

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

Staff:

Lisa Ahlness, **Pastor**

Cell: 220.9011 / lisaahlness@hotmail.com

Connie Werner, **Secretary** cell 400.5852

Office 223-1001 / churchsecretary@midconetwork.com

Art Wheeler, **Co-Treasurers**

527-9582/ lcctreasurer@midconetwork.com

Sarah Dahl, 226.6844/sarahdahlmba@gmail.com

Peder Gulleon, **Sunday Worship Coordinator**

680.8787/theriver@midconetwork.com

Joel Crane, **Wednesday Worship Coordinator**

498-2604/cranejoel58@gmail.com

2025 Church Council Members

Scot Long, President, scotglong@gmail.com 400.2169

Mike Geiermann, Vice President, mgeiermann12@gmail.com 471.5122

Jessi Karvo, Secretary, jfish321@gmail.com 426.7439

Janice Martin, msladyj2000@gmail.com 471.5600

Rod Sargent, randdebsarge@beu.midco.net 880.8238

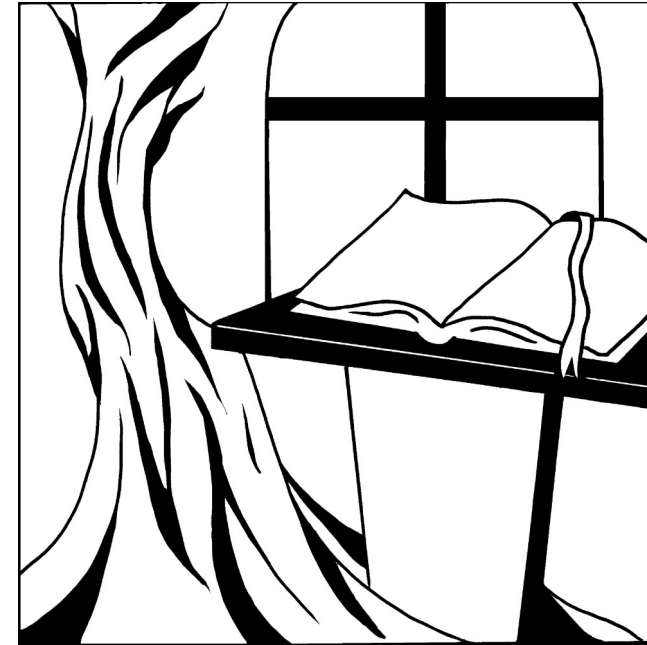
Molly Traynor, mktraynor@hotmail.com 202.0891

Kathryn Spilman, healthandskinbykathryn@gmail.com 527.6867

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross
Reformation and Confirmation Sunday
October 26, 2025

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

Reformation Day, October 26, 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.

WE COME TOGETHER

Introduction

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be re-formed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

PRELUDE: "Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)", "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less" ELW 597

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

OUR CONFESSION, GOD'S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" ELW 504

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

We Hear God's Word

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

I will write my law in their hearts, says the LORD

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them,

Let's fill up the tree in the narthex with everyone's favorite Bible verse.

October's Altar Focus remains Bismarck Emergency Food Pantry, but with an emphasis on spices and staples of flour, sugar, etc. and can openers.

Enjoy coffee and cake with the confirmands after church today.

The **blue banner** in the narthex is for recognizing loved ones who have passed this year. It will be on display Nov. 2. All Saints Day in the sanctuary.

The ordering slip for the **Christmas poinsettias** is out early. You'll find it in the narthex and at the back of the church. When completed please place it in the offering plate or in the secretary's plastic bin next to her door.



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.
Led by Marjo Hewitson followed by her fearless readers.
November—“The Wine Makers Wife” by Kristin Harmel
December—“When Breath Becomes Air” by Paul Kalanihi
January —“All the Colors of the Dark” by Chris Whitaker
February—“The Briar Club” by Kate Quinn

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.

All Saints Service Wednesday, November 5 at St. George’s Episcopal 6:15pm

Jesus & Women Mtg Dates: 10/29, 11/12, 11/19, 12/3 Conference Rm.

There will be a **Health Information Fair** at the Missouri Slope Campus on N. Washington Tues, Nov. 4th 10-2 pm .

Camp of the Cross Pancake Breakfast November 2 serving after the service. The famous Wishek sausage will be paired with the tremendously tender pancakes LCC is also known for. Stay for breakfast to support Camp of the Cross.

SIGN UP to help with the Pancake Breakfast to be held, November 2. Sign up sheet is in the narthex. You are needed!

Volunteer now to help your church. Ushers, Communion Assistants and Scripture readers are needed every week. It takes less than an hour of your time. Get your kids involved with you as you usher. November and December are being scheduled by the secretary if there are empty spots as of 10/26 as she will be on sick leave soon.

and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 46

The *Lord* of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (*Ps. 46:7*)

- ¹ God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
- ² **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,**
- ³ though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult. *Selah*
- ⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**
- ⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
- ⁶ **The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice; the earth melts.**
- ⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*
- ⁸ **Come, behold the works of the LORD;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.**
- ⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
- ¹⁰ **“Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations;
I am exalted in the earth.”**
- ¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

Justified by God’s grace as a gift

¹⁹ Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds pre-scribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION SONG: “*Thy Word*”

WEEKLY CALENDAR of October 26, 2025
Confirmation Sunday

Today, October 26:	River Practice 9:00 am River Service/Church school 10:00am Confirmation Reception 11:00am Trunk or Treat 3 pm
Monday, October 27:	Stitching Group 9:00 am
Tuesday, October 28:	
Wednesday, October 29:	Supper 5pm Worship 6:15pm Church School /Confirmation River Practice 7pm Jesus & the woman against the wall 7
Thursday, October 30:	Quilting 1:00pm AA Meeting 8pm
Friday, October 31:	Wired Word 1:30pm
Saturday, November 1:	Men’s Bible Study 10am
Sunday, November 2:	River Practice 9:00am River Service 10:00am Pancake Breakfast for COC 11am

Upcoming Events:

The Chosen Bible Series S2 episode 2 for Sunday, November 2th, 3pm, and Tuesday November 4th, 5pm



Blessings to our three Confirmands today:

Sander Sagsveen, Brady Staloch, and Frankie Stankiewicz

GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

Jesus says, Continue in my word and you will know the truth

31 Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." 33 They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

34 Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. 36 So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

SERMON Pastor Lisa Ahlness

SONG OF THE DAY: "Rise, Shine You People!" ELW 665

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH "The Spirit Intercedes for Us"

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING SONG: "Take My Life, That I May Be" ELW 583"

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: “Lord I Lift Your Name on High”

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: “Built on a Rock” ELW 652

“THE RIVER” and “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Tracy Geiermann

Communion Assistants—Mavis Pommerer, Ken Will, Kay Koch,

Ushers—Tracy & Mike Geiermann, Deb Patterson

Altar Guild—Mavis Pommer, Kathryn Spilman, Ruth Jensen, Suzanne Toso

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

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, Shirley Holder, Jerry Hanson, Joyce Wahl, Jeff Christian-son, Arvid Mugaas, Pete Barrette, Heather Martin, Katie Leer, Daryl Hodnefield, Lorna Mathais, Jagger Lindsey, Sandy Drevecky, Emmett Wolf, Peg Ahlness,

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones—

Keaton Westlake, John Hertzgard, Judi Fockler, Collette Ternes