

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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The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross
July 5, 2026

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

July 5, 2026

Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

Introduction

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. The prophet describes an everlasting realm that contrasts with earthly nations, one marked by peace, humility, and freedom. Jesus associates with those excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with selfish desires; we lament flawed systems; and we seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather around word, water, and meal by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Here we find rest for our souls and hope for life in beloved community.

We Come Together

PRELUDE: "God Bless America", "O Beautiful For Spacious Skies"

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

OUR CONFESSION, GOD'S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: "Turn Your Eyes"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

We Hear God's Word

FIRST READING: Zechariah 9:9-12

The king will come in humility and peace

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

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 1:30 Wired Word	11 Men's Bible Study 10 am
12 9a R. Practice 10am River Service 11am Coffee	13 Stitching 9am	14 Kids Corner 9- 10:30	15	16	17 1:30 Wired Word	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 1:30 Wired Word	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	

- ¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.
¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 145:8-14

The *Lord* is gracious and full of compassion. (*Ps. 145:8*)

- ⁸ The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
⁹ **The Lord is good to all,
and his compassion is over all that he has made.**
¹⁰ All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,
and all your faithful shall bless you.
¹¹ **They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom
and tell of your power,**
¹² to make known to all people your mighty deeds
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
¹³ **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.**
- The Lord is faithful in all his words
and gracious in all his deeds.**
¹⁴ The Lord upholds all who are falling
and raises up all who are bowed down.

SECOND READING: Romans 7:15-25a

The struggle within the self

¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

²¹ So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a} Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ 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 church property were weeded by Tracy & Mike Geiermann and Lillian Crook. Weeding is a thankless job but we thank you!

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.

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.

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: “Change My Heart O God”

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:16-19,25-30

The yoke of discipleship

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸“For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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: "This is My Father's World"

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 Sung

INVITATION TO OUR LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: "This is My Song"

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: "Great is the Lord"

"THE RIVER" and "LIVING WATER" WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Kathy Morrison

Communion Assistants—Sally Grenz, Tracy Wolf, Sondra Krogstad

Ushers—Larry Jahner & Mark Kunze, Eve & Jamison Kath

Altar Guild—Cherie Krueger, Sarah Dahl, Verlaine Jahner

Faith and Care Group 5—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,
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, Helen Ge-
lowitz

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones: