

**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

Staff:

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The River

A Blended Worship Service



Lutheran Church of the Cross

May 17, 2026

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

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LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

May 17, 2026

7th Sunday of Easter

Introduction In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

We Come Together

PRELUDE: "Glorious Day", "Let the River Flow"

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

OUR CONFESSION, GOD'S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: "Holy is the Land"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

We Hear God's Word

FIRST READING: Acts 1:6-14

Jesus' companions at prayer after his departure

⁶When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw

Gospel PraiSing Fiesta!

Nourish the Body

Mayas Mexican
Restaurant



1601 W. Century Ave. Bismarck, ND
Lunch - order off menu
(patron's expense)

Nourish the Soul

SUNDAYS

11:30 AM-1:30 PM

Christian Music
presented by:
Colleen Reinhardt
Julie Ternes
& Guests

May 17 - Kelley Reuer

May 31 - Steve Harmon

June 7 - Brian Saylor

June 28 - David Sorenson/Traci Juhala

July 12 - Debi Rogers

July 26 - Mya Tena

August 9 - On the Brink

August 23 - Gospel PraiSing Festival
with Natalie Layne



Free-will donations in May through August
assist Abused Adult Resource Center (AARC)

Presented by: Gospel PraiSing (GPS) Ministries
Julie Ternes 701-226-0356

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 am
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	15 1:30 Wired Word	16 Men's Bible Study 10 am
17a R.Practice 10am River 11am Coffee Graduates honored 5pm L. Water Practice	18 Stitching 9am	19	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	25 Memorial Day Office closed	26 Summer hours begin.	27 <i>Wednesday activities concluded for the summer</i>	28	29 1:30 Wired Word	30 Men's Bible Study 10am

him go into heaven.”

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 68:1-10, 3-35

Sing to God, who rides upon the clouds. (Ps. 68:4)

Let God rise up; let his enemies be scattered;
let those who hate him flee before him.

² **As smoke is driven away, so drive them away;
as wax melts before the fire,
let the wicked perish before God.**

³ But let the righteous be joyful;
let them exult before God;
let them be jubilant with joy.

⁴ **Sing to God; sing praises to his name;
lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds—
his name is the LORD—
be exultant before him.**

⁵ Father of orphans and protector of widows
is God in his holy habitation.

⁶ **God gives the desolate a home to live in;
he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,
but the rebellious live in a parched land.**

⁷ O God, when you went out before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness, *Selah*

⁸ **the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**

⁹ Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad;
you restored your heritage when it languished;

**¹⁰ your flock found a dwelling in it;
in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.** ³²

Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;
sing praises to the Lord, *Selah*

**³³ O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens;
listen, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.**

³⁴ Ascribe power to God,
whose majesty is over Israel
and whose power is in the skies.

**³⁵ Awesome is God in his sanctuary,
the God of Israel;
he gives power and strength to his people.**

Blessed be God!

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

God will sustain and restore those who suffer

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

^{5:6} Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

GOSPEL SONG: "Thy Word"

Graduates being honored this week:

Mason Bergrud; son of Korissa Bergrud, Morgan & Parker Feigitsch; children of Bucky & Jen, Kolton Harris; son of Kari & Tom, Mackenna Hocker' daughter of Joshua, Kambree Long; daughter of Melissa & Scot, Fynn Sagsveen; son of Amanda & Matthew, Ruby Stankiewicz; daughter of Sheila, Sylvia Taylor; daughter of Nikki & Ryan, Alison Volk; daughter of Melissa & Jay.

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!

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!

Deacon Janie called Pastor Lisa to ask if some of our LCC "friends of camp" (that means you!) might have a few hours to share in the next couple of weeks, getting camp ready for the summer. Summer staff arrive on Memorial Day weekend, but in the meantime, they are down full time staff people and could use some help mowing and trimming, (equipment readied and provided) cleaning out flower beds, and cleaning cabins to ready them for occupancy. They are happy to feed you - and even house you overnight, should you want to stay over! If you can spare a morning or afternoon or day to help, please call Deacon Janie at 701-301-9917 to let her know when you'd like to come. If you haven't been at camp for a while, this is a great opportunity to see all the changes, and help out, too!

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.

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: We also need upcoming coffee hosts for after worship on Sundays - and dishwashers - Sign up on the clipboards on the table near the coffee pots in the fellowship hall.

Vacation Bible School August: August 9-11 5:30—7:30

The theme is Exploring God’s Creation in the Alaskan Wilderness. Games, songs, stories and fun filled activities are planned. There is a sign up in the narthex. Volunteers are needed also for this adventure.

Time for summer reading: On the table in the narthex is a variety of reading material for adults and children alike. Please feel free to take some or share with others.

Lee Jensen is turning 90 May 29th. Come celebrate with him on May 31 during coffee hour. Have a cup of coffee and cheer him on.

GOSPEL: John 17:1-11

Christ’s prayer for his disciples

¹ After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples,] he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶ “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

SERMON: Pastor Lisa Ahlness

SONG OF THE DAY: “Blessed Assurance”

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING SONG: “Bind Us Together”

OFFERING PRAYER

WE SHARE THE MEAL

PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER

COMMUNION SONG: “Let Us Be the Church”

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: “The Blessing”

“THE RIVER” and “LIVING WATER” WORSHIP MINISTERS

Pastor—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

Scripture Reader—Murray Sagsveen

Communion Assistants—Sheila Koffler, Melissa Long, Mavis Pommerer

Ushers—Melissa & Scot Long, Tracy Geiermann

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, Pete Barrette, Heather Martin, Daryl Hodnefield, Jagger Lindsey, Emmett Wolf, Don Becker, Connie Werner, Dave Kunze, Marvin Leer, Janie Hague, Ken Will, Laurie Stenehjem, Breezy Uffelman, Jim Moore, Jason Kraft, Mark Doerner, Mike Doerner, Gerri & Kraig Sarsten

For those dealing with the death of these loved ones: Lorna Mathais, Arvid Mugaas