

Lutheran Church of the Cross
1004 E Highland Acres Rd.
Bismarck ND 58501

Phone: 223-1001

Website: www.churchofthecross.org

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

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

Staff:

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“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross
September 17, 2023

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
“The River” Worship Service
September 17, 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

“Living Hope”, “Come As You Are”, “You Are My King (Amazing Love)”

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: *“Just As I Am (I Come Broken)”*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph’s brothers said, “What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?” ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, “Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷‘Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.’ Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, “We are here as your

Spend a day with Bishop Craig Satterlee (We have this book in the library!!!!)

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

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 are posted on the website 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

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!

The **church directory** is out on the table in the narthex for your review. Have you removed your landline? Changed or added an email address? Had a child? Please add these things to your family's section. If nothing has changed just write OK or your initials to your section and the secretary will know to keep the information as is. Thanks for your help with this project.

slaves.”¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God?”²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today.²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 103: (1-7) 8-13

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name.

²**Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits –**

³who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,

⁴**who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

⁵who satisfies you with good as long as you live
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

⁶**The LORD works vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

⁷He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.

⁸**The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

⁹He will not always accuse,
nor will he keep his anger forever.

¹⁰**He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

¹²**as far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from us.**

¹³As a father has compassion for his children,
so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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.

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

The fourth quarter **Christ in Our Home** daily devotional is available in the narthex by the front door.

The **Gather Bible Study** is this Thursday, September 21 at 10:30am. See you there!

WEEKLY CALENDAR of September 17, 2023

Today, September 17:	Worship Service/ Blessing of the Backpacks Coffee Hour 11:00am
Monday, September 18:	Stitching Group 9am Sweet Adelines practice 6-9:30pm
Tuesday, September 19:	
Wednesday, September 20:	Supper 5:15pm Worship/Blessing of the Backpacks 6:00pm Confirmation/Church School 7pm River practice 7pm
Thursday, September 21:	Gather Bible Study 10:30am Theology on Tap 7 Mayas Restaurant AA Meeting 7:30pm
Friday, September 22:	Wired Word 1:30pm
Saturday, September 23:	Men's Bible Study 10:00am River practice 4pm
Sunday, September 24:	River Service 10:00am Coffee Hour 11:00am
Upcoming Events Sept 27 1pm	Women's Bible Study 9am Quilting

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Jesus Messiah"

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times."
²³"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.'
²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.'
²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.'
³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

SERMON Pastor Lisa Ahlness

SONG OF THE DAY: "Lord, Whose Love in Hume Service ELW #712

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH: "Open Our Eyes"

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING: "We Are An Offering"

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD'S PRAYER: Sung

INVITATION TO OUR LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: "When Peace Like a River" Flute and piano

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION: "The Lord Be With You" Gilbertson

SENDING SONG: "Sent Forth By God's Blessing" ELW #547

DISMISSAL: "Everybody's Got Something to Offer"

Introduction

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

"THE RIVER" WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Murray Sagsveen

Greeters—Kay Koch & Myrtice Behan

Ushers—Joel & Suzanne Toso, Mike & Tracy Geiermann

Communion Assistants—Mavis Pommerer, Roger & Esther Anderson

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 Sayler, 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—

Kathy Van Middlesworth, Judy Kerns, Kiearra Marsh, John Behan, Lois Kunze