

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:

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Cell: 220.9011 / lisaahlness@hotmail.com

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The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross

June 7, 2026

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

June 7, 2026

Introduction

Though Jesus was a devout Jew who practiced his faith, he was criticized for eating with tax collectors and sinners—the religiously nonobservant. Jesus criticizes the self-righteous and reminds us that mercy is to be at the heart of our religious practices. God continues to be made known in those on the margins of society, like Matthew the tax collector and the hemorrhaging woman. As we gather each Lord's day we receive the healing that makes us well and sends us forth to be signs of God's mercy for the world.

We Come Together

PRELUDE: "Gather Us In", "Lord Be Glorified"

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

OUR CONFESSION, GOD'S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: "Here I am to Worship"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

We Hear God's Word

FIRST READING: Hosea 5:15-6:6

¹⁵ I will return again to my place
until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face.
In their distress they will beg my favor:

^{6:1} "Come, let us return to the LORD,
for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us;
he has struck down, and he will bind us up.

² After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will raise us up,
that we may live before him.

Gospel PraiSing Fiesta!

Nourish the Body

Mayas Mexican
Restaurant



1601 W. Century Ave. Bismarck, ND
Lunch - order off menu
(patron's expense)

Nourish the Soul

SUNDAYS

11:30 AM-1:30 PM

Christian Music
presented by:
Colleen Reinhardt
Julie Ternes
& Guests

May 17 - Kelley Reuer

May 31 - Steve Harmon

June 7 - Brian Saylor

June 28 - David Sorenson/Traci Juhala

July 12 - Debi Rogers

July 26 - Mya Tena

August 9 - On the Brink

August 23 - Gospel PraiSing Festival
with Natalie Layne



Free-will donations in May through August
assist Abused Adult Resource Center (AARC)

Presented by: Gospel PraiSing (GPS) Ministries
Julie Ternes 701-226-0356

June 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 9a R.Practice 10am River Service 11am Coffee	1 Stitching 9am	2 Kids Corner 9- 10:30	3	4	5 No Wired Word	6 Men's Bible Study 10
7 9a R.Practice 10am River Service 11am Coffee	8 NO Stitching 9am Office closed	9 Kids Corner 9- 10:30	10_ Book Club 1:30 Church Picnic 5:15 Worship 6:15 Council 7 pm	11	12 1:30 Wired Word	13 Men's Bible Study 10 am
14 9a R. Practice 10am River Service 11am Coffee	15 Stitching 9am	16 Kids Corner 9- 10:30	17 Father & Sons Burgers 5:30pm	18 Gather Bible Study 10:30am	19 1:30 Wired Word	20 Men's Bible Study 10 am
21 9a R.Practice 10am River Service 11am Coffee	22 Stitching 9am	23 Kids Corner 9- 10:30	24	25	26 1:30 Wired Word	27 Men's Bible Study 10am
28 9a R.Practice 10am River Service 11am Coffee	29 Stitching 9am	30 Kids Corner 9- 10:30				

³ Let us know, let us press on to know the LORD;
his appearing is as sure as the dawn;
he will come to us like the showers,
like the spring rains that water the earth."

⁴ What shall I do with you, O Ephraim?
What shall I do with you, O Judah?
Your love is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.

⁵ Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets;
I have killed them by the words of my mouth,
and my judgment goes forth as the light.

⁶ For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice,
the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 50:7-15

⁷ "Hear, O my people, and I will speak,
O Israel, I will testify against you.
I am God, your God.

⁸ **Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you;
your burnt offerings are continually before me.**

⁹ I will not accept a bull from your house
or goats from your folds.

¹⁰ **For every wild animal of the forest is mine,
the cattle on a thousand hills.**

¹¹ I know all the birds of the air,
and all that moves in the field is mine.

¹² **"If I were hungry, I would not tell you,
for the world and all that is in it is mine.**

¹³ Do I eat the flesh of bulls
or drink the blood of goats?

¹⁴ **Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and pay your vows to the Most High.**

¹⁵ Call on me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me."

SECOND READING: Romans 4:13-25

¹³ The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸ Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So shall your descendants be." ¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), and the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰ No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²² Therefore "it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ²³ Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone ²⁴ but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵ who was handed over for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Camp of the Cross Scholarships Available

Did you know that we want everyone to be able to go to Bible camp?! It is a fun and even transformative experience! LCC has camp scholarships available. If you are attending another Bible camp, just let the treasurer know. Contact Art Wheeler or Sarah Dahl for more information and to receive scholarships!

Kids Corner at Lutheran Church of the Cross!

