

Lutheran Church of the Cross  
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Website: [www.churchofthecross.org](http://www.churchofthecross.org)

Winter Hours: Mon.– Thursday 8–3pm 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

July 27, 2025

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS**  
**“The River” Worship Service**  
**July 27, 2025**

*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.*

**Introduction**

Persistence in prayer is encouraged by Jesus and wins the attention of God when Abraham intercedes for Sodom. The life of the baptized—to be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus—is to be nurtured with prayer. God hears and answers prayer and so strengthens God’s own. “When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.”

*WE COME TOGETHER*

**PRELUDE:** “*Marching in the Light of God*”, “*Seek Ye First*”

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GREETINGS OF PEACE**

**OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS**

**GATHERING SONG:** “*Open the Eyes of My Heart Lord*”

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

*We Hear God’s Word*

**FIRST READING: Genesis 18:20-32**

*Abraham bargains with God for the righteous of Sodom and Gomorrah*

<sup>20</sup> Then the Lord said, “How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! <sup>21</sup> I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know.”

<sup>22</sup> So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. <sup>23</sup> Then Abraham came near and said, “Will

The **Prayer Chain** has been updated and is now functioning as the Prayer List. Call the office or Pastor Lisa with the prayer request and the secretary will send out an email to all people on the list with the exception of those without emails. Only they will be called. It was thought that the prayer chain needed to be updated and made more efficient by reaching as many people as possible at one time. If you wish to join please call or email the secretary.

**Gospel PraiSing Festival**, an all-day Christian music festival, is being held at the ND State Capitol Grounds on August 24th and will feature 7 area bands in addition to our special guest Sarah Hart from Nashville, TN.

**Sarah Hart** has been a singer, songwriter, music producer, retreat author and keynote speaker for over 25 years. She is a Grammy nominee, a BMI Award winner, a PMA Mark Award Winner, an American Library Association Odyssey Award winner, a two-time Audie Awards nominee, and an Association Of Catholic Publishers multi-award winner. Sarah has recorded and written thirteen full-length recordings, as well as over thirty single releases. Sarah’s songs have also been recorded by numerous recording artists, and have appeared in TV, film and commercials. Her songwriting is visible in hymnals across the globe.

The **Emergency Food Pantry** is in need of cereal and protein i.e. cans of tuna, chicken and salmon.



Thanks to Deb Sargent and Emerick for creating this wonderful, summer bulletin board.

## **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.  
August—James by Percival Everett  
September—Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon

**Thank you** Pastor Sondra for sharing your message with us today.

The two summer altar focus collections are **LWR Baby Care Kits**, and non perishable food items for the **Emergency Food Pantry—cereal, and cans of protein**. The listing for the Baby Care kits can be found in the narthex. For those who love to rummage sale, pick up items as you seen them. They will be assembled into kit form later. We’ve also placed a mock up of the **School Care Kits** because of the sales going on now.

There is now a **sign up sheet** in the narthex for August’s - December’s Sunday Ministerial Duties. Please take the time to review your schedule and fill in your name to help in this vital ministry of the church. You’ll find this on the round table near the bathrooms. An electronic version will be sent out sometime in the near future.

There is a **registration form** for Vacation Bible School out in the narthex. Vacation Bible School will be held at UCC August 10-13 from 6—8pm. A light supper will be served at 5:30 each night. The link for the online registration is <https://shorturl.at/CG8pf>. You may return the registration to the secretary by placing it in the plastic bin next to her door or sending it to her email :churchsecretary@midconetwork.com.

**Prairie Masters Golf Tournament**, a fundraiser for Camp of the Cross Ministries is scheduled for Tuesday, August 12, at the Garrison Golf Club. Registration begins at 10am with Shotgun Start t 11am. Look for the brochure on the bulletin board across from the secretary’s office for more information.

you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? <sup>24</sup> Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? <sup>25</sup> Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?” <sup>26</sup> And the Lord said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake.” <sup>27</sup> Abraham answered, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord, I who am but dust and ashes. <sup>28</sup> Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And he said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.” <sup>29</sup> Again he spoke to him, “Suppose forty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it.” <sup>30</sup> Then he said, “Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there.” He answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.” <sup>31</sup> He said, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord. Suppose twenty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.” <sup>32</sup> Then he said, “Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.”

### **RESPONSIVE READNG: Psalm 138**

Your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands. *(Ps. 138:8)*

- <sup>1</sup> I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;  
before the gods I sing your praise;
- <sup>2</sup> **I bow down toward your holy temple  
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and  
your faithfulness,  
for you have exalted your name and your word  
above everything.**
- <sup>3</sup> On the day I called, you answered me;  
you increased my strength of soul.
- <sup>4</sup> **All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD,  
for they have heard the words of your mouth.**
- <sup>5</sup> They shall sing of the ways of the LORD,  
for great is the glory of the LORD.
- <sup>6</sup> **For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly,  
but the haughty he perceives from far away.**

<sup>7</sup> Though I walk in the midst of trouble,  
you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;  
you stretch out your hand,  
and your right hand delivers me.

<sup>8</sup> **The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me;  
your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.  
Do not forsake the work of your hands.**

**SECOND READING: Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19)**

*Buried with Christ in baptism, raised with him through faith*

<sup>6</sup> As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

<sup>8</sup> Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ. <sup>9</sup> For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup> and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. <sup>11</sup> In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by the removal of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; <sup>12</sup> when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. <sup>13</sup> And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup> erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it. [

<sup>16</sup> Therefore, do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food or drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or Sabbaths. <sup>17</sup> These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the body belongs to Christ. <sup>18</sup> Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, initiatory visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, <sup>19</sup> and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, grows with a growth that is from God.]

**WEEKLY CALENDAR of July 27, 2025**

**Today, July 27:**  
  
**River Practice 9:00 am  
River Service 10:00am  
Coffee Hour 11:00am**

**Monday, July 28:**  
  
**Stitching Group 9am**

**Tuesday, July 29:**

**Wednesday, July 30:**  
  
**River Practice 5:30pm**

**Thursday, July 31:**  
  
**AA Meeting 8pm**

**Friday, August 1:**  
  
**Wired Word 1:30pm**

**Saturday, August 2:**  
  
**Men’s Bible Study 10am**

**Sunday, August 3:**  
  
**River Practice 9:00am  
River Service 10:00am  
Coffee Hour 11:00am**

**Upcoming Events**  
Vacation Bible School August 10-13  
Block Party August 13





## GOSPEL SONG: “Word of God Speak”

### GOSPEL: Luke 11:1-13

*Jesus teaches the disciples to pray*

<sup>1</sup> [Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”<sup>2</sup> So he said to them, “When you pray, say:

Father, may your name be revered as holy.

May your kingdom come.

<sup>3</sup> Give us each day our daily bread.

<sup>4</sup> And forgive us our sins,  
for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.  
And do not bring us to the time of trial.”

<sup>5</sup> And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread,’<sup>6</sup> for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’<sup>7</sup> And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’<sup>8</sup> I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

<sup>9</sup> “So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.<sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.<sup>11</sup> Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish?<sup>12</sup> Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion?<sup>13</sup> If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

**SERMON** Pastor Sondra Krogstad

**SONG OF THE DAY:** *“We Bow Down”*

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH** “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**OFFERING SONG:** *“Do Lord”*

**OFFERING PRAYER**

*WE SHARE THE MEAL*

**PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER**

**COMMUNION SONG:** *“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”*

**COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION**

**SENDING SONG:** *“Go My Children With My Blessing”*

**DISMISSAL:** *“Marching in the Light of God”*

**“THE RIVER” and “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS**

**Pastor**—Pastor Lisa Ahlness  
**Scripture Reader**—Murray Sagsveen  
**Ushers**—Alex & Kathryn Spilman,  
**Communion Assistants**—Art Wheeler, Sheila Koffler, John Kraft  
**Altar Guild**—Cherie Krueger, Sarah Dahl, Sharon Narum, Verlaine Jahner  
**Faith and Care Group 6**—Patsy & Norlyn Schmidt  
**River Worship Team**—  
**Sound Board Technicians**— Larry Wolf, Karen Will  
**Projection Team**— Caden Kunze, Jace Kunze, Val Kunze, Rod Sargent, Art Wheeler  
**Streaming Team**— Mark Kunze, Karen Will, Art Wheeler  
**River Singers**— Joel Crane, Mike Geiermann, Marlene Grabow, Sally Grenz, Paul Gurholt, Doug Johnson, Cherie Krueger, AJ Marx, Mark Murie, Amanda Sagsveen, Tom Wade  
**Percussionist**— Kari Harris  
**Violinist**—Fynn Sagsveen  
**Accompanists**—Luke Weber, Gerri Sarsten, Jan & Joel Gilbertson, Eve Kath  
**Sunday Worship Coordinator**—Peder Gulleson

**Living Water Worship Team**  
**Living Water Singers**—Caroline Collins, Keira Collins, Joel Crane, Annabelle Ellison, Brandi Ellison, Amanda Sagsveen  
**Percussionist**—Kari Harris  
**Guitarists**— Kolton Harris, Joel Crane, Peder Gulleson  
**Accompanist** —Luke Weber  
**Sound**—Peder Gulleson  
**Wednesday Worship Coordinator**—Joel Crane

**Prayers, Births, Deaths, Concerns**

**For those struggling with health and other concerns:**  
Tracy Martinson, Earl Larson, Nancy Dockter, Lori Marx, Hattie Martinson, Carter Weigel, Josey Hanson, Heidi Renner, JoDee Sayler, Diane Klein, Libby Martin, Kira Willadsen, Kerry Carpenter, Linda Marson, Lonnie Sunde, Christ Gerr, Sher Harildstad, Peg Ahlness, Keaton Westlake, Shirley Holder, Jerry Hanson, Carolyn Wegerle, Joyce Wahl, Steve Krogstad, Jeff Christianson, Arvid Mugaas, Pete Barrette, Heather Martin, Collette Ternes, Doug Sprynczynatyk, Katie Leer, Daryl Hodnefield, Lorna Mathais, Jagger Lindsey

**For those dealing with the death of these loved ones—**  
Gisela Hodnefield, Josh Reisenauer, Jennie Carlson, Ann Hillesland, Barb Norby, Jerry Jensen, Audrey Hanson