

Lutheran Church of the Cross
1004 E Highland Acres Rd.
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 7, 2025

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
“The River” Worship Service
September 7, 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

Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul’s request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God’s grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to “choose life”—to choose life in God as our own.

WE COME TOGETHER

PRELUDE: “Jesus Keep Near the Cross”, “God’s Work Our Hands”

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: “Lift High the Cross”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

We Hear God’s Word

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

¹⁵ “See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today that you

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 Chuckler’s Sports Bar in Mandan. Check out the posters placed throughout the building. Keaton and family needs our prayers and monetary donations.

There has been a change of date for **Scripture Circles**. It will be held Sept. 11th, not the 18th. Everything else remains the same as far a place Faith Lutheran Church; meal time and study times.

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
October—"The Secret Life of Sunflowers" by Marta Molnar

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. 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.

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.

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.

Church school is starting today. There is a craft project planned. The quilters will be back at it starting September 11th at 1pm.

The quilter’s will be back at it starting September 11 at 1pm. Come for fellowship, come for fun, come for doing something good for someone else. Come for coffee and treats afterwards.

The new **Christ in Our Home** for the next quarter is out in the narthex. Pick up your copy.

shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰ loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

RESPONSIVE READNG: Psalm 1

- ¹ Happy are those
 who do not follow the advice of the wicked
 or take the path that sinners tread
 or sit in the seat of scoffers,
² **but their delight is in the law of the Lord,
 and on his law they meditate day and night.**
³ They are like trees
 planted by streams of water,
 which yield their fruit in its season,
 and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.
- ⁴ **The wicked are not so
 but are like chaff that the wind drives away.**
⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment
 nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous,
⁶ **for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
 but the way of the wicked will perish.**

SECOND READING: Philemon 1-21

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To our beloved coworker Philemon, ² to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house:
³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. ⁷ I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸ For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, ⁹ yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰ I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. ¹² I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³ I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵ Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

WEEKLY CALENDAR of September 7, 2025

<i>Today, September 7:</i>	Rally Day River Practice 9:00 am River Service /Church school 10:00am Potluck 11:00am
<i>Monday, September 8:</i>	Stitching Group 9:00 am
<i>Tuesday, September 9:</i>	Worship & Music committee mtg
<i>Wednesday, September 10:</i>	Rally Day Book club 1:30pm Potluck Supper 5pm Worship 6:15pm Church School /Confirmation 7p River Practice 7pm
<i>Thursday, September 11:</i>	Church Council mtg 6:30pm AA Meeting 8pm
<i>Friday, September 12:</i>	NO Wired Word 1:30pm
<i>Saturday, September 13:</i>	Men’s Bible Study 10am
<i>Sunday, September 14:</i>	River Practice 9:00am River Service 10:00am Coffee Hour 11:00am

Upcoming Events
September 14 & 17 Blessing of the Backpacks
Sept. 21 New Member Class after worship



GOSPEL SONG: *“Jesus Messiah”*

GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

SERMON Pastor Lisa Ahlness

SONG OF THE DAY: “Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus”

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: “Take Oh Take Me as I Am”

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: “Lead Me, Guide Me”

DISMISSAL

“THE RIVER” and “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness
Scripture Reader—Tracy Geiermann
Ushers—Mike & Tracy Geiermann, Dan Mckinney & Marylee Gregware
Communion Assistants—Kay Koch Rich Fockler, Val Kunze
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, 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—
Gail Norby Steinmetz, Donna Lowe