

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

CROSSWORDS

August 2026



Worship Schedule

WEDNESDAYS 5:45PM

STARTING SEPT. 16TH,

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP WILL MOVE TO 6:30PM

SUNDAYS WILL STAY AT 9:30AM

*Digital Ministry options are
available at www.lcc-wf.com*

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LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear LCC Family & Friends,

Thank you for taking a moment to connect with your church! In this newsletter you'll find great info about what has been happening around LCC over the summer and all kinds of ways to grow in faith, love and service through the ministry of the church this fall. Here we go!

It is my joy to bring you highlights of the incredible transformation that is underway in our Cross Way Center. The CWC is the area of the church with the round tables where we spend time in fellowship with donuts and coffee on Sunday mornings and pizza and coffee on Wednesday evenings. Early in the summer we completed our water testing of the roof and clerestory windows formulating a plan to solve long-recurring issues and seize the opportunity to update the space. Wow, it's been a sight-to-see as the demolition unfolded.

More pics on the next page.



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

PASTOR'S MESSAGE



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

We've now turned the corner on the demo and "the new" is starting to show. 48 windows have been replaced, wiring for new lighting has been installed, a new vapor barrier and sheetrock throughout is nearly finished, and the bathroom remodel is underway. Then come the BEAUTIFUL new finishes: flooring, paint, fixtures, furnishings, and more! I am certain everyone will be super impressed and proud of their renewed church home where we spend so much time together in fellowship.

As is typical with construction projects, the completion date is a moving target. We are feeling good about our regular fall programing schedule, but there will be some necessary adjustments. The Fall worship schedule and classes kick-off on September 16th. At that point the CWC will not yet be finished up. This year we are postponing our annual "Celebrate LCC" event and holding off until a "Grand Reopening" of the CWC mid-October. Watch for details to come! For the weeks between September 16 and the "Grand Reopening," meals and fellowship will be in the fellowship hall and passage through the church will include walking outside. We'll keep everyone posted as the weeks progress.

Also, this fall, we'll be launching our Called Together giving campaign. This will be an opportunity for all families to invest in our future with a 4-year above-and-beyond financial pledge. Remodeling the CWC is only the beginning of AMAZING things to come. Watch your inbox and mailbox and plan to hear all about it beginning in late September.

Finally, thank you. Thank you for making LCC your church home. I am grateful to be a part of an amazing and mission-driven community filled with dedicated and faithful people with a heart for living and loving like Jesus.

Peace & Joy,
PJ



COUNCIL UPDATE

Greetings LCC,

I hope you have been able to enjoy the summer and find time for rest, relaxation, and connection.

Over the past several months, we have been laying the groundwork for the Capital Campaign that will officially launch this fall. While we are currently in the planning and information-sharing phase of this effort, construction on the roof and Cross Way Center is underway. Addressing these critical needs now helps protect the facility and ensures that future improvements can move forward on a strong foundation. As we prepare for the campaign's full public launch this fall, we are excited to share more about our vision and how the community can help make it a reality.

Construction always brings some inconveniences, but it is also a visible sign of progress. We are grateful for your patience and flexibility as this work continues. Council will continue to monitor the projects closely and provide updates as milestones are reached.

In addition to these facility improvements, our Call Committee continues its work as we seek a new part-time pastor. We remain thankful for the dedicated individuals serving on the committee and ask that you continue to keep them in your prayers.

Our next Council meeting is scheduled for the end of August, where we'll continue these important conversations.

Thank you for your continued prayers, support, and commitment to LCC God Bless.

Mitch Wolden
LCC Church Council President



PROPERTY UPDATE



Property Happenings

When I looked at my last newsletter, I said that overnight low was 34F. Right now, I would be willing to compromise and take a temperature around 70. A daily 90 plus is a little much.

The high temperatures and low rainfall have been hard on the lawn. LCC has a lot of grass, and it looks very brown and crispy. I know there's been rain in the area just not much over the West Fargo area. The exception is the courtyard. It has irrigation and looks pretty good.

