

**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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Office 223-1001 / churchsecretary@midconetwork.com

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Joel Crane, **Wednesday Worship Coordinator**

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Rod Sargent, Vice President, randdebsarge@beu.midco.net 880.8238

Kathryn Spilman, Secretary, healthandskinbykathryn@gmail.com 527.6867

Janice Martin, msladyj2000@gmail.com 471.5600

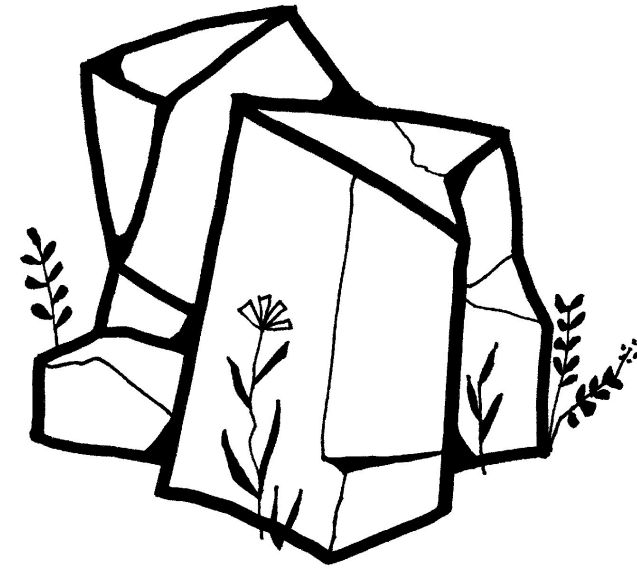
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The River

A Blended Worship Service



**Lutheran Church of the Cross
August 23, 2026**

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

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LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

August 23, 2026

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Introduction

In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

We Come Together

PRELUDE: "Glorious Day", "Built on a Rock"

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

OUR CONFESSION, GOD'S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: "Kyrie Eleison"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

We Hear God's Word

FIRST READING: Isaiah 51:1-6

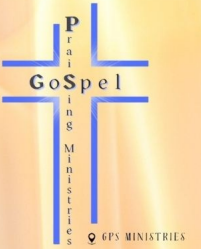
The enduring foundation of God's salvation

¹ Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

² Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah, who bore you,
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.

Gospel PraiSing Festival 2026



Sunday, August 23rd
ND State Capitol Grounds
11:30 am – 7:30 pm

This event is **free** to attend.
Free-will donations accepted
throughout the day to support:

HEAVENS HELPERS
Go!Disciple

WITH SPECIAL GUEST ARTIST

**natalie
layne**

Soul-inspired pop singer,
songwriter, pianist, worship leader
and producer **Natalie Layne**
radiates joy, embedding deep,
theologically rich lyrics into
melodies that evoke delight.



Festival Music schedule

11:30 AM – Braveheart Band

12:30 PM – Jacob Rocky

1:30 PM – Beer & Hymns

2:30 PM – Gospel PraiSing Ministries & Guests

3:30 PM – Worship with Dan Weigel & Krisha Wilson

4:30 PM – Sister Seven

5:30 PM – One Dei

6:30 PM – Natalie Layne Band



Sponsored by Gospel PraiSing (GPS) Ministries, a 501(c)3 corporation..
For more information contact Julie Ternes at 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> Gather Bible Study 10:30 am	<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

³ For the LORD will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴ Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation,
for a teaching will go out from me
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly;
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.

⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens
and look at the earth beneath,
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats,
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 138

O *Lord*, your steadfast love endures forever. (*Ps. 138:8*)

¹ I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;

² **I bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and
your faithfulness,
for you have exalted your name and your word
above everything.**

³ On the day I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength of soul.

**⁴ All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD,
for they have heard the words of your mouth.**

⁵ They shall sing of the ways of the LORD,
for great is the glory of the LORD.

**⁶ For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly,
but the haughty he perceives from far away.**

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;
you stretch out your hand,
and your right hand delivers me.

**⁸ The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.**

SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-8

One body in Christ, with gifts that differ

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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**?

The **Gospel PraiSing Festival 2026, TODAY 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." Please see the schedule of events for today's concert on the back page.

Kids Corner at Lutheran Church of the Cross Tuesdays 9:00—10:30 am.
Parking lot and entrance on the west side. We'd love to see you there!

To Our Church Family.

Thank you for all of the cards, calls, love, thoughts, prayers, food and gift of music during Jerry's illness and passing. We all appreciate everything every one did.

The family of Jerry Hanson.

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.

September— The Music of Bees by Eilene Graven

October— The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell by Robert Dugoni

November—The Book Club for Troublesome Women by Marie Bostwick

December— A Happier Life by Kristy Harvey

January—The Things We Never Say by Elizabeth Strout

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.

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

The annual meeting for Missouri Slope is scheduled for Monday, September 28 at 7 pm. We are able to have 3 delegates attend. We have 2 . Who else would like to attend and represent LCC at their meeting? Please call the church office at 223.1001 to let the church office know of your availability and your information will be forwarded.

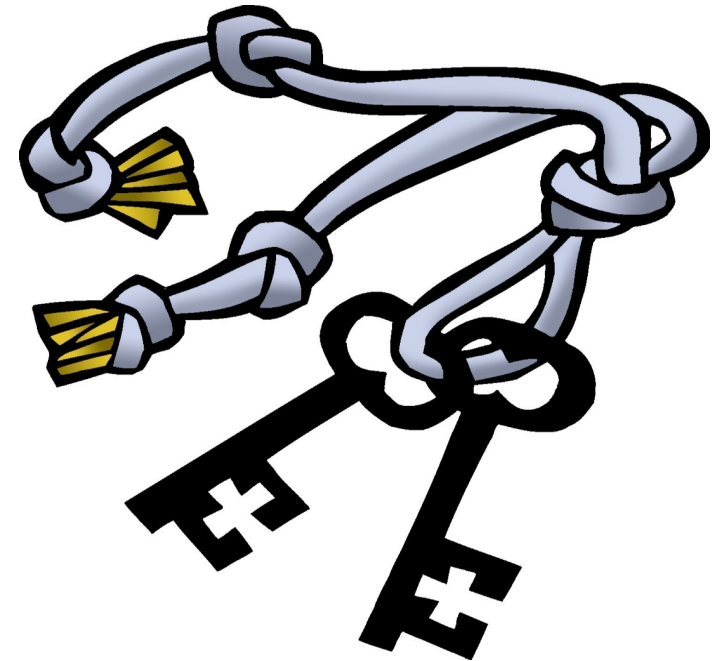
The meeting for the **Faith & Care Coordinators** is scheduled for Wednesday, September 2, 2026 at 5:15 pm. It's important to be at the meeting to receive your new booklet and to ask questions.

GOSPEL SONG: “Open Our Eyes Lord”

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20

The profession of Peter's faith

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.



SERMON: Pastor Lisa Ahlness

SONG OF THE DAY: “The Church’s One Foundation”

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING SONG: “Faith of Our Father’s”

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: “Rock of Ages”

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: “We All are One in Mission”

“THE RIVER” and “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness
Scripture Reader—Kathy Morrison
Communion Assistants—Doug Johnson, Sally Grenz, Verlaine Jahner
Ushers—David & Kathy Drovdal, Larry Jahner, Scot Long
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 —
 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, Jordan Sargent, Karen Will

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