

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

Phone: 223-1001

Website: www.churchofthecross.org

Winter Hours: Mon.– Thursday 8–3pm Fri 8 to noon

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, **Co-Treasurers**

527-9582/ lcctreasurer@midconetwork.com

Sarah Dahl, 226.6844/sarahdahlmba@gmail.com

Peder Gulleon, **Sunday Worship Coordinator**

680.8787/theriver@midconetwork.com

Joel Crane, **Wednesday Worship Coordinator**

498-2604/cranejoel58@gmail.com

2025 Church Council Members

Scot Long, President, scotglong@gmail.com 400.2169

Mike Geiermann, Vice President, mgeiermann12@gmail.com 471.5122

Jessi Karvo, Secretary, jfish321@gmail.com 426.7439

Janice Martin, msladyj2000@gmail.com 471.5600

Rod Sargent, randdebsarge@beu.midco.net 880.8238

Molly Traynor, mktraynor@hotmail.com 202.0891

Kathryn Spilman, healthandskinbykathryn@gmail.com 527.6867

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross

June 22, 2025

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
“The River” Worship Service
June 22, 2025

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.

INTRODUCTION

This Sunday's texts paint startling pictures of the horrific nature of sin. The church's repeated celebration of holy communion counters that tragic reality in a continued showing forth of the death of Jesus until he comes again. It is a dramatic declaration of “how much God has done for you.”

WE COME TOGETHER

PRELUDE: *“It Is Well With My Soul”, “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”*

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: *“Will You Come and Follow Me”*

SERVICE OF BAPTISM

SPECIAL SONG: *“You Are Loved”*

We Hear God’s Word

FIRST READING: Isaiah 65:1-9

The prophet sent to a rebellious people

¹ I was ready to be sought out by those who did not ask,
to be found by those who did not seek me.

I said, “Here I am, here I am,”
to a nation that did not call on my name.

² I held out my hands all day long
to a rebellious people,

Being baptized today is Avril Estelle Axvig, parents are Anna and Aaron Axvig. Welcome to LCC and God’s family!

Are you a **prayer warrior**? We need you! We are revamping the LCC prayer chain, having lost several participants over the last few years. It is a simple phone tree. You will be called with a request to pray about, and then you will call the next person to pass on the request. Very easy to do from home, and vitally important. Call Connie at 223-1001 to be added to the Pray Chain, or tell Pastor Lisa. Those currently on the Prayer Chain please call to confirm your continuation to be on the prayer chain and to convey which phone number to be listed. Thank you.

Camp of the Cross Ministries Prairie Lake Festival will be held Saturday, June 21 at camp inside the Fellowship Center located at 1228 47th Ave NW Garrison. Viewing of the quilts opens at 9:30am. Lunch begins at 10:30. The auction begins at 11:00am. There will be a silent auction as well.

Every Sunday during the summer Camp of the Cross will have an **outdoor worship service**. There is a community meal that follows the service each Sunday as well. The outdoor services run June 8—August 10 at 1228 47th Ave NW Garrison.

The fellowship hall, nursery, and youth rooms were shampooed this week. Thank you to John Kraft and Rod Sargent for putting the rooms back together.

The **Quilt auction for COC** is scheduled for next Saturday at the camp’s location.

The church has some new plantings out front. Check them out! Salvia donated by Sandy Hyland is interspersed between the red geraniums donated by various members celebrating Pentecost. Two honeysuckle vines in the corner of the bed just outside the front door and 5 other shrubs along the northeast corner. Plus the gorgeous geranium pot by the sign!! Thank you to all and especially to Rod who planted the shrubs, vines and geraniums.

The **Church Council** will be meeting immediately after the summer picnics/ worship in July 9, August. TBD

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 — The Paris Library by Janet Skeslien Charles
August—James by Percival Everett
September—Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon

The two summer altar focus collections are **LWR Baby Care Kits**, and non perishable food items for the **Emergency Food Pantry**. The listing for the Baby Care kits can be found on the narthex. For those who love to rummage sale, pick up items as you seen them. They will be assembled into kit form later.

Please pray for our church cleaner, Doug Sprynczynatyk, We would like to invite you to consider giving an hour here or there to help cover some basic tasks: emptying garbage, cleaning bathrooms, vacuuming traffic areas, and walking through the sanctuary to check it over. Do it whenever fits their schedule during office hours, or pick up a key. Your help is greatly appreciated. Thank you Deb Patterson, and Molly Traynor for helping out this week.

The next summertime picnic and outdoor worship is July 9. The picnic begins at 5pm with LCC furnishing the meat, buns, and beverage. Participants feel free to bring a dish to share. Come enjoy the outdoors, worship God and have fellowship with your friends all at the same time.

Another **Ukrainian family is coming to Bismarck soon** (end of June beginning of July,). They are working through the Uniting 4 Ukraine and the Global Neighbors here. A mother with her two daughters aged 12 and 21. The husband, an attorney is required to remain behind in Ukraine. The mother and older daughter have professional degrees and have the visa that gives them a green card shortly after arrival meaning permission to work. An apartment has been rented. Please pray for this family as they leave their homeland, their husband and father and traveling to a yet unknown world here in Bismarck, ND. Towels, washcloths, dish towels and cloths bedding for regular size bed are needed.

Ann Hillesland’s funeral is scheduled for August 8

who walk in a way that is not good,
following their own devices;
³ a people who provoke me⁴ who sit inside tombs
and spend the night in secret places;
⁴ who sit inside tombs
and spend the night in secret places;
who eat the flesh of pigs,
with broth of abominable things in their vessels;
⁵ who say, “Keep to yourself;
do not come near me, for I am too holy for you.”
These are a smoke in my nostrils,
a fire that burns all day long.
⁶ See, it is written before me:
I will not keep silent, but I will repay;
I will indeed repay into their laps
⁷ their iniquities and their ancestors’ iniquities together,

says the Lord

because they offered incense on the mountains
and reviled me on the hills,
I will measure into their laps
full payment for their actions.
⁸ Thus says the LORD:
As the wine is found in the cluster,
and they say, “Do not destroy it,
for there is a blessing in it,”
so I will do for my servants’ sake
and not destroy them all.
⁹ I will bring forth descendants from Jacob
and from Judah inheritors of my mountains;
my chosen shall inherit it,
and my servants shall settle there.

RESPONSIVE READNG: Psalm 22:19-28

In the midst of the assembly I will praise you. (Ps. 22:22)

¹⁹ But you, O LORD, do not be far away!
O my help, come quickly to my aid!
²⁰ **Deliver my soul from the sword,**
my life from the power of the dog!
²¹ Save me from the mouth of the lion!

From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me.
²² **I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters;**
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:
²³ You who fear the LORD, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;
stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!
²⁴ **For he did not despise or abhor**
the affliction of the afflicted;
he did not hide his face from me
but heard when I cried to him.
²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.
²⁶ **The poor shall eat and be satisfied;**
those who seek him shall praise the LORD.
May your hearts live forever!
²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before him.
²⁸ **For dominion belongs to the LORD,**
and he rules over the nations.

SECOND READING: Galatians 3:23-29

In baptism, clothed with Christ; no longer Jew or Greek

²³ Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴ Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be reckoned as righteous by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ²⁶ for in Christ Je-
sus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷ As many of you as were bap-
tized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is no longer Jew

WEEKLY CALENDAR of June 22, 2025

Today, June 22:

River Practice 9:00 am
River Service 10:00am
Coffee Hour 11:00am

Monday, June 23:

Stitching Group 9am

Tuesday, June 24:

Wednesday, June 25:

River Practice 7pm

Thursday, June 26:

AA Meeting 8pm

Friday, June 27:

Wired Word 1:30pm

Saturday, June 28:

Men’s Bible Study 10am

Sunday, June 29:

River Practice 9:00am
Coffee Hour 11:00am

Upcoming Events
Summer Picnics July 9 and August TBD

Gospel PraiSing FIESTA!

