

**Lutheran Church of the Cross**  
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**Bismarck ND 58501**

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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 3, 2026**

“Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts”

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# LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

May 3, 2026

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

### Introduction

As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

## We Come Together

**PRELUDE:** "You Are Mine", "I Believe, I Do Believe"

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GREETINGS OF PEACE**

**OUR CONFESSION, GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

**GATHERING SONG:** "A Mighty Fortress is our God"

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

## We Hear God's Word

**FIRST READING: Acts 7:55-60**

*The martyrdom of Stephen*

<sup>55</sup> Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup> "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" <sup>57</sup> But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup>

Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup> While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." <sup>60</sup> Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

### 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 has been 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! Feel free to add a book for the community too!

### 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!

### 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! 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!

# May 2026

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

## RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 31:1-5,15-16

Into your hands, *O Lord*, I commend my spirit. (*Ps. 31:5*)

- <sup>1</sup> In you, O LORD, I seek refuge;  
do not let me ever be put to shame;  
in your righteousness deliver me.
- <sup>2</sup> **Incline your ear to me;  
rescue me speedily.**  
**Be a rock of refuge for me,  
a strong fortress to save me.**
- <sup>3</sup> You are indeed my rock and my fortress;  
for your name's sake lead me and guide me;
- <sup>4</sup> **take me out of the net that is hidden for me,  
for you are my refuge.**
- <sup>5</sup> Into your hand I commit my spirit;  
you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.
- <sup>15</sup> **My times are in your hand;  
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.**
- <sup>16</sup> Let your face shine upon your servant;  
save me in your steadfast love

## **SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10**

*God's people chosen to proclaim God's mighty acts*

<sup>2</sup> Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation <sup>3</sup> if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup> Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup> like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious,  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

<sup>7</sup> This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner,”

<sup>8</sup> and

“A stone that makes them stumble  
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

<sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

**GOSPEL SONG:** “Thy Word”

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

Think tablecloths, china, 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 sheet at the front of back of the church.

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

## **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!

**Thanks** for the response for the call for egg cartons!!

## 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.

**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!

**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. You can look forward to Pastor Sondra preaching the weeks of April 19<sup>th</sup> and May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Thanks to Pastor Sondra!

**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. Sunday May 10 at 4 pm at McCabe Methodist Church.

## **GOSPEL: John 14:1-14**

*Christ the way, truth, and life*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup> “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to the place where I am going.” <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

<sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup> Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup> Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

**SERMON:** Pastor Sondra Krogstad

**SONG OF THE DAY:** “We Are Called”

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**OFFERING SONG:** “My Worth is Not in What I Own”

**OFFERING PRAYER**

## **WE SHARE THE MEAL**

**PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**INVITATION TO OUR LORD’S SUPPER**

**COMMUNION SONG:** “Just As I Am”

**COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION**

**SENDING SONG:** “Build Your Kingdom Here”



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

**Pastor**—Pastor Lisa Ahlness

**Scripture Reader**—Murray Sagsveen

**Communion Assistants**—Sheila K, Janice Martin, Debbie Patterson

**Ushers**—Suzanne & Joel Toso, Janice & Keven Martin

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

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