

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 Gulleson, **Sunday Worship Coordinator**

680.8787/theriver@midconetwork.com

Joel Crane, **Wednesday Worship Coordinator**

498-2604/cranejoel58@gmail.com

2026 Church Council Members

Mike Geiermann, President, mgeiermann12@gmail.com 471.5122

Rod Sargent, Vice President, randdebsarge@beu.midco.net 880.8238

Kathryn Spilman, Secretary, healthandskinbykathryn@gmail.com 527.6867

Janice Martin, mrladyj2000@gmail.com 471.5600

Molly Traynor, mktraynor@hotmail.com 202.0891

Eve Kath, evekath20@gmail.com 516.3891

Luke Toso, luke.toso@gmail.com 651.925.7267

The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross
June 28, 2026

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

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LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

June 28, 2026

Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Introduction

The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.

We Come Together

PRELUDE: "How Great is Our God", "Give Us Clean Hands"

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

OUR CONFESSION, GOD'S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: "Living Water"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

We Hear God's Word

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 28:5-9

The test of a true prophet

⁵ The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the Lord, ⁶ and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the Lord do so; may the Lord fulfill the words that you have prophesied and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the Lord and all the exiles. ⁷ But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. ⁸ The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms.

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				

⁹ As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the Lord has truly sent the prophet.”

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

Your love, O *Lord*, forever will I sing. (*Ps. 89:1*)

¹ I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

² **I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

³ You said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to my servant David:

⁴ **‘I will establish your descendants forever
and build your throne for all generations.’ ” *Selah***

¹⁵ Happy are the people who know the festal shout,
who walk, O LORD, in the light of your countenance;

¹⁶ **they exult in your name all day long
and extol your righteousness.**

¹⁷ For you are the glory of their strength;
by your favor our horn is exalted.

¹⁸ **For our shield belongs to the LORD,
our king to the Holy One of Israel.**

SECOND READING: Romans 6:12-23

No longer under law but under grace

¹² Do not let sin reign in your mortal bodies, so that you obey their desires. ¹³ No longer present your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

¹⁵ What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶ Do you not know that, if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that you who were slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted ¹⁸ and that you, having been set free from sin, have become enslaved to righteousness. ¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms because of your limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and lawlessness, leading to even more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, leading to sanctification.

²⁰ When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ So what fruit did you then gain from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²² But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the fruit you have leads to sanctification, and the end is eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Kids Corner at Lutheran Church of the Cross has been a great success!

It will continue on through the summer 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! Tuesdays 9:00—10:30 am. Parking lot and entrance on the west side. We'd love to see you there!

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?

Thank you to the painters, Kari Harris, Deb Sargent, Molly Traynor who primed, and painted the two front doors and the two large windows beside the front doors. It looks awesome. So professionally done! Thank you to Mark Murie for donating the paint.

The flowerbeds on the north side of the church were weeded by Tracy & Mike Geiermann. Weeding is a thankless job but we thank you Geiermann's!

Alert! Our coffee supply is dwindling, but there is still some available. Due to low demand, we will not order again until fall. Get yours now! Some beans, some ground, some decaf still available! You can enjoy delicious coffee and support small farmers across the world. Coffee is \$10 per bag - envelopes are near the coffee basket by the wall fountain. Money (or checks made to LCC with "coffee" on the memo line) can be left in the secretary's mailbox outside her office, or you can pay online using our offering link.

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

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.

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. *Seamus, the Highland cow will be visiting LCC during VBS.* You’ll want to come out and meet him.

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.

We have a celebrity amongst us, a humble one at that; **Janet Bassingthwaite** was written up in the Larks PLAYBALL magazine under the Hidden Hometown Hero. Wonderful article about her passion of creating SPARK (Simple Play-Based Activities and Resources for Kids) Read the article and learn what the PlayLab is all about. Thanks Janet Doerner for bringing this to our attention. Thank you Janet B. for bringing your passion to the community and impacting the lives of children in such a positive way.

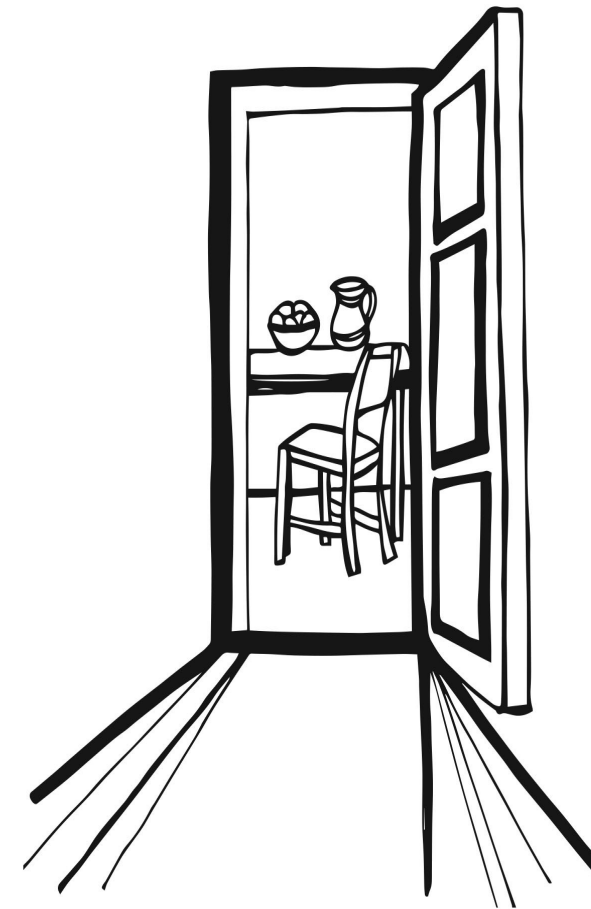
Willing walkers needed! If you enjoy a daily constitutional, please volunteer to help walk invitations around our church neighborhood the first week of August. Maps are available with the streets we need to do (UCC will do half the neighborhood). Invitations are provided; simply rubber band them to the front door. Take a street or two, enjoy a walk, and invite the neighbors to our block party on August 12!

GOSPEL SONG: “Good Soil”

GOSPEL: Matthew 10:40-42

Welcome Christ in those he sends

[Jesus said to the twelve:] ⁴⁰ “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹ Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, ⁴² and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”



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: "I Love to Tell the Story"

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING SONG: "Now the Great and Celebration"

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD'S PRAYER Sung

INVITATION TO OUR LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: "Amazing Grace My Chains are Gone"

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: "My Lighthouse"

"THE RIVER" and "LIVING WATER" WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Murray Sagsveen

Communion Assistants—Kathryn Spilman, Roger & Esther Anderson

Ushers—Suzanne & Joel Toso, Alex & Kathryn Spilman

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: