

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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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

August 24, 2025

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
“The River” Worship Service
August 24, 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

Remember the sabbath day. Call the sabbath a delight. This is the Lord’s day, and the Lord will do for us what the Lord does: feed us, forgive us, help and heal us. Rejoice at all the wonderful things God is doing.

WE COME TOGETHER

PRELUDE: “Morning Has Broken”, “Praise to the Lord the Almighty”

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: “10,000 Reasons”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

We Hear God’s Word

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:9b-14

Do not trample the sabbath, but feed the hungry

- ^{9b} If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
¹¹ The Lord will guide you continually
and satisfy your needs in parched places
and make your bones strong,

Quilters: Missouri Slope Lutheran Care Centers is inviting you to make a quilt to help decorate the worship space in their chapel. The liturgical colors of blue, white, purple or red should be used as the main color of the design chosen by you. Maximum dimensions is 71.25 wide by 57 long. Each quilt must have a 3 inch wide pod pocket along the width of it’s top end. Once a color choice, theme or liturgical time of the year has been decided upon by you reach out to Chaplain Angie at 701.221.9361 to let her know of your desire to make a quilt and what colors, theme, pattern you have decided upon.

One in a Million Gala sponsored by the Missouri Slope Foundation will be held September 27, The theme is *Enchanted Garden*. It’s an evening of dinner, live entertainment and dancing. There is an early discount of \$50 per ticket available through Sept. 1. The funds raised will go towards of the Wellness Pathway. This outdoor space will be peaceful, wheelchair-accessible, and pet-friendly—designed to inspire movement, connection, and healing with native gardens, benches, trees, and even a Harmony Wind Harp sculpture.

Today is the day of **Gospel Praising Festival** held on the ND State Capital Grounds 11:30—7:30pm. Seven different bands with 8 different food vendors. There is a special guest artist Sarah Hart from Nashville, TN performing as well. In case of inclement weather the event will be at the Bismarck Eagles on 26th St.



Thank you Deb Sargent and grandson Emerick for the delightful bulletin board..

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. September—The 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—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 September - December’s Sunday Ministerial Duties. The secretary has tried to have each person fill out the times that best suit your needs but people are not filling out the schedule making it necessary to find people way beyond the comfort zone of the secretary. Sign up. If you new to the congregation but would like to give back to the church sign up. If you would rather have the secretary fill out the schedule let her know. You’ll find the spreadsheet on the round table near the bathrooms. Thanks to all you have filled in their names!!

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.

Rally Day is coming soon. Faith and Care Group 1 will be responsible for the potluck on Sunday, Sept. 7 and Wednesday September 10.

Ministry on the Margins is looking for clean, gently used or new backpacks. Your may drop them off here and we’ll see that they get them.

Confirmation orientation is on September 3 at 7pm.

Church school will start on Rally Day. There is a craft project planned.

and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water
whose waters never fail.
¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

¹³ If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath,
from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;
if you call the Sabbath a delight
and the holy day of the Lord honorable;
if you honor it, not going your own ways,
serving your own interests or pursuing your own affairs;
¹⁴ then you shall take delight in the Lord,
and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth;
I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

RESPONSIVE READNG: Psalm 103:1-8

The *Lord* crowns you with mercy and steadfast love. (*Ps. 103:4*)

¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name.
² **Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits—**
³ who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
⁴ **who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**
⁵ who satisfies you with good as long as you live
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.
⁶ **The LORD works vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

⁷ He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.
⁸ **The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 12:18-29

You have come to the city of the living God and to Jesus

¹⁸ You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, ¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. ²⁰ (For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.” ²¹ Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.”) ²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

²⁵ See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking, for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! ²⁶ At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven.” ²⁷ This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe, ²⁹ for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

WEEKLY CALENDAR of August 24, 2025

Today, August 24:	River Practice 9:00 am River Service 10:00am Coffee Hour 11:00am
Monday, August 25:	Stitching Group 9am
Tuesday, August 26:	
Wednesday, August 27:	River Practice 5:30pm
Thursday, August 28:	AA Meeting 8pm
Friday, August 29:	Wired Word 1:30pm
Saturday, August 30:	Men’s Bible Study 10am
Sunday, August 31:	River Practice 9:00am River Service 10:00am Coffee Hour 11:00am

Upcoming Events

Rally Day— Sunday, Sept. 7 and Wednesday, September 10
Potluck both days.
Sept. 9 Worship & Music committee mtg
Sept. 11 Church Council mtg
September 14 & 17 Blessing of the Backpacks
Sept. 21 New Member Class after worship
September 21 20th Year of “The River” celebration
September 28 New Member Sunday



GOSPEL SONG: *“Open the Eyes of My Heart Lord”*

GOSPEL: **Luke 13:10-17**

Jesus heals a crippled woman on the sabbath and is condemned

¹⁰ Now [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. ¹¹ And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. ¹² When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment.” ¹³ When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. ¹⁴ But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, “There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day.” ¹⁵ But the Lord answered him and said, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water? ¹⁶ And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?” ¹⁷ When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

SERMON Pastor Lisa Ahlness

SONG OF THE DAY: *“Word of God Speak”*

APOSTLES’ CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING SONG: *“Made for More”*

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: *“Peace in the Valley”*

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: *“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”*

DISMISSAL

“THE RIVER” and “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader: Sarah Dahl

Ushers—Sarah Dahl, Graham Dahl, John Kraft

Communion Assistants—Ken Will, Rich Fockler, Deb Patterson

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, Kathy Morrison, Mark Murie,

Deb Patterson, 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, 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, Sandy Drevecky

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones—

Donna Lowe, Gisela Hodnefield