

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

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Website: 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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The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross
April 12, 2026

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

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LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

April 12, 2026

Second Sunday of Easter

In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.

We Come Together

PRELUDE: "Shout to the North", "God Loved the World" ELW 323

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

OUR CONFESSION, GOD'S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: "A New Hallelujah"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

We Hear God's Word

FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Christ's resurrection: the fulfillment of God's promise to David

^{14a} Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: ²² "Fellow Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know ²³ this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴ But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵ For David says concerning him,



April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5p Supper 6:15 L. Water 7p Church School Confirmation River Practice	2 Maundy Thursday First Com- munion 7pm	3 Good Fri- day Tene- brae 7pm	4 Men's Bible Study 10 am
5 Easter 8am Service 9am Brunch 10am River	6 Stitching 9am	7 Connec- tions 2-4pm 6:30 Church Council	8 Book Club 1:30 5p Supper 6:15 Service 7p School, Confirmation River practice	9 1p Quilting	10 1:30 Wired Word	11 Men's Bible Study 10 am
12 9a R. Practice 10am River 11am Coffee 5pm L. Water	13 Stitching 9am	14	15 5p Supper 6:15 Service 7p School, Confirmation River practice	16 10:30 Gather Bible Study 1p Quilting	17 1:30 Wired Word	18 Men's Bible Study 10 am
19 Greece Trip 9a R. Practice 10am River 11am Coffee 5pm L. Water	20 Greece Trip Stitching 9am	21 Greece Trip	22 Greece Trip 5p Supper 6:15 Service 7p School, Confirmation River practice	23 Greece Trip 1p Quilting	24 Greece Trip 1:30 Wired Word	25 Men's Bible Study 10am
26 Greece Trip 9a R. Practice 10am River 11am Coffee 5pm L. Water	27 Greece Trip Stitching 9am	28 Greece Trip	29 Greece Trip 5p Supper 6:15 Service 7p School, Confirmation River practice	30 Greece Trip	Greece Trip	Greece Trip

'I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.
²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'
²⁹ "Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David
that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.
³⁰ Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him
that he would put one of his descendants on his throne.
³¹ Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,
'He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.'
³² "This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 16

In your presence there is fullness of joy. (Ps. 16:11)

- ¹ Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
**² I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from you."**
- ³ As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble ones
in whom is all my delight.
- ⁴ Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;
their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out
or take their names upon my lips.**
- ⁵ The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.

**6 The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
I have a goodly heritage.**

⁷ I bless the LORD, who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.

**8 I keep the LORD always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.**

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
my body also rests secure.

**10 For you do not give me up to Sheol
or let your faithful one see the Pit.**

¹¹ You show me the path of life.

In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:3-9

New birth to a living hope through the resurrection

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

GOSPEL SONG: “Alleluia”

All Women of LCC members and friends are invited to **THE WOMEN’S RETREAT** scheduled for May 1 & 2, 2026 at Camp of the Cross. Topic: **Peace with Nature Devotionals** Costs: full weekend of staying 1 night including 2 meals on Saturday will be \$85.00 or Saturday only cost \$40.00 (including meals). Questions? Please call Sally at 701.390.3049 or email sally-grenz@hotmail.com to RSVP by April 20th. Send payment to LCC with Women’s Retreat on the memo line.

The Little Free Library is a contribution to Lutheran Church of the Cross by the Bain family to honor the memory of their mother Gladys and by the members of this congregation and friends in her memory.

Contributing to the project include:

Pat Schmidt: For her artistic skill in painting the window and door lights.

Mike Bowley: For his design and #D fabrication of the steeple and entry door.

Plastic Plus : for their donation of the main door window material.

Jim Miller: for building design and construction.

FYI: The design of the church is based on the church in Gary Miller’s painting which is hanging in the Fellowship Hall. That painting was donated to LCC many years ago by the Doug and Deanna Johnson family.

THANK YOU TO ALL for bringing this long awaited for project to fruition. The detail and craftsmanship is amazing!!

From Tracy Wolf.....Some people in church ask me to let them know when River Rhapsody is having a performance....the River Rhapsody Chorus aka Sweet Adelines are having a friends and family performance of the skit that we will compete with. It’s on April 20th at 7:00 at Ascension Catholic Church Bismarck. It will be relatively short. The skit is 15 minutes long and my quartet On The Brink will also sing their 2 competition songs. Treats afterward. There’s no cost, but there will be an “donation jar” if anyone desires to donate. Anyone and everyone can come. The more the merrier! If you want to see me dressed up like a prairie dog here's your chance!

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. Anyone is welcome to attend. Led by Marjo Hewitson followed by her fearless readers.

May—The Correspondent by Virginia Evans

June—Wild Dark Shores by Charlotte McConnaghy

July—Atmosphere by Taylor Jenkins Reid

August—Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell

"The Chosen" series based on the life of Jesus in the new testament and detailing his mission is continuing here at LCC. All showings will be at the church, Sundays at 11:30, with a repeat for anyone needing an alternate time set for Tuesdays at 5pm and includes a discussion afterwards. Hope you can join us! **Season 2 schedule:**

Episode 7 - Reckoning: April 14 (5pm)

Episode 8 - Beyond Mountains: April 12th (11:30) and April 28 (5pm)

Sign-ups are direly needed for **Communion Assistants, Ushers and Scripture Readers.** Can we count on you to help out? Thank you.

The daily devotional, **Christ in Our Home** is here. Get your copy near the front & back doors.

Thank you to all who have donated to the Heat the Church campaign. It's a great way to honor your loved ones by recognizing their birthdays, anniversaries and other special events.

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

Beholding the wounds of the risen Christ

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY: “We Walk by Faith” ELW 635

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING SONG: “Offering”

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: “My Faith Looks Up to Thee” ELW 759

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: “Awesome God”

“THE RIVER” and “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Tracy Wolf

Communion Assistants—Verlaine Jahner, Mavis Pommerer, Esther Anderson

Ushers—Larry Jahner, Janice & Keven Martin

Altar Guild—Cherie Krueger, Jean Kraft, Mavis Pommerer, Kathryn Spilman, Cheryl Neu

Faith and Care Group 4—Molly & Ken Traynor, Kelly & Wayne Olson

River Worship Team—

Sound Board Technicians—Larry Wolf, Karen Will

Projection Team—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

Percussionist—Kari Harris

Violinist—Fynn Sagsveen

Accompanists—Luke Weber, Gerri Sarsten, Eve Kath

Sunday Worship Coordinator—Peder Gulleson

Living Water Worship Team

Living Water Singers—Bria Blanchard, 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

For those struggling with health and other concerns:

Tracy Martinson, Earl Larson, Nancy Dockter, Hattie Martinson, Heidi Renner, Diane Klein, Libby Martin, Kira Willadsen, Sher Harildstad, Shirley Holder, Jerry Hanson, Joyce Wahl, Jeff Christianson, Arvid Mugaas, Pete Barrette, Heather Martin, Daryl Hodnefield, Lorna Mathais, Jagger Lindsey, Emmett Wolf, Don Becker, Connie Werner, Dave Kunze, Marvin Leer, Janie Hague, Ken Will, Laurie Stenehjem, Breezy Uffelman, Jim Moore

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones: