

**Lutheran Church of the Cross  
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# The River

A Blended Worship Service



**Lutheran Church of the Cross  
April 26, 2026**

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

“*Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts*”

# LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

April 26, 2026

## Fourth Sunday of Easter

### Introduction

Today is sometimes called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus is called the “gate” of the sheep in today’s gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world’s violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God’s tender care to all creation.

## We Come Together

**PRELUDE:** “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” ELW 807, “He is Exalted”

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GREETINGS OF PEACE**

**OUR CONFESSION, GOD’S FORGIVENESS**

**GATHERING SONG:** “Gather Us In”

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

## We Hear God’s Word

**FIRST READING: Acts 2:42-47**

*The believers’ common life*

<sup>42</sup> [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

### 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** 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!

### May Altar Focus: Mother the Camp!

May is a time when Camp of the Cross is gearing up for summer youth camps. Our altar focus for May is “Mother the Camp” - any items we donate, from toilet paper to stamps to cleaning supplies to food to craft supplies—means less has to go out of the camp budget for these things. So you can have a big impact by bringing one or more items! There are many copies of the long list of items needed in the narthex here at church. We can also email it to you, or mail you a copy—just let us know! If you bring items before the women’s retreaters leave on May 1, those going will take them along. If not, bring them throughout May and we will make sure the items get to camp! Thank you for your generosity to CCM!

The **Emergency Food Pantry** could use empty egg cartons. Please drop them off here where the food boxes are and they’ll make their way to them. Thank you.

# 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>43</sup> Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup> they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

## RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 23

The *Lord* is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup> **He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;**

<sup>3</sup> he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> **Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup> **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
my whole life long.**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:19-25**

*Follow the shepherd, even in suffering*

<sup>19</sup> It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup> If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. <sup>21</sup> For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

<sup>22</sup> “He committed no sin,

and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

<sup>23</sup> When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

**GOSPEL SONG:** “Alleluia”

We **thank you Pastor Sathre** for worshipping with us today and sharing your message.

**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.

### **Intergenerational Mother-Daughter Tea May 9<sup>th</sup>!**

A Mother-Daughter Tea! Think tablecloths and china and dainties and tea or other fancy drinks! The twist is: not just mother-daughter combos are allowed – not everyone has a daughter or granddaughter, or has one nearby. So! Borrow your neighbor’s, or bring a friend! All ages of women and girls are welcome. We will gather at 2 pm the day before Mother’ Day – Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. Our speaker will be Karen Thompson, the mother of John Thompson, who some of you will remember lost both his arms in a farming accident some years ago and is an inspirational figure, himself. She will talk about what it was like as a mother to experience that, and how her faith is what got her through it. We will wrap up our lovely time together by 4 pm. Come join us! Dress up if you like, but that is not at all necessary! There is a sign up in the narthex.

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

The 8th Annual Hillview Cup is scheduled for July 9 at the **Prairie West Golf Club** 2709 Longspur Trail, Mandan, ND. More details later.

**Scripture Circle Hosted at LCC on May 14<sup>th</sup>!** Come share in a transformative method of studying the Bible that is accessible to all! Some of you have experienced this with Rabbi Noah or with U.S. Jones II, but we haven’t mentioned it for a while. Sorry about that! And - LCC will be hosting the last Scripture Circle of the spring, Thursday, May 14. A light supper will be served starting at 5:00 pm with the study beginning at 5:45. (A free will offering will be collected, but the events are free!) No prior experience or knowledge is needed. Bring your Bible, or we have many at church. Scripture Circles will be led by U.S. Jones, II. We are hoping he can be with us over the summer as well – stay tuned!

## 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 McConaghy

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, with a repeat for anyone needing an alternate time set for Tuesdays at 5pm and includes a discussion afterwards. Hope you can join us!

**Episode 8 - *Beyond Mountains*: 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 May and June! 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: John 10:1-10**

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup>So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

**SERMON:** Pastor Steve Sathre

**SONG OF THE DAY:** “Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**OFFERING SONG:** “For Such a Time as This”

**OFFERING PRAYER**

## **WE SHARE THE MEAL**

**PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER**

**COMMUNION SONG:** “How Great is Our God”

**COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION**

**SENDING SONG:** “Hear Our Praises”

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

**Pastor**—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**Scripture Reader**—Kathy Morrison

**Communion Assistants**—Sondra Krogstad, Roger & Esther Anderson

**Ushers**—Daniel McKinney, Marylee Gregware, Melissa & Scot Long

**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, Gerri & Craig Sarsten

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