

**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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2026 Church Council Members

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The River

A Blended Worship Service



**Lutheran Church of the Cross
September 6 , 2026**

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

September 6, 2026

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Introduction

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

We Come Together

PRELUDE: "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee", ELW 836
"Earth and All Stars" ELW 731

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

OUR CONFESSION, GOD'S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: "As We Gather at Your Table" ELW 522

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

We Hear God's Word

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-11

The prophet's responsibility to warn the people

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

*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.



September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Kids Corner 9-10:30	2 Faith & Care 5:15pm	3	4 Wired Word 1:30	5 Men's Bible Study 10 am
6 9a R. Practice 10am River Service 11am Coffee	7 Labor Day Office closed	8 Kids Corner 9-10:30	9 Book Club 1:30	10 Church Council 6:30pm	11 Wired Word 1:30	12 Men's Bible Study 10 am
13 Rally Day Potluck 9a R. Practice 10am River Service Blessing of the	14 Stitching 9am	15 Kids Corner 9-10:30	16 5pm Rally Day Potluck Blessing of the Backpacks	17 Gather Bible Study 10:30	18 Wired Word 1:30 Word	19 Men's Bible Study 10 am
20 9a R. Practice 10am River Service 11am Coffee	21 Stitching 9am	22 Kids Corner 9-10:30	23 Meal 5 pm Church Service 6:15	24	25 Wired Word 1:30	26 Men's Bible Study 10am
27 9a R. Practice 10am River Service 11am Coffee	28 Stitching 9am	29 Kids Corner 9-10:30	30 5pm Meal			

¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹ Say to them: As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 119:33-40

I desire the path of your commandments. (Ps. 119:35)

- ³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I will observe it to the end.
- ³⁴ Give me understanding, that I may keep your law
and observe it with my whole heart.
- ³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for I delight in it.
- ³⁶ Turn my heart to your decrees
and not to selfish gain.
- ³⁷ Turn my eyes from looking at vanities;
be gracious to me according to your word.
- ³⁸ Confirm to your servant your promise,
which is for those who fear you.
- ³⁹ Turn away the disgrace that I dread,
for your ordinances are good.
- ⁴⁰ See, I have longed for your precepts;
in your righteousness be gracious to me.

SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14

Live honorably as in the day

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

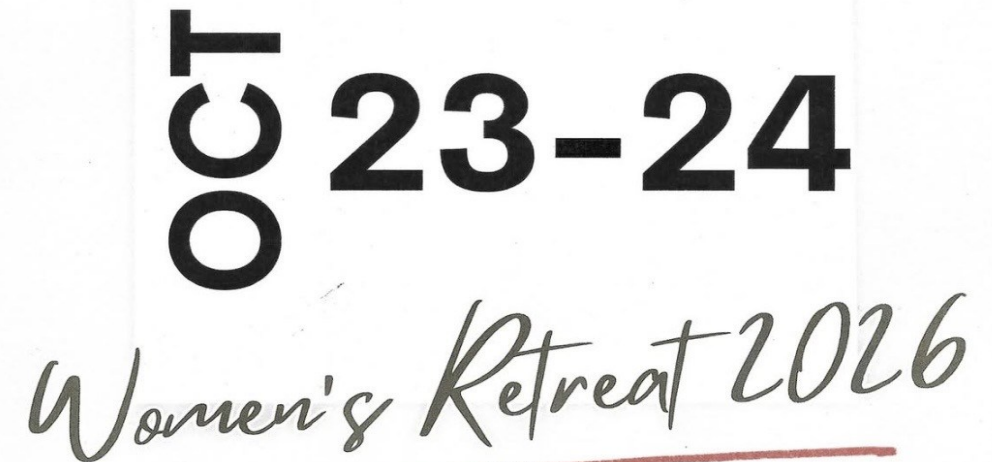


WND Women of the ELCA

Mar 15 • 

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Save the Dates



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 24th for \$60.

Or you can come on *Friday evening on Oct 23rd* 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.

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.

September Altar Focus: Birthday Care Kits

This month's altar focus we will put together birthday kits for families with foster kids. These items are being collected by the organization Foster Hope. Please bring the below listed items (we will assemble kits and deliver to Foster Hope), or put together a whole kit. Let's help make some birthdays happy! Thanks for your help! These are the items needed: Disposable cake pans, Cake mixes, Birthday candles, Balloons, Birthday cards, Sprite (used in place of oil), Frosting, Sprinkles

GOSPEL SONG: "Good Soil"

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20

Reconciliation in the community of faith

Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ "If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.

SERMON: Pastor Lisa Ahlness

SONG OF THE DAY: “Hosanna (Praise is Rising)”

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING SONG: “Seek Ye First”

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD’S PRAYER Sung

INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: “Revelation”

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: “Go, My Children, With My Blessing” ELW 543

“THE RIVER” and “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Kathy Morrison

Communion Assistants—Kay Koch, Sally Grenz, Sheila Koffler

Ushers—Dan McKinney, Deb Patterson, Tracy Wolf

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—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, Rich
Fockler, Pat Schmidt

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones: