

Lutheran Church of the Cross  
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Bismarck ND 58501

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Website: [www.churchofthecross.org](http://www.churchofthecross.org)

Winter Hours. Mon.– Thursday 8 –4pm Fri 8 to noon

Summer Office Hours: Mon.- Fri. 8:00 am—noon

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*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

# The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross  
September 10, 2023

*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS**  
**“The River” Worship Service**  
**September 10, 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**

*“Come, Now is the Time to Worship”, “Open the Eyes of My Heart”, “The River is Here”*

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GREETINGS OF PEACE**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS**

**GATHERING SONG:** *“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” ELW #834*

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

*WE HEAR GOD’S WORD*

**FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-11**

<sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>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.

**Spend a day with Bishop Craig Satterlee**

Everyone welcome!

*“Then Jesus opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.’” (Luke 24:46–48).*

The Western North Dakota Synod, Bishop Craig Schweitzer, and Bishop Craig Alan Satterlee from the North/West Lower Michigan Synod invite you to a one-day “evangelism” (in the best sense of that word) workshop centered on the book [You Are Witnesses of These Things: Sharing the Story of Jesus](#). This workshop is an opportunity to experience the joy and fun in sharing the story of Jesus for no reason other than Jesus is such life-giving good news. The workshop is also an occasion to train those interested in using this book with groups in their congregation. At the 2023 WND Synod Assembly, Bishop Schweitzer invited every congregation in the synod to use Bishop Satterlee’s book as a tool for mission and ministry. Participants are expected to read the book in advance of the workshop and fully participate in group sessions. The book is available on Amazon for \$12.95. There is no charge for this workshop.

With all that is happening in society, the world, and their lives, people are open, even eager, to receive the story of Jesus and the good news that God is working to bring unconditional love and abundant life to all creation. In fact, the only reason new people will join the church is because they received the story of Jesus, want to learn more about Jesus, and experience the church actively following Jesus.

*You Are Witnesses of These Things: Sharing the Story of Jesus* equips and empowers Christians to share the story of Jesus with people for whom it is new for no other reason than because Jesus is such life-changing, world-shaping good news. This book brings the good news to people who do not yet know Jesus and helps people who know Jesus to be comfortable and confident sharing this good news with others.

Like the book, the workshop’s primary audience is the baptized, people of God, or lay people. Pastors and deacons will certainly learn, grow, and be nourished by the experience and are heartily welcome. Participants might consider attending with someone with whom they can partner in this work, though a partner is not necessary to attend.

Video of Bp. Satterlee talking about the book – <https://vimeo.com/824222507/d4eab1984a?share=copy>

Bismarck Event: Saturday, September 23 in Bismarck; 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM CT  
Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library

[Register for the Bismarck Event](#)

[You Are Witnesses Event Flyer](#)

**SAVE THE DATES** for 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

**Congratulations** to Eve and Jamison on the birth of their son Harvey Rand Kath.

### **Change in Church School on Sunday – come join us for JAM!**

This fall, rather than a regular class before worship on Sundays, we will invite church school age kids (preschool to grade 5) to leave worship with a teacher right after the children's message. They will learn the story for the week, which will follow the gospel passage that day, and have a brief lesson – then return to the worship service for communion and closing. We are calling this JAM – Jesus And Me. Come JAM with us on Sundays!

### **Church School, Wednesday, Confirmation and more!**

Wednesday church school will stay the same, meeting after worship at 7 pm, although we'll meet in the classroom next to the youth room. Schedules for all classes will be posted on the website soon. We do follow the school calendar, so there will be some weeks with no class.

Confirmation will also meet Wednesdays at 7 pm, following worship. Orientation for grades 6, 7, and 8 will be Wednesday, Sept. 6 at 7 pm. The next week will be small group night, and a confirmand/mentor meeting for 9<sup>th</sup> graders, both at 7pm.

**Quilting! Quilting! Quilting!** The LCC quilters are revving up again for a new year. They meet on Thursdays at 1 pm in the multipurpose room (to the left of the kitchen). No experience necessary – it is a simple system and great camaraderie and fellowship. New people are welcome to come join in! If you can stay for coffee and treats (about 2:30 pm), all the better!

