

Lutheran Church of the Cross  
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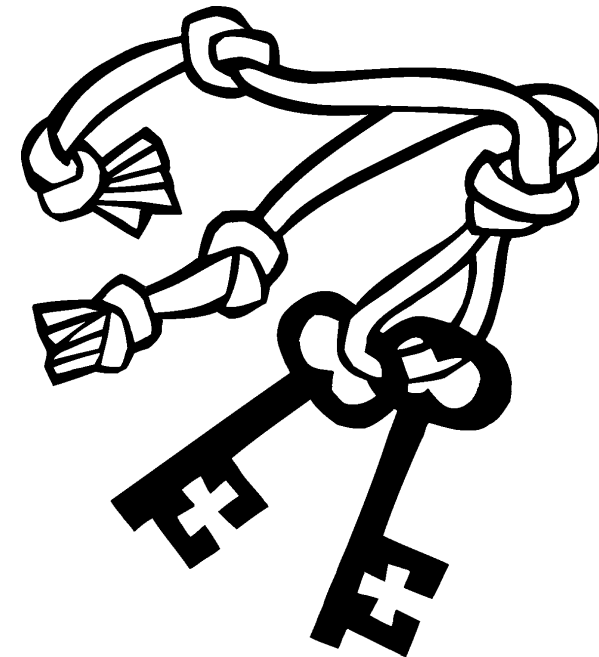
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*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

# The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross  
August 27, 2023

*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS**  
**“The River” Worship Service**  
**August 27, 2023**

*WE COME TOGETHER*

*You are invited to sing with the Worship Team as we gather for worship. All songs and worship liturgy will be projected on the screens for your use.*

**PRELUDE MUSIC**

*“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less” ELW #597 , “Our God”, “Build Your Kingdom Here”*

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GREETINGS OF PEACE**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS**

**GATHERING SONG:** *“O Holy Spirit Enter In” ELW #786*

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

*WE HEAR GOD’S WORD*

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 51:1-6**

<sup>1</sup>Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,  
you that seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn,  
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

<sup>2</sup>Look to Abraham your father  
and to Sarah who bore you;  
for he was but one when I called him,  
but I blessed him and made him many.

<sup>3</sup>For the LORD will comfort Zion;  
he will comfort all her waste places,  
and will make her wilderness like Eden,

**Hello to all parents!**

We’re writing today to the parents of all church school or confirmation aged young people at Church of the Cross. With the departure of Deacon Janie on her call to the wilds of Like Sakakawea and Camp of the Cross, the church council is actively working the process to call a new Deacon or Pastor to Church of the Cross, In the meantime, the LCC Education Committee has taken on the role of organizing and planning for the 2023-2024 church school and confirmation year.

First, we want to assure you that we are drafting a curriculum for the fall semester including a full schedule and will be publishing materials and schedules for parents and students closer to the start of the fall semester. For Confirmands, we’ll be kicking off confirmation classes on September 6th with orientation.

For church school–aged kids, we’re hard at work on organizing something for Rally Days. We hope you and your kids can be there. One key change that you’ll be hearing more about soon is how LCC will provide church school opportunities on Sundays (during a portion of the church service.) Instead of traditional, before service church school, LCC will be inviting pre-k through 4th grade age groups attending church on Sunday with families to a kid-focused session where we’ll briefly but large engagingly spending time getting to know more about the Bible and Jesus (Jesus and Me!) with a story based on the gospel for that day. After spending time together, the kids will be returned to their parents and the traditional end to the worship service.

Wednesday church school classes will continue to utilize a more traditional approach to church school, hosting kids in an after church session focused on the same lessons. Everyone is encouraged to check out both groups to find which time and style works for you and your family. Later this month you can expect more information to be sent to your homes and also published online though the church website at <https://churchofthecross.org/school-youth-confirmation/>. That’s all for now. Thanks for your time and looking forward to seeing everyone at church school and confirmation.

Yours in Christ,  
LCC Education Committee

**GriefShare Ministry** will be offered at Charity Lutheran again this fall, with Lorri Mittleider as lead facilitator. The 13 week GriefShare sessions will begin on Thursday, September 7, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. and run up through November 30 at Charity Lutheran Church, 120 Aspen Ave, Bismarck. This faith-based program emphasizes confidentiality and is designed to help come alongside those who have experienced significant loss of spouse, parent, child, close family member or friend. Each evening consists of opening prayer, watching a 1/2 hour video and following along with a purchased workbook. We then meet together in small groups where we get to know one another and have the opportunity to share thoughts about the video topic and presentation. Small group leaders are compassionate and caring and have worked through a significant loss themselves with the help of attending the GriefShare program. GriefShare is designed to help others come to a place where they can move from the state of mourning to experiencing real joy again in this new season of life. The fee is \$25 to help cover cost of the workbook. If you or someone you know has experienced a major loss of loved one, please have them go online to sign up for Charity's fall ministry at [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org) or get in touch with Lorri at [mittlorri@gmail.com](mailto:mittlorri@gmail.com) or text name of interested attendee and contact info to 701-400-1849.

### Zucchini Muffins

2 c. sugar  
3 lg eggs  
1 c oil  
3 c. flour  
1 c. oatmeal  
2 tsp. baking powder

### Pam Girard

1 tsp. baking soda  
1 tsp. salt  
1 tsp. nutmeg  
2 c. raisins  
2 c. chopped nuts  
4 c. grated zucchini

Beat sugar, eggs, and oil. Add dry ingredients. Fold in raisin, nuts, and zucchini. Fill muffin cups 1/2 full. Bake at 350 for 20 minutes. Yield 4 dozen muffins.

Note: This makes a large amount, but they freeze well and it's nice to have them on hand for drop-in company coffee.



her desert like the garden of the LORD;  
joy and gladness will be found in her,  
thanksgiving and the voice of song.  
<sup>4</sup>Listen to me, my people,  
and give heed to me, my nation;  
for a teaching will go out from me,  
and my justice for a light to the peoples.  
<sup>5</sup>I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,  
my salvation has gone out  
and my arms will rule the peoples;  
the coastlands wait for me,  
and for my arm they hope.  
<sup>6</sup>Lift up your eyes to the heavens,  
and look at the earth beneath;  
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,  
the earth will wear out like a garment,  
and those who live on it will die like gnats;  
but my salvation will be forever,  
and my deliverance will never be ended.

### RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 138

<sup>1</sup>I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;  
before the gods I sing your praise;  
**<sup>2</sup>I bow down toward your holy temple  
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your  
faithfulness;  
for you have exalted your name and your word  
above everything.**  
<sup>3</sup>On the day I called, you answered me,  
you increased my strength of soul.  
**<sup>4</sup>All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD,  
for they have heard the words of your mouth.**

## RESPONSIVE READING continued

<sup>5</sup>They shall sing of the ways of the LORD,  
for great is the glory of the LORD.

<sup>6</sup>**For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly;  
but the haughty he perceives from far away.**

<sup>7</sup>Though I walk in the midst of trouble,  
you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;  
you stretch out your hand,  
and your right hand delivers me.

<sup>8</sup>**The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me;  
your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.  
Do not forsake the work of your hands.**

## SECOND READING: ROMANS 12:1-8

<sup>1</sup>I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

<sup>3</sup>For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup>For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. <sup>6</sup>We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; <sup>7</sup>ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; <sup>8</sup>the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** “Fall Like Rain”

## 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.

### **August Altar Focus**

Ministry on the Margins has put out an urgent call for pillows and blankets. Please bring pillows (and/or cases) to church for our August Altar Focus. They don't have to be brand new but should be in good shape.

**Note:** we will keep accepting school supplies and items for baby care kits right up til our assembly day: August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Upcoming Trip “In the Footsteps of Paul”**

We are beginning to plan for a trip to places in Greece and Turkey, a pilgrimage to see the places where St. Paul visits and teaches in the New Testament. This trip will be planned for early 2025. Please let Pr. Lisa know of your interest so you can be included as information comes out. An interest/information meeting will also be held this fall.

### **Is Fellowship Time your favorite? Your help is needed!**

We only have coffee hosts and dishwashers for a couple more weeks. Grab a friend and sign up for a future slot to enhance our fellowship time together!

The sound booth has a **listening assisted device** available for anyone to use. Please ask Lavern in the sound booth for the device and headset.

**Book Club Choices:** Meets the 2nd Wednesday at 1:30pm in the Library.

September: The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane by Lisa See

October: West with Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge

**Potluck for Rally Day** Share your favorite dish on Sunday or Wednesday. If anyone chooses to share their recipe, the secretary will put it in the bulletin for all to enjoy.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR of August 27, 2023

<b>Today, August 27:</b>	<b>Worship Service 10:00am Coffee 11:00am</b>
<b>Monday, August 28:</b>	<b>Stitching Group 9am Sweet Adelines practice 6-9:30pm</b>
<b>Tuesday, August 29:</b>	
<b>Wednesday, August 30:</b>	
<b>Thursday, August 31:</b>	<b>AA Meeting 7:30pm</b>
<b>Friday, September 1:</b>	<b>Wired Word 1:30pm</b>
<b>Saturday, September 2:</b>	<b>Men's Bible Study 10:00am</b>
<b>Sunday, September 3:</b>	<b>River Service 10:00am Coffee 11:00am</b>
<b>Upcoming Events</b>	
<b>Wednesday, Sept. 6</b>	<b>Confirmation Orientation 6th, 7th, 8th graders &amp; parents</b>
<b>Sunday/Wed Sept.10/13</b>	<b>Rally Day/Teacher Installation Potluck</b>
<b>Sept 13</b>	<b>Confirmation mentor mtg 9th graders &amp; mentors</b>
<b>Sept 17 &amp; 20</b>	<b>Blessing of the Backpacks</b>