We're excited to offer a relaxed and welcoming playtime in our newly furnished nursery for babies, toddlers, and their caregivers. It's a great space to connect with other families while the little ones play and explore.. Whether you're part of our church family, new to the area, or simply looking for a friendly place to meet other parents and caregivers, you are warmly invited! Tuesday in June 9:00—10:30 am. Parking lot and entrance on the west side. We'd love to see you there! (They had their first play time together and they had a great turnout.)

Altar Focus – June: Helping Specialty Campers with LWR kit items

Pastor Michon Weingartner has joined Camp of the Cross staff recently and will be assisting Deacon Janie Hague in leading camp programs. Pastor Michon has long led some of the specialty camps at CCM, which include art, creative writing, fishing, guitar and ukelele, whittling and trekkers camps) and is starting something new this year by having those campers help put together school kits and health care kits for Lutheran World Relief. You and I have had some experience with kits, but these students may not have! To that end, Pastor Michon is asking if our congregation would help by donating some items toward these kits. Items for the health kits are needed by June 21; the school kits will be put together the first week of August, so hit the sales on school supplies when they start to happen. Lists of items needed are in the narthex.

****Look Ahead: Altar Focus in July/August will be items for baby care kits and school kits! Watch for rummage sales and school sales!****

Father the Camp items are also part of the Altar Focus. See the display and take the list of need supplies.

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. Anyone is welcome to attend. Led by Marjo Hewitson followed by her fearless readers.

June—Wild Dark Shores by Charlotte McConnaghy

July—Atmosphere by Taylor Jenkins Reid

August—Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell

Thank you Pastor Sondra for worshipping with us and leading us today through your message.

Vacation Bible School August: August 9-11 5:30—7:30

The theme is Exploring God's Creation in the Alaskan Wilderness. Games, songs, stories and fun filled activities are planned. There is a sign up in the narthex. You may also call the office. Volunteers are needed also for this adventure. It will be held here in conjunction with UCC.

Time for summer reading: On the table in the narthex is a variety of reading material for adults and children alike. Please feel free to take some or share with others.

Father and Sons Get Together

LCC celebrates everyone so on June 17th starting at 5:30 we will celebrate our fathers and sons with a Father and Son Burgers and Root Beer supper. We will have a speaker, games, and prizes. There is a signup sheet at the front and back in the narthex. Everyone is welcome.

Who can help **usher**, be a **communion assistant** or a **scripture reader** this summer? Volunteer. Call the office. Send an email with the dates you can help. The lake home people are gone. Camping people have left. Will you step out of your comfort zone and help out?

GOSPEL SONG: "Word of God Speak"

GOSPEL: Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

⁹ As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

¹⁰ And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹² But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners."

¹⁸ While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." ¹⁹ And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. ²⁰ Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, ²¹ for she was saying to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." ²² Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that moment. ²³ When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, ²⁴ he said, "Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. ²⁵ But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. ²⁶ And the report of this spread through all of that district.

“THE RIVER” and “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

SERMON: Pastor Sondra Krogstad

SONG OF THE DAY: “Morning Has Broken”

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING SONG: “Now the Feast and Celebration”

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: “Spirit Song”

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: “Everybody’s Got Something to Offer”

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Kathy Morrison

Communion Assistants—Verlaine Jahner, Debbie Patterson,

Ushers—Larry Jahner,

Altar Guild— Valerie Kunz, Deb Sargent, Suzanne Toso

Faith and Care Group 5—Kathryn & Alex Spilman, Peter & Mary Dickerson

River Worship Team—

Sound Board Technicians— Larry Wolf, Karen Will

Projection Team— 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, Glen Hyland, 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, Eve Kath

Sunday Worship Coordinator—Peder Gulleson

Living Water Worship Team

Living Water Singers—Bria Blanchard, 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

For those struggling with health and other concerns:

Tracy Martinson, Earl Larson, Nancy Dockter, Hattie Martinson, Heidi Renner,

Diane Klein, Libby Martin, Kira Willadsen, Sher Harildstad, Shirley Holder,

Jerry Hanson, Joyce Wahl, Jeff Christianson, Pete Barrette, Heather Martin,

Daryl Hodnefield, Jagger Lindsey, Emmett Wolf, Don Becker, Dave Kunze,

Marvin Leer, Janie Hague, Ken Will, Laurie Stenehjerm, Breezy Uffelman, Jim

Moore, Mark Doerner, Mike Doerner, Sandy Hyland

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones: Lorna Mathais,

Arvid Mugaas