

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**

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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 20, 2025

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

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

Perhaps the church, at its best, is “all ears.” God urges the faithful, again and again, to “listen up!”—to heed the word that gives life. So it was with Abraham and Sarah, Mary and Martha, and the early church at Colossae. So it is today as we join the assembly to hear the word of God, the word of life.

WE COME TOGETHER

PRELUDE: “Come All You People”, “Give Me Jesus”

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: “Here I Am to Worship”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

We Hear God’s Word

FIRST READING: Genesis 18:1-10a

The hospitality of Abraham and Sarah to three visitors of the LORD

¹ The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ² He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. ³ He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵ Let me bring a little bread, that you may

The **Prayer Chain** has been updated and is now functioning as the Prayer List. Call the office or Pastor Lisa with the prayer request and the secretary will send out an email to all people on the list with the exception of those without emails. Only they will be called. It was thought that the prayer chain needed to be updated and made more efficient by reaching as many people as possible at one time. If you wish to join please call or email the secretary. Email address found on the back page.

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.

The **Emergency Food Pantry** is in need of cereal and protein i.e. cans of tuna, chicken and salmon.

Thanks Peder for sharing the message with us today. It’s great to see another side of you and to hear your words of wisdom.

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 seen 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.

refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” ⁶ And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” ⁷ Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸ Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹ They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” ^{10a} Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.”

RESPONSIVE READNG: Psalm 15

Lord, who may abide upon your holy hill? (Ps. 15:1)

¹ O Lord, who may abide in your tent?
Who may dwell on your holy hill?

² **Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right
and speak the truth from their heart;**

³ who do not slander with their tongue
and do no evil to their friends
nor heap shame upon their neighbors;

⁴ **in whose eyes the wicked are despised
but who honor those who fear the Lord;
who stand by their oath even to their hurt;**

⁵ who do not lend money at interest
and do not take a bribe against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be moved.

SECOND READING: Colossians 1:15-28

Hymn to Christ, the firstborn of all creation

¹⁵ [Christ Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

²¹ And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him, ²³ provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a minister of this gospel.

²⁴ I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. ²⁵ I became its minister according to God’s commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶ the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. ²⁷ To them God chose to make known how great among the gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸ It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

GOSPEL SONG: “Word of God Speak”

WEEKLY CALENDAR of July 20, 2025

Today, July 20: River Practice 9:00 am
River Service 10:00am
Coffee Hour 11:00am

Monday, July 21: Stitching Group 9am

Tuesday, July 22:

Wednesday, July 23: River Practice 7pm

Thursday, July 24: AA Meeting 8pm

Friday, July 25: Wired Word 1:30pm

Saturday, July 26: Men’s Bible Study 10am

Sunday, July 27: River Practice 9:00am
River Service 10:00am
Coffee Hour 11:00am

Upcoming Events
Vacation Bible School August 10-13
Block Party August 13



GOSPEL: Luke 10:38-42

Jesus says: Martha, your sister Mary has chosen the better part

³⁸ Now as [Jesus and his disciples] went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. ³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me." ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

SERMON Peder Gulleason

SONG OF THE DAY: *"The Heart of Worship"*

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING SONG: *“God’s Work Our Hands”*

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: *“How Great Thou Art”*

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—Janet Doerner
Ushers—Art Wheeler, Suzanne & Joel Toso
Communion Assistants—Ken Will, Rich Fockler, Deb Patterson
Altar Guild—Cherie Krueger, Sarah Dahl, Sharon Narum, Verlaine Jahner
Faith and Care Group 6—Patsy & Norlyn Schmidt
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, Mike Geiermann, 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, 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, Lorna Mathais

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