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20**

<sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" <sup>14</sup>And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." <sup>15</sup>He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." <sup>20</sup>Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

**SERMON** Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**SONG OF THE DAY:** *"The Church's One Foundation"* ELW #654

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:** *"Let Us Pray for Peace"*

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**OFFERING:** *"This Is My Father's World"* ELW #824

**OFFERING PRAYER**



*WE SHARE THE MEAL*

**PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL**

**LORD'S PRAYER:** Spoken

**INVITATION TO OUR LORD'S SUPPER**

**COMMUNION SONG:** *"The Old Rugged Cross"*

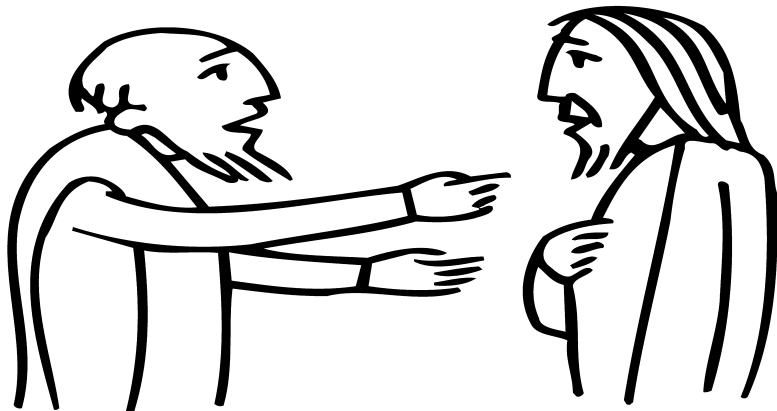
**COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION:** *"The Lord Bless You and Keep You"* (Gilbertson)

**SENDING SONG:** *"Blessed Assurance"*

**DISMISSAL:** *"My Life Is In You"*

**Introduction** In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.



**"THE RIVER" WORSHIP MINISTERS**

**Pastor**—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**Scripture Reader**—Barb Wilson

**Greeters**—

**Ushers**—Art Wheeler, Joel & Suzanne Toso, Kay Koch

**Communion Assistants**—David Drovdal, Donna Belisle, Esther Anderson

**Altar Guild**—Cherie Krueger, Mavis Pommerer, Joyce Wahl, Cheryl Neu

**Faith & Care**—Cheryl Moore & David Kraft, Suzy & Redg Finck

**River Worship Team**—

**Sound Board Technicians**—Lavern Hanson

**Projection Team**—Jace Kunze, Rod Sargent, Art Wheeler

**Streaming Team**—Mark Kunze, Karen Will

**River Singers**—Deb Carpenter, Kerry Carpenter, Sally Grenz, Paul Gurholt, Doug Johnson, Cherie Krueger, AJ Marx, Amanda Sagsveen, Gerri Sarsten, John Saylor, Claudia Thompson, Tom Wade,

Barb Wilson, Tracy Wolf, Marlene Grabow

**Guitarists**—Tom Wade, Marin Traynor

**Percussionist**—Kari Harris

**Violinist**—Fynn Sagsveen

**Flutist**—Beth Greff

**Accompanists**—Jan & Joel Gilbertson, Gerri Sarsten, Beth Greff

**Prayers, Births, Deaths, Concerns**

Please contact Connie in the church office if you have a prayer request, or if you will be entering the hospital and would like a pastoral visit.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

*(We encourage you to take this list home and pray for these people.)*

**For those struggling with health and other concerns:**

Reece Fischer, Tracy Martinson, Ann Hillesland, Erwin and Linda Marson, Arlene Wolff, Bob Roesler, Earl Larson, Nancy Dockter, Lori Marx, Hattie Martinson, Carter Weigel, Kerry Carpenter, Mary Ternes, Vicky Moser, Jeff Thomas, Chelsea Sorenson, Jean King, baby Faya Luna Toso, Jim Miller, Heidi Renner, Peg Ahlness

**For those dealing with the death of these loved ones—**

Judy Kerns, Kiearra Marsh, John Behan, Lois Kunze, Mary Beth Osborn