

## A HEALING SPACE FOR AT-RISK CHILDREN

DAKOTA BOYS AND GIRLS RANCH, NORTH DAKOTA | \$100,000

### *A Special Chapel — Offering Hope and Healing for At-Risk Children*

Hymn: “I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb” LSB 740 (all verses)

Reader 1: *But Jesus called them to him, saying, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God” (Luke 18:16).*

Leader: Since 1952, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch has brought hope and healing to children who have experienced severe psychiatric, emotional, behavioral, and/or developmental challenges due to heartbreaking trauma in their lives. Jesus calls children to Himself, showing mercy and love.

**All: Thank you, Jesus, for calling children to come to You.**

Reader 2: *The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; (Psalm 28:7a).*

Leader: The Psalms are full of passages of comfort, naming the Lord as our strength and our protector. Everyone needs that assurance most days of their lives. The children at the Bismarck, North Dakota, campus of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch especially need our Lord’s comfort and hope, as their lives have been shattered by abuse, neglect, violence, and more, leading to the experience of debilitating emptiness and loneliness at the deepest of levels; levels that only Christ can heal.

**All: Thank you Lord for the work of the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch.**

Hymn: “You Are the Way, through You Alone” LSB 526 (verse 4 or all verses)

Reader 2: *Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6).*

Leader: Many of the children in the care of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, Bismarck campus, have little or no faith background. The Ranch is often the first place they learn about Jesus and experience His healing presence. Since its beginning in 2003, the needs of the children at the Bismarck campus have changed. This campus is now a psychiatric residential treatment facility. The children at this campus need a special place of healing — a chapel that will minister to each child’s spiritual needs. The new chapel has been specially designed for traumatized children and will be a place

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where they can find hope and healing that only comes from Christ.

**All: Thank You Father for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, into the world to heal the brokenhearted by taking our burdens upon Himself.**

Reader 1: *“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls”* (Matthew 11:28–29).

Prayer: Dear Jesus, unfortunately, there are vulnerable and traumatized children in our world who need Your healing arms around them. Thank You for the Christ-centered work of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, offering programs for children that are filled with Your hope and love. Thank You that the Ranch’s Bismarck campus has been able to design a specialized chapel that will meet the specific needs of at-risk children in their care. Please use this mission grant to help build the chapel to give healing, comfort, and hope to children and their families. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.

Hymn: “Jesus Loves Me” LSB 588 (all verses)

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2023–2025 MISSION GRANT NO. 2

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