

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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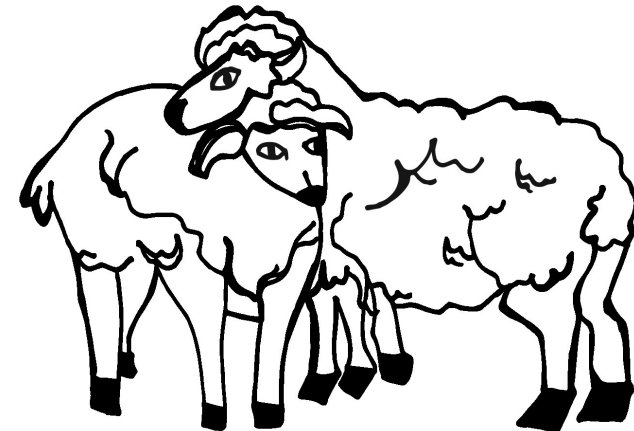
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“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross
September 14, 2025

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
“The River” Worship Service
September 14, 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

The grumbling of the religious leaders in today’s gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God seeks and saves the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As the writer of 1 Timothy reminds us, “The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.” Thanks be to God.

WE COME TOGETHER

PRELUDE: “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”, “God is so Good”

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: “Soon and Vey Soon”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

We Hear God’s Word

FIRST READING: Exodus 32:7-14

Moses begs the LORD to turn from anger against the Hebrews

7 The Lord said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; 8 they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’ ” 9 The Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. 10 Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation.”

Ushers! We will do a training for you on Saturday morning, September 27th at 11 am – so you men’s bible studiers can come, too! No, we don’t think you need training to hand out bulletins and collect the offering. But we would like to talk about facilitating safe exiting for everyone during an emergency, and a quick run through of CPR and first aid, and where supplies are in the church: first aid, fire extinguishers, AED, etc.

A women’s group will begin Wednesday, September 24 at 7pm called **Jesus & Women**. Through a series of seven video sessions, Kristi McLelland will transport us back to Jesus’ world in the footsteps of the women who came face-to-face with the Living God. Examine the historical and cultural climate of first century Middle Eastern society to not only understand Jesus more deeply but to fuel your worship of Him today. This study has limited homework as most of the content is covered in the video, or you can dig deeper if you wish. McClelland is an engaging story teller and teacher and the videos themselves are certainly more than enough. There is a sign-up in the narthex. If you have questions please contact Deb Sargent 701-880-8237.

Gospel PraiSing Ministries is continuing their twice monthly performances at the Mayas Mexican restaurant 11:30—1:30 the first and third week of each month. See the posted flyers for the monthly dates.

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.

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.
October—“The Secret Life of Sunflowers” by Marta Molnar
November—“The Wine Makers Wife” by Kristin Harmel
December—“When Breath Becomes Air” by Paul Kalanithi
January —“All the Colors of the Dark” by Chris Whitaker
February—“The Briar Club” by Kate Quinn

LCC is celebrating the 20th anniversary of The River Worship Service on Sep 21. All former and current Worship Team Members are invited to participate. Please contact Mark Murie if you haven’t already responded to the invitation at 701 805–1377.
Rehearsal schedule is as follows: Thu, Sep 18 at 7p, Sat, Sep 20 at 1030a and Sun, Sep 21 at 9a.

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

There is now a **sign up sheet** in the narthex for September - December’s Sunday Ministerial Duties. If you would rather have the secretary fill out the schedule let her know for you. You’ll find the spreadsheet on the round table near the bathrooms. Thanks to all you have volunteered for September. We can’t do it without you.

Carolyn Wegerle’s funeral is Sept. 19 2 pm at Parkway Funeral Service.

The quilter’s started this past September 11. In case you missed it come next Thursday. Come for fellowship, come for fun, come for doing something good for someone else. Come for coffee and treats afterwards. Come anytime.

12 Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. 13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’ ” 14 And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

RESPONSIVE READNG: Psalm 51:1-10

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love. (*Ps. 51:1*)

- ¹ Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy,
blot out my transgressions.
- ² **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.**
- ³ For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴ **Against you, you alone, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.**
- ⁵ Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
- ⁶ **You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**
- ⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- ⁸ **Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**
- ⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Christ Jesus came for sinners

12 I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, 13 even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, 14 and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 15 The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. 16 But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. 17 To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

GOSPEL SONG: *“Hallelujah”*

WEEKLY CALENDAR of September 14, 2025

Today, September 14:	River Practice 9:00 am River Service /Church school 10:00am Coffee 11:00am
Monday, September 15:	Stitching Group 9:00 am
Tuesday, September 16:	
Wednesday, September 17:	Supper 5pm Worship 6:15pm Church School /Confirmation 7p River Practice 7pm
Thursday, September 18:	AA Meeting 8pm
Friday, September 19:	Wired Word 1:30pm
Saturday, September 20:	Men’s Bible Study 10am
Sunday, September 21:	River Practice 9:00am River Service 10:00am 20th yr New Member class 11:00 Coffee Hour 11:00am

Upcoming Events
September 21 20th Year of “The River” celebration
September 24 Women’s Bible Study 7pm “Jesus & the Women”
September 28 New Member Sunday



GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-10

Looking for the lost sheep, silver coin: Jesus eating with sinners

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸ “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

SERMON Pastor Sondra Krogstad

SONG OF THE DAY: “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

APOSTLES’ CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING SONG: “Create in Me a Clean Heart” ELW 185

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: “Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling”

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: “You Shine”

DISMISSAL

“THE RIVER” and “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness
Scripture Reader—Lillian Crook
Ushers— Easton & TJ Karvo, Melissa & Scot Long
Communion Assistants—Kay Koch, Tracy Geiermann, Melissa Long
Altar Guild—Verlaine Jahner, Ruth Jensen, Sharon Narum, Kelly Olson
Faith and Care Group 1— Janet & Troy Bassingthwaite, Annie & Aanen Bergrud
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, 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, Marisa Wolf, Emmett Wolf. Judi Fockler

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones—
Carolyn Wegerle, Gail Norby Steinmetz