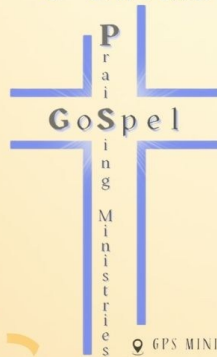
NOURISH THE BODY NOURISH THE SOUL

Mayas Mexican
Restaurant

1601 W. Century Ave
Bismarck
Lunch -order off menu



Christian Music
Presented by:
Colleen Reinhardt
Julie Ternes
& Guests



Presented By: Gospel PraiSing (GPS) Ministries
JULIE TERNES 701-226-0356

SUNDAYS
11:30AM-1:30PM

January 5th
January 19th
February 9th
February 23rd
March 9th
March 23rd
April 6th
April 27th
May 4th
May 18th
June 8th
June 22nd
August 24th-Gospel
PraiSing Festival

or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

GOSPEL SONG: "Let My Heart Be Good Soil"

GOSPEL: Luke 8:26-39

Jesus casts out demons possessing a man of the Gerasenes

²⁶ Then they arrived at the region of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷ As he stepped out on shore, a man from the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had not worn any clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, shouting, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me," ²⁹ for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) ³⁰ Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him. ³¹ They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

³² Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding, and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. ³³ Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd stampeded down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

³⁴ When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵ Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they became frightened. ³⁶ Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. ³⁷ Then the whole throng of people of the surrounding region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. ³⁸ The man from whom the demons had gone out begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹ "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

SERMON Pastor Lisa Ahlness

SONG OF THE DAY: *“Love Lifted Me”*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH “The Spirit Intercedes for Us”

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING SONG: *“For Such a Time As This”*

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: *“One Bread, One Body”*

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: *“Peace in the Valley For Me”*

DISMISSAL

“THE RIVER” and “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Roger Krueger

Ushers—David & Kathy Drovdal, John Kraft

Communion Assistants—Mavis Pommerer, Deb Patterson, Kay Koch

Altar Guild—Valerie Kunze, Joyce Wah, Suzanne Toso

Faith and Care Group 5—Kathy Wood, Kathryn & Alex Spilman

River Worship Team—

Sound Board Technicians—Larry Wolf, Karen Will

Projection Team—Caden Kunze, Jace Kunze, Val Kunze, Rod Sargent, Art

Wheeler

Streaming Team—Mark Kunze, Karen Will, Art Wheeler

River Singers—Joel Crane, Marlene Grabow, Sally Grenz, Paul Gurholt, Doug

Johnson, Cherie Krueger, AJ Marx, Mark Murie, Amanda Sagsveen, Tom Wade

Percussionist—Kari Harris

Violinist—Fynn Sagsveen

Accompanists—Luke Weber, Gerri Sarsten, Jan & Joel Gilbertson, Eve Kath

Sunday Worship Coordinator—Peder Gulleson

Living Water Worship Team

Living Water Singers—Caroline Collins, Keira Collins, Joel Crane,

Annabelle Ellison, Brandi Ellison, Amanda Sagsveen

Percussionist—Kari Harris

Guitarists—Kolton Harris, Joel Crane, Peder Gulleson

Accompanist—Luke Weber

Sound—Peder Gulleson

Wednesday Worship Coordinator—Joel Crane

Prayers, Births, Deaths, Concerns

For those struggling with health and other concerns:

Tracy Martinson, Arlene Wolff, Earl Larson, Nancy Dockter, Lori Marx, Hattie Martin-

son, Carter Weigel, Josey Hanson, Heidi Renner, JoDee Sayler, Diane Klein, Libby

Martin, Kira Willadsen, Kerry Carpenter, Linda Marson, Lonnie Sunde, Reece Fischer,

Paul Kuch, Christ Gerr, Sher Harildstad, Peg Ahlness, Keaton Westlake, Shirley Hold-

er, Jerry Hanson, Claudia Thompson, Carolyn Wegerle, Joyce Wahl, Steve Krogstad,

Jeff Christianson, Arvid Mugaas, Pete Barrette, Heather Martin, Collette Ternes, Doug

Sprynczynatyk, John Doerner, Katie Leer

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones—

Ann Hillesland, Barb Norby, Jerry Jensen, Audrey Hanson