

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

Phone: 223-1001

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

Winter Hours. Mon.– Thursday 8–4pm Fri 8 to noon

Summer Office Hours: Mon.- Fri. 8:00 am—noon

**Staff:**

Lisa Ahlness, **Pastor**

Cell: 220.9011 / [lisaahlness@hotmail.com](mailto:lisaahlness@hotmail.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)

Joel Crane, **Wednesday Worship Coordinator**

498-2604/ [cranejoel58@gmail.com](mailto:cranejoel58@gmail.com)

**2024 Church Council Members**

Mike Geiermann, President, [mgeiermann12@gmail.com](mailto:mgeiermann12@gmail.com) 471.5122

Mike Humann, Vice President, [mknhumann@bis.midco.net](mailto:mknhumann@bis.midco.net) 527.3376

Jessi Karvo, Secretary, [jfish321@gmail.com](mailto:jfish321@gmail.com) 426.7439

Janice Martin, [mrladyj2000@gmail.com](mailto:mrladyj2000@gmail.com) 471.5600

Sarah Dahl, [sarahdahlmba@gmail.com](mailto:sarahdahlmba@gmail.com) 226.6844

Scot Long, [scotglong@gmail.com](mailto:scotglong@gmail.com) 400.2169

Rod Sargent, [randdebsarge@beu.midco.net](mailto:randdebsarge@beu.midco.net) 880.8238

*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

# The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross

June 16, 2024

10:00am

*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS**  
**“The River” Worship Service**  
**June 16, 2024**

*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**

*“10,000 Reasons”, “You Are My King (Amazing Love”, “Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)”*

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GREETINGS OF PEACE**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS**

**GATHERING SONG:** *“This Is My Father’s World” ELW 824*

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

*WE HEAR GOD’S WORD*

**FIRST READING: Ezekiel 17:22-24**

<sup>22</sup>Thus says the Lord God:

I myself will take a sprig  
from the lofty top of a cedar;  
I will set it out.  
I will break off a tender one  
from the topmost of its young twigs;  
I myself will plant it  
on a high and lofty mountain.

<sup>23</sup>On the mountain height of Israel

I will plant it,  
in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,  
and become a noble cedar.

**Camp of the Cross scholarships available for campers!**

Have you ever been to Camp of the Cross, near Garrison? It is fantastic! Check out the brochures on the kids’ table near the library and see all the summer opportunities for youth. (The bulletin board has upcoming retreats, as well!) We don’t want cost to be an impediment to your child being able to have this fabulous camp experience. \$100 scholarships are available. Please contact Pastor Lisa or treasurer Art Wheeler.

**In the Footsteps of Paul tour coming in March 2025!**

We have many tools to help Bible stories come alive for us: maps, study guides, commentaries, different translations. But nothing brings more aha! moments and enhances understanding better than traveling to the places and getting to know the context that surround and shape the story. Pastor Lisa will be leading a group to Greece and Turkey, to some of the places where Paul preached and ministered, from March 18-29, 2025. You will visit Thessoloniki, Philippi, the Meteora monasteries, Delphi, Athens, a 4 day cruise excursion taking us to Mykonos, Ephesus (Turkey), Patmos, Rhodes, Crete, and Santorini; and Corinth, before returning to Athens for departure. Full information is available now; let Pr. Lisa know if you are interested in hearing more about it or know someone who might like to go.

**Thank you to John Kraft and Mike Humann** who took the time to power wash the picnic tables, etc for all to enjoy the picnics. Thanks to the grillers and to everyone who brought food to share. Also thanks to the Wednesday singers for the music for Wednesday service. Wasn’t it a lovely night for food, fellowship, and ministry?

**6th Annual 18 hole Hillview Cup Golf Tournament. July 11, 2024.** Proceeds to the LSLCC Foundation Continental, breakfast, lunch and dinner provided. \$150/golfer, \$600/team of four. At Prairie West Golf Course, Mandan, ND.

