

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

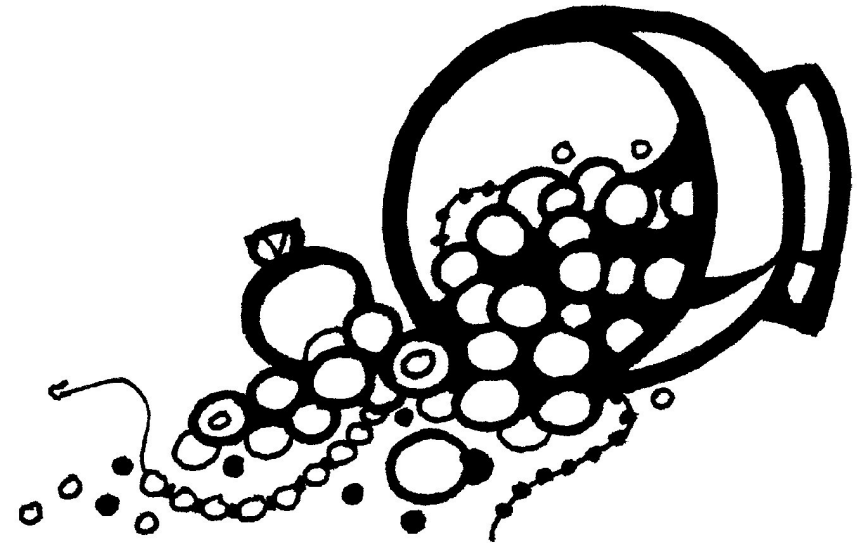
Molly Traynor, mktraynor@hotmail.com 202.0891

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
August 3, 2025

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
“The River” Worship Service
August 3, 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

Today’s texts offer instruction and encouragement for all who are occasionally overwhelmed by the “unhappy business” of life. Jesus urges us to take care and be on guard against all kinds of greed. We who have died with Christ in holy baptism have also been raised with him and are encouraged to elevate our thinking, seeking the “things that are above.” To that end we seek the sustenance of the Lord’s supper and the encouragement of God’s word.

WE COME TOGETHER

PRELUDE: “Untitled Hymn”, “Days of Elijah”

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: “Eternal Father Strong to Save”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

We Hear God’s Word

FIRST READING: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

Search out wisdom, for all is vanity

² Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

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.

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



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

Thank you Pastor Knutson for sharing your message with us today. We appreciate your coming again to be with us.

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.

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 or sending it to her email :churchsecretary@midconetwork.com.

¹² I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³ I applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to humans to be busy with. ¹⁴ I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind

^{2:18} I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to my successor, ¹⁹ and who knows whether he will be wise or foolish? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰ So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹ because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²² What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? ²³ For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

RESPONSIVE READNG: Psalm 49:1-12

My mouth shall speak of wisdom. (*Ps. 49:3*)

- ¹ Hear this, all you peoples;
give ear, all inhabitants of the world,
- ² **both low and high,
rich and poor together.**
- ³ My mouth shall speak wisdom;
the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.
- ⁴ **I will incline my ear to a proverb;
I will solve my riddle to the music of the harp.**
- ⁵ Why should I fear in times of trouble,
when the iniquity of my persecutors surrounds me,
- ⁶ **those who trust in their wealth
and boast of the abundance of their riches?**
- ⁷ Truly, no ransom avails for one’s life;
there is no price one can give to God for it.
- ⁸ **For the ransom of life is costly
and can never suffice,**
- ⁹ that one should live on forever
and never see the Pit.

¹⁰ When we look at the wise, they die;
fool and dolt perish together
and leave their wealth to others.
¹¹ Their graves are their homes forever,
their dwelling places to all generations,

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-11

Clothed in Christ, your life is hidden with him in God

¹ So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.
⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷ These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸ But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹ In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

WEEKLY CALENDAR of August 3, 2025

Today, August 3:
River Practice 9:00 am
River Service 10:00am
Coffee Hour 11:00am

Monday, August 4:
Stitching Group 9am

Tuesday, August 5:

Wednesday, August 6:
River Practice 5:30pm

Thursday, August 7:
AA Meeting 8pm

Friday, August 8:
Wired Word 1:30pm

Saturday, August 9:
Men’s Bible Study 10am

Sunday, August 10:
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 SONG: “Word of God Speak”

GOSPEL: Luke 12:13-21

Jesus says: Be on guard against greed; be rich toward God, your treasure

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” ¹⁴ But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” ¹⁵ And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” ¹⁶ Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷ And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ ¹⁸ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ ²⁰ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ ²¹ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

SERMON Pastor Brian Knutson

SONG OF THE DAY: *“Abide With Me”*

APOSTLES’ CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING SONG: *“Take My Life That I May Be”*

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: *“Holy is the Lord”*

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: *“Let Us Be the Church”*

DISMISSAL:

“THE RIVER” and “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Janet Doerner

Ushers—Rich & Judi Fockler, Tracy Wolf

Communion Assistants—Roger & Esther Anderson, Tracy Geiermann

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, Barb Norby