

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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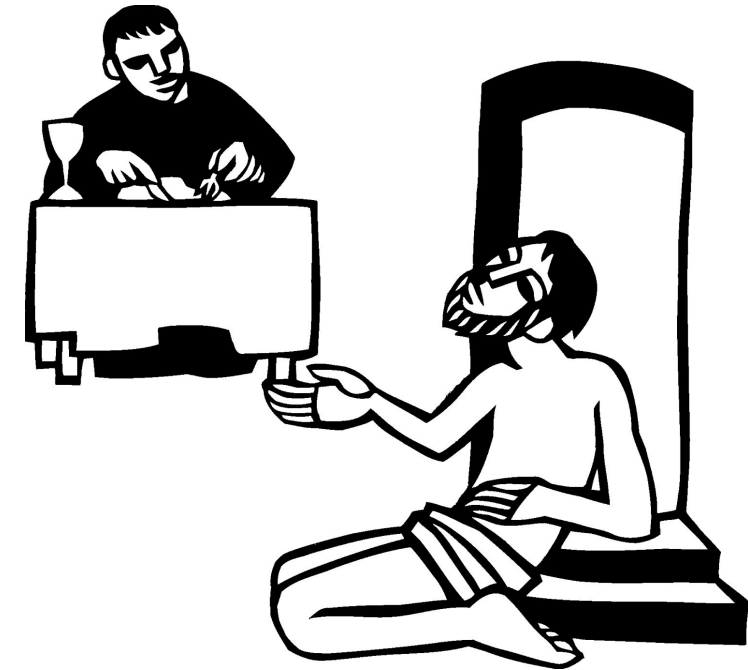
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“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross
September 28, 2025

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

September 28, 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

Consideration of and care for those in need (especially those “at our gate,” visible to us, of whom we are aware) is an essential component of good stewardship. It is in the sharing of wealth that we avoid the snare of wealth. It is the one whom death could not hold—who comes to us risen from the dead—who can free us from the death grip of greed.

WE COME TOGETHER

PRELUDE: “Forever”, “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”, “Lord, Reign Me In”

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: “Kyrie Elieson”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

We Hear God’s Word

FIRST READING: Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Warnings to those who are comfortable or wealthy

^{1a} Woe to those who are at ease in Zion
and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria.

⁴ Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory
and lounge on their couches
and eat lambs from the flock
and calves from the stall,

A women’s study group began this Wednesday, September 24 at 7pm called ***Jesus & Women***. *You may still come if you missed the first lesson.* 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. If you have questions please contact Deb Sargent 701-880-8237.

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 are now planning for October. We can’t do it without you.

German Supper Sat. Oct. 18 5—7pm at UCC a sumptuous homemade meal of Fleischkuekle, Borscht soup, German potato salad, bread and kuchen. The meal will benefit Ministry on the Margins and UCC. Tickets —adults \$20, kids \$10, kids 4 and under free

Thank you Deb Patterson for creating this wonderful 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.
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

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. These are the items needed. Disposable cake pans, Cake mixes, Birthday candles, Balloons, Birthday cards, Sprite (used in place of oil), Frosting, Sprinkles. Let’s help make some birthdays happy! Thanks for your help!

There is a Caring Bridge page for **Emmett Wolf**. www.caringbridge.org Search for his name. The page was created 9.9.25. Both parents, Marisa and Kyle are writing about what their tiny son is going through. Prayers are needed for this little warrior and his parents.

LCC welcomes new members: Erin Bolinger and daughter Kaija Rozier, Debbie Patterson, Ernie Torpen, and Kathy Morrison. We hope you will feel welcomed here being a part of God’s LCC family.

A change in **Confirmation** for this Wednesday to small group night.

FIND YOUR BALANCE Stress Relief & Support a monthly stress management offering held at UCC the third Thursday Sept. 28—April 16. 6—7:15 pm.

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

- ⁵ who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp
and like David improvise on instruments of music,
⁶ who drink wine from bowls
and anoint themselves with the finest oils
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!
⁷ Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile,
and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

RESPONSIVE READNG: Psalm 146

The *LORD* gives justice to those who are oppressed. (*Ps. 146:7*)

- ¹ Praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD, O my soul!
² **I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**
- ³ Do not put your trust in princes,
in mortals, in whom there is no help.
⁴ **When their breath departs, they return to the earth;
on that very day their plans perish.**
- ⁵ Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD their God,
⁶ **who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;**
⁷ who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

- ⁸ **the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.**
⁹ The LORD watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

**¹⁰ The LORD will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the LORD!**

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

Eager to be rich or eager to pursue richness of God’s justice?

⁶ Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it, ⁸ but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. ⁹ But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

¹¹ But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴ to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. ¹⁶ It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷ As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

WEEKLY CALENDAR of September 28, 2025

Today, September 28:	River Practice 9:00 am River Service /Church school New Member 10:00am Coffee 11:00am
Monday, September 29:	Stitching Group 9:00 am
Tuesday, September 30:	
Wednesday, October 1:	Supper 5pm Worship 6:15pm Church School /Confirmation 7p River Practice 7pm Jesus & the Women Bible Study
Thursday, October 2:	Quilting 1:00pm AA Meeting 8pm
Friday, October 3:	Wired Word 1:30pm
Saturday, October 4:	Men’s Bible Study 10am
Sunday, October 5:	River Practice 9:00am River Service 10:00am Coffee Hour 11:00am



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION SONG: “Alleluia” setting 10

GOSPEL: Luke 16:19-31

Story of poor Lazarus and the wealthy man

[Jesus said:] ¹⁹ “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²² The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.’ ²⁵ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶ Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ ²⁷ He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house ²⁸ for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ ²⁹ Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ ³⁰ He said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’ ³¹ He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’ ”

SERMON Pastor Lisa Ahlness

SONG OF THE DAY: “Gather Us In” ELW 532

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: “Take My Life That I May Be”

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: “Canticle of the Turning”

DISMISSAL

“THE RIVER” and “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness
Scripture Reader—Murray Sagsveen
Ushers— Kathy & David Drovdal, Kay Koch
Communion Assistants—Mavis Pommerer, Melissa Long, John Kraft
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— Joel Crane, Mike Geiermann, Marlene Grabow, Sally Grenz, Peder Gulleson, Paul Gurholt, Doug Johnson, Cherie Krueger, AJ Marx, Kathy Morrison, Mark Murie, Amanda Sagsveen
 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, 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—
Madison Woehl, Jim Hausmann, Carolyn Wegerle