

**Lutheran Church of the Cross  
1004 E Highland Acres Rd.  
Bismarck ND 58501**

**Phone: 223-1001**

**Website: [www.churchofthecross.org](http://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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# *The River*

A Blended Worship Service



**Lutheran Church of the Cross  
August 30, 2026**

*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

# LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

August 30, 2026

## Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

### Introduction

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

## We Come Together

**PRELUDE:** "Lord I Lift Your Name on High", "Blessed Be Your Name"

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GREETINGS OF PEACE**

**OUR CONFESSION, GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

**GATHERING SONG:** "Lift High the Cross"

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

## We Hear God's Word

**FIRST READING: Jeremiah 15:15-21**

*God fortifies the prophet against opposition*

<sup>15</sup> O Lord, you know;  
remember me and visit me,  
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;  
know that on your account I suffer insult.

<sup>16</sup> Your words were found, and I ate them,  
and your words became to me a joy  
and the delight of my heart,

*Rally Sunday and Rally Wednesday coming  
up quickly!!!*

*Potlucks both days.*

*Blessing of the Back Packs September 13 & 16*

*Rally Day Craft both days as well.*



# August 2026

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

for I am called by your name,  
O Lord, God of hosts.

<sup>17</sup> I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,  
nor did I rejoice;  
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,  
for you had filled me with indignation.

<sup>18</sup> Why is my pain unceasing,  
my wound incurable,  
refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,  
like waters that fail.

<sup>19</sup> Therefore thus says the Lord:

If you turn back, I will take you back,  
and you shall stand before me.

If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless,  
you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you,  
not you who will turn to them.

<sup>20</sup> And I will make you to this people  
a fortified wall of bronze;

they will fight against you,  
but they shall not prevail over you,

for I am with you

to save you and deliver you,  
says the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked  
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

## RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 26:1-8

Your love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you. *(Ps. 26:3)*

<sup>1</sup> Vindicate me, O Lord,  
for I have walked in my integrity,  
and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering.

<sup>2</sup> **Prove me, O Lord, and try me;  
test my heart and mind.**

<sup>3</sup> For your steadfast love is before my eyes,  
and I walk in faithfulness to you.

<sup>4</sup> **I do not sit with the worthless,  
nor do I consort with hypocrites;**

<sup>5</sup> I hate the company of evildoers  
and will not sit with the wicked.

<sup>6</sup> **I wash my hands in innocence  
and go around your altar, O Lord,**

<sup>7</sup> singing aloud a song of thanksgiving  
and telling all your wondrous deeds.

<sup>8</sup> **O Lord, I love the house in which you dwell  
and the place where your glory abides.**

#### **SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21**

*Live in harmony*

<sup>9</sup> Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup> love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup> Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup> Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." <sup>20</sup> Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.



**WND Women of the ELCA**

Mar 15 • 

**Save the Dates**

**10 23-24**

*Women's Retreat 2026*

Join us for our **Combined Western ND Women of the ELCA  
Convention & Women's Retreat** at CCM this fall!

You can come to the day of only programming on Oct 24<sup>th</sup> for  
\$60.

Or you can come on *Friday evening on Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>* for some  
additional activities for \$100 (lodging and meals included).

Women of the **ELCA** 

CAMP  
of the CROSS  
Ministries

## 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 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.

If you are interested in joining Lutheran Church of the Cross, or hearing more about it, or know someone who is - please let Pastor Lisa know and be sure she or the office has your contact info. **New Member class** will be held after worship on September 27, and we will welcome new members on Sunday, October 4th. If this doesn't work with your schedule, please speak to Pastor.

**GOSPEL SONG:** “Good Soil”

**GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28**

*The passion prediction and rebuke to Peter*

<sup>21</sup> From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup> And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” <sup>23</sup> But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup> For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

<sup>27</sup> “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. <sup>28</sup> Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”



**SERMON:** Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**SONG OF THE DAY:** “Will You Come and Follow Me”

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**OFFERING SONG:** “Revelation Song”

**OFFERING PRAYER**

**WE SHARE THE MEAL**

**PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER**

**COMMUNION SONG:** “Will You Let Me Be Your Servant”

**COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION**

**SENDING SONG:** “Blest Be the Ties that Bind”

**“THE RIVER” and “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS**

**Pastor**—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**Scripture Reader**—Deb Sargent

**Communion Assistants**—Roger & Esther Anderson, Mavis Pommerer

**Ushers**—Suzanne & Joel Toso, Janice Martin

**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**— 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