Just outside the courtyard, to the west, you might notice that the area seems more "open". We had a large tree, a poplar, that was on its last legs. According to the tree service that took it down for us, poplars have a limited lifetime, and this one had reached the end. The stump was also removed. There is a depression left which will be filled and seeded likely next spring when the grass will have a better chance of growing.

Work continues on the Crossway Center. I've heard that more details will be provided soon. I won't reveal any spoilers but just note that the new clerestory windows are in and the building is protected against the element. That's rain...should there be any! Of course, you know something is afoot when you must use a door you didn't know existed just to get into the sanctuary.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the planned new security cameras were indeed installed. As was the new timer for the parking lot lights. Both will add to the safety and security of the building. Also, the landscaping work anticipated by Scout Troop 246 was completed.

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

PROPERTY UPDATE

The area around the cell phone tower on the East side of LCC's property needed attention. The land is at the intersection of Planet Fitness to the Northeast and Grace Garden to the Southwest. And Verizon is only responsible for the structure at the base of the tower. In this no-mans-land, the grass was growing taller, the garbage was accumulating and the ground itself was uneven and rock strewn. Treating it like a crop field, a little rock picking and garbage collection make the grass mow-able. It now looks decent if not ready for a summer picnic.

The fire protection system became disconnected from its monitoring service. It's a bit of a story but phonelines were disconnected that were not supposed to be. A cell phone like connection replaced those phonelines and at a monthly cost saving. Making lemonade out of lemons!

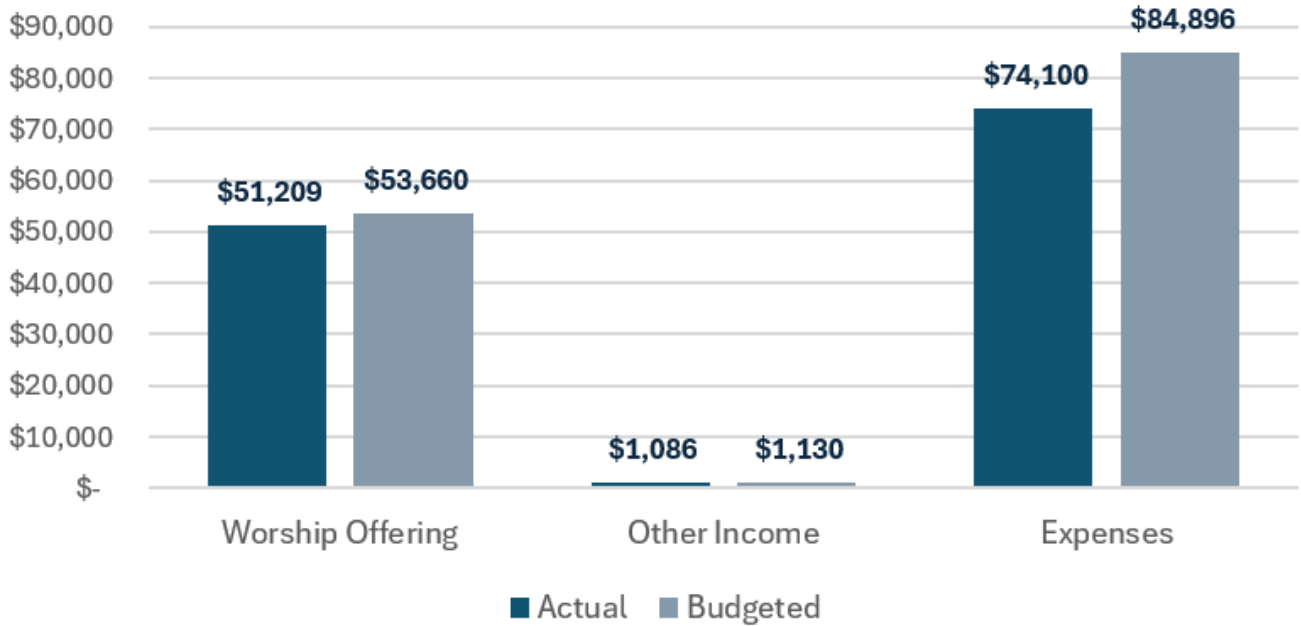
Taking care of Lutheran Church of the Cross is a fairly big job. But with the Crossway Center work, it's now like 3 disconnected buildings. Yes, there is a little less space to clean but there is more dust to deal with. Hats off to Alfredo for working through and around this situation.

