

May 5, 2024 Sixth Sunday of Easter 9:00 & 10:30 am Worship

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 5, 2024 9:00 & 10:30 AM
Lutheran Church of the Cross, Nisswa, Minnesota
Rev. Drew Bakken Rev. Michelle Ruen

GOOD MORNING & WELCOME TO LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS!

Welcome to worship as we come together in praise and thanksgiving to our living Savior! Holy Spirit, blow through our church with power. Open our hearts to follow your call.

INTRODUCTION

This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

PRELUDE

"Hymn to Joy," Hobby/Travis

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN

"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

HYMN #836

(please stand as you are able)

- Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
 Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above.
 Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away.
 Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.
- All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heav'n reflect thy rays, Stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
 Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea, Chanting bird, and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \oplus one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

To you, O God, all hearts are open, to you all desires known. We come to you, confessing our sins. Forgive us in your mercy, and remember us in your love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen. By water and the Holy Spirit God gives you a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of \oplus Jesus Christ, God forgives you all your sins. The God of mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life. Amen.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the refining fire of the Holy Spirit, and the peace of God, which surpasses understanding, be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (please be seated)

READING 1 John 5:1-6

God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

MUSICAL OFFERING

"Song of Assurance," M. Patterson Sr. Choir
Lori Swenson-flute & Amanda Jansen-cello

In the midst of darkness, in the deep blue stretches of silence, in the season of loss and longing, we wonder. Do you still know our every thought and hear our every prayer? Come, fill our darkness with your light. Sweep away this silence with your song of hope, and let your glory shine in us again. Let your love live deep within our hearts; help us sing your praise once more. Lord, you are the God of our beginning and our being. You ordained this time and place; you have called us by name. We rejoice in your strength; we give thanks for your gift of grace, and we lift our voices once again to praise your mighty name. Let the songs of joy resound; in your goodness hope is found, and we are blessed, we are made whole, and we are yours.

CROSS KIDS EXCUSED

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

(please stand as you are able)

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! Praise eternal as his love; Alleluia! Praise him, all you heav'nly host. Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

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GOSPEL John 15:9-17

On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.

The holy gospel according to John. Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** (please be seated)

SERMON "Lord, We Are Yours" Pastor Michelle Ruen

HYMN OF THE DAY "For the Beauty of the Earth" **HYMN #879 vs. 1,3,4** (please stand as you are able, during the last verse)

- 1. For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies, For the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
 - Refrain
 - Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.
- 3. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight, For the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight:
- 4. For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, Friends on earth and friends above; for all gentle thoughts and mild:

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **Amen.**

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(please be seated)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

"Hear Our Praver, O Lord"

*Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord; Incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace.

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Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

Your Holy Spirit falls upon all who hear the word. Fill your church with the gifts of your Spirit. Bless the ministries of this congregation, that we may embody your love for the world. Lord in your mercy, *

Your world is divided and the nations rage. Grant wisdom and vision to world leaders, that they may seek justice, peace, and the good of all. Strengthen international partnerships and cooperation. Lord in your mercy, *

Your children are in need. Comfort all those who suffer, especially those afflicted by anxiety, depression, and mental illness. Help us to be conduits of your love in our care for one another. Lord in your mercy, *

Your blessed saints now rest in you. Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone before us. At the last, bring us all together around your heavenly banquet table. Lord in your mercy, *

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (please stand as you are able)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen. (please be seated)

COMMUNION

Piano Selections

COMMUNION BLESSING (please stand as you are able)

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

NEW MEMBER WELCOME (see insert of new members)

BENEDICTION

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!** The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope \oplus bless you now and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

"We Know That Christ is Raised"

HYMN #449 vs. 1,2,4

- 1. We know that Christ is raised and dies no more. Embraced by death, he broke its fearful hold, And our despair he turned to blazing joy. Hallelujah!
- 2. We share by water in his saving death. Reborn, we share with him an Easter life, As living members of our Savior Christ. Hallelujah!
- 4. A new creation comes to life and grows as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood. The universe restored and whole will sing: Hallelujah!

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DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

"We Know That Christ is Raised," M. Burkhardt

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If you are visiting or interested in joining
Lutheran Church of the Cross, please leave your
contact information on the Welcome to Worship

cards in the pews and place in the offering baskets. If you have questions about LCC, please feel free to call Pastor Drew or Pastor Michelle at 218-963-2564.

The **first quarter giving statements** were emailed to those with email addresses on 4/23/24 from Lutheran Church of the Cross <<u>noreply@simplechurchcrm.com</u>>. Please check your email. If you do not have an email on file, they were mailed to you. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact Karen Wiele at 218-963-2564.

