

**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

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“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

The River

A Blended Worship Service



**Lutheran Church of the Cross
July 19, 2026**

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

July 19, 2026

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

Introduction

It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

We Come Together

PRELUDE:

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

OUR CONFESSION, GOD'S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG:

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

We Hear God's Word

FIRST READING: Isaiah 44:6-8

There is no other God than the LORD

⁶ Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:
I am the first, and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

⁷ Who is like me? Let them proclaim it;
let them declare and set it forth before 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

July 2026

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

Who has announced from of old the things to come?

Let them tell us what is yet to be.

⁸ Do not fear or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!

Is there any god besides me?

There is no other rock; I know not one.

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 86:11-17

Teach me your way, O *Lord*, and I will walk in your truth. (Ps. 86:11)

¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD,
that I may walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

¹² **I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,
and I will glorify your name forever.**

¹³ For great is your steadfast love toward me;
you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

¹⁴ **O God, the insolent rise up against me;
a band of ruffians seeks my life,
and they do not set you before them.**

¹⁵ But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

¹⁶ **Turn to me and be gracious to me;
give your strength to your servant;
save the child of your maidservant.**

¹⁷ Show me a sign of your favor,
so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame,
because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-25

The revealing of the children of God

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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.

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.

The **Gospel PraiSing Festival 2026, August 23rd**, at the ND State Capitol Grounds, will feature **Natalie Layne and her band** from Nashville, TN, as our headlining guest artists **plus seven** really great area bands. Last year about 1,500 people enjoyed the festival. Picture this year ... our beautiful ND State Capitol mall area filled with people from the steps to the boulevard enjoying this heart-lifting music festival, singing along and praising God! Gospel PraiSing Ministries, a 501(c)(3) corporation, events are held for charitable purposes. This festival will benefit Heaven's Helpers and their new ministry "Go Disciples."

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.
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!

GOSPEL SONG:

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

The parable of the weeds

²⁴ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field,²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹ But he replied, ‘No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷ He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

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:

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING SONG:

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG:

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG:

“THE RIVER” and “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness
Scripture Reader—Deb Sargent
Communion Assistants—Deb Sargent, Tracy Wolf, Mavis Pommerer
Ushers—Kinzie & Rich Fockler, Dan McKinney
Altar Guild— Cherie Krueger, Sarah Dahl, Verlaine Jahner
Faith and Care Group 6—Cheryl & Steve Neu, Patty 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, Liam Keller

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