

Lutheran Church of the Cross
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Bismarck ND 58501

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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
September 21, 2025

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
“The River” 20th Year Celebration Worship Service
September 21, 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

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. “Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all.” Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God’s gracious favor we have everything we need.

WE COME TOGETHER

PRELUDE: “You Are My All in All”, “It Is Well”, “Holy, Holy, Holy”,
“Come Now is the Time to Worship”

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: “The River is Here”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

We Hear God’s Word

SCRIPTURE PREPARATION SONG; “Fall Like Rain”

FIRST READING: Amos 8:4-7

⁴ Hear this, you who trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,

⁵ saying, “When will the new moon be over
so that we may sell grain,

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 study group begins this 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.

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.

SIGN UP to help with the important ministerial duties that are needed each and every week . 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.

Some additional **Baby Blankets, and Hand towels** are needed for the LWR Baby Care Kits. They will be put together on Wednesday of this week. Please have them here prior to 5 pm. Thank you for your generosity!

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 TO-DAY. Thank you to all who planned this event and participated to make this event what it is. Your time and talents are appreciated.

Twenty years ago, a group of LCC members met to discuss options of enhancing our traditional worship service, with a more contemporary, upbeat version of music.

These eight persons, Jan & Joel, Gilbertson; Marcia & Paul Gurholt; Shelby Johnson; Mark, Murie; Claudia & Mark Thompson agreed that our goal was always to reach out, engage and inspire our congregation through music in our worship service.

Thus **The River Worship Service** was created, and LCC could now offer both a traditional and a blended/contemporary option in worship.

Today we celebrate this 20 year milestone with former and current Worship Team voices and musicians joining together for today’s worship.

We dedicate this special service to the glory of God and to the loving memory of Marcia Gurholt.

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.

and the Sabbath,
so that we may offer wheat for sale?
We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier
and practice deceit with false balances,

⁶ buying the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals
and selling the sweepings of the wheat.”

⁷ The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

RESPONSIVE READNG: Psalm 113

¹ Praise the LORD!
Praise, O servants of the LORD;
praise the name of the LORD.

² **Blessed be the name of the LORD
from this time on and forevermore.**

³ From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of the LORD is to be praised.

⁴ **The LORD is high above all nations
and his glory above the heavens.**

⁵ Who is like the LORD our God,
who is seated on high,

⁶ **who looks far down
on the heavens and the earth?**

⁷ He raises the poor from the dust
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,

⁸ **to make them sit with princes,
with the princes of his people.**

⁹ He gives the barren woman a home,
making her the joyous mother of children.

Praise the LORD!

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, ⁴ who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, ⁶ who gave himself a ransom for all —this was attested at the right time.⁷ For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION SONG: *“How Great is Our God”*

WEEKLY CALENDAR of September 21, 2025

Today, September 21:	River Practice 9:00 am River Service /Church school 10:00am New Member Class 11:00 Coffee 11:00am
Monday, September 22:	Stitching Group 9:00 am
Tuesday, September 23:	
Wednesday, September 24:	Supper 5pm Worship 6:15pm Church School /Confirmation 7p River Practice 7pm Jesus & the Women Bible Study
Thursday, September 25:	Quilting 1:00pm AA Meeting 8pm
Friday, September 26:	Wired Word 1:30pm
Saturday, September 27:	Men’s Bible Study 10am
Sunday, September 28:	River Practice 9:00am River Service/New Member 10a Coffee Hour 11:00am



GOSPEL: Luke 16:1-13

¹ Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ² So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.' ³ Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' ⁵ So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶ He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' ⁷ Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' ⁸ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰ "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

SERMON Pastor Lisa Ahlness

SONG OF THE DAY: *“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!”*

APOSTLES’ CREED

SPECIAL MUSIC: *“God Will Make a Way”*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING SONG: *“Give Thanks”*

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD’S PRAYER (To be sung)

INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: *“Each Day”*

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION (to be sung)

SENDING SONG: *“A Mighty Fortress is our God”*

DISMISSAL SONG: *“Great is the Lord”*

“THE RIVER” and “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Traci Geiermann

Ushers— Kathryn Spilman, Rich Fockler & Amy Hammond

Communion Assistants—Traci Geiermann, Esther & Roger Anderson

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, LaVern Hanson

Projection Team— Caden Kunze, Jace Kunze, Val Kunze, Rod Sargent, Art Wheeler

Streaming Team— Mark Kunze, Karen Will, Art Wheeler

River Singers— Myrtice Behan, Joel Crane, Robin Ehrich, Mike Geiermann, Marlene Grabow, Sally Grenz, Peder Gulleson, Paul Gurholt, Doug Johnson, Shelby Johnson Eve Kath, Cherie Krueger, AJ Marx, Kathy Morrison, Mark Murie, Amanda Sagsveen, Gerri Sarsten, Claudia Thompson

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, Madison Woehl

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones—

Carolyn Wegerle, Gail Norby Steinmetz