

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

Phone: 223-1001

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

**Staff:**

Lisa Ahlness, **Pastor**

Cell: 220.9011 / [lisaahlness@hotmail.com](mailto:lisaahlness@hotmail.com)

Connie Werner, **Secretary** cell 400.5852

Office 223-1001 / [churchsecretary@midconetwork.com](mailto:churchsecretary@midconetwork.com)

Art Wheeler, **Treasurer**

527-9582/ [lcctreasurer@midconetwork.com](mailto:lcctreasurer@midconetwork.com)

Beth Greff, **Worship Coordinator**

400-2087/ [theriver@midconetwork.com](mailto:theriver@midconetwork.com)

Joel Crane, **Wednesday Worship Coordinator**

498-2604/[cranejoel58@gmail.com](mailto:cranejoel58@gmail.com)

Gerri Sarsten, Joel and Jan Gilbertson, Beth Greff **Accompanists**

**2023 Church Council Members**

Mike Humann, President [mknhumann@bis.midco.net](mailto:mknhumann@bis.midco.net) 527.3376

Janice Martin, Vice President [msladyj2000@gmail.com](mailto:msladyj2000@gmail.com) 471.5600

Jessi Karvo, Secretary [jfish321@gmail.com](mailto:jfish321@gmail.com) 426.7439

Cherie Krueger, [cheriekrueger@gmail.com](mailto:cheriekrueger@gmail.com) 226.7514

Mike Geiermann, [mgeiermann12@gmail.com](mailto:mgeiermann12@gmail.com) 471.5122

Sarah Dahl, [sarahdahlmba@gmail.com](mailto:sarahdahlmba@gmail.com) 226.6844

Scot Long, [scotglong@gmail.com](mailto:scotglong@gmail.com) 400.2169

*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

# The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross  
September 24, 2023

*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS**  
**“The River” Worship Service**  
**September 24, 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**

*“Blessed Be Your Name”, “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”,  
“Here I Am to Worship”*

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GREETINGS OF PEACE**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS**

**GATHERING SONG:** *“Take My Life, That I May Be” ELW #583*

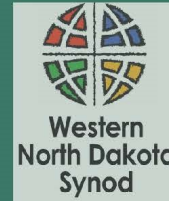
**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

*WE HEAR GOD’S WORD*

**FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10-4:11**

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

<sup>4:1</sup>But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>He prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. <sup>3</sup>And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” <sup>4</sup>And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” <sup>5</sup>Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would be-



WESTERN ND SYNOD PRESENTS  
**YOU ARE WITNESSES OF  
THESE THINGS WORKSHOP**

*“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).*

**YOU ARE  
WITNESSES OF  
THESE THINGS**

SHARING THE STORY OF  
JESUS

CRAIG ALAN SATTERLEE  
CHELSEY SATTERLEE

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.

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.

**COST: FREE EVENT!**

**WHEN & WHERE:**  
**FRIDAY, SEPT. 22, 2023**  
**DICKINSON, ND**  
THE ROOSEVELT GRAND  
DAKOTA HOTEL  
9:00AM - 4:00PM

**DICKINSON REGISTRATION**

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 23, 2023**

**BISMARCK, ND**  
BISMARCK VETERAN’S  
MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY  
9:30AM - 4:30PM

**BISMARCK REGISTRATION**



**BISHOP CRAIG ALAN SATTERLEE**  
NORTH/WEST LOWER MICHIGAN SYNOD

Curious about the book? Watch a video of  
Bp. Satterlee talking about the book at:  
<https://vimeo.com/824222507/d4eab1984a>

**SAVE THE DATES** for Theology On Tap- the third Thursday of the month  
October 19th 7pm @ Lucky 13 Pub (on the patio-fingers crossed)  
November 16th 7pm @ Stonehome  
December no meeting

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? Moved? Had a child? If so, 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. **Please note:** we are doing a pictorial directory!!! We are not using an outside source but will rely on the congregation to provide their own photos if able to do so. The church office would like individuals and families to submit a photo of yourself or family to the church secretary so that LCC can produce a pictorial directory online (not on LCC's website) through a secure web portal and also on paper. Later there will be details of someone being willing to photograph families on Sundays should you not have a recent photo. Please submit the jpeg photo electronically to: churchsecrtry@midconetnetwork.com. Photos can be taken on your phone or camera. They do not need to be professionally done. Let's get this project started!

