

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 31, 2025

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
“The River” Worship Service
August 31, 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

Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God’s grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ’s banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

WE COME TOGETHER

PRELUDE: “God is Here”, “Thy Word”

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: “Gather Us In”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

We Hear God’s Word

FIRST READING: Proverbs 25:6-7a

Do not put yourself forward

- ⁶ Do not put yourself forward in the king’s presence
or stand in the place of the great,
^{7a} for it is better to be told, “Come up here,”
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

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.

The **Faith and Care Groups** are listed on the wall next to the secretary’s office.

Fostering Hope: September’s Altar Focus

This month’s altar focus we will put together birthday kits for families with foster kids. These items are being collected by the organization Fostering Hope. Please bring the below listed items (we will assemble kits and deliver to fostering hope), or put together a whole kit. Let’s help make some birthdays happy! Thanks for your help! These are the items needed.

Disposable cake pans
Cake mixes
Birthday candles
Balloons
Birthday cards
Sprite (used in place of oil)
Frosting
Sprinkles

FUEL the FIGHT for KEATON. Keaton is the grandson of Lynn & Marlene Grabow. He has been diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia and has already undergone some treatment for the disease. More difficult treatments will soon be underway. A fundraising event will be held September 6 at Chuck-er’s Sports Bar in Mandan. Check out the posters placed throughout the building. Keaton and family needs our prayers and monetary donations.

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 next week. Faith and Care Group 1 will be responsible for the pot-luck on Sunday, Sept. 7 and Wednesday September 10.

Ministry on the Margins is looking for clean, gently used or new backpacks. You 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.

RESPONSIVE READNG: Psalm 112

The righteous are merciful and full of compassion. *(Ps. 112:4)*

¹ Praise the LORD!

Happy are those who fear the LORD,
who greatly delight in his commandments.

² **Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

³ Wealth and riches are in their houses,
and their righteousness endures forever.

⁴ **They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright;
they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.**

⁵ It is well with those who deal generously and lend,
who conduct their affairs with justice.

⁶ **For the righteous will never be moved;
they will be remembered forever.**

⁷ They are not afraid of evil tidings;
their hearts are firm, secure in the LORD.

⁸ **Their hearts are steady; they will not be afraid;
in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.**

⁹ They have distributed freely; they have given to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever;
their horn is exalted in honor.

¹⁰ **The wicked see it and are angry;
they gnash their teeth and melt away;
the desire of the wicked comes to nothing.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

God is with us: let acts of mutual love continue

¹ Let mutual affection continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, “I will never leave you or forsake you.” ⁶ So we can say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?” ⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

WEEKLY CALENDAR of August 31, 2025

Today, August 31:	River Practice 9:00 am River Service 10:00am Coffee Hour 11:00am
Monday, September 1:	Labor Day
Tuesday, September 2:	
Wednesday, September 3:	River Practice 5:30pm
Thursday, September 4:	AA Meeting 8pm
Friday, September 5:	Wired Word 1:30pm
Saturday, September 6:	Men’s Bible Study 10am
Sunday, September 7:	Rally Day River Practice 9:00am River Service 10:00am Potluck 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: “Jesus Messiah”

GOSPEL: Luke 14:1, 7-14

An image of God’s reign: invite the poor, crippled to your banquet

¹ On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸ “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

SERMON Pastor Lisa Ahlness

SONG OF THE DAY: “*As We Gather at Your Table*”

APOSTLES’ CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING SONG: “*Goodness of God*”

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: “*Now We Join the Celebration*”

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: “*Welcome Table*”

DISMISSAL

“THE RIVER” and “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader: Debbie Patterson

Ushers—Rich & Judi Fockler, Kathryn & Alex Spilman

Communion Assistants—Myrtice Behan, David Drovdal, John Kraft

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, 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, Keaton Westlake

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones—

Donna Lowe