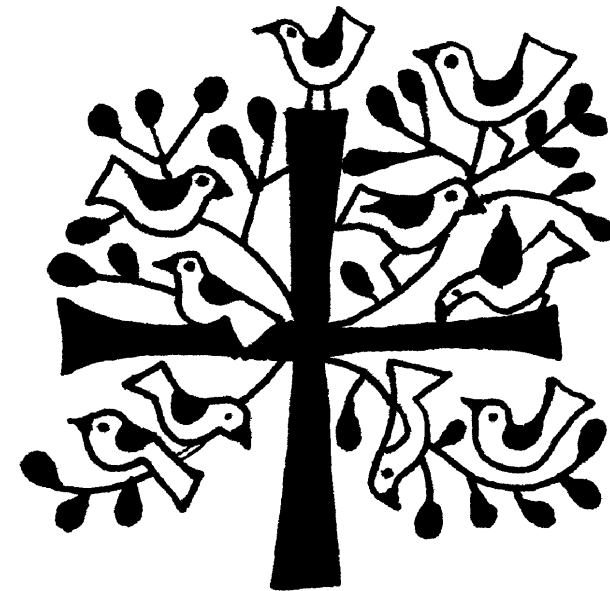
**2023 Church Council Members**

Mike Humann, President [mknhumann@bis.midco.net](mailto:mknhumann@bis.midco.net) 527.3376  
Janice Martin, Vice President [msladyj2000@gmail.com](mailto:msladyj2000@gmail.com) 471.5600  
Jessi Karvo, Secretary [jfish321@gmail.com](mailto:jfish321@gmail.com) 426.7439  
Cherie Krueger, [cheriekrueger@gmail.com](mailto:cheriekrueger@gmail.com) 226.7514  
Mike Geiermann, [mgeiermann12@gmail.com](mailto:mgeiermann12@gmail.com) 471.5122  
Sarah Dahl, [sarahdahlmba@gmail.com](mailto:sarahdahlmba@gmail.com) 226.6844  
Scot Long, [scotglong@gmail.com](mailto:scotglong@gmail.com) 400.2169

*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

# The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross  
July 30, 2023

*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS**  
**“The River” Worship Service**  
**July 30, 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**

*“God Will Make a Way”, “Friends in Christ”, “For the Beauty of the Earth”*

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GREETINGS OF PEACE**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS**

**GATHERING SONG:** “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” ELW #742

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

*WE HEAR GOD’S WORD*

**FIRST READING:** 1 Kings 3:5-12

<sup>5</sup>At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” <sup>6</sup>And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. <sup>7</sup>And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted.

**Book Club Choices:** Meets the 2nd Wednesday at 1:30pm in the Library.  
August: The Prayer Box by Lisa Wingate

**Wild Rice and Cranberry Pilaf**

3/4 c wild rice	1/4 c. currants
3 c. chicken broth	1 T margarine or butter
1/2 c. pearl barley	1/3 c. sliced almonds, toasted
1/4 c snipped dried cranberries, apricots &/or cherries	

**Bernice Walton**

Rinse rice with cold water; drain. In a saucepan, combine rice and chicken broth. Bring to boiling; reduce heat. Cover; simmer 10 minutes; remove from heat. Stir in barley, cranberries, or other dried fruit. Add margarine or butter. Spoon into a 1 1/2 qt casserole. Bake, covered 55—60 minutes, or until rice and barley are tender and liquid is absorbed, stirring once. Fluff rice mixture with a fork. Stir in almonds.



### 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 9<sup>th</sup>. We will plan for food to be ready at 5:30 and worship at 6:30 p.m. Hope to see you there!

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.

**Camp of the Cross' Ministries' Night Out at the Ballpark** is scheduled for August 4th. Tickets are \$15 or \$25. Visit [larkstickets.com](http://larkstickets.com) for more information. On August 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:info@campofthecross.com).



Dear Beloved LCC Friends,  
We appreciate each and every one of you for the love and kindness you have shared with the Bain Family from the time way back in 1955 when the church started until now. All four of us faithfully attended the church and were baptized and confirmed at this beautiful place. We ate many Jello salads and hot dishes there as well as getting Cracker Jacks after the Children's Christmas program! Thank you dear friends for those memories and the new memories that were made just a few weeks ago when you helped memorialize our beautiful mom, Gladys Bain. Everything was perfect..the music, the ser-

vice, the flowers, and the food but most importantly was the kindness and thoughtful ways you shared with us. We truly are blessed with the LCC family and so appreciate each one of you.

Love,  
Steve Bain  
Karen Johnson  
Susie Queen  
Alan Bain and our families

<sup>9</sup>Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

<sup>10</sup>It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup>God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup>I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

### Responsive Reading Psalm 119:129-136

<sup>129</sup>Your decrees are wonderful;  
therefore my soul keeps them.

<sup>130</sup>**The unfolding of your words gives light;  
it imparts understanding to the simple.**

<sup>131</sup>With open mouth I pant,  
because I long for your commandments.

<sup>132</sup>**Turn to me and be gracious to me,  
as is your custom toward those who love your name.**

<sup>133</sup>Keep my steps steady according to your promise,  
and never let iniquity have dominion over me.

<sup>134</sup>**Redeem me from human oppression,  
that I may keep your precepts.**

<sup>135</sup>Make your face shine upon your servant,  
and teach me your statutes.

<sup>136</sup>**My eyes shed streams of tears  
because your law is not kept.**

## SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39

<sup>26</sup>The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

<sup>28</sup>We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. <sup>30</sup>And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup>What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup>Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;  
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## 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

Backpacks are already purchased.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR of July 30, 2023

<b>Today, July 30:</b>	<b>Worship Service 10:00am</b> <b>Coffee 11:00am</b>
<b>Monday, July 31:</b>	<b>Stitching Group 9am</b> <b>Sweet Adelines practice 6-9:30pm</b>
<b>Tuesday, August 1:</b>	
<b>Wednesday, August 2:</b>	
<b>Thursday, August 3:</b>	<b>AA Meeting 7:30pm</b>
<b>Friday, August 4:</b>	<b>Wired Word 1:30pm</b>
<b>Saturday, August 5:</b>	<b>Men's Bible Study 10:00am</b>
<b>Sunday, August 6:</b>	<b>River Service 10:00am</b> <b>Coffee 11:00am</b>

### Upcoming Events

Aug. 9 Picnic and worship

Aug. 10 Church Council

Aug. 16 Block Party with UCC

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** *"When We Gather"*

### **GOSPEL Matthew 13:31-33,44-52**

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;<sup>32</sup>it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

<sup>33</sup>He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

<sup>44</sup>"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

<sup>45</sup>"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup>on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

<sup>47</sup>"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup>when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. <sup>49</sup>So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup>and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

<sup>51</sup>"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." <sup>52</sup>And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

**SERMON** Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**SONG OF THE DAY:** *"Be Thou My Vision"* ELW #793

**APOSTLES' CREED**

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

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**OFFERING:** *“Open the Eyes of My Heart”*

**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:** *“Come Find Forgiveness and Love”*

**COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION:** *“The Lord Be With You”*

**SENDING SONG:** *“Every Time I Feel the Spirit”*

**DISMISSAL:** *“Down to the River to Pray”*

**Introduction** As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today’s gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God’s reign, the great surprise is that God’s grace finds us first!

## **“THE RIVER” WORSHIP MINISTERS**

**Pastor**—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**Scripture Reader**—Cherie Krueger

**Greeters**—

**Ushers**—Rich & Judy Fockler, Joel & Suzanne Toso

**Communion Assistants**—Sheila Koffler, Tracy Geiermann, Myrtice Behan

**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, Lois Kunze

### **For those dealing with the death of these loved ones—**

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