INVEST IN OUR GROSS KIDS PLAYEROUND

Be a part of this vital ministry project!

To donate funds, please make checks payable to LCC with Playground Fund on the memo line, or designate electronic funds to the Playground Fund. If you are interested in volunteering time/talent, please email Todd Whipple at volunteer@lccnisswa.org.



LCC's Playground Task Force

Dale Peterson, Jean Kraft, Maureen Schmidt, Pastor Drew, Julie Helsene, Jon Henke, Kari Erickson, Laura Raedeke, Sherry Pape, Danae Anderson, Todd Whipple

As of April 15, we have received \$45,090.00 in donations; and we have a \$5000.00 matching grant offered up for those wishing to donate toward the rubberized chips. We are on our way, but need your help to reach our \$55,000.00—\$60,000.00 total.

Let the little children come to me. Don't stop them, because God's kingdom belongs to people who are like these little children. Luke 18:16, ERV

Lutheran Church of the Cross - News and Notes May 5—May 12, 2024

PRAYER REQUESTS

<u>LCC Members:</u> Arlene Rice, Dave Jabas, Betty Labs, Mike Brodeur, Bonnie Anderson, Lowell Carlson, Diane Eitrheim, Wayne Van Vliet, Louise Warden, Mark Boesen, John Wallin, David Pederson, Nancy Schmidt, Pete Mogenson, Lois Jensen, Kathleen Warden, Keith Both, Sarah Aga, Rick & Sue Pratt, Sheri McSherry

Friends & Relatives of LCC Members:

Gary Sunby (Gloria Thomas' brother), Diana Smith (Terri Langerud's friend), Darrell Kempfert (John & Marilyn Quist's friend), Greg & Neva Cole, Marge Brantner (David Olness' sister), Greg Scheytt (Lori Olson's uncle), Phyllis Coleman (Lori Olson's godmother), Steve Hedtke (Chris Hedtke's dad), Brian Krawiecki (Kelsey Kuhn's father), Sabrina Lewandowski (Tracy Olson's friend), Linda Reid (Carol Alverson's sister), Karla Kepler (Jim Bailey's friend), Tom Anderson (Rena Bolt's dad & Pete Mogenson's friend), Angie Barnack (Darrell Barnack's mom), Tom Smith (Mark Smith's brother), Pr. Erika Foss, Nick (Rob & Loretta Norgon's brother-in-law), Dave Watson (Mark & Kari Erickson's friend), Cheri Axel (Tracy Olson's friend), Merv Johnson (Kerri Nordby's dad), Pastor Tom Peterson (Keith & Colleen Both's friend), Sue Ziegler (Pr. Michelle's friend), Paul Gell (Janet Bedard's brother), Annie (friend of Dave & Marie Olness), Caitlin Deal (Colleen Both's great niece), Tom & Peggy Woog (Missy Tree's dad &mom), Jane Alvis (Marsha Thomson's friend), Greg Arends (Boyd & Dawn Maine's brother-in-law), Ronald Anderson (Jean Larson's husband), Andy Skjod (Dennis & Cynthia Skjod's nephew), Linda Bock (Jim Bailey's sister-in-law), Graham Kluck (Terri Langerud's grandson), Sue Boyd (Pam Johnson's aunt), LCC members in care facilities, all veterans and active servicemen and women, and those struggling with mental health or addiction issues.

Please call the church office to make updates to the prayer list. If you or someone you know is in the hospital or would like a visit, please call the church office at 218-963-2564.



Our sincere sympathies and prayers to Sharon Ingvoldstad & Mary Frost and families on the passing of their sister and LCC member Linda Brandon. Linda's funeral will be held at LCC on Saturday, May 11th at 1:00 pm with visitation at noon.

Please keep everyone in your prayers as they grieve their loss of Linda.

Connie Nelson's memorial service will be held at LCC on Saturday, May 18th at 11:00 am with visitation at 10:00 am. Please keep Jon & Erica Henke and Chris & Julie Helsene families and friends in you prayers as they grieve the loss of their mother Connie.

Pentecost Sunday is May 19th. Be sure to wear red to the worship services. Blow Spirit, Blow!

Bible Studies: Men's Breakfast at The Side Track every Thursday at 8:15 AM.

Text Study on Wednesdays @ 8:30 am in Chapel Hall. All are welcome to be a part of this ministry! If you are interested, email laurie@lccnisswa.org and you will be added to the email list to receive the texts each week.

Beth Moore Bible Study, *The Surpassing Value of Knowing Christ*, a study of Philippians.

