

**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

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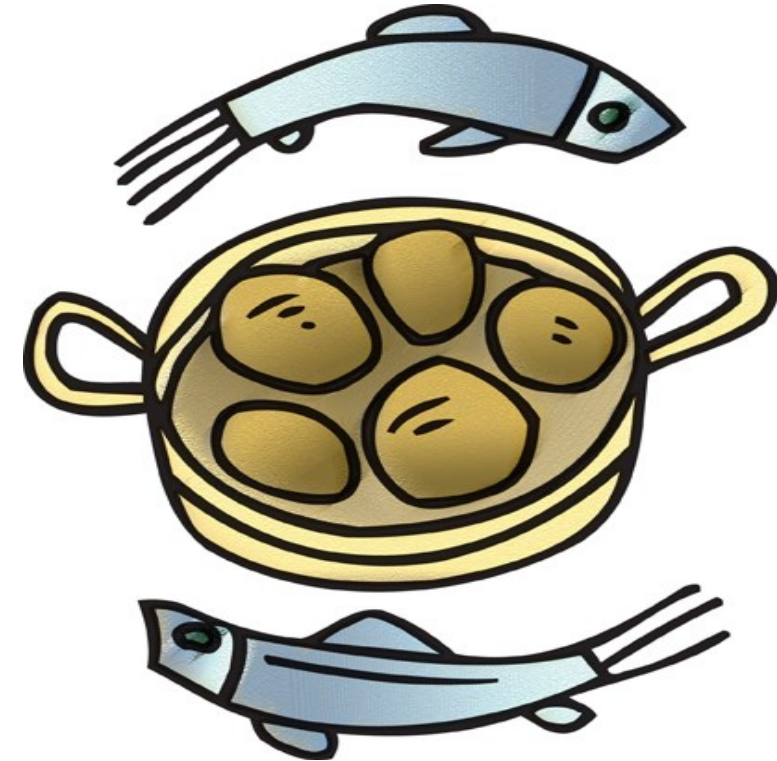
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The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross

August 2, 2026

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

August 2, 2026

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

Introduction

In today's first reading God invites all who are hungry or thirsty to receive food and drink without cost. Jesus feeds the hungry multitude and reveals the abundance of God. At the eucharistic table we remember all who are hungry or poor in our world today. As we share the bread of life, we are sent forth to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.

We Come Together

PRELUDE: "Majesty", "We Are Called"

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

OUR CONFESSION, GOD'S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: "Open Our Eyes Lord"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

We Hear God's Word

FIRST READING: Isaiah 45:1-7

This is what the Lord says to his anointed,
to Cyrus, whose right hand I take hold of
to subdue nations before him
and to strip kings of their armor,
to open doors before him
so that gates will not be shut:

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<i>1</i> Men's Bible Study 10 am
<i>2</i> 9a R. Practice 10am River Service 11am Coffee	<i>3</i> Stitching 9am	<i>4</i> Kids Corner 9- 10:30	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> Men's Bible Study 10 am
<i>9</i> 9a R. Practice 10am River Service Baptism 11am Coffee VBS 5:30—7:30	<i>10</i> Stitching 9am VBS 5:30— 7:30	<i>11</i> Kids Corner 9- 10:30 VBS 5:30— 7:30	<i>12</i> Book Club 1:30 Block Party 5:30 UCC 7:00 LCC	<i>13</i> Church Council 6:30pm	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> Men's Bible Study 10 am
<i>16</i> 9a R. Practice 10am River Service 11am Coffee	<i>17</i> Stitching 9am	<i>18</i> Kids Corner 9- 10:30	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> Men's Bible Study 10am
<i>23/30</i> 9a R. Practice 10am River Service 11am Coffee	<i>24/31</i> Stitching 9am	<i>25</i> Kids Corner 9- 10:30	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i> Men's Bible Study 10am

2 I will go before you
and will level the mountains[a];
I will break down gates of bronze
and cut through bars of iron.
3 I will give you hidden treasures,
riches stored in secret places,
so that you may know that I am the Lord,
the God of Israel, who summons you by name.
4 For the sake of Jacob my servant,
of Israel my chosen,
I summon you by name
and bestow on you a title of honor,
though you do not acknowledge me.
5 I am the Lord, and there is no other;
apart from me there is no God.
I will strengthen you,
though you have not acknowledged me,
6 so that from the rising of the sun
to the place of its setting
people may know there is none besides me.
I am the Lord, and there is no other.
7 I form the light and create darkness,
I bring prosperity and create disaster;
I, the Lord, do all these things.

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21

You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. *(Ps. 145:16)*

- 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.**
¹⁴ The LORD upholds all who are falling
and raises up all who are bowed down.

**15 The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.**
16 You open your hand,
satisfying the desire of every living thing.
**17 The Lord is just in all his ways
and kind in all his doings.**
18 The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.
**19 He fulfills the desire of all who fear him;
he also hears their cry and saves them.**
20 The LORD watches over all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.
**21 My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,
and all flesh will bless his holy name forever and ever.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 4:1-7

The glory of God's people Israel

4 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. **2** Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. **3** Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. **4** There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; **5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism; **6** one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

7 But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. **8** This is why it says:

“When he ascended on high,
he took many captives
and gave gifts to his people.”

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

It will continue on through **August** 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 already.

Camp of the Cross Prairie Masters Golf Tournament Tuesday, August 11th at the Garrison Golf Club. Registration at 10 am, Shotgun starts at 11 am, with supper to follow for golfers.

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.

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

Thank you Pastor Knutson for visiting with us today and for sharing your words of wisdom.

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

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!

For **pastoral care** in Pastor Lisa’s absences Pastor Sondra Krogstad, and Pastor Knutson are available if needed. Their respective phone numbers are: Pastor Krogstad 480.276.2711 and Pastor Brian 701.425.1432.

Changes are being made in the narthex. What do you see that is different? Check it out on your way to coffee.

GOSPEL SONG: “Gospel Acclamation”

GOSPEL: Matthew 14:13-21

Christ feeding five thousand

¹³ Now when Jesus heard [about the beheading of John the Baptist,] he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” ¹⁷ They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” ¹⁸ And he said, “Bring them here to me.” ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

SERMON: Pastor Brian Knutson

SONG OF THE DAY: “Lord Whose Love in Humble Service”

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: “The Healing of the Nations”

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION: “My Peace”

SENDING SONG: “God Be With You Till We Meet Again”

“THE RIVER” and “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness
Scripture Reader— Sally Grenz
Communion Assistants—Roger & Esther Anderson & Patty Hanson
Ushers—Kinsey & Rich Fockler, Larry Jahner
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
 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, Pete Barrette, 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, Patty Hanson, Liam Keller

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