

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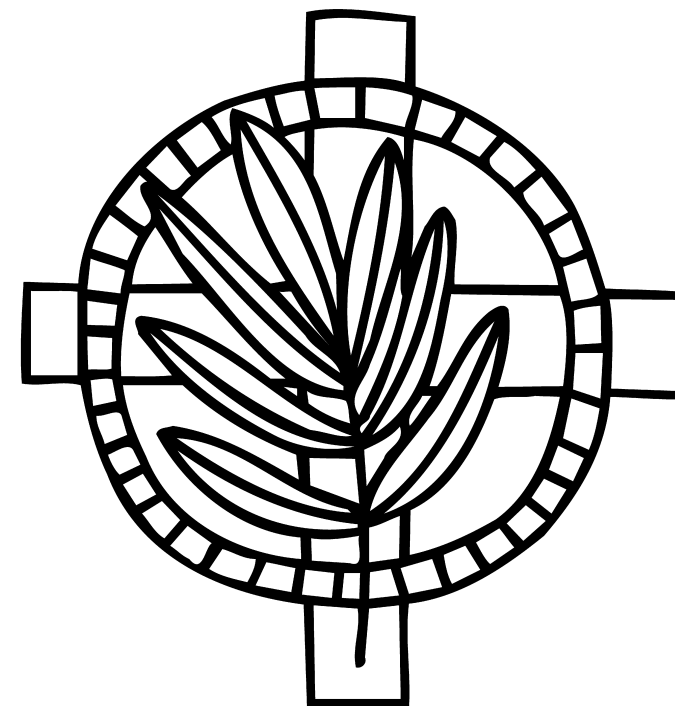
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*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

# The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross  
September 3, 2023

*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS**  
**“The River” Worship Service**  
**September 3, 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**

*“10,000 Reasons”, “Mighty to Save”, “My Lighthouse”*

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GREETINGS OF PEACE**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS**

**GATHERING SONG:** *“For the Beauty of the Earth” ELW #879*

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

*WE HEAR GOD’S WORD*

**FIRST READING: Jeremiah 15:15-21**

<sup>15</sup>O LORD, you know;  
remember me and visit me,  
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.  
In your forbearance do not take me away;  
know that on your account I suffer insult.

<sup>16</sup>Your words were found, and I ate them,  
and your words became to me a joy  
and the delight of my heart;  
for I am called by your name,  
O LORD, God of hosts.

<sup>17</sup>I did not sit in the company of merry-makers,  
nor did I rejoice;  
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,

**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 [mitlorri@gmail.com](mailto:mitlorri@gmail.com) or text name of interested attendee and contact info to 701-400-1849.

### **SAVE THE DATES**

**Theology On Tap**- the third Thursday of the month  
September 21st 7pm @ Mayas Mexican Restaurant (on the patio)  
October 19th 7pm @ Lucky 13 Pub (on the patio- fingers crossed)  
November 16th 7pm @ Stonehome  
December no meeting

under the weight of your hand I sat alone,  
for you had filled me with indignation.

<sup>18</sup>Why is my pain unceasing,  
my wound incurable,  
refusing to be healed?  
Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,  
like waters that fail.

<sup>19</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD:  
If you turn back, I will take you back,  
and you shall stand before me.  
If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,  
you shall serve as my mouth.  
It is they who will turn to you,  
not you who will turn to them.

<sup>20</sup>And I will make you to this people  
a fortified wall of bronze;  
they will fight against you,  
but they shall not prevail over you,  
for I am with you  
to save you and deliver you,  
says the LORD.

<sup>21</sup>I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,  
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

### **RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 26:1-8**

Vindicate me, O LORD,  
for I have walked in my integrity,  
and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.

<sup>2</sup>**Prove me, O LORD, and try me;  
test my heart and mind.**

<sup>3</sup>For your steadfast love is before my eyes,  
and I walk in faithfulness to you.

<sup>4</sup>**I do not sit with the worthless,  
nor do I consort with hypocrites;**

<sup>5</sup>I hate the company of evildoers,

## **RESPONSIVE READING continued**

and will not sit with the wicked.

**<sup>6</sup>I wash my hands in innocence,  
and go around your altar, O LORD,**

<sup>7</sup>singing aloud a song of thanksgiving,  
and telling all your wondrous deeds.

