

**Lutheran Church of the Cross  
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# The River

A Blended Worship Service



**Lutheran Church of the Cross  
April 19, 2026**

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

“*Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts*”

# LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

April 19, 2026

## Third Sunday of Easter

### Introduction

Today's gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord's day.

## We Come Together

**PRELUDE:** "Alleluia! Jesus is Risen! ELW 377, "As We Gather at Your Table" ELW 522

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GREETINGS OF PEACE**

**OUR CONFESSION, GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

**GATHERING SONG:** "We Come to the Hungry Feast ELW 479"

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

## We Hear God's Word

**FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 36-41**

*Receiving God's promise through baptism*

<sup>14a</sup> Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: <sup>36</sup> "Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

<sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"

### Synod Assembly Gathers in Watford City May 29-31

Our Western North Dakota Synod gathers in assembly each year. This year the synod assembly will be in Watford City May 29-31, and our voting members from LCC are Lillian Crook, Kathy Morrison, synod attorney and parliamentarian Murray Sagsveen, and Pastor Lisa. Bishop Craig Schweitzer has just let the synod know that he is taking a position with the ELCA Churchwide organization, as executive director of Christian Community and Leadership. Since this is a bishop election year, we will be electing a new bishop at this assembly! Bishop Craig will continue to serve as our bishop through July 31, and the new bishop will take office August 1. Please pray for our voting members and for all discerning a call to serve as bishop of Western North Dakota Synod!

### Notes about the Footsteps of Paul Tour

You have heard me say that 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 surrounds and shapes the story. A small group of LCCers (Rod and Deb Sargent, Mike and Tracy Geiermann, and Pastor Lisa, along with a couple from the UCC church and 3 others) will leave Saturday for a two week trip to Greece and Turkey, to some of the places where Paul preached and ministered.

The plan is to visit Athens, Santorini, Corinth, Delphi, the Meteora monasteries, Thessaloniki, Philippi and Istanbul, with extra excursions to connected places as well. Please pray for the safety of our travelers, and if you're on Facebook, watch for some photos and updates along the way. We look forward to sharing with you upon our return.

Pastor Sondra Krogstad will be on call for pastoral emergencies and pastoral care while Pastor Lisa is gone. You can reach her at 480-276-2711. If you cannot reach her, please call Pr. Lisa's cell (can be answered abroad) and she will redirect you. You can look forward to Pastor Sondra preaching the weeks of April 19<sup>th</sup> and May 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Pastor Steve Sathre preaching on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Pastor Sondra and to Pastor Steve!

# April 2026

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

<sup>38</sup> Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” <sup>40</sup> And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” <sup>41</sup> So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

## RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19

I will call on the name of the *Lord*. (Ps. 116:13)

<sup>1</sup> I love the Lord because he has heard  
my voice and my supplications.

<sup>2</sup> **Because he inclined his ear to me,  
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

<sup>3</sup> The snares of death encompassed me;  
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;  
I suffered distress and anguish.

<sup>4</sup> **Then I called on the name of the Lord,  
“O Lord, I pray, save my life!”**

<sup>12</sup> What shall I return to the Lord  
for all his bounty to me?

<sup>13</sup> **I will lift up the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the Lord;**

<sup>14</sup> I will pay my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people.

<sup>15</sup> **Precious in the sight of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful ones.**

<sup>16</sup> O Lord, I am your servant;  
I am your servant, the child of your serving girl.  
You have loosed my bonds.

<sup>17</sup> **I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice  
and call on the name of the Lord.**

<sup>18</sup> I will pay my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people,

**<sup>19</sup> in the courts of the house of the Lord,  
in your midst, O Jerusalem.  
Praise the Lord!**

**SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:17-23**

*Born anew through the living word of God*

<sup>17</sup> If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person's work, live in fear during the time of your exile. <sup>18</sup> You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. <sup>20</sup> He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. <sup>21</sup> Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God.

<sup>22</sup> Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. <sup>23</sup> You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

**GOSPEL SONG: "Alleluia"**

We **thank you Pastor Sondra** for being with us today. For your words of wisdom and insights.

**THE WOMEN'S RETREAT** is 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.

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!

**Little Free Library in Memory of Gladys Bain**

If you've been at church recently, you may have seen the beautiful "Little Free Library" painstakingly made in the shape of a country church, modeled after the one in the Gary Miller painting that hangs in our fellowship hall. (with thanks to Doug and Deanna Johnson for this gift!) Jim Miller has dedicated many, many hours of work to create this beautiful replica church, especially made to hold books. Patsy Schmidt added her artistry to the windows, which appear lit from within. And the Miller's son in law 3D printed some of the parts of the church. Thanks to all of them! This little library will be placed next to the cross-shaped bench outside LCC's front door – a stand has been made and readied by John Kraft and Paul Gurholt. It is in memory of our charter member, Gladys Bain, who was an educator and loved to read. It's place outside in the front. Go check it out!

**Heather Martin and the Wednesday church school kids** did the new bulletin board. It's springy and colorful. Thank you to all.

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

### **Volunteer Opportunities Abound!**

**Worship:** It takes many of us to keep our worship and church life humming! If you are looking for easy ways to jump in and help, sign up to be an usher, communion server, or scripture reader for Sunday worship. Sign up on the clipboard on the round table near the bathrooms, or call the office 223-1001 and let Connie know when you're available in April and May! We are always looking for new folks interested in the production side of worship: sound, livestream or projection. Let us know if you'd like to learn more!

**Coffee, meals:** We also need upcoming coffee hosts for after worship on Sundays - and dishwashers - as well as a few more Wednesday evening meal hosts (for 20-25 people; needs to be ready at 5 pm). Sign up on the clipboards on the table near the coffee pots in the fellowship hall.

**Clean up night:** On Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, the confirmation students will be doing a large group service project, cleaning up flower beds and neatening up the church grounds. You are welcome to join in! Bring gloves and a rake, if you like. Small indoor projects will also be available if you prefer!

### **GOSPEL: Luke 24:13-35**

*Eating with the risen Christ*

<sup>13</sup> Now on that same day two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup> but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup> And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup> Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" <sup>19</sup> He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup> But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. <sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup> and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." <sup>25</sup> Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" <sup>27</sup> Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

<sup>28</sup> As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" <sup>33</sup> That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup> They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" <sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

**SERMON:** Pastor Sondra Krogstad

**SONG OF THE DAY:** “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” ELW 623

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**OFFERING SONG:** “Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land” ELW 333

**OFFERING PRAYER**

## **WE SHARE THE MEAL**

**PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER**

**COMMUNION SONG:** “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” ELW 803

**COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION**

**SENDING SONG:** “God Be With You Till we Meet Again” ELW 536

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

**Pastor**—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**Scripture Reader**—Debbie Patterson

**Communion Assistants**—Kay Koch, Verlaine Jahner, Doug Johnson

**Ushers**—Larry Jahner, Kathryn & Alex Spilman

**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 Stenehjelm, Breezy Uffelman, Jim Moore, Jason Kraft, Mark Doerner, Mike Doerner

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