As always, please know that your church is improving daily both physically and spiritually. Everyone who serves LCC is committed to that end. I've talked to almost all those folks at one time or another, staff, volunteers, contractors, and there is a feeling of service to this special place. Whether you are one of those people or a member of this community or even a member of the surrounding community, whether you have a suggestion or want to be involved, please feel free to contact us via the church office.

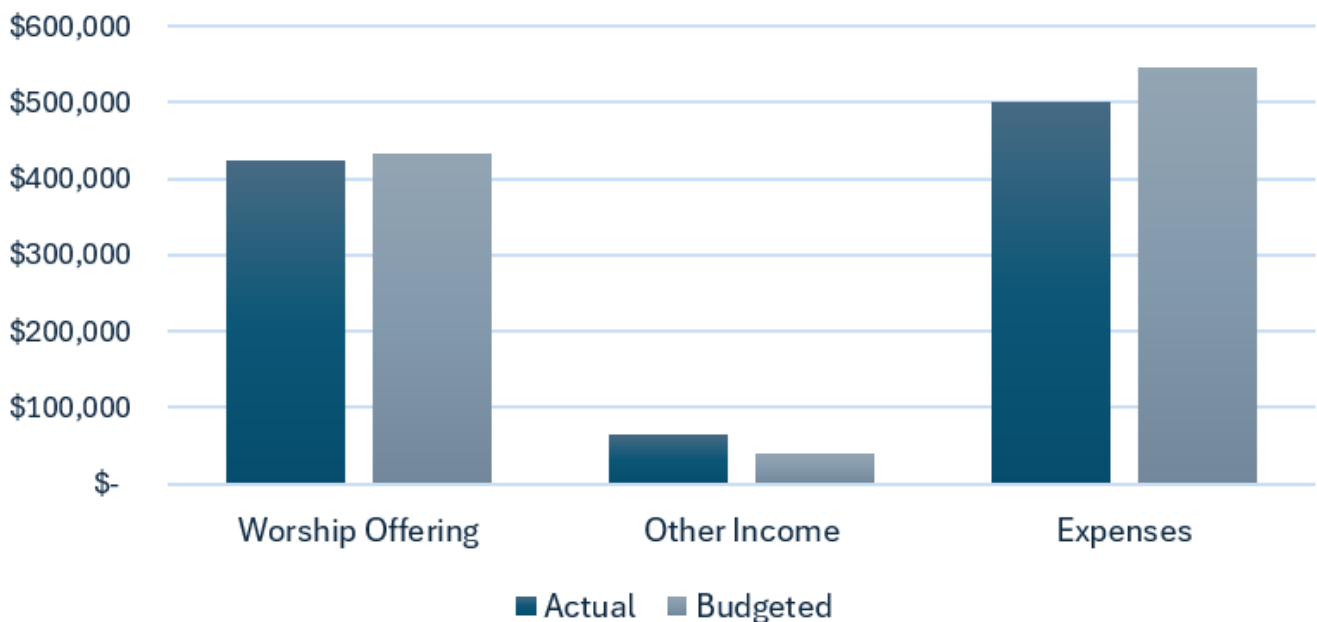
Karl Gunerson
Property Manager

FINANCIAL UPDATE

General Operating - July 2026



2026 Year-to-Date



**Starting September 16th
Programming is Back!**

Wednesday

SCHEDULE

5:30 – 6:15PM

Church School
(Preschool – 5th Grade)

5:45 – 6:30PM

Meal Served

6:30 – 7:15PM

Worship
Church School
(Preschool – 5th Grade)

7:20 – 8:05PM

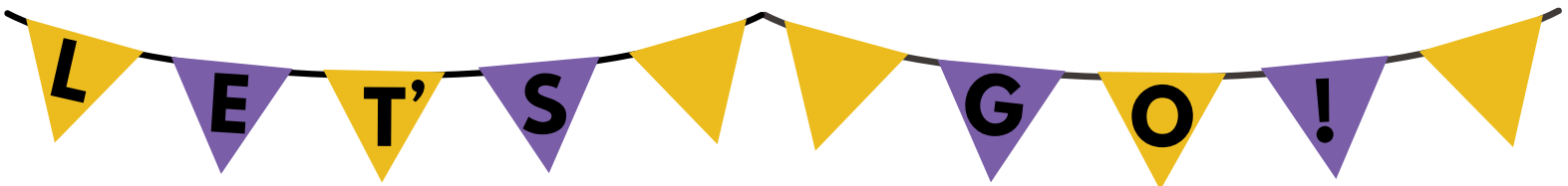
Confirmation
(6th–8th Grade)

7:30 – 8:30PM

High School Youth Group
(9th–12th Grade)

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

CHURCH SCHOOL @LCC



We are SO excited to have you back!

Church School is led by INCREDIBLE Volunteers!

Church School is only possible because of volunteers who connect with, lead, and love our Church School kids! Please prayerfully consider teaching and leading alongside our amazing kids! Find a friend (or 3) and lead together or rotate each week. Our goal is to have (at least) 2 Leaders per class/group.

Start Dates

Wednesday, September 16th
& Sunday, September 20th



MILESTONE MINISTRY

Milestone Ministries @ LCC

Each grade level and their families are invited to engage with faith in a new way. We'll wonder about Bible stories, learn about creation, discover the sacraments, and so much more. This time is created and intended to empower faith outside of the walls and beyond the building of LCC. Let's equip, engage, and empower faith together!

Pre School	September 27th @10:45am	Welcome to Church School & intro to storybook bibles with parents!
Kindergarten	November 15th @10:45am	God made YOU special! Creation Celebration with parents!
1st Grade	January 10th @10:45am	Intro to the Lord's Prayer, anytime prayers (mealtime, bedtime, worry time) parents are invited to stay :)
2nd Grade*	March 7th @12:00-3:00pm	First Communion Workshop (parents should plan to attend with their child)*
3rd Grade	October 4th @10:45am	Bible learning, bible blessings, and dedications with parents!
4th Grade	January 31st @10:45am	Faith in action! We will do a service project together, parents are welcome to stay and help if they would like.
5th Grade	April 11th @5pm	Stepping up! We will hangout in the youth room, do a youth group style bible study, have snacks and play games! Parents do not need to attend.

Preschool & Third Grade Bible Blessings

Through generous donations and fundraising, we are able to gift an age appropriate Bible to each *NEW* Preschool and Third Grade Student! A Bible blessing will take place at all services on September 30th & October 4th



*If you would like to donate to the Bible Fund, these donations can be made **online** or by check.*

Thank you for generously supporting this faith formation milestone.

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation begins in just a few weeks here at LCC! Our 6th–8th graders will meet most Wednesdays after worship in the sanctuary, where Pastor Erick and Pastor Joel will lead more than 100 youth and parent volunteers as we explore topics from the Bible and theology. This year, we'll be focusing on the New Testament.

After gathering as a large group, students will have the opportunity to go deeper into each topic through small-group conversations led by parents who serve as confirmation guides. These small groups give students a chance to ask questions, share their thoughts, and grow in their understanding of how God's grace is at work in their lives.

Students entering 9th grade will be confirmed on Sunday, October 25, in the afternoon. We're excited to have more than 30 confirmands this year! If you have a student who would like to register for confirmation, or if you'd like to volunteer, please email: office@lcc-wf.com.



Important Dates:

September 9th

Confirmation Orientation @ 7pm
for students and parents

September 16th

First Night

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY @ LCC

High School Youth Group is Wednesday Nights from 7:30 – 8:30pm!