### **LYO Gathering 2023 at the Baymont Hotel in Mandan**

High School: October 19-20  
Middle School: October 20-21  
Featuring Agape and Joe Davis. AGAPE and Joe bring an incredible energy to any event they're a part of! They know how to connect with youth and get them jumping out of their seat, celebrating the Lutheran faith together! This is an event not to miss.



**Registration Info for 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering** opens September 15th at Noon! Gathering Registration Info & Workbook: <https://www.elca.church/gathering/attend/congregations> gLearn.

If you have questions about the ELCA Youth Gathering please contact our Gathering Synod Champion for Western ND – Gracia Johnson at [gjohnson@trinitybismarck.com](mailto:gjohnson@trinitybismarck.com) or 701-471-4434.

<sup>6</sup>The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. <sup>7</sup>But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

<sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." <sup>10</sup>Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup>And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

### **RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 145: 1-8**

<sup>1</sup>I will extol you, my God and King,  
and bless your name forever and ever.

<sup>2</sup>**Every day I will bless you,  
and praise your name forever and ever.**

<sup>3</sup>Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;  
his greatness is unsearchable.

<sup>4</sup>**One generation shall laud your works to another,  
and shall declare your mighty acts.**

<sup>5</sup>On the glorious splendor of your majesty,  
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

<sup>6</sup>**The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed,  
and I will declare your greatness.**

<sup>7</sup>They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness,  
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

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



## SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

<sup>21</sup>For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. <sup>23</sup>I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; <sup>24</sup>but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup>Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>26</sup>so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

<sup>27</sup>Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup>and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup>For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—<sup>30</sup>since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.



## 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

November: Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Gamus

Consider coming to the Book Club. We have interesting and lively discussions of each book. A variety of subjects are read but usually works of fiction.

**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. (FYI Heart River Bridges of Hope is no longer accepting women's clothing as part of their ministry. The state took over that portion.)

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

**Thank you Pastor Krogstad** for being a part of our worship today and sharing your message. We appreciate you.

The sanctuary now has **wall mounted sound proofing squares** on three sides. Thank you to Rod Sargent, Paul Gurholt, and John Kraft for their carpenter skills in hanging the squares.

We have **two new bulletin boards** on display. The LCC Education committee put up information on the bulletin board near the Youth room Thank you Sarah Dahl. Heather and Libby Martin put up the beautiful fall bulletin board in the narthex.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR of September 24, 2023

<b>Today, September 24:</b>	<b>Worship Service Coffee Hour 11:00am</b>
<b>Monday, September 25:</b>	<b>Stitching Group 9am Sweet Adelines practice 6-9:30pm</b>
<b>Tuesday, September 26:</b>	
<b>Wednesday, September 27:</b>	<b>Women's Bible Study 9am Supper 5:15pm Worship Service 6:00pm Confirmation/Church School 7pm River practice 7pm</b>
<b>Thursday, September 28:</b>	<b>Quilting 1pm AA Meeting 7:30pm</b>
<b>Friday, September 29:</b>	<b>Wired Word 1:30pm</b>
<b>Saturday, September 30:</b>	<b>Men's Bible Study 10:00am River practice 4pm</b>
<b>Sunday, October 1:</b>	<b>River Service 10:00am Coffee Hour 11:00am</b>

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** "Jesus Messiah"

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>"The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup>and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. <sup>5</sup>When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' <sup>7</sup>They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' <sup>8</sup>When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' <sup>9</sup>When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup>Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup>And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup>saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

**SERMON** Pastor Sondra Krogstad

**SONG OF THE DAY:** "Give Me Jesus" ELW #770

**APOSTLES' CREED**

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

**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:** "Ancient Words" duet AJ Marx & Beth Greff

**COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION:** Spoken

**SENDING SONG:** "Rise Up, Saints of God" ELW #669

**DISMISSAL:** "Blessed Be your Name"

### **Introduction**

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

### **"THE RIVER" WORSHIP MINISTERS**

**Pastor**—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**Scripture Reader**—Suzanne Toso

**Greeters**—Lillian Crook & Joyce Wahl

**Ushers**—Roger Krueger & Floy Marx, Scot & Melissa Long

**Communion Assistants**—Donna Belisle, Kim Humann, David Drovdal

**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, Larry Wolf

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

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

**River Singers**—Deb Carpenter, Kerry Carpenter, Marlene Grabow, Sally Grenz, Paul Gurholt, Doug Johnson, Cherie Krueger, AJ Marx, Amanda Sagsveen, Gerri Sarsten, John Sayler, Claudia Thompson, Tom Wade, Barb Wilson, Tracy Wolf

**Guitarists**—Tom Wade,

**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, Jacob Walby, Kristy Forrest

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

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