

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

Phone: 223-1001

Website: www.churchofthecross.org

Winter Hours. Mon.– Thursday 8–4pm Fri 8 to noon

Summer Office Hours: Mon.- Fri. 8:00 am—noon

Staff:

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2024 Church Council Members

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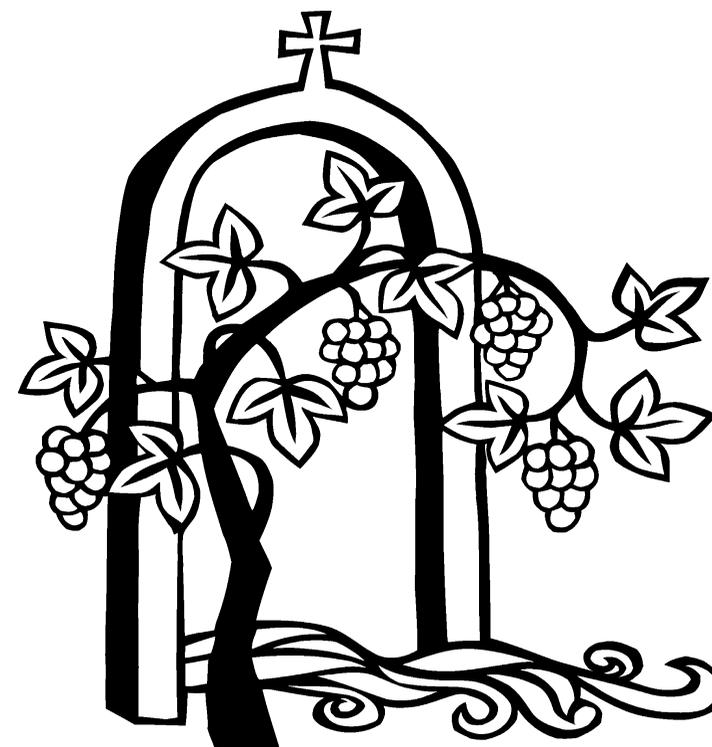
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“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross

May 5, 2024

10:00am

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
“The River” Worship Service
May 5, 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 MUSIC

“Friends in Christ”, “All Creatures of Our God and King”, “Shout to the Lord”

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: *“Beautiful Savior” ELW 838*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 10:44-48

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Camp of the Cross scholarships available for campers!

Have you ever been to Camp of the Cross, near Garrison? It is fantastic! Check out the brochures on the kids’ table near the library and see all the summer opportunities for youth. (The bulletin board has upcoming retreats, as well!) We don’t want cost to be an impediment to your child being able to have this fabulous camp experience. \$100 scholarships are available. Please contact Pastor Lisa or treasurer Art Wheeler.

In the Footsteps of Paul tour coming in March 2025!

We have many tools to help Bible stories come alive for us: maps, study guides, commentaries, different translations. But nothing brings more aha! moments and enhances understanding better than traveling to the places and getting to know the context that surround and shape the story. Pastor Lisa will be leading a group to Greece and Turkey, to some of the places where Paul preached and ministered, from March 18-29, 2025. You will visit Thessaloniki, Philippi, the Meteora monasteries, Delphi, Athens, a 4 day cruise excursion taking us to Mykonos, Ephesus (Turkey), Patmos, Rhodes, Crete, and Santorini; and Corinth, before returning to Athens for departure. Full information is available now; let Pr. Lisa know if you are interested in hearing more about it or know someone who might like to go.

Sunday Hosts and Dishwashers always needed!

Fellowship time after Sunday worship is one of the highlights of the week for many of us. If you haven’t stayed – make an effort to calm your schedule for another half hour and join in. Of course, we could just drink coffee – but the treats provided by some – cookies, donuts, breads, muffins – store bought or homemade – really add to the “flavor” of the time together. And, naturally, even just coffee cups need to be washed. Check your schedule and sign up for a Sunday, with a friend if you like, to host or to wash dishes (training provided – it’s easy and quick!). Share the fun and assure this fellowship doesn’t become a burden because only a few help out.

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.

May: The Midwife’s Song by Brenda Ray

June: The Berry Pickers by Amanda Peters

July: To Heaven & Back by Mary C. Neal

Consider coming to the Book Club. You’ll meet people with a common interest: the love of reading. We have interesting and lively discussions of each book and even rate the book from 1—10. A variety of subjects are read but usually works of fiction. Come share your favorite reads with us.

Mother the Camp will be May’s Altar Focus. The lists are placed throughout the narthex. Get your copy and start some early shopping. Camp of the Cross thanks you.

There are more **T-shirts** out in the narthex for the taking.

Thank you Keven Martin for sweeping up all those tons of sand that has accumulated in the parking lot over the winter months. And also **thank you** to Casey Martin for servicing the lawn mower. We appreciate the time you both put into those projects.

We would like to **thank each and every one of you** for your caring support and prayers for Jim and I over the last 10 months. Jim is well on his way in his recovery having completed his physical therapy last week. There is still more work to be done but we are certainly heading in the right direction. A special thank you to Pastor Lisa and Pastor Sondra for their support and visits at the hospital and later at home. Thank you. Jim and Kay Miller.

We have a new **Pentecost bulletin board** done by Deb Sargent. Thank you Deb for your creative talents.

Thank you for the great response to the request for BINGO prizes. The residents will enjoy receiving them.

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 98

¹O sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.
His right hand and his holy arm
have gotten him victory.

²**The LORD has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.**

³He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.

⁴**Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

⁵Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who live in it.

⁸**Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy**

⁹at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming
to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-6

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *“Fall Like Rain”*

GOSPEL READING: John 15:9-17

[Jesus said:] ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

SERMON: AJ Marx

SONG OF THE DAY: *“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” ELW 858*

APOSTLES’ CREED

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

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING: *“Offering”*

OFFERING PRAYER

WEEKLY CALENDAR of May 5, 2024

Today, May 5:

**River Service 10:00am
Coffee Hour 11:00am**

Monday, May 6:

Needlework Group 9:00am

Tuesday, May 7:

Wednesday, May 8:

**Book Club 1:30pm
Supper 5pm
Living Water Service 6:15pm
Church school, Confirmation,
River practice 7pm**

Thursday, May 9:

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

Friday, May 10:

Wired Word 1:30pm

Saturday, May 11:

Men’s Bible Study 10am

Sunday, May 12:

**River Service 10am
Coffee Hour 11:00am**

Future Happenings

May 13th, 20th Needlework Group 9am

May 16th Gather Bible Study 10:30am, Quilting 1:30pm, Theology on Tap 7pm

May 19th & 22nd Graduates honored

May 20th Knitting 4 Others 1pm

May 22 Women’s Bible Study 9am, Last Wednesday Service

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, Arlene Wolff, Bob Roesler, Earl Larson, Nancy Dockter, Lori Marx, Hattie Martinson, Carter Weigel, Josey Hanson, Jeff Thomas, Heidi Renner, Kristy Forrest, JoDee Saylor, Colter Lee, Arvid Mugaas, Elizabeth Hogle, Diane Klein, Kaylynn Harris, Pam Morris, Jaden Kunze, Libby Martin, Deacon Janie Hague, Kira Willadsen, Kerry Carpenter, Linda Marson, Leo Wolf, Glenn, Lonnie Sunde, Jacob Hynek, Roberta Kunze

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones— Bill Sommers



WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

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

INVITATION TO OUR LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: *"People Need the Lord"*

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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

SENDING SONG: *"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"*

DISMISSAL: *"Jesus Loves Me" ELW 595*



INTRODUCTION:

This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.



“THE RIVER” and “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Tracy Geiermann

Ushers— David & Kathy Drovdal, John Kraft, Floy Marx

Communion Assistants—Doug Johnson, Tracy Geiermann, Myrtice Behan

Altar Guild—Cherie Krueger, Heather Martin, Mavis Pommerer, Barb Thomas

River Worship Team—

Sound Board Technicians— Larry Wolf, Francis Greff

Projection Team— Caden Kunze, Jace 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 Sayler, Tom Wade, Barb Wilson

Percussionist— Kari Harris

Violinist—Fynn Sagsveen

Flutist—Beth Greff

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

Living Water Worship Team

Living Water Singers—Joel Crane, Amanda Sagsveen, Brandi Ellison, Annabelle Ellison, Emmeline Chopourian-Jack, Kerry Carpenter, Keelin Traynor, Deb Carpenter

Percussionist—Kari Harris

Guitarists— Kolton Harris, Joel Crane

Accompanist and Sound—Beth Greff