

**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 21, 2026

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

June 21, 2026

Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Introduction

God does not promise that the path of the disciple will be easy. Jeremiah feels the pain of rejection from those who do not want to hear what he has to say. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division. Even so, we need not be afraid for God accounts for each hair on our heads. Though we may experience rejection, frustration, division, and death, God's grace and love make us a new creation each day. Marked with the cross and filled with holy food, we are sent from worship to witness to Christ in the world.

We Come Together

PRELUDE: "10,000 Reasons", "The Summons"

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

OUR CONFESSION, GOD'S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: "How Firm a Foundation" ELW 796

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

We Hear God's Word

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 20:7-13

The prophet must speak despite opposition

⁷ O Lord, you have enticed me,
and I was enticed;
you have overpowered me,
and you have prevailed.

I have become a laughingstock all day long;
everyone mocks me.

⁸ For whenever I speak, I must cry out;

I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"
For the word of the Lord has become for me

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 CANCELLED	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				

a reproach and derision all day long.

⁹ If I say, "I will not mention him
or speak any more in his name,"
then within me there is something like a burning fire
shut up in my bones;

I am weary with holding it in,
and I cannot.

¹⁰ For I hear many whispering:

"Terror is all around!

Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"

All my close friends
are watching for me to stumble.

"Perhaps he can be enticed,
and we can prevail against him
and take our revenge on him."

¹¹ But the Lord is with me like a terrifying warrior;

therefore my persecutors will stumble,
and they will not prevail.

They will be greatly shamed,
for they will not succeed.

Their eternal dishonor
will never be forgotten.

¹² O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous;

let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

¹³ Sing to the Lord;

praise the Lord!

For he has delivered the life of the needy
from the hands of evildoers.

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 69:7-10 (11-15) 16-18

⁷ It is for your sake that I have borne reproach,
that shame has covered my face.

⁸ **I have become a stranger to my kindred,
an alien to my mother's children.**

⁹ It is zeal for your house that has consumed me;
the insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.

¹⁰ **When I humbled my soul with fasting,
they insulted me for doing so.**

¹¹ When I made sackcloth my clothing,
I became a byword to them.

¹² **I am the subject of gossip for those who sit in the gate,
and the drunkards make songs about me.**

¹³ But as for me, my prayer is to you, O Lord.

At an acceptable time, O God,
in the abundance of your steadfast love, answer me.

With your faithful help ¹⁴ **rescue me
from sinking in the mire;**

**let me be delivered from my enemies
and from the deep waters.**

¹⁵ Do not let the flood sweep over me
or the deep swallow me up
or the Pit close its mouth over me.

¹⁶ **Answer me, O Lord, for your steadfast love is good;
according to your abundant mercy, turn to me.**

¹⁷ Do not hide your face from your servant,
for I am in distress—make haste to answer me.

¹⁸ **Draw near to me; redeem me;
set me free because of my enemies.**

SECOND READING: Romans 6:1b-11

^{1b} Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised

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!

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.

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?

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.

July—Atmosphere by Taylor Jenkins Reid

August—Hamnet by Maggie O’Farrell

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.

UCC Block Party. August 12 Would anyone like to serve on the Block Party Committee to plan the upcoming party we share with United Church of Christ? Please contact their office at 223.2915 to let them know you are interested.

The daily devotional; **Christ in our Home**, is in the narthex. Get your copy.



from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸ But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL SONG: “Good Soil”

GOSPEL: Matthew 10:24-39

The cost of discipleship

[Jesus said to the twelve:] ²⁴ “A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; ²⁵ it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

²⁶ “So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷ What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the rooftops. ²⁸ Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹ So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³² “Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, ³³ but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

³⁴ “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father,

and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,
³⁶ and one's foes will be members of one's own household.
³⁷ "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and who-
ever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, ³⁸ and whoever
does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Those who find
their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."

SERMON: Pastor Lisa Ahlness

SONG OF THE DAY: "Children of the Heavenly Father" ELW 781

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING SONG: "Now the Feast and Celebration" ELW 167

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO OUR LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: "Borning Cry" ELW 732

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: "Awesome God"

"THE RIVER" and "LIVING WATER" WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Murray Sagsveen

Communion Assistants—Tracy Geiermann, Roger & Esther Anderson

Ushers—Kinsey & Rich Fockler, HELP

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 Stenehjem, Breezy Uffelmann, Jim

Moore, Mark Doerner, Mike Doerner, Sandy Hyland, Patty Hanson

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