

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 4, 2025

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS**  
**“The River” Worship Service**  
**May 4, 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**

In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus’ victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

*WE COME TOGETHER*

**PRELUDE:** *“Rise and Shine”, “You Are My All in All”, “I Will Call Upon the Lord”*

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GREETINGS OF PEACE**

**OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS**

**GATHERING SONG:** *“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”*

**CHILDRENS SERMON**

*We Hear God’s Word*

**FIRST READING: Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)**

<sup>1</sup> Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup> He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” <sup>5</sup> He asked, “Who are you, Lord?” The reply came, “I am Jesus,

**WEEKLY CALENDAR of May 4, 2025**

<b>Today, May 4:</b>	<b>River Practice 9:00 am</b> <b>River Service 10:00am</b> <b>Coffee Hour 11:00am</b> <b>Living Water practice 5pm</b>
<b>Monday, May 5:</b>	<b>Needlework Group 9am</b>
<b>Tuesday, May 6:</b>	
<b>Wednesday, May 7:</b>	<b>Supper 5pm</b> <b>Living Water Service 6:15pm</b> <b>Church School, Confirmation</b> <b>River Practice 7pm</b>
<b>Thursday, May 8:</b>	<b>Quilting 1:00pm</b> <b>AA Meeting 8pm</b>
<b>Friday, May 9:</b>	<b>Wired Word 1:30pm</b>
<b>Saturday, May 10:</b>	<b>Men’s Bible Study 10am</b>
<b>Sunday, May 11:</b>	<b>River Practice 9:00am</b> <b>River Service 10:00am</b> <b>Coffee Hour 11:00am</b> <b>Living Water practice 5pm</b>

**Upcoming Events**

# Gospel PraiSing FIESTA!

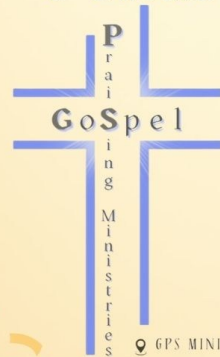
NOURISH THE BODY NOURISH THE SOUL

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

whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup> But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." [<sup>7</sup> The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. <sup>8</sup> Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup> For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

<sup>10</sup> Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." <sup>11</sup> The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, <sup>12</sup> and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." <sup>13</sup> But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; <sup>14</sup> and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." <sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; <sup>16</sup> I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." <sup>17</sup> So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." <sup>18</sup> And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, <sup>19</sup> and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, <sup>20</sup> and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."]

## RESPONSIVE READNG: Psalm 30

0 A Psalm. A Song at the dedication of the temple. Of David.

1 I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up,  
and did not let my foes rejoice over me.

**2 O LORD my God, I cried to you for help,  
and you have healed me.**

3 O LORD, you brought up my soul from Sheol,  
restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.

**4 Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones,  
and give thanks to his holy name.**



5 For his anger is but for a moment;  
his favor is for a lifetime.

Weeping may linger for the night,  
but joy comes with the morning.

**6 As for me, I said in my prosperity,  
"I shall never be moved."**

7 By your favor, O LORD,  
you had established me as a strong mountain;  
you hid your face;  
I was dismayed.

**8 To you, O LORD, I cried,  
and to the LORD I made supplication:**

9 "What profit is there in my death,  
if I go down to the Pit?

Will the dust praise you?

Will it tell of your faithfulness?

**10 Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me!  
O LORD, be my helper!"**

11 You have turned my mourning into dancing;  
you have taken off my sackcloth  
and clothed me with joy,

**12 so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.  
O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever.**

## **SECOND READING: Revelation 5:11-14**

<sup>11</sup> Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne  
and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and  
thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup> singing with full voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might  
and honor and glory and blessing!"

<sup>13</sup> Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and  
in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

"To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb  
be blessing and honor and glory and might  
forever and ever!"

<sup>14</sup> And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and wor-  
shipped.

