

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

Phone: 223-1001

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
May 10, 2026

“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”

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LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

May 10, 2026

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Introduction

Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

We Come Together

PRELUDE: "Oh How He Loves you and Me", "I Will Call Upon the Lord"

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

OUR CONFESSION, GOD'S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: "The Heart of Worship"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

We Hear God's Word

FIRST READING: Acts 17:22-31

²² Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. ²³ For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their

Fire Relief Efforts To aid the recently displaced renters from the apartment complex fire Monday **Monetary donations:** *ND Lions Emergency Relief, Crisis Care Chaplaincy, Salvation Army, American Red Cross, Security First Bank, and North Dakota Community Foundation* As of Thursday the drop off locations have paused their intake. The ND Lions Emergency Relief has a presence on Facebook. Check back there to see the latest news on the needs of the fire victims.

The sanctuary has a new roof as of Friday.



May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Altar Focus: Mother the Camp See listing of needed products for the camp in narthex.					1	2 Men's Bible Study 10
3 9a R.Practice 10am River 11am Coffee 5pm L.Water	4 Stitching 9am	5	6 5p Supper 6:15 Service 7p School, Confirmation River practice	7 1p Quilting	8 1:30 Wired Word	9 MBS Mother Daughter Tea 2-4 pm
10 Mother's Day 9a R.Practice 10am River 11am Coffee 5pm L.Water	11 Stitching 9am	12	13 Book Club 1:30 5p Supper 6:15 Service 7p School, Confirmation River practice	14 CANCELED Scripture Circle 5 pm	15 1:30 Wired Word	16 Men's Bible Study 10 am
17 9a R.Practice 10am River 11am Coffee Graduates honored 5pm L.Water Practice	18 Stitching 9am	19 Church Council 6:30	20 Graduates honored 5p Supper 6:15 Service 7p School, Confirmation River practice	21 Gather Bible Study 10:30	22 1:30 Wired Word	23 Men's Bible Study 10am
24 9a R.Practice 10am River 11am Coffee 5pm L.Water 31	25 Memorial Day Office closed	26 Summer hours begin.	27 Wednesday activities concluded for the summer	28 Worship & Music 5:30pm	29 1:30 Wired Word	30 Men's Bible Study 10am

existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live,²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us.²⁸ For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we, too, are his offspring.’²⁹ “Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals.³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent,³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 66:8-20

⁸ Bless our God, O peoples;

let the sound of his praise be heard,

⁹ **who has kept us among the living
and has not let our feet slip.**

¹⁰ For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us as silver is tried.

¹¹ **You brought us into the net;
you laid burdens on our backs;**

¹² you let people ride over our heads;
we went through fire and through water;

yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

¹³ **I will come into your house with burnt offerings;
I will pay you my vows,**

¹⁴ those that my lips uttered
and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

¹⁵ **I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatted calves,
with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;
I will make an offering of bulls and goats. Selah**

¹⁶ Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what he has done for me.

¹⁷ **I called out to God^l with my mouth,
and praised the Lord^l with my tongue.**

¹⁸ If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,
the Lord would not have listened.

¹⁹ **But truly God has listened;
he has heard the words of my prayer.**

²⁰ Blessed be God,
who has not rejected my prayer
or removed his steadfast love from me.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22

The days of Noah, a sign of baptism

¹³ Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵ but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, ¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. ²¹ And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

GOSPEL SONG: "Thy Word"

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!

The **8h grade Confirmation class** undertook an outreach project of reorganizing the cloth bags just outside the sanctuary. In the bags are books, coloring books and quiet imaginary toys to occupy young minds. Thank you girls and Jean Kraft!

We have **new TVs** to replace the screens and projectors. They have been installed by John Kraft and Paul Gurholt. We appreciate your hard work, ingenuity and muscles!

Scripture Circle Hosted at LCC on May 14th! CANCELED

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. Bring them throughout May and we will make sure the items get to camp! Thank you for your generosity to CCM!

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

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 3 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.

America the Beautiful Dakota Pro Musica presents a concert of American music, spirituals, folk songs and patriotic music to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the USA. Today, Sunday May 10 at 4 pm at McCabe Methodist Church.

GOSPEL: John 14:15-21

Christ our advocate

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

SERMON: Pastor Lisa Ahlness

SONG OF THE DAY: “Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)”

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING SONG: “God Loved the World”

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: “Let Us Break Bread Together”, “Precious Lord Take My Hand”

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: “Kyrie Eleison”

“THE RIVER” and “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Lillian Crook

Communion Assistants—Sheila Koffler, Doug Johnson, Kay Koch

Ushers—Suzanne & Joel Toso, Kathy & David Drovdal

Altar Guild— Sarah Dahl, Suzanne Toso, Kelly Olson

Faith and Care Group 5—Kathryn & Alex Spilman, Peter & Mary Dickerson

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 Uffelmann, Jim Moore, Jason Kraft, Mark Doerner, Mike Doerner, Gerri & Kraig Sarsten

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones: