

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

Phone: 223-1001

Website: www.churchofthecross.org

Summer Office Hours: Mon.- Fri. 8:00 am—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, **Treasurer**

527-9582/ lcctreasurer@midconetwork.com

Beth Greff, **Worship Coordinator**

400-2087/ theriver@midconetwork.com

Joel Crane, **Wednesday Worship Coordinator**

498-2604/cranejoel58@gmail.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 mrladyj2000@gmail.com 471.5600

Jessi Karvo, Secretary jfish321@gmail.com 426.7439

Cherie Krueger, cheriekrueger@gmail.com 226.7514

Mike Geiermann, mgeiermann12@gmail.com 471.5122

Sarah Dahl, sarahdahlmba@gmail.com 226.6844

Scot Long, scotglong@gmail.com 400.2169

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross
August 20, 2023

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
“The River” Worship Service
August 20, 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

“I Will Call Upon the Lord”, “Seek Ye First”, “Offering”

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: *“All Are Welcome” ELW #641*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

¹Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
and hold fast my covenant—

French Dressing

1 c. sugar
1/2 c. vinegar
1 c. corn oil (Canola)
1 tsp. salt
Put all ingredients in blender and mix. Yield 2 cups.

Berdeal Bergo

1 tsp. paprika
1 tsp. dry mustard
1 can (10 3/4 oz) tomato soup
1 tsp. garlic powder

Spaghetti Salad

1 lb. spaghetti
Zesty Italian bottled dressing
1 pkg. Wish Bone Italian dressing
2 bell peppers, chopped

LorRaine Riveland

2 cucumbers, sliced
1 onion, chopped
2 tomatoes, chopped

Cook spaghetti and let cool. Sprinkle package of Wish Bone Italian on spaghetti. Add cucumbers, onion, tomatoes and bell peppers. Add bottle of dressing to taste. Refrigerate.

Cucumbers in Sour Cream

1 med. Cucumber sliced
1 tsp. salt
3 T. cultured sour cream

Evelyn Hatlestad

1 tsp. vinegar
1 tsp. sugar
1/4 tsp. dill weed

Sprinkle cucumber with salt. Cover with water. Soak an hour or two. Combine sour cream, vinegar, sugar and dill weed. Drain cucumber. Add dressing.



GriefShare Ministry will be offered at Charity Lutheran again this fall, with Lorri Mittleider as lead facilitator. The 13 week GriefShare sessions will begin on Thursday, September 7, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. and run up through November 30 at Charity Lutheran Church, 120 Aspen Ave, Bismarck. This faith-based program emphasizes confidentiality and is designed to help come alongside those who have experienced significant loss of spouse, parent, child, close family member or friend. Each evening consists of opening prayer, watching a 1/2 hour video and following along with a purchased workbook. We then meet together in small groups where we get to know one another and have the opportunity to share thoughts about the video topic and presentation. Small group leaders are compassionate and caring and have worked through a significant loss themselves with the help of attending the GriefShare program. GriefShare is designed to help others come to a place where they can move from the state of mourning to experiencing real joy again in this new season of life. The fee is \$25 to help cover cost of the workbook. If you or someone you know has experienced a major loss of loved one, please have them go online to sign up for Charity's fall ministry at www.griefshare.org or get in touch with Lorri at mittlorri@gmail.com or text name of interested attendee and contact info to 701-400-1849.



⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.
⁸Thus says the Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

Responsive Reading Psalm 67

¹May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,
Selah
²**that your way may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations.**
³Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
⁴**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth.**
Selah
⁵Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
⁶**The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, has blessed us.**
⁷May God continue to bless us;
let all the ends of the earth revere him.

SECOND READING: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

[Paul writes:] ¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a}God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³²For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *“Fall Like Rain”*

GOSPEL Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

[¹⁰Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: ¹¹it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” ¹²Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” ¹³He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” ¹⁵But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” ¹⁶Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander.

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.

August Altar Focus

Ministry on the Margins has put out an urgent call for pillows and blankets. Please bring pillows (and/or cases) to church for our August altar focus. They don't have to be brand new but should be in good shape.

Note: we will keep accepting school supplies and items for baby care kits right up til our assembly day: August 23rd.

Upcoming Trip “In the Footsteps of Paul”

We are beginning to plan for a trip to places in Greece and Turkey, a pilgrimage to see the places where St. Paul visits and teaches in the New Testament. This trip will be planned for early 2025. Please let Pr. Lisa know of your interest so you can be included as information comes out. An interest/information meeting will also be held this fall.

Is Fellowship Time your favorite? Your help is needed!

We only have coffee hosts and dishwashers for a couple more weeks. Grab a friend and sign up for a future slot to enhance our fellowship time together!

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.

Book Club Choices: Meets the 2nd Wednesday at 1:30pm in the Library.

September: The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane by Lisa See

October: West with Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge

WEEKLY CALENDAR of August 20, 2023

Today, August 20:	Worship Service 10:00am Coffee 11:00am
Monday, August 21:	Stitching Group 9am Sweet Adelines practice 6-9:30pm
Tuesday, August 22:	
Wednesday, August 23:	Women's Bible Study 9:00am Baby kit assembly 1:00pm
Thursday, August 24:	AA Meeting 7:30pm
Friday, August 25:	Wired Word 1:30pm
Saturday, August 26:	Men's Bible Study 10:00am
Sunday, August 27:	River Service 10:00am Coffee 11:00am
Upcoming Events Wednesday, Sept. 6 Sunday/Weds Sept.10/13	Confirmation Orientation Rally Day/Teacher Installation

GOSPEL continued

²⁰These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”]

²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” ²⁴He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

SERMON Pastor Lisa Ahlness

SONG OF THE DAY: *“My Faith Looks Up to Thee” ELW #759*

APOSTLES’ CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH: *“Let Us Pray for Peace”*

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING: *“One Bread, One Body” ELW #496*

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: *"You Are Mine"*

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION: *"The Lord Bless You and Keep You" (Gilbertson)*

SENDING SONG: *"Shine Jesus Shine"*

DISMISSAL: *"I Will Call Upon the Lord"*

Introduction In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

"THE RIVER" WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Lillian Crook

Greeters— Mike & Tracy Geiermann

Ushers—Keven & Janice Martin, John Kraft, Roger Krueger

Communion Assistants—Rich Fockler, Tracy Geiermann, Art Wheeler

Altar Guild—Cherie Krueger, Mavis Pommerer, Joyce Wahl, Cheryl Neu

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— 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, Bob Roesler, Earl Larson, Nancy Dockter, Lori Marx, Pastor Jerry Erickson, Hattie Martinson, Carter Weigel, Kerry Carpenter, Mary Ternes, Vicky Moser, Jeff Thomas, Chelsea Sorenson, Jean King, baby Faya Luna Toso, Jim Miller, Heidi Renner, Peg Ahlness

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones—

John Behan, Lois Kunze, Mary Beth Osborn