

Lutheran Church of the Cross  
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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 8, 2024

10:00am

*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS**  
**“The River” Worship Service**  
**September 8, 2024**

*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:** “Blessed Be Your Name”, “Days of Elijah”, “Come, Now is the Time to Worship”

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GREETINGS OF PEACE**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS**

**GATHERING SONG:** “Friends in Christ”

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

*WE HEAR GOD’S WORD*

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:4-7a**

<sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

<sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

<sup>7a</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool,

Dear Friends in Christ,

A note from your Treasurer

I joined the LCC Council in 2011 and was given the General Financial Operating portfolio to oversee. I worked closely with several new Treasurers over the next four years. In 2015, I was appointed Treasurer and have tried to serve the congregation since.

I have had the honor and privilege of serving the Church of the Cross for a number of years. I believe a successor should be found who will continue the Treasurer’s duties. Communicating with the Council, I will continue to function as Treasurer until a new Treasurer has been fully trained and is ready to complete all responsibilities.

Any LCC member who has an interest in accounting or bookkeeping, enjoys working with numbers and wants to serve the congregation in an exciting and important manner, should indicate their interest to Pastor Lisa, Council Present Mike Geiermann or Council Vice President Mike Humann.

Art Wheeler

The fourth quarter daily devotional; **Christ in Our Home** is out in the narthex.

Thank you to **Faith and Care Group 1** for serving the potluck today.

**Confirmation and Church School** starting up again!! And so is fall programming here at LCC. September 4: Confirmation Orientation for grades 6, 7, 8 at 7 p.m. September 8: Rally Sunday – come meet your church school teacher during worship, and fun activity afterward! Think scavenger hunt! September 11: Rally Wednesday – Confirmation Small Group night and meet your church school teacher night for younger students with scavenger hunt! September 25: Confirmation Large Group Service project: assemble school kits for Lutheran World Relief and 9th grade + mentors Five Promises meeting, both at 7 p.m.

Did you know .....

that **extra monthly newsletters** are on the oak cabinet for the taking. Envelopes for tithing as well as other information is placed there. Check it out.

The inside **plants** are watered on Thursdays by a specific person. Extra waterings by others are causing confusion to the plants and the waterer.

**Faith and Care Groups 1-6** for the upcoming year are listed on the secretary’s wall just outside her door.

**The Communion Assistant, Reader, and Usher** schedule is posted under the monitor by the back door. Copies of the available under the monitor.

## 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.

**Book Club Choices:** Meets the 2nd Wednesday at 1:30pm in the Library.  
September: The Women by Kristin Hannah  
October: Hello Beautiful by Ann Napolitano  
November: The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post by Allison Palaki

**Study on St. Paul** to begin in September. Some of you are planning to go on the footsteps of Paul trip next March. We will be starting a book study in September as we prepare – you don’t have to be going on the trip to join in! The book is called “Paul Among the People” by Sarah Ruden. It is available on Amazon, Barnes and Noble and Kindle, or wherever you normally get books! Let Pastor Lisa know what days/times work best for you and watch for further info! (Another recommended title is “Paul” by N.T. Wright, if you’d like to read more about the apostle.

The Altar Focus for September will be the Fresh Start Kits for people leaving the State Penitentiary and the Youth Correctional Center.

LCC is in need of **coffee hosts and dishwashers, Communion Assistants, Readers and Ushers** for Sundays. Your help is greatly needed!

**Help Wanted!** LCC is looking for folks that would be interested in helping out in our Tech area - specifically Projection, Streaming, and Sound. If you have a good ear for music or an interest in computers we would love to visit with you. Please contact Beth Greff at the phone number or email listed on the back of the bulletin. Please prayerfully consider becoming a part of our Team!

The **Confirmation** schedule, the Jesus and Me Sunday schedule, plus the Worship on Wednesday Schedule is out in the narthex for the taking and was placed in the newsletter.

A **huge, colossal thank you** goes out to Barb Norby who has for years served as the volunteer coordinator of the worship ministerial duties. She has now passed the torch on. Barb, thank you for your endless time spent in organizing and coordinating the communion assistant, usher, and readers each Sunday.

## RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 146

<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

<sup>2</sup>**I will praise the LORD as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**

<sup>3</sup>Do not put your trust in princes,  
in mortals, in whom there is no help.

<sup>4</sup>**When their breath departs, they return to the earth;  
on that very day their plans perish.**

<sup>5</sup>Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God,

<sup>6</sup>**who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them;  
who keeps faith forever;**

<sup>7</sup>who executes justice for the oppressed;  
who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

<sup>8</sup>**the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.**

**The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the LORD loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD watches over the strangers;  
he upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

<sup>10</sup>**The LORD will reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, for all generations.  
Praise the LORD!**

## SECOND READING: James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17

<sup>1</sup>My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? <sup>2</sup>For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, <sup>3</sup>and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, “Have a seat here, please,” while to the one who is poor you say, “Stand there,” or, “Sit at my feet,” <sup>4</sup>have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup>Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup>But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court?

<sup>7</sup>Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

<sup>8</sup>You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>9</sup>But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [<sup>11</sup>For the one who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. <sup>12</sup>So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. <sup>13</sup>For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

<sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? <sup>17</sup>So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** *“Praise the Name of Jesus”*

**GOSPEL READING: Mark:7:24-37**

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, <sup>25</sup>but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. <sup>26</sup>Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup>He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” <sup>28</sup>But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” <sup>29</sup>Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” <sup>30</sup>So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

<sup>31</sup>Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup>They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup>He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup>Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” <sup>35</sup>And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup>Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it.

## **WEEKLY CALENDAR of September 8, 2024**

***Today, September 8:***

***Rally Day***  
**River Service 10:00am**  
**Potluck 11:00am**

***Monday, September 9:***

**Needlework Group 9am**

***Tuesday, September 10:***

**Baby Care Kits 10 to noon**

***Wednesday, September 11:***

***Rally Wednesday***  
**Potluck 5pm**  
**Living Water Service 6:15pm**  
**Church School, Confirmation**

***Thursday, September 12:***

**Quilting 1pm**  
**Church Council 6:30pm**  
**AA Meeting 8pm**

***Friday, September 13:***

**Wired Word 1:30pm**

***Saturday, September 14:***

**Men’s Bible Study 10am**

***Sunday, September 15:***

**River Service 10am**  
**Coffee Hour 11am**

**Future Happenings**

Women’s Bible Study Sept 18 9am  
Gather Bible Study Sept 19 10:30am

### **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:**

Tracy Martinson, Ann Hillesland, Arlene Wolff, Bob Roesler, Earl Larson, Nancy Dockter, Lori Marx, Hattie Martinson, Carter Weigel, Josey Hanson, Heidi Renner, Kristy Forrest, JoDee Sayler, Colter Lee, Arvid Mugaas, Diane Klein, Peg Ahlness, Libby Martin, Deacon Janie Hague, Kira Willadsen, Kerry Carpenter, Linda Marson, Lonnie Sunde, Jacob Hynek, Art Wheeler, Reece Fischer, Jeri Mutcher, Mark Kunze, Lindsey Steiger, Lyndon Jahner, Joel Crane, Paul Kuch, Christ Gerr, Sher Harildstad

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

<sup>37</sup>They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

**SERMON:** Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**SONG OF THE DAY:** *“Light Dawns on a Weary World” ELW 726*

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:** *“I Love You, Lord”*

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**OFFERING:** *“Create in Me”*

**OFFERING PRAYER**



## *WE SHARE THE MEAL*

### **PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL**

**LORD'S PRAYER:** *"The Lord's Prayer"*

### **INVITATION TO OUR LORD'S SUPPER**

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

### **COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION:** *"The Lord Bless You and Keep You"*

**SENDING SONG:** *"The River is Here"*

**DISMISSAL:** *"Shine a Little Light"*

**INTRODUCTION** James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings a need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

## **"THE RIVER" and "LIVING WATER" WORSHIP MINISTERS**

**Pastor**—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**Scripture Reader**—Roger Krueger

**Ushers**—Alex & Kathryn Spilman, Kay Koch & Floy Marx

**Communion Assistants**—Myrtice Behan, David Drovdal, Tracy Wolf

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

**Faith and Care Group 1**—Nikki Taylor, Janet Bassingthwaite, Annie Bergrud

**River Worship Team**—

**Sound Board Technicians**—Larry Wolf, Francis Greff

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

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

**River Singers**—Deb Carpenter, Kerry Carpenter, Marlene Grabow, Sally Grenz, Paul Gurholt, Doug Johnson, Cherie Krueger, AJ Marx, Mark Murie, Amanda Sagsveen, John Saylor, Tom Wade, Barb Wilson

**Percussionist**—Kari Harris

**Violinist**—Fynn Sagsveen

**Flutist**—Beth Greff

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

### **Living Water Worship Team**

**Living Water Singers**—Deb Carpenter, Kerry Carpenter, Caroline Collins, Keira Collins, Joel Crane, Annabelle Ellison, Brandi Ellison, Beth Greff, Amanda Sagsveen

**Percussionist**—Kari Harris

**Guitarists**—Kolton Harris, Joel Crane

**Accompanist**—Luke Weber

**Sound**—Beth Greff