

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

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“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross
August 10, 2025

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
“The River” Worship Service
August 10, 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

Jesus says, “It is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” It is God’s promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the “little flock” of which we are a part in today’s assembly. Faith, God’s baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.

WE COME TOGETHER

PRELUDE: *“Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”, “Rise Up, O Saints of God”*

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: *“He is Exalted”*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

We Hear God’s Word

FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-6

¹ After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” ² But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³ And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” ⁴ But the word of the Lord came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” ⁵ He brought him outside and said, “Look toward

Check out the Nursery one and all! It has been transformed! As an adult you might want to just sit and admire the design of Noah’s Ark or Jonah and the whale. As a kid you might find yourself telling anyone who’ll listen the story of Noah listing all the creatures who inhabited the Ark during the flood. (There’s some counting skills to incidentally be learned in the nursery room.) Mann Signs did the vinyl wrap and were very particular in their installation of the design. Sarah and the Brian Dahl family donated all that you see in the room including the new furniture and play things. THANK YOU! The church has been blessed by you.

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.



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 family of Gisela Hodnefield would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to Pastor Lisa, the church staff, and the many others who facilitated in the funeral service for Gisela. Also a thank you for the food brought for the family and for all the kind words and support of the congregation.
Both Pastor Lisa Ahlness and Pastor Lisa Lewton from Saint John’s Lutheran Church in Dickinson coordinated the funeral service beautifully!

The two summer altar focus collections are **LWR Baby Care Kits**, and non perishable food items for the **Emergency Food Pantry—cereal, and cans of protein**. 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. Thanks to all you have filled in their names!!

We will need **helpers** to supervise the Bouncy House and people to help dish up the brownie ice cream dessert Wednesday for the **Block Party here**.

The **Emergency Food Pantry** is in need of cereal and protein (i.e. cans of tuna, chicken and salmon.) They are so appreciative of the food that LCC donates to the cause of feeding hungry people.

heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.”⁶ And he believed the Lord, and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

RESPONSIVE READNG: Psalm 33:12-22

¹² Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.

¹³ **The Lord looks down from heaven;
he sees all humankind.**

¹⁴ From where he sits enthroned he watches
all the inhabitants of the earth—

¹⁵ **he who fashions the hearts of them all
and observes all their deeds.**

¹⁶ A king is not saved by his great army;
a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.

¹⁷ **The war horse is a vain hope for victory,
and by its great might it cannot save.**

¹⁸ Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him,
on those who hope in his steadfast love,

¹⁹ **to deliver their soul from death
and to keep them alive in famine.**

²⁰ Our soul waits for the Lord;
he is our help and shield.

²¹ **Our heart is glad in him
because we trust in his holy name.**

²² Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,
even as we hope in you.

SECOND READING: Hebrew 11:1-3,8-16

¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ By faith, with Sarah’s involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

¹³ All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴ for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

WEEKLY CALENDAR of August 10, 2025

Today, August 10:	River Practice 9:00 am River Service 10:00am Coffee Hour 11:00am Vacation Bible School 6-8 pm @UCC
Monday, August 11:	Stitching Group 9am Vacation Bible School 6-8pm
Tuesday, August 12:	Vacation Bible School 6-8pm
Wednesday, August 13:	River Practice 5:30pm Vacation Bible School 6-8pm Block Party @UCC & LCC
Thursday, August 14:	AA Meeting 8pm Church Council 6:30pm
Friday, August 15:	Wired Word 1:30pm
Saturday, August 16:	Men’s Bible Study 10am
Sunday, August 17:	River Practice 9:00am River Service 10:00am Coffee Hour 11:00am

Upcoming Events



GOSPEL SONG: *"Good Soil"*

GOSPEL: Luke 12:32-40

[Jesus said:] ³² "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵ "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶ be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷ Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸ If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹ "But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

SERMON Pastor Lisa Ahlness

SONG OF THE DAY: *“Forever”*

APOSTLES’ CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING SONG: *“More Precious than Silver”*

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: *“Lead Me, Guide Me”*

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: *“Do Justice”*

DISMISSAL

“THE RIVER” and “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness
Scripture Reader—Tracy Wolf
Ushers—Mike & Tracy Geiermann, Kathy & David Drovdal
Communion Assistants—Sheila Koffler, Ken Will, David Drovdal
Altar Guild—Jean Kraft, Mavis Pommerer, Joyce Wahl, Cheryl Neu
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, Lonnie Sunde, 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, Katie Leer, Daryl Hodnefield, Lorna Mathais, Jagger Lindsey

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones—
Gisela Hodnefield, Josh Reisenauer, Jennie Carlson, Ann Hillesland