

**Lutheran Church of the Cross  
1004 E Highland Acres Rd.  
Bismarck ND 58501**

**Phone: 223-1001**

**Website: [www.churchofthecross.org](http://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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# The River

A Blended Worship Service



**Lutheran Church of the Cross**

**July 12, 2026**

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

# LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

July 12, 2026

## Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

### Introduction

God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

## We Come Together

**PRELUDE:** "Pharaoh, Pharaoh", "Shall We Gather at the River"

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GREETINGS OF PEACE**

**OUR CONFESSION, GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

**GATHERING SONG:** "Great is Thy Faithfulness"

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

## We Hear God's Word

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:10-13**

<sup>10</sup> For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven  
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,

giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
<sup>11</sup> so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose  
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

# 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

# July 2026

| Sun                                                       | Mon                    | Tue                          | Wed                                                     | Thu | Fri                | Sat                                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                           |                        |                              | 1                                                       | 2   | 3<br>Office closed | 4 4th of July  |
| 5<br>9a R. Practice<br>10am River Service<br>11am Coffee  | 6<br>Stitching<br>9am  | 7<br>Kids<br>Corner 9-10:30  | 8_ Book Club 1:30<br>Church Picnic 5:15<br>Worship 6:15 | 9   | 10                 | 11<br>Men's Bible<br>Study 10 am                                                                |
| 12<br>9a R. Practice<br>10am River Service<br>11am Coffee | 13<br>Stitching<br>9am | 14                           | 15                                                      | 16  | 17                 | 18<br>Men's Bible<br>Study 10 am                                                                |
| 19<br>9a R. Practice<br>10am River Service<br>11am Coffee | 20<br>Stitching<br>9am | 21<br>Kids<br>Corner 9-10:30 | 22                                                      | 23  | 24                 | 25<br>Men's Bible<br>Study 10am                                                                 |
| 26<br>9a R. Practice<br>10am River Service<br>11am Coffee | 27<br>Stitching<br>9am | 28<br>Kids<br>Corner 9-10:30 | 29                                                      | 30  | 31                 |                                                                                                 |

<sup>12</sup> For you shall go out in joy  
and be led back in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you  
shall burst into song,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.  
<sup>13</sup> Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,  
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,  
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

## RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 65:(1-8) 9-13

<sup>1</sup> Praise is due to you,  
O God, in Zion,  
and to you shall vows be performed,  
<sup>2</sup> **O you who answer prayer!**  
**To you all flesh shall come.**  
<sup>3</sup> When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us,  
you forgive our transgressions.  
<sup>4</sup> **Happy are those whom you choose and bring near  
to live in your courts.**  
**We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,  
your holy temple.**  
<sup>5</sup> By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance,  
O God of our salvation;  
you are the hope of all the ends of the earth  
and of the farthest seas.  
<sup>6</sup> **By your strength you established the mountains;  
you are girded with might.**  
<sup>7</sup> You silence the roaring of the seas,  
the roaring of their waves,  
the tumult of the peoples.  
<sup>8</sup> **Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your  
signs;**  
**you make the gateways of the morning and the evening  
shout for joy.**

<sup>9</sup> You visit the earth and water it;  
you greatly enrich it;  
the river of God is full of water;  
you provide the people with grain,  
for so you have prepared it.

<sup>10</sup> **You water its furrows abundantly,  
settling its ridges,  
softening it with showers,  
and blessing its growth.**

<sup>11</sup> You crown the year with your bounty;  
your wagon tracks overflow with richness.

<sup>12</sup> **The pastures of the wilderness overflow;  
the hills gird themselves with joy;**

<sup>13</sup> the meadows clothe themselves with flocks;  
the valleys deck themselves with grain;  
they shout and sing together for joy.

## **SECOND READING: Romans 8:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup> For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup> For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, <sup>8</sup> and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup> But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

## **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. 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. Thank you to those who have volunteered.

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

**Thank you** to Paul Gurholt and John Kraft for the refurbishing of the cross/bench outside, the back door repainted, and the outside dumpster holder.

**Thank you** to the people who helped set up for the picnic this past Wednesday and to the grillers.

Do you enjoy the **coffee hour** here at LCC? Do you like to eat a cookie or a bar with your coffee? Whether or not you are a baker consider providing a treat for the Sunday Coffee Hour. Sam's Club, Costco and Family Fare all have treats waiting to be devoured by us. Provide the treats, we'll eat them.

## **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.

**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!

**Thank you Peder** for worshipping with us in song and in word today and to **Pastor Sonda** for presiding with us..

**GOSPEL SONG:** “Change My Heart O God”

**GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

<sup>1</sup> That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup> Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup> And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup> And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup> Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup> But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup> Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup> Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup> If you have ears, hear!”

<sup>18</sup> “Hear, then, the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup> When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. <sup>20</sup> As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, <sup>21</sup> yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. <sup>22</sup> As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. <sup>23</sup> But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

and a daughter against her mother,  
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,  
<sup>36</sup> and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.  
<sup>37</sup> “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, <sup>38</sup> and whoever  
does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup> Those who find  
their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

**SERMON:** Peder Gulleson

**SONG OF THE DAY:** “It is Well With My Soul”

**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:** “Goodness of God”

**COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION**

**SENDING SONG:** “For the Fruit of All Creation” ELW 679

## “THE RIVER” and “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

**Pastor**—Pastor Lisa Ahlness  
**Scripture Reader**—Esther Anderson  
**Communion Assistants**—Kay Koch, Esther & Roger Anderson  
**Ushers**—Kinsey & Rich Fockler, John Kraft  
**Altar Guild**— Cherie Krueger, Sarah Dahl, Verlaine Jahner  
**Faith and Care Group 6**—Cheryl & Steve Neu, Patty and Jerry Hanson, Suzanne & Joel Toso  
**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, Joyce Wahl, Jeff Christianson, Pete Barrette, Heather Martin, Daryl Hodnefield, Jagger Lindsey, Emmett Wolf, Don Becker, Dave Kunze, Marvin Leer, Ken Will, Laurie Stenehjem, Breezy Uffelman, Jim Moore, Mark Doerner, Mike Doerner, Sandy Hyland, Patty Hanson

**For those dealing with the death of these loved ones:** Jerry Hanson, Helen Gelowitz