

Lutheran Church of the Cross  
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Winter Hours: Mon.– Thursday 8–3pm Fri 8 to noon

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*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

# The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross  
August 17, 2025

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

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

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great “cloud of witnesses.” In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, “the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”

*WE COME TOGETHER*

**PRELUDE:** “Blessed Be Your Name”, “For Such a Time as This”

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GREETINGS OF PEACE**

**OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS**

**GATHERING SONG:** “I Believe, I Do Believe”

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

*We Hear God’s Word*

**FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:23-29**

*God’s word is like fire, like a hammer that breaks rocks*

<sup>23</sup> Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? <sup>24</sup> Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord. <sup>25</sup> I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, “I have dreamed! I have dreamed!” <sup>26</sup> How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? <sup>27</sup> They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. <sup>28</sup> Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let

**Check out the Nursery** one and all! It has been transformed! As an adult you might want to just sit and admire the design of Noah’s Ark or Jonah and the whale. As a kid you might find yourself telling anyone who’ll listen the story of Noah listing all the creatures who inhabited the Ark during the flood. (There’s some counting skills to incidentally be learned in the nursery room.) Mann Signs did the vinyl wrap and were very particular in their installation of the design. Sarah and the Brian Dahl family donated all that you see in the room including the new furniture and play things. THANK YOU! The church has been blessed by you.

**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.



Thank you Deb Sargent and grandson Emerick for the delightful 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. September—Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon

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. Thanks to all you have filled in their names!!

The **Emergency Food Pantry** is in need of cereal and protein (i.e. cans of tuna, chicken and salmon.) They are so appreciative of the food that LCC donates to the cause of feeding hungry people.

the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the Lord. <sup>29</sup> Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

### **RESPONSIVE READNG: Psalm 82**

Arise, O God, and rule the earth. *(Ps. 82:8)*

- <sup>1</sup> God has taken his place in the divine council;  
in the midst of the gods he holds judgment:
- <sup>2</sup> “How long will you judge unjustly  
and show partiality to the wicked? *Selah*
- <sup>3</sup> Give justice to the weak and the orphan;  
maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute.
- <sup>4</sup> Rescue the weak and the needy;  
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”
- <sup>5</sup> They have neither knowledge nor understanding;  
they walk around in darkness;  
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.
- <sup>6</sup> I say, “You are gods,  
children of the Most High, all of you;
- <sup>7</sup> nevertheless, you shall die like mortals  
and fall like any prince.”
- <sup>8</sup> Rise up, O God, judge the earth,  
for all the nations belong to you!

**SECOND READING: Hebrew 11:29 -12:2**

*The faith of the Hebrew people, a great cloud of witnesses*

<sup>29</sup> By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. <sup>30</sup> By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. <sup>31</sup> By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

<sup>32</sup> And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, <sup>33</sup> who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup> quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. <sup>35</sup> Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. <sup>36</sup> Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup> They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented <sup>38</sup> of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

<sup>39</sup> Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, <sup>40</sup> since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

<sup>12:1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

**WEEKLY CALENDAR of August 10, 2025**

<b>Today, August 17:</b>	<b>River Practice 9:00 am River Service 10:00am Coffee Hour 11:00am</b>
<b>Monday, August 18:</b>	<b>Stitching Group 9am</b>
<b>Tuesday, August 19</b>	
<b>Wednesday, August 20:</b>	<b>River Practice 5:30pm</b>
<b>Thursday, August 21:</b>	<b>AA Meeting 8pm</b>
<b>Friday, August 22:</b>	<b>Wired Word 1:30pm</b>
<b>Saturday, August 23:</b>	<b>Men’s Bible Study 10am</b>
<b>Sunday, August 24:</b>	<b>River Practice 9:00am River Service 10:00am Coffee Hour 11:00am</b>

**Upcoming Events**  
Rally Day— Sunday, Sept. 7 and Wednesday, September 10  
Potluck both days.  
September 14 Blessing of the Backpacks  
September 21 20th Year of “The River” celebration





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

**GOSPEL:** **Luke 12:49-56**

*Jesus brings fire on earth and has a baptism with which to be baptized*

[Jesus said:] <sup>49</sup> “I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! <sup>50</sup> I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! <sup>51</sup> Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! <sup>52</sup> From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; <sup>53</sup> they will be divided:

father against son  
and son against father,  
mother against daughter  
and daughter against mother,  
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law  
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

<sup>54</sup> He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain,’ and so it happens. <sup>55</sup> And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. <sup>56</sup> You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

SERMON   Pastor Lisa Ahlness

SONG OF THE DAY: *“How Firm a Foundation”*

APOSTLES’ CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING SONG: *“Our God”*

OFFERING PRAYER

*WE SHARE THE MEAL*

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: *“As We Gather at Your Table”*

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: *“My Lighthouse”*

DISMISSAL

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

**Pastor**—Pastor Lisa Ahlness  
**Scripture Reader:** Deb Sargent  
**Ushers**—Deb Patterson, Kathryn & Alex Spilman  
**Communion Assistants**—Sally Grenz, Rich Fockler, Deb Sargent  
**Altar Guild**—Jean Kraft, Mavis Pommerer, Joyce Wahl, Cheryl Neu  
**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, Kathy Morrison, Mark Murie, Deb Patterson, 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, 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, Katie Leer, Daryl Hodnefield, Lorna Mathais, Jagger Lindsey, Sandy Drevecky

**For those dealing with the death of these loved ones—**  
Donna Lowe, Gisela Hodnefield, Josh Reisenauer, Jennie Carlson