**<sup>8</sup>O LORD, I love the house in which you dwell,  
and the place where your glory abides.**

## **SECOND READING: ROMANS 12:9-21**

<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup>love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

<sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup>Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." <sup>20</sup>No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** "Jesus Messiah"

## **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.

### **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.

Camp of the Cross Ministries is sponsoring a **Fall Women's Retreat**, September 23. Chris Aman; the presenter, Holly Ullman; Bible Study leader and Nicole Fehr; leader in Bible journaling. To register go to [Fall Women's Retreat — CCM \(campofthecross.com\)](http://campofthecross.com).

## WEEKLY CALENDAR of September 3, 2023

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Today, September 3:</b>     | <b>Worship Service 10:00am<br/>Coffee 11:00am</b>  |
| <b>Monday, September 4:</b>    | <b>Labor Day Office closed<br/>NO Stitching Group 9am<br/>Sweet Adelines practice 6-9:30pm</b> |
| <b>Tuesday, September 5:</b>   |  |
| <b>Wednesday, September 6:</b> | <b>Confirmation Orientation 6th, 7th,<br/>8th graders &amp; parents</b>                        |
| <b>Thursday, September 7:</b>  | <b>AA Meeting 7:30pm</b>   |
| <b>Friday, September 8:</b>    | <b>Wired Word 1:30pm</b>   |
| <b>Saturday, September 9:</b>  | <b>Men's Bible Study 10:00am</b>   |
| <b>Sunday, September 10:</b>   | <b>Rally Day River Service 10:00am<br/>Teacher Installation<br/>Potluck 11:00am</b>            |

### Upcoming Events

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Wed Sept 13</b>      | <b>Rally Day/Teacher Installation<br/>Potluck<br/>Confirmation mentor mtg 9th<br/>graders &amp; mentors</b> |
| <b>Sept 17 &amp; 20</b> | <b>Blessing of the Backpacks</b>  |
| <b>Sept 21</b>          | <b>Theology on Tap 7pm Mayas<br/>Mexican Restaurant</b>   |

### GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28

<sup>21</sup>From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup>And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." <sup>23</sup>But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

<sup>27</sup>For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. <sup>28</sup>Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

**SERMON** Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**SONG OF THE DAY:** "Will You Come and Follow Me" ELW #798

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:** "Open Our Eyes"

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**OFFERING:** "Pass it On"

**OFFERING PRAYER**

*WE SHARE THE MEAL*

**PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL**

**LORD'S PRAYER:** Spoken

**INVITATION TO OUR LORD'S SUPPER**

**COMMUNION SONG:** *"Come Find Forgiveness and Love"*

**COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

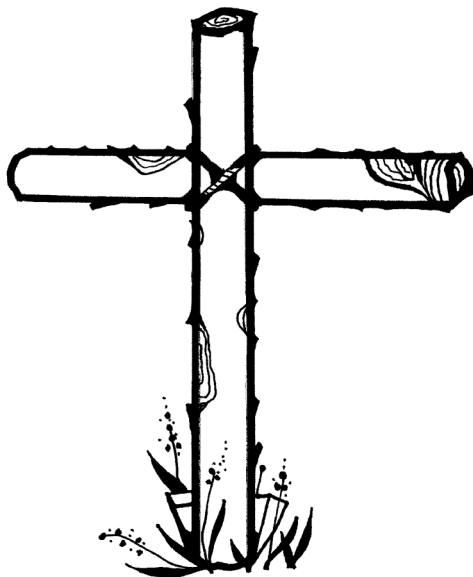
**BENEDICTION:** *"The Lord Be With You"*

**SENDING SONG:** *"Bind Us Together"*

**DISMISSAL:** *"Shine Your Light on Me"*

**Introduction**

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.



**"THE RIVER" WORSHIP MINISTERS**

**Pastor**—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**Scripture Reader**—Esther Anderson

**Greeters**— Scot & Melissa Long

**Ushers**—Dave & Kathy Drovdal, Larry & Verlaine Jahner

**Communion Assistants**—Rich Fockler, Heather Martin, Tracy Geiermann

**Altar Guild**—Heather Martin, Ruth Jensen, Sharon Narum, Verlaine Jahner

**Faith & Care**— Janet & Troy Bassingthwaite, Nikki & Ryan Taylor, Sarah & Brian Dahl

**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