

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

**Phone: 223-1001**

**Website: [www.churchofthecross.org](http://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 24, 2026**

*“Making Jesus Known By Sharing Our Gifts”*

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# LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

May 24, 2026

## Day of Pentecost

**Introduction** Pentecost derives its name from the Jewish festival celebrating the harvest and the giving of the law on Mount Sinai fifty days after Passover. Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God's presence within and among us. In Acts the Spirit arrives in rushing wind and flame, bringing God's presence to all people. Paul reminds us that though we each have different capacities, we are unified in the Spirit that equips us with these gifts. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on his disciples, empowering them to forgive sin. We celebrate that we too are given the breath of the Holy Spirit and sent out to proclaim God's redeeming love to all the world.

## We Come Together

**PRELUDE:** "Great is the Lord", "God Bless America"

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GREETINGS OF PEACE**

**OUR CONFESSION, GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

**GATHERING SONG:** "Change My heart O God"

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

## We Hear God's Word

**FIRST READING: Acts 2:1-21**

*Filled with the Spirit to tell God's deeds*

<sup>1</sup> When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

# 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
<b>Altar Focus:</b> <b>Mother the Camp</b> 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 Wednesday activities concluded for the summer	28	29 1:30 Wired Word	30 Men's Bible Study 10am

<sup>5</sup> Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. . <sup>7</sup> Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" <sup>8</sup> And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? <sup>9</sup> Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup> Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." <sup>12</sup> All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" <sup>13</sup> But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine." <sup>14</sup> But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. <sup>15</sup> Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. <sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> 'In the last days it will be, God declares,  
 and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
 and your young men shall see visions,  
 and your old men shall dream dreams.  
<sup>18</sup> Even upon my slaves, both men and women,  
 in those days I will pour out my Spirit,  
 and they shall prophesy.  
<sup>19</sup> And I will show portents in the heaven above  
 and signs on the earth below,  
 blood, and fire, and smoky mist.  
<sup>20</sup> The sun shall be turned to darkness  
 and the moon to blood,  
 before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.  
<sup>21</sup> Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' "

## RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 104:24-34,35b

*Filled with the Spirit to tell God's deeds*

<sup>24</sup> O LORD, how manifold are your works!  
 In wisdom you have made them all;  
 the earth is full of your creatures.

<sup>25</sup> **There is the sea, great and wide;  
creeping things innumerable are there,  
living things both small and great.**

<sup>26</sup> There go the ships  
and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

<sup>27</sup> **These all look to you  
to give them their food in due season;**

<sup>28</sup> when you give to them, they gather it up;  
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

<sup>29</sup> **When you hide your face, they are dismayed;  
when you take away their breath, they die  
and return to their dust.**

<sup>30</sup> When you send forth your spirit, they are created,  
and you renew the face of the ground.

<sup>31</sup> **May the glory of the LORD endure forever;  
may the LORD rejoice in his works—**

<sup>32</sup> who looks on the earth and it trembles,  
who touches the mountains and they smoke.

<sup>33</sup> **I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;  
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.**

<sup>34</sup> May my meditation be pleasing to him,  
for I rejoice in the LORD.

<sup>35</sup> **Let sinners be consumed from the earth,  
and let the wicked be no more.  
Bless the LORD, O my soul.  
Praise the LORD!**

**Camp of the Cross camp counselors** will be leading the Vacation Bible School over at First Lutheran Church 408 9th St NW Mandan from 9 to 4 pm June 1st through June 3. Your children are invited to attend. Kindergarten—6th grade Cost is \$20/child or \$40/family. You may register at <http://bit.ly/VBS2026FLM>

### **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

### **Graduates graduating 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.

### **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. It will be held here.

**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.

Someone else who just celebrated their 90th was **Jim Hewitson!**

**The “Refresh” committee** for common entry space will be meeting on Wednesday, May 27th at 4 PM at LCC. If you have suggestions or ideas, please join us! If you are unable to attend but have input, please email Molly Traynor at [mktraynor@hotmail.com](mailto:mktraynor@hotmail.com) or phone (701) 202-0891. Look forward to sharing ideas from this meeting with the congregation.

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13**

*Varieties of gifts from the same Spirit*

<sup>3b</sup> No one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit.

<sup>4</sup> Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, <sup>5</sup> and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, <sup>6</sup> and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. <sup>7</sup> To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup> To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another the working of powerful deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup> All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

<sup>12</sup> For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

### **GOSPEL SONG: “The Spirit Intercedes for Us”**

### **GOSPEL: John 20:19-23**

*The Spirit poured out*

<sup>19</sup> 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.” <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

**SERMON:** Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**SONG OF THE DAY:** “Day by Day”

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**OFFERING SONG:** “For the Fruit of all Creation”

**OFFERING PRAYER**

## **WE SHARE THE MEAL**

**PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER**

**COMMUNION SONG:** “Spirit Song”

**COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION**

**SENDING SONG:** “The Spirit Send Us Forth to Serve”



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

**Pastor**—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**Scripture Reader**—Murray Sagsveen

**Communion Assistants**—Sheila Koffler, Kay Koch, Deb Sargent

**Ushers**—Kathy & David Drovdal, Suzanne & Joel Toso

**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, Glen Hyland, 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, 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:** Lorna Mathais, Arvid Mugaas