### **Sour Cream Raisin Bars (from Pastor Lisa)**

Simmer 2 cups raisins covered with water. Drain and cool.

Crust: Cream 1 cup brown sugar, 1 cup margarine (I used butter). Add 1 teaspoon baking soda, 1-3/4 cups oatmeal, and 1-3/4 cups flour. Put half of crust mixture in 9x13 pan. Bake 7 minutes at 350 degrees.

Filling: Cook in heavy saucepan 3 beaten egg yolks, 1-1/2 cups sour cream, 1 cup sugar, 2-1/2 tablespoons cornstarch until it is the thickness of gravy. Remove from heat and add raisins. Pour over baked crust. Sprinkle remaining topping over filling. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

<sup>10</sup>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?" <sup>11</sup>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**

<sup>33</sup>Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end.

<sup>34</sup>**Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.**

<sup>35</sup>Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.

<sup>36</sup>**Turn my heart to your decrees, and not to selfish gain.**

<sup>37</sup>Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; give me life in your ways.

<sup>38</sup>**Confirm to your servant your promise, which is for those who fear you.**

<sup>39</sup>Turn away the disgrace that I dread, for your ordinances are good.

<sup>40</sup>**See, I have longed for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life.**

## **SECOND READING: ROMANS 13:8-14**

<sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>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, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

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

**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.

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

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 \(campofthecross.com\)](https://campofthecross.com).

**Altar Focus for September** Heart River Bridges of Hope, which assists youth leaving the Youth Correctional Center, has a need for items for their Fresh Start Kits. These are given to each youth as they leave the facility. Please note that the need is for MEN’s items, as these youth are almost all male. Needed are shampoo, conditioner, body wash, and deodorant, as well as black or gray backpacks (other colors have connections to gangs and cannot be used). The items you bring in September will help these youth get a fresh start.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR of September 10, 2023

<b>Today, September 10:</b>	<b>Rally Day Worship Service/Teacher Installation 10:00am Coffee Potluck</b>
<b>Monday, September 11:</b>	<b>Stitching Group 9am Sweet Adelines practice 6-9:30pm</b>
<b>Tuesday, September 12:</b>	
<b>Wednesday, September 13:</b>	<b>Book Club 1:30pm Rally Day/Teacher Installation Pizza Confirmation mentor mtg 9th graders &amp; mentors River practice 7pm</b>
<b>Thursday, September 14:</b>	<b>Quilting 1pm Church Council 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm</b>
<b>Friday, September 15:</b>	<b>Wired Word 1:30pm</b>
<b>Saturday, September 16:</b>	<b>Men's Bible Study 10:00am River practice 4pm Wedding 4 pm</b>
<b>Sunday, September 17:</b>	<b>River Service 10:00am Blessing of the Backpacks Coffee Hour 11:00am</b>
<b>Upcoming Events</b>	
<b>Sept 21</b>	<b>Theology on Tap 7pm Mayas Mexican Restaurant</b>
<b>Sept 27</b>	<b>Women's Bible Study 9am</b>

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup>“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>If the member 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. <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

**SERMON** Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**SONG OF THE DAY:** “*Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)*”

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:** “*Open Our Eyes*”

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**OFFERING:** “*Offering*”

**OFFERING PRAYER**

*WE SHARE THE MEAL*

**PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL**

**LORD'S PRAYER:** Lord's Prayer                      Sung

**INVITATION TO OUR LORD'S SUPPER**

**COMMUNION SONG:** *"Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling"* ELW #608

**COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

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

**SENDING SONG:** *"Great is the Lord"*

**DISMISSAL:** *"The River is Here"*

**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.

**"THE RIVER" WORSHIP MINISTERS**

**Pastor**—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**Scripture Reader**—Kathy Drovdal

**Greeters**—Keven & Janice Martin

**Ushers**—Rich & Judy Fockler, John Kraft & Lee Jensen

**Communion Assistants**—Sally Grenz, Ruth Jensen, Janice Martin

**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