

The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross
October 11, 2026

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

Lutheran Church of the Cross

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20th Sunday After Pentecost

Introduction In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

We Come Together

PRELUDE: "Great Are You Lord", "Blessed Be Your Name"

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

OUR CONFESSION, GOD'S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: "As We Gather At Your Table"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

We Hear God's Word

FIRST READING:

Isaiah 25:1-9

- ¹ O Lord, you are my God;
I will exalt you; I will praise your name,
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.
- ² For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of foreigners is a city no more;
it will never be rebuilt.

³ Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

⁴ For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,

⁵ the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶ On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;

⁸ he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.

⁹ It will be said on that day,
“See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

RESPONSIVE READING:

Psalm 23

¹ The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² **He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;**

³ he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

⁴ **Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.**

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.**

SECOND READING

Philippians 4: 1-9

¹ My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

GOSPEL SONG: “Gospel Acclamation”

GOSPEL:

Matthew: 22:1-14

¹ Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come.

⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and

burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' ¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹² and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen."

SERMON: Pastor Lisa Ahlness

APOSTLES' CREED

SONG OF THE DAY: "Everlasting God"

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERINGS SONG "Create in Me a Clean Heart"

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORDS' PRAYER

INVITATION TO OUR LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: "Goodness of God", "I Love You Lord"

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: “Down in My Heart”



“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

“THE RIVER” AND “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor-Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader-Tracy Wolf

Communion Assistants-Roger & Esther Anderson, Doug Johnson

Ushers-Tracy Geiermann, Tracy Wolf, Kathy Woods, Devin & Ella Wood

Altar Guild-

Faith & Care Group 1- Janet & Troy Bassingthwaite, Annie & Aanen Bergrud

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:-Noura Eldredge

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 Stenehem, Breezy Uffelman, Jim Moore, Mark Doerner,

Mike Doerner, Sandy Hyland, Liam Keller, Dezaray Hultin Kitzman, Chuck Rydell, Jordan

Sargent, Karen Will, Pat Schmidt, Kennedy Belley

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones:

Delores Martin

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.

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

Our **altar focus for October** is pillows/pillowcases and blankets, which are always in high demand at our shelters and Ministry on the Margins. Blankets may be gently used but should be washed (and washable). Thank you for making life warmer and more comfortable for our neighbors!

Connections Tuesday October 13th, 2:30 p.m. at the church (note the change this month from the 1st Tuesday to the 2nd Tuesday).

Are you looking to improve your confidence with balance, decrease falls and support living in your chosen setting? Join LCC Connections this month for information on balance and the foundation of balance: standing posture. Guest presenter is Kari Harris, Doctor of Physical Therapy with over 30 years of experience in outpatient orthopedic practice. Of course we will enjoy treats and fellowship together as well!

Furniture Available

After the common space was refreshed, we have some items that are available if you can use them. We still have one single and one double blue chair (the ones that were next to the wall fountain in the narthex), and the pew (upholstered in orange) from our original sanctuary that was next to the front door. Let the office know if you would like them!

Confirmation / Reformation Sunday October 25th

We have five young people being confirmed on Sunday, October 25th: Keira Collins, Annabelle Ellison, Morgan Hocker, Libby Martin and Nora Nelson. Their small group

leader was Jean Kraft. We invite you to celebrate this step with them as they affirm their baptism on the 25th.

That day is also Reformation Sunday, when we remember Martin Luther posting the 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg on Oct. 31, 1517, which helped kick off the Protestant Reformation. Wear red on Reformation!

Faith Lutheran Church is hosting their annual bazaar Saturday October 24 from 9 – 2 pm.. Come for coffee and rolls. or soup and sandwiches take a walk though their fellowship hall. The aroma of coffee and fresh rolls, muffins, or pie will entice any Lutheran to have a cuppa. Then stroll through the crafts section and find something you've just got to have homemade by one of their members

Dia de los Muertos + Taize
November 1, 2026
5 pm Dinner & Day of the Dead Program
6pm Taize Worship
at
St. George's Episcopal Church

Celebrating the life of those no longer with us. Everyone is welcome and invited to bring photos of deceased loved ones to display during dinner. Co-hosted by UCC & St. George's Episcopal.

Walk-a-Mile in My Shoes November 18 from 12:00 – 1:00 pm at the Center for Opportunity Homeless Shelter; 1140 S 12 St.

We would love to have you join us for a one mile walk to raise awareness of the challenges individuals experiencing homelessness face as they travel to access shelter, food, and other essential resources. The walk will begin at noon and will be followed by lunch and tours of the Center for Opportunity.

OCTOBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1 Quilting 1p	2 Wired Word 1:30	3 Men's Bible Study 10a
4 9 R. Practice 10 River Service 11 Coffee	5 9a Stitching Grp	6	7 5 p Supper 6:15 Living Water Service 7 School, Confirmation River Practice	8 Quilting 1p Church Council 6:30	9 Wired Word 1:30	10 Men's Bible Study 10a
11 9 R. Practice 10 River Service 11 Coffee	12 9a Stitching Grp	13 Connections 2:30	14 Book Club 1:30 5 p Supper 6:15 Living Water Service 7 School, Confirmation River Practice	15 Quilting 1p Gather Bible Study 10:30	16 Wired Word 1:30	17 Men's Bible Study 10a
18 9 R. Practice 10 River Service 11 Coffee	19 9a Stitching Grp	20	21 5 p Supper 6:15 Living Water Service 7 School, Confirmation River Practice	22 Quilting 1p	23 Wired Word 1:30	24 Men's Bible Study 10a
25 Confirmation 9 R. Practice 10 River Service 11 Coffee	26 9a Stitching Grp	27 W. Synod 7pm	28 5 p Supper 6:15 Living Water Service 7 School, Confirmation River Practice	29 Quilting 1p	30 Wired Word 1:30	31 Men's Bible Study Trunk or Treat 2 -3

Life is Change

Drop in Group Support for Life's Transitions

facilitated by Dn. Beth Anderson, certified grief & end of life coach.



Whether you recently lost a loved one or need support when grief wells up over a past loss, you are welcome here.

Join us the first Sunday
of the month.

September 6

October 4

November 8

December 6



Centered Growth
Coaching



CenteredGrowthCoaching.com



701-979-3555

5 pm at
Lord of Life Lutheran Church
(1143 N 26th St, Bismarck)

Lutheran Church of the Cross

1004 E Highland Acres Rd.

Bismarck ND 58501

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Website: www.churchofthecross.org

Winter Hours: Mon.– Thursday 8–3pm Fri 8 to noon

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Church Council Members

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