

**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
August 16, 2026**

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

August 16, 2026

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

Introduction

In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

We Come Together

PRELUDE: "All Are Welcome", "Let Us Be the Church"

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

OUR CONFESSION, GOD'S FORGIVENESS

CHILDREN MESSAGE VBS RECAP: "

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

BAPTISMAL SONG: "You are Loved"

We Hear God's Word

FIRST READING: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

A house of prayer for all peoples

¹ Thus says the Lord:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come
and my deliverance be revealed.

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

August 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Men's Bible Study 10 am
2 9a R. Practice 10am River Service 11am Coffee	4 Kids Corner 9- 10:30	5	6	7	8 Men's Bible Study 10 am
9 9a R. Practice 10am River Service Baptism 11am Coffee VBS 5:30—7:30	11 Kids Corner 9- 10:30 VBS 5:30— 7:30	12 Book Club 1:30 Block Party 5:30 UCC 7:00 LCC	13 Church Council 6:30pm	14	15 Men's Bible Study 10 am
16 9a R. Practice 10am River Service 11am Coffee	18 Kids Corner 9- 10:30	19	20	21	22 Men's Bible Study 10am
23/30 9a R. Practice 10am River Service 11am Coffee	25 Kids Corner 9- 10:30	26	27	28	29 Men's Bible Study 10am

all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it
and hold fast my covenant—

⁶And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,
to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord,
and to be his servants,

⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar,
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

⁸Thus says the Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel:
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 67

Let all the peoples praise you, O God. (*Ps. 67:3*)

¹May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us, *Selah*

²**that your way may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations.**

³Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

⁴**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth. *Selah***

⁵Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

⁶**The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, has blessed us.**

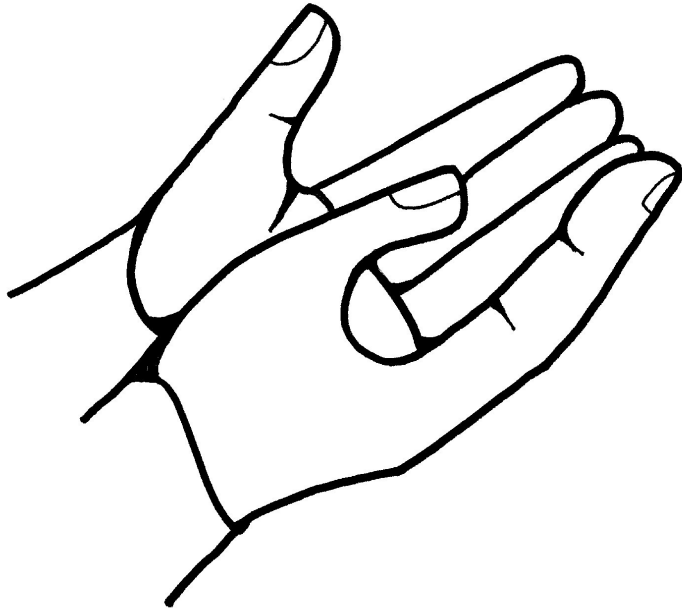
⁷May God continue to bless us;
let all the ends of the earth revere him.

SECOND READING: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

God's mercy to all, Jew and Gentile

[Paul writes:] ¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a} God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.



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 already.

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."

The **Emergency Food Pantry** appreciates all that you have donated to the pantry. Cereal continues to be a serious need for the summer as children are out of school and in need of breakfast items. Thank you.

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

It will continue on through *August and perhaps beyond* 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!

Thanks to all who helped plan, organize and volunteer for VBS this past week. It is no small feat to execute an exciting Vacation Bible School with a myriad of children with wiggling bodies and short attention spans.

Best wishes to our talented musician and friend, **Luke Weber**, who will be entering graduate school in choral conducting at NDSU. Thanks for all you've done for us, Luke, and keep in touch! We will miss you!

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.

Financial Peace University

Take control of your money with Financial Peace University! This nine-week class uses biblical wisdom and common-sense strategies to help you budget, pay off debt, and build wealth for your future.

- Start Date:** October 4 at 5:30 PM
- Cost:** \$80 per family (*Scholarships available for completing all 9 weeks!*)
- Childcare:** Free childcare provided

Sign up at the Volunteer Table in the entryway or speak with Eve Kath for more details. Open to members and non-members.

Today we are celebrating the baptism of our "miracle baby," **Emmett Wolf**. You may recall that he was born last September weighing only 1 lb, 1 oz. Quickly, before he was flown to Fargo, Pastor Sondra was able to baptize him in the hospital. Emmett has met many challenges and grown and thrived. He is now 11 months old, and today we affirm his baptism and give his family and all of us the chance to celebrate.

Redg & Susan Finck have just celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. They also open the church and get coffee percolating every Sunday. Our thanks to the Finck's for your service and congratulations on your anniversary.

CONNECTIONS to restart Tuesday, September 1 at 2:00pm.

Congratulations to Aaron and Anna Axvig on the birth of their baby daughter Annette.

GOSPEL SONG: "Jesus Messiah"

GOSPEL: Matthew 15:(10-20) 21-28

The healing of the Canaanite woman's daughter

[¹⁰ [Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand:¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." ¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" ¹³ He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." ¹⁶ Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."]

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶ He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷ She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

SERMON: Pastor Lisa Ahlness

SONG OF THE DAY: “Thy Holy Wings”

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING SONG: “Change My Heart O God”

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: “Bread One Body”

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: “Our God”

“THE RIVER” and “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Kathy Morrison

Communion Assistants—Suzanne Toso, Doug Johnson,

Ushers—Kinzie & Rich Fockler, Joel Toso & Suzanne Toso

Altar Guild— Jean Kraft, Mavis Pommerer, Cheryl Neu

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, Noura Eldredge

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:

Earl Larson, Nancy Dockter, Heidi Renner, Diane Klein, Libby Martin, Kira Willadsen, Sher Harildstad, Shirley Holder, Joyce Wahl, Jeff Christianson, Heather Martin, Daryl Hodnefield, Jagger Lindsey, Emmett Wolf, Don Becker, Dave Kunze, Marvin Leer, Ken Will, Laurie Stenehjerm, Breezy Uffelman, Jim Moore, Mark Doerner, Mike Doerner, Sandy Hyland, Liam Keller, Dezaray Hultin Kitzman, Chuck Rydell, Lee Jensen

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