## 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.

July: To Heaven & Back by Mary C. Neal

Consider coming to the Book Club. You'll meet people with a common interest: the love of reading. We have interesting and lively discussions of each book and even rate the book from 1—10. A variety of subjects are read but usually works of fiction. Come share your favorite reads with us.

**Josey Hanson is celebrating her 90th birthday June 20th.** Cards and well wishes may be sent to Josey Hanson, 3406 Dominion St. #713, Bismarck, ND 58503.

The **Church Council** will be meeting after worship on the Wednesday picnic evenings during the summer.

**Church picnics:** June 12, July 10, and Aug. 14. The church will furnish the hamburgers, chicken, buns, condiments, and water. Feel free to bring a dish to share of your favorite summer dish. Supper at 5:15pm, Worship at 6pm, Church Council 7pm. Volunteers are needed for setting up, grillers and tearing down. Come on out and enjoy fellowship time that only outdoors, picnics and friends can provide.

With the **Block Party August 7** volunteers for setting up here are needed as well as volunteers for the bars and cookies that we will be serving here.

**Volunteers** will also be needed for VBS. Registration will be coming

The third quarter daily devotionals; **Christ in Our Home** are out in the narthex.

LCC is invited to the **Highland Acres Second Sunday Summer concerts.**

July 14 — Jennifer Lyn & Richard Torrance

August 11 — The Bluestems

6:30—8 pm in the soccer field of Highland Acres Elementary School

Food trucks and Ice cream trucks will be there.

[www.facebook.com/HighlandAcresSummerConcerts](http://www.facebook.com/HighlandAcresSummerConcerts) for weather updates and reminders

Under it every kind of bird will live;  
in the shade of its branches will nest  
winged creatures of every kind.

<sup>24</sup>All the trees of the field shall know  
that I am the LORD.

I bring low the high tree,  
I make high the low tree;

I dry up the green tree  
and make the dry tree flourish.

I the LORD have spoken;  
I will accomplish it.

### **RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 92:1-4,12-15**

<sup>1</sup>It is good to give thanks to the LORD,  
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

<sup>2</sup>**to declare your steadfast love in the morning,  
and your faithfulness by night,**

<sup>3</sup>to the music of the lute and the harp,  
to the melody of the lyre.

<sup>4</sup>**For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work;  
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.**

<sup>12</sup>The righteous flourish like the palm tree,  
and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

<sup>13</sup>**They are planted in the house of the LORD;**  
they flourish in the courts of our God.

<sup>14</sup>In old age they still produce fruit;  
they are always green and full of sap,

<sup>15</sup>**showing that the LORD is upright;  
he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.**

## **SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:6-17**

<sup>6</sup>So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—<sup>7</sup>for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. <sup>10</sup>For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

[<sup>11</sup>Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. <sup>12</sup>We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. <sup>13</sup>For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ] <sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. <sup>15</sup>And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** *“How Great Is Our God”*

## **GOSPEL READING: Mark 4:26-34**

<sup>26</sup>[Jesus] said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,<sup>27</sup> and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup>The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup>But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

<sup>30</sup>He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup>yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

## **WEEKLY CALENDAR of June 16, 2024**

**Today, June 16:**

**River Service 10:00am  
Coffee Hour 11:00am**

**Monday, June 17:**

**Needlework Group 9:00am**

**Tuesday, June 18:**

**Wednesday, June 19:**

**Thursday, June 20:**

**10:30 Gather Bible Study  
AA Meeting 8pm**

**Friday, June 21:**

**Wired Word 1:30pm**

**Saturday, June 22:**

**Men’s Bible Study 10am**

**Sunday, June 23:**

**River Service 10am  
Coffee Hour 11:00am**

### **Future Happenings**

**Picnics and Worship , July 10, August 14 along with Church Council following.**

**Hillview Cup Golf Tournament July 11th (MSLCC)**

**VBS First week in August 4—7**

**Neighborhood Block Party August 7 with UCC**

### **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:**

Tracy Martinson, Ann Hillesland, Arlene Wolff, Bob Roesler, Earl Larson, Nancy Dockter, Lori Marx, Hattie Martinson, Carter Weigel, Josey Hanson, Jeff Thomas, Heidi Renner, Kristy Forrest, JoDee Sayler, Colter Lee, Arvid Mugaas, Elizabeth Hoglund, Diane Klein, Peg Ahlness, Kaylynn Harris, Pam Morris, Jaden Kunze, Libby Martin, Deacon Janie Hague, Kira Willadsen, Kerry Carpenter, Linda Marson, Lonnie Sunde, Jacob Hynek, Art Wheeler, Reece Fischer, Jeri & Gorden Mutcher

**For those dealing with the death of these loved ones—** Roberta Kunze, Leo Wolf

<sup>33</sup>With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; <sup>34</sup>he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

**SERMON:** Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**SONG OF THE DAY:** *“Faith of Our Fathers” ELW 812*

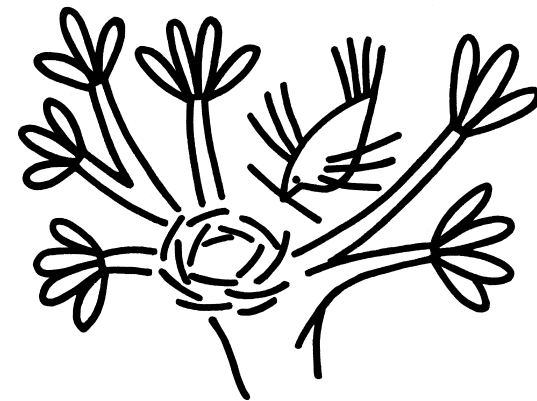
**APOSTLES’ CREED**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:** *“I Love You Lord”*

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**OFFERING:** *“Create in Me a Clean Heart”*

**OFFERING PRAYER**



## *WE SHARE THE MEAL*

### **PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL**

**LORD'S PRAYER:** *"The Lord's Prayer"*

### **INVITATION TO OUR LORD'S SUPPER**

**COMMUNION SONG:** *"In Christ Alone"*

### **COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION:** *"The Lord Bless You and Keep You"*

**SENDING SONG:** *"New Doxology"*

**DISMISSAL:** *"10,000 Reasons"*

**INTRODUCTION:** The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.

## **"THE RIVER" and "LIVING WATER" WORSHIP MINISTERS**

**Pastor**—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**Scripture Reader**—Deb Carpenter

**Ushers**— Lynn & Marlene Grabow, John Kraft, Lee Jensen

**Communion Assistants**—Cherie Krueger, Ruth Jensen, Mavis Pommerer

**Altar Guild**— Donna Belisle, Joyce Wahl, Suzanne Toso, Valerie Kunze

**River Worship Team**—

**Sound Board Technicians**— Larry Wolf, Francis Greff

**Projection Team**— Caden Kunze, Jace Kunze, Rod Sargent, Art Wheeler

**Streaming Team**— Mark Kunze, Karen Will, Art Wheeler

**River Singers**— Deb Carpenter, Kerry Carpenter, Marlene Grabow, Sally Grenz, Paul Gurholt, Doug Johnson, Cherie Krueger, AJ Marx, Mark Murie, Amanda Sagsveen, John Sayler, Tom Wade, Barb Wilson

**Percussionist**— Kari Harris

**Violinist**—Fynn Sagsveen

**Flutist**—Beth Greff

**Accompanists**—Gerri Sarsten, Luke Weber, Beth Greff, Jan & Joel Gilbertson

### **Living Water Worship Team**

**Living Water Singers**—Joel Crane, Amanda Sagsveen, Brandi Ellison, Annabelle Ellison, Emmeline Chopourian-Jack, Kerry Carpenter, Keelin Traynor, Deb Carpenter

**Percussionist**—Kari Harris

**Guitarists**— Koltan Harris, Joel Crane

**Accompanist and Sound**—Beth Greff