

**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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2026 Church Council Members

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The River

A Blended Worship Service



**Lutheran Church of the Cross
August 9, 2026**

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

August 9, 2026

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

Introduction

Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others.

We Come Together

PRELUDE: "Everlasting God", "Glorious Day"

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

OUR CONFESSION, GOD'S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: "Come Now is the Time to Worship"

BAPTISM

BAPTISMAL SONG: "You are Loved"

We Hear God's Word

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:9-18

The LORD speaks to Elijah on Mount Horeb

⁹ At [Horeb, the mount of God,][Elijah] came to a cave and spent the night there.

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰ He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars,

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

and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.”

¹¹ He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.” Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake, ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁴ He answered, “I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.” ¹⁵ Then the Lord said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶ Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel, and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷ Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill, and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸ Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 85:8-13

I will listen to what the *Lord* God is saying. (*Ps. 85:8*)

- ⁸ Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.
- ⁹ **Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.**
- ¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
- ¹¹ **Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.**
- ¹² The LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.

**¹³ Righteousness will go before him
and will make a path for his steps.**

SECOND READING: Romans 10:5-15

Hearing and confessing the word of faith

⁵ Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say?

“The word is near you,
in your mouth and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), ⁹ because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

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.

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!

For **pastoral care** in Pastor Lisa's absence 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.

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 for three weeks and for sharing your words of wisdom.

Being **baptized today** is Kendall LeAnn Beckman. Parents are Emma Sioringas & Kenny Beckman. We welcome you to Lutheran Church of the Cross!

Vacation Bible School August: August 9-11 5:30—7:30 Starting Today!!!
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 This Wednesday. Be there or be square!! UCC at 5:30 for hot dogs and a quilt raffle. Bring a dish to share if you wish. 7 pm dessert, games and a bounce house here at LCC. Donate granola snack bars for Ministry on the Margins at UCC.

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

Thank you to the Geiermann’s for delivering the donated furniture this past week. Also thank you to Mike G. for walking the neighborhood putting the Block Party Flyers out and to Lillian Crook (In this heat no less!)

GOSPEL SONG: “Jesus Messiah”

GOSPEL: Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus walking on the sea

²² [Jesus] made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee,] while he dismissed the crowds.²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea.²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear.²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

²⁸ Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.”²⁹ He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!”³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?”³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

SERMON: Pastor Brian Knutson

SONG OF THE DAY: “How Great is Our God”

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING SONG: “Take My Life that I May Be”

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: “Thy Word”

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION: “My Peace”

SENDING SONG: “Let Us Be the Church”

“THE RIVER” and “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader— Cherie Krueger

Communion Assistants—Sally Grenz, Sheila Koffler, Debbie Patterson

Ushers—Kinzie & Rich Fockler, HELP

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, Dezaree Hultin Kitzman

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