## **Foster with Nexus-PATH Family Healing**

May is Foster Care Awareness Month, and at Nexus-PATH Family Healing there are lots of ways to help when and where you can in foster care. At any given time, there are around 30 children in North Dakota waiting for a foster home. We want every child to have a safe and loving home, and we are looking for individuals or families who are willing to provide that for a child.

To learn more about fostering or how you can help us support our foster families, reach out to Nexus-PATH Family Healing at [NPH-info@nexuspath.org](mailto:NPH-info@nexuspath.org) or visit our website at NexusPath.org. Your next step could be the start of a child's healing journey.

## **CCM Service Project Weekend!**

We are looking for volunteers to come to camp and help with our CCM Service Project Weekend on May 17th & 18th! Beginning at 10am on Saturday, May 17th, we will be working on service projects on-site at camp to help get prepared for our summer season. We anticipate being done by 3pm on Sunday, May 18th at the latest. There is overnight lodging and meals available as necessary as well. Please contact us to RSVP by 5pm on May 14th to let us know if you will be there! We hope to see lots of you there! We appreciate any and all help and support you can provide!



## 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 — This Tender Land by William Kent Krueger  
June —The Forest of Vanishing Stars by Kristin Harmel  
July — The Paris Library by Janet Skeslien Charles

**Hey there, card players!** Let’s play **Canasta!** Whether you’re a pro or a newbie, I’ll teach you the ropes! It’s super easy to learn, and we’ll meet once a month for some friendly competition and laughter.  
Let’s shuffle up and deal! Who’s in? Let me know if you can join the fun!  
Give me a call or text if interested. 701-226-6909  
Charmaine Wehmhoefer

You may take the **Easter flowers** that you ordered home this week. The list is on the altar in case you have forgotten what you ordered.

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.

I want to ‘Thank the Monday Morning Stitchers Group’ for their donation of cloth and time to make our new napkins under our centerpieces and crosses in the dinning area! These and others made by Kay Miller and Sandy Hyland will decorate our tables!  
Thank you,  
Sally Grenz

## **GOSPEL SONG: “Lord Be Glorified”**

**GOSPEL:** John 21:1-19

<sup>1</sup> After [he appeared to his followers in Jerusalem,] Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. <sup>2</sup> Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. <sup>3</sup> Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup> Jesus said to them, “Children, you have no fish, have you?” They answered him, “No.” <sup>6</sup> He said to them, “Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. <sup>7</sup> That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. <sup>8</sup> But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

<sup>9</sup> When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” <sup>11</sup> So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. <sup>12</sup> Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup> Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. <sup>14</sup> This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

<sup>15</sup> When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” <sup>16</sup> A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” <sup>17</sup> He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. <sup>18</sup> Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” <sup>19</sup> (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

SERMON    written by AJ Marx

SONG OF THE DAY: “Goodness of God”

APOSTLES’ CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING SONG: “*I Will Rise*”

OFFERING PRAYER

*WE SHARE THE MEAL*

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: “*What Wonderful Love Is This*”

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: “*I Love to Tell the Story*”

DISMISSAL

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

**Pastor**—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**Scripture Reader**—Lillian Crook

**Ushers**—Max Buchholz, Kathy & David Drovdal

**Communion Assistants**—Janice Martin, Heather Martin, David Drovdal

**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, 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 Gulleeson

**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 Gulleeson

**Accompanist**—Luke Weber

**Sound**—Peder Gulleeson

**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, Jacob Hynek, Reece Fischer, Paul Kuch, Christ Gerr, Sher Harildstad, Peg Ahlness, Keaton Westlake, Brady Staloch, Austin Jamtgaard, Mark Thompson, Shirley Holder, Jerry Hanson, Claudia Thompson, Carolyn Wegerle, Joyce Wahl, Steve Krogstad, Jeff Christianson, Arvid Mugaas, Diane Stotz, Pete Barrett, Heather Martin, Audrey Hansen

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

Harry Schmidt, Amanda Kist