

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

Phone: 223-1001

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

May 18, 2025

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS  
“The River” Worship Service  
May 18, 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** Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

*WE COME TOGETHER*

**PRELUDE:** “For the Fruit of all Creation”, “Seek Ye First”, “Shout to the North”

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GREETINGS OF PEACE**

**OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS**

**GATHERING SONG:** “They Will Know We are Christians”

**CHILDRENS MESSAGE**

*We Hear God’s Word*

**FIRST READING: Acts 11:1-18**

*Peter’s vision: God give the Gentiles repentance that leads to life*

<sup>1</sup> Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. <sup>2</sup> So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, <sup>3</sup> saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” <sup>4</sup> Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, <sup>5</sup> “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. <sup>6</sup> As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup> I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ <sup>8</sup> But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’

WEEKLY CALENDAR of May 11, 2025

<b>Today, May 18:</b>	River Practice 9:00 am River Service 10:00am <i>Honoring our grads</i> Coffee Hour 11:00am Living Water practice 5pm
<b>Monday, May 19:</b>	Needlework Group 9am
<b>Tuesday, May 20:</b>	
<b>Wednesday, May 21:</b>	Supper 5pm (last one) Living Water Service 6:15pm <i>Honoring our grads</i> Church School, Confirmation (Last one ) River Practice 7pm
<b>Thursday, May 22:</b>	Quilting 1:00pm (last mtg) AA Meeting 8pm
<b>Friday, May 23:</b>	Wired Word 1:30pm
<b>Saturday, May 24:</b>	Men’s Bible Study 10am
<b>Sunday, May 25:</b>	River Practice 9:00am Coffee Hour 11:00am Living Water practice 5pm

**Upcoming Events**

Summer Picnics June 11, July 9 and August TBD

# Gospel PraiSing FIESTA!

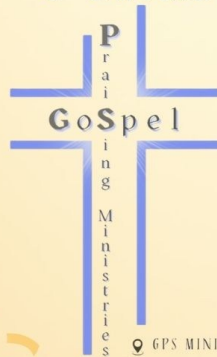
NOURISH THE BODY NOURISH THE SOUL

Mayas Mexican  
Restaurant

1601 W. Century Ave  
Bismarck  
Lunch -order off menu



Christian Music  
Presented by:  
Colleen Reinhardt  
Julie Ternes  
& Guests



Presented By: Gospel PraiSing (GPS) Ministries

JULIE TERNES 701-226-0356

SUNDAYS  
11:30AM-1:30PM

January 5th  
January 19th  
February 9th  
February 23rd  
March 9th  
March 23rd  
April 6th  
April 27th  
May 4th  
May 18th  
June 8th  
June 22nd  
August 24th-Gospel  
PraiSing Festival

<sup>9</sup> But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' <sup>10</sup> This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. <sup>11</sup> At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. <sup>12</sup> The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. <sup>13</sup> He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; <sup>14</sup> he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' <sup>15</sup> And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup> And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>17</sup> If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" <sup>18</sup> When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

## RESPONSIVE READNG: Psalm 148

The splendor of the *Lord* is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)

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

Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise him in the heights!

<sup>2</sup> **Praise him, all his angels;  
praise him, all his host!**

<sup>3</sup> Praise him, sun and moon;  
praise him, all you shining stars!

<sup>4</sup> **Praise him, you highest heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens!**

<sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
for he commanded and they were created.

<sup>6</sup> **He established them forever and ever;  
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

<sup>7</sup> Praise the LORD from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps,



<sup>8</sup>**fire and hail, snow and frost,  
stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

<sup>9</sup>Mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars!

<sup>10</sup>**Wild animals and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds!**

<sup>11</sup>Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the earth!

<sup>12</sup>**Young men and women alike,  
old and young together!**

<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
for his name alone is exalted;  
his glory is above earth and heaven.

<sup>14</sup>**He has raised up a horn for his people,  
praise for all his faithful,  
for the people of Israel who are close to him.  
Praise the LORD!**

## **SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1-6**

*New heaven, new earth: springs of living water in the new Jerusalem*

<sup>1</sup>I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

<sup>4</sup> he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

<sup>5</sup>And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” <sup>6</sup>Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of

Are you looking for a way to **give back to the church** in some small way but don't know how? Consider donating your time by ushering, being the scripture reader or communion assistant. Those ministerial duties take moments of your time but add so much to the vitality of this church. Give the secretary a call and say “put me on the list please.” 223.1001.

The **Emergency Food Pantry** is always looking for food donations. Summer-time is no different. The need is always great.

**Camp of the Cross Ministries Prairie Lake Festival** will be held Saturday, June 21 at camp inside the Fellowship Center located at 1228 47th Ave NW Garrison. Viewing of the quilts opens at 9:30am. Lunch begins at 10:30. The auction begins at 11:00am. There will be a silent auction as well.

Every Sunday during the summer Camp of the Cross will have an **outdoor worship service**. There is a community meal that follows the service each Sunday as well. The outdoor services run June 8—August 10 at 1228 47th Ave NW Garrison.

The **Church Council** will be meeting immediately after the summer picnics/ worship in June 11, July 9, August. TBD

**No Stitchers Group or Knitting for Others** on Memorial Day as the office and church will be closed. (May 26)



## **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.  
June —The Forest of Vanishing Stars by Kristin Harmel  
July — The Paris Library by Janet Skeslien Charles

**Congratulations go to our graduating seniors!** Megan Bassingthwaite daughter of Troy and Janet. Easton Bergrud, son of Aanen and Annie. Bayne Blanchard, son of Baron and Kylie. Maren Fike daughter of Michelle Fortney and Kelly Fike. Jace Kunze, son of Mark & Valerie. Ole Taylor, son of Nikki and Ryan. Kayla Tiffany, daughter of Mike & Dee.

**Interested in golf?** Checking to see if we could gather a few who love to play golf among LCC members, and play together from time to time this coming season! Please give me a call or text me and let’s see if there is interest. Pete Dickerson (new member) (607) 353-2965.

**In the Footsteps of Paul tour coming in April 2026!** 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 shapes the story. Pastor Lisa will be leading a group to Greece and Turkey, to some of the places where Paul preached and ministered, shortly after Easter in 2026. The plan is to visit Istanbul, Thessaloniki, Philippi, the Meteora monasteries, Delphi, Athens, a 4– day cruise excursion take us to Mykonos, Ephesus (Turkey) Patmos, Rhodes, Crete, and Santorini; and Corinth, before returning to Athens for departure. Friends and family are welcome; our LCC neighbors have also expressed interest in joining us on this tour. Let Pr. Lisa know if you are interested in hearing more about it or know someone who might like to go.

The **Stitching Group** which meets on Monday at 9am is always available to offer assistance on stitching projects. What we are also available for is laughter and light bantering back and forth between friends. Some come to stitch, knit, crochet or bead. Some come just to have coffee. Consider joining us. We will continue to meet during the summer.

the water of life.”

**GOSPEL SONG:** “*Jesus Loves Me*”

**GOSPEL: John 13:31-35**

*Jesus gives a new commandment: Love one another as I have loved you*

<sup>31</sup> When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup> Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ <sup>34</sup> I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

**SERMON** Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**SONG OF THE DAY:** “*The Church’s One Foundation*”

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**OFFERING SONG:** “*Everybody’s Got Something to Offer*”

**OFFERING PRAYER**



*WE SHARE THE MEAL*

**PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER**

**COMMUNION SONG:** *“Amazing Grace”*

**COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION**

**SENDING SONG:** *“Friends”*

**DISMISSAL**

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

**Pastor**—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**Scripture Reader**—Sarah Dahl

**Ushers**—Mike & Tracy Geiermann, Scot & Melissa Long

**Communion Assistants**—Art Wheeler, Ken Will, Sheila Koffler

**Altar Guild**—Sarah Dahl, Suzanne Todo, Kelly Olson

**Faith and Care Group 5**—Kathy Wood, Kathryn & Alex Spilman

**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, 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, Ann Hillesland, Arlene Wolff, 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, Reece Fischer, Paul Kuch, Christ Gerr, Sher Harildstad, Peg Ahlness, Keaton Westlake, Shirley Holder, Jerry Hanson, Claudia Thompson, Carolyn Wegerle, Joyce Wahl, Steve Krogstad, Jeff Christianson, Arvid Mugaas, Pete Barrett, Heather Martin, Audrey Hansen, Collette Ternes

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

Amanda Kist, Linda Schuman, Rene Olson Noel, Jacob Hynek