In the Youth Room (up the stairs outside the kitchen). We will gather to share our joys, junk, and Jesus from the week, talk about faith, play games, and just be in community together! All 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th Grade Students are welcome! Bring a friend!

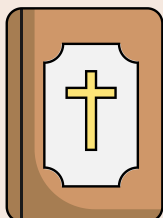


High School Bible Study

Will happen once a month on Sundays!

First meeting of the season is September 27th @ 10:45 am.

Nervous about coming? Bring a friend!



Youth Group Activity dates September 2026

September 16th
First night!

September 23rd
Youth Group

September 27th
Bible Study



Lutheran Church of the Cross

UPDATES

Novel Ideas

August 20th - 10:00 am



***The Secrets We Kept*
by Lara Prescott**

September 17th - 10:00 am

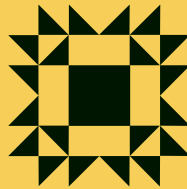
***The Medics Wife: Love, War, and Secrets*
by Edmund A. Kruszynski**

October 15th - 10:00 am



***The River is Waiting*
by Wally Lamb**

Anyone is welcome to attend; even if you just want to come once in a while to enjoy the discussion of the book-of-the-month if that's what interests you.



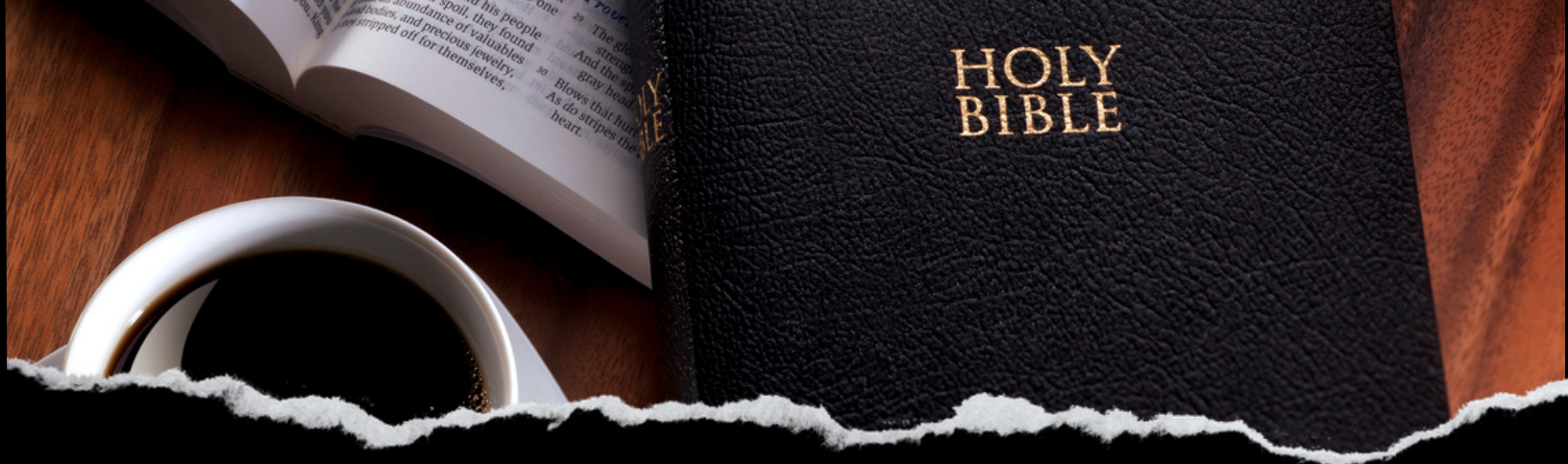
Piecemaker Quilting Group

The Piecemaker Quilting Group will meet the following dates:

- **September 10th - 9:30 am**
- **September 24th - 9:30 am**
- **October 8th - 9:30 am**
- **October 22nd - 9:30 am**

Everyone is welcome! Contact Pat at pkmaas@yahoo.com with any questions.





MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

TUESDAYS 6:30AM-7:30AM

Men's Bible Study meets weekly from 6:30am-7:30am or whenever you need to leave. To get on the email list or with questions, reach out to Pastor Joel (jbaranko@lcc-wf.com). The first meeting for the season is September 22nd.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Women's Bible Study will begin on Tuesday, Sept. 22, from noon - 1pm in the Hospitality Room. We'll plan to meet on most Tuesdays until next spring, but you don't have to attend every time to be a part. Just join when you can! During our first session, we'll identify the part of Scripture that we'd like to explore more deeply. With that in mind, be thinking about some options before we meet.

Questions?

Reach out to Pastor Erick (pastorerick@lcc-wf.com)



West Fargo Eats: May–July by the Numbers

It's been a busy—and sometimes very hot! —summer at West Fargo Eats. Thanks to the generosity of our community, our volunteers, and the LCC congregation, we've been able to keep food moving and neighbors connected all summer long.

A Little Look at 2026 So Far

From January through July, our community has donated 8,183 pounds of food to help support the work of West Fargo Eats. Every donation, big or small, helps us continue to put good food on the table for our neighbors.





May

538 visits • 14,433 lbs. of food • 1,467 individuals served

June

470 visits • 18,575 lbs. of food • 1,301 individuals served

July

435 visits • 14,335 lbs. of food • 1,155 individuals served

May-July Total

1,443 visits

47,343 lbs. of food shared

3,923 individuals served

835.25 volunteer hours





Pop-Up Information

So far this summer, our three Pop-Ups alone served 648 households, providing 22,050 lbs. of food to 1,952 individuals and we still have two more to go.

And July deserves a special shout-out! With temperatures reaching nearly triple digits and plenty of humidity and smoke in the air, our volunteers showed up, worked hard, and kept those groceries moving. We are so grateful for every person who have spent part of those hot summer days helping our neighbors.



Growing Our Community Connections

We recently started a new Non-Perishable Box Share with the West Fargo Fire Department. We started small with 10 boxes totaling 210 lbs. of food going into the community, and we're excited to see where this new partnership takes us! We're looking forward to keeping our School Tote Share going strong when the new school year begins and continuing to find new ways to share food throughout our community.

West Fargo Eats is about so much more than pounds of food and numbers on a page. It's about neighbors helping neighbors, volunteers giving their time, people giving what they can, and a community coming together to make sure no one goes without.



Thank you to everyone who makes West Fargo Eats possible. Whether you volunteer, donate, share food, spread the word, or lifting us up in prayer —we are grateful for you.

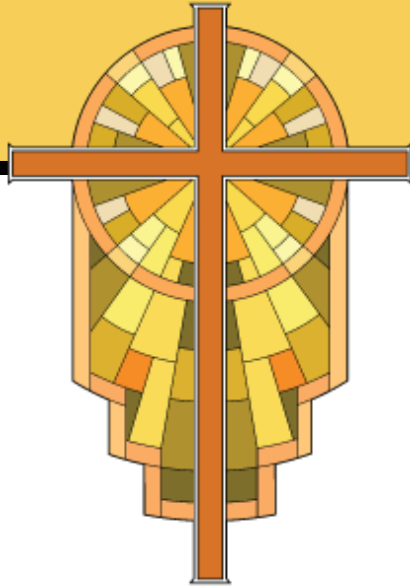
We Can Always Use a Few Extra Muscles!
Volunteers are always needed, and there's a place for everyone! Some of our shifts involve heavy lifting, and having those extra muscles around is such a blessing. We also have in-person shopping shifts, where volunteers get to welcome our neighbors, help them find what they need, and make their shopping experience feel friendly and comfortable.

If you've been thinking about volunteering, we'd love to have you join us!
We couldn't do this without you!

Blessings,
Chelsie Bormann
Director of West Fargo Eats

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

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Bianca McCullum, Bell Choir & Choir Director: mccullumbianca@gmail.com

Chelsie Bormann, West Fargo Eats Director: chelsie@lcc-wf.com

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Jes Splichal, Office Manager: office@lcc-wf.com