

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

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Office 223-1001 / churchsecretary@midconetwork.com

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2025 Church Council Members

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“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross
July 13, 2025

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
“The River” Worship Service
July 13, 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

To love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind is to reflect God’s mercy in responding to one’s neighbor. That mercy found its most profound expression in the “gospel that has come to you”—namely the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That gospel mercy comes to us again today: at the font, at the table, and from the pulpit. It is very near to you.

WE COME TOGETHER

PRELUDE: *“Come, Now is the Time to Worship”, “Love the Lord”*

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: *“As We Gather at Your Table”*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

We Hear God’s Word

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:9-14

The LORD will take delight in your fruitfulness

⁹The Lord your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the Lord will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors, ¹⁰when you obey the Lord your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

Are you a **prayer warrior**? We need you! We are revamping the LCC prayer list also trying to modernize it having lost several participants over the last few years. The new list will be mailed out this coming week. Very easy to do from home, and vitally important. Call Connie at 223-1001 to be added to the Prayer List, or tell Pastor Lisa. Those currently on the Prayer Chain please call to confirm your continuation to be on the prayer list and to convey which phone number /email address to be listed. Thank you.

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.

Gospel PraiSing Festival, an all-day Christian music festival, is being held at the ND State Capitol Grounds on August 24th and will feature 7 area bands in addition to our special guest Sarah Hart from Nashville, TN.

Sarah Hart has been a singer, songwriter, music producer, retreat author and keynote speaker for over 25 years. She is a Grammy nominee, a BMI Award winner, a PMA Mark Award Winner, an American Library Association Odyssey Award winner, a two-time Audie Awards nominee, and an Association Of Catholic Publishers multi-award winner. Sarah has recorded and written thirteen full-length recordings, as well as over thirty single releases. Sarah’s songs have also been recorded by numerous recording artists, and have appeared in TV, film and commercials. Her songwriting is visible in hymnals across the globe.

You may have noticed a sign on the front lawns near here advertising the **Highland Acres Concerts**. All are welcome at this free community event. Hope to members of your church community there! Here are the details for this Sunday, July 13: BYO Blanket or Chairs

Big Al's Big Band (A Swing/Dance Big Band) plays at the Highland Acres Elementary School Field from 6:30-8:00 pm

Mabel's All Day food truck opens at 5:30 pm

Luigi's Ice Cream truck will also be there!

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.
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 in the narthex. For those who love to rummage sale, pick up items as you see them. They will be assembled into kit form later. We’ve also placed a mock up of the **School Care Kits** because of the sales going on now.

There is now a **sign up sheet** in the narthex for August’s - December’s Sunday Ministerial Duties. Please take the time to review your schedule and fill in your name to help in this vital ministry of the church. You’ll find this on the round table near the bathrooms. An electronic version will be sent out sometime in the near future.

There is a **registration form** for Vacation Bible School out in the narthex. Vacation Bible School will be held at UCC August 10-13 from 6—8pm. A light supper will be served at 5:30 each night. The link for the online registration is <https://shorturl.at/CG8pf>. You may return the registration to the secretary by placing it in the plastic bin next to her door and sending it to her email :churchsecretary@midconetwork.com.

There will not be a August picnic as was originally planned because of the co-party with UCC scheduled for August 13. We have participated in the Block Party for several years with it starting there having a potluck picnic and then moving here for games, a Bouncy House and dessert. Desserts will be needed. (Since the 13th is the end of the Vacation Bible School there might be a short program there about what the children learned in VBS.) Volunteers will be needed to watch the bouncy house, do games and provide desserts. Call the office to volunteer.

Ann Hillesland’s funeral is scheduled for August 8.

¹¹ “Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. ¹² It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will go up to heaven for us and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?’ ¹³ Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?’ ¹⁴ No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

RESPONSIVE READNG: Psalm 25:1-10

Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths. (Ps. 25:4)

- 1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
- 2 O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.
- 3 Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.
- 4 Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.
- 5 Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.
- 6 Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
- 7 Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!
- ⁸ Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
- ⁹ He leads the humble in what is right
and teaches the humble his way.
- ¹⁰ All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

SECOND READING: Colossians 1:1-14

The gospel is growing, bearing fruit in the whole world

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,
² To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

³ In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel ⁶ that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. ⁷ This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, ⁸ and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

⁹ For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God’s will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. ¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

GOSPEL SONG: *“Word of God Speak”*

WEEKLY CALENDAR of July 13, 2025

Today, July 13:	River Practice 9:00 am River Service 10:00am Coffee Hour 11:00am
Monday, July 14:	Stitching Group 9am
Tuesday, July 15:	
Wednesday, July 16:	River Practice 7pm
Thursday, July 17:	AA Meeting 8pm
Friday, July 18:	Wired Word 1:30pm
Saturday, July 19:	Men’s Bible Study 10am
Sunday, July 20:	River Practice 9:00am Coffee Hour 11:00am

Upcoming Events

Summer Picnics August TBD

Vacation Bible School August 10-13



GOSPEL: Luke 10:25-37

The parable of the merciful Samaritan

²⁵ An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶ He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” ²⁷ He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁸ And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

²⁹ But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰ Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” ³⁷ He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

SERMON Pastor Lisa Ahlness

SONG OF THE DAY: *“When the Poor Ones”*

APOSTLES’ CREED

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

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: *“If You But Trust in God to Guide You”*

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: *“Do Justice” (Dakota Road)*

DISMISSAL

“THE RIVER” and “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness
Scripture Reader—Lillian Crook
Ushers—Rich & Judi Fockler
Communion Assistants—Verlaine Jahner, Sheila Koffler, Heather Martin
Altar Guild—Cherie Krueger, Sarah Dahl, Sharon Narum, Verlaine Jahner
Faith and Care Group 6—Patsy & Norlyn Schmidt, Tracy & John Kindem
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, Earl Larson, Nancy Dockter, Lori Marx, Hattie Martinson, 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 Holder, Jerry Hanson, Carolyn Wegerle, Joyce Wahl, Steve Krogstad, Jeff Christianson, Arvid Mugaas, Pete Barrette, Heather Martin, Collette Ternes, Doug Sprynczynatyk, Katie Leer, Daryl Hodnefield, Gisela Hodnefield

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones—
Jennie Carlson, Ann Hillesland, Barb Norby, Jerry Jensen, Audrey Hanson