Mondays 9:30 am —11:30 am April 8, 15, 29 and May 6 & 13. Led by Marilyn Quist

StoneHouse Friday—Prayer 101 - April 5, 12, 19 and May 3, 10, 17

A 6-week class on Prayer—Fridays at 12:00 Noon -1:00 pm in the conference room at RiverWood Bank/StoneHouse Coffee by Target. Led by Marty Holmstrom.

Women in the Word—The May *Women in the Word* Bible Study led by Pastor Michelle will be on Tuesday, May 7, at 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM. Come for study in God's Word, coffee and tasty treats, and wonderful fellowship. No preparation needed. Bring your Bible and a friend.

Prime-Timers—Thursday, May 9, 12:00 Noon— program will be Jill McKenzie, the Community Relations Manager from the Mid-Minnesota Women's Center. Learn about both the Women's Shelter and the Brandon and Alex Safety Center where children have supervised visits in a safe manner. Come to hear and learn about this vital and crucial service in our community. Bring a sack lunch if you desire. Coffee, lemonade, and dessert is provided. Hosts: Ray and Betty Arveson & Dick and Kate Carlson. The program will begin at 12:20 PM. PrimeTimers is an open event for all to attend. Please come to the LCC Celebration Center for this program!

"Until All Are Fed" is the theme for the **2024 NE MN Synod Women of the ELCA Summer Convention** to be held **June 10-11, 2024 at Zion Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, MN**. The scripture verse is Matthew 25:35 "I was hungry and you fed me." The Convention quilt is being made by Diane Wermager and Margaret Sommerfeld of Lutheran Church of the Cross. In-Kind Gifts are School Kits for Lutheran World Relief. Attending the Convention is an educational and uplifting experience. Plan now to attend! First time attendees get a 50% discount on the registration fee.

LUTHER CREST BIBLE CAMP—WOMEN'S WEEK—JUNE 23th THROUGH JUNE 28th
All women. All week. All sorts of fun! Gather at Luther Crest for another great Women's Week experience at camp this summer! Cost for the full week: \$659 No cost for babies and preschool age children. Cost for one day: \$65 Cost for a carload for one day: \$130 Check out their website and register on-line: https://www.luthercrest.org/womens-week.html Call Jodi Milli (507) 438-4435 or Gloria Thomas (218) 963-7951 if you would like more info.

<u>Rummage Sale Wrap-Up Meeting:</u> There will be a Spring Rummage Sale wrap-up meeting on **Thursday, May 16**th at **4:00 pm in the Celebration Center.** All volunteers are encouraged to attend. Donations will be accepted beginning June 1. Thank you all!

THIS WEEK AT LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

May 5—May 12, 2024

SUN,	5-5:	B-days:	
	9:00 10:00 10:30 1:00	NEW MEMBER SUNDAY Worship w/ Communion & Online Coffee Fellowship Worship w/ Communion Piano Recital	Lutheran Church of the Cross Daily Bible Reading
MON,	5-6: 9:30 1:00	B-days: Pat Larson, Herman Schley, Shawna Williams Women's Bible Study—Surpassing Value of Knowing C Prayer Shawl Group	thrist from Lectionary B Mon., May 6, 2024 Deuteronomy 7:1-11 1 Timothy 6:11-12
TUES,	5-7: 8:30 9:00 10:00 12:30 7:00	B-days: Marilyn Wottreng Staff Meeting & Prayers Computer Lab Women in the Word Bible Study PEO Chapter Women in the Word Bible STudy	Psalm 93 Tues., May 7, 2024 Deuteronomy 11:1-17 1 Timothy 6:13-16 Psalm 93
WED,	5-8: 8:30 5:30 5:45 6:00 6:20 7:00 7:00	B-days: Jude Anderson, Scarlett Anderson, Vanessa Anderson, Jacob Kruger, Benjamin Stubbs Text Study Bells of Praise Supper King's Kids Wednesday Worship w/ Communion Route 56/ Confirmation/ HSYG Sr. Choir / A Time for Us	Wed., May 8, 2024 Deuteronomy 11:18-21 Mark 16:19-20 Psalm 93 Thurs., May 9, 2024 Acts 1:1-11 Luke 24:44-53 Psalm 47 Friday, May 10, 2024
THUR,	5-9: 8:15 12:00 7:00 7:00	B-days: Leslie Severson Men's Breakfast @ SideTrack PrimeTimers Church Council A.A.	Exodus 24:15-18 Revelation 1:9-18 Psalm 47 Sat., May 11, 2024 Deuteronomy 34:1-7
FRI,	5-10: 12:00	B-days: Alex Kuhn, Mack Landecker Stonehouse Friday: Prayer 101	John 16:4-11 Psalm 47
SAT,	5-11: 9:00	B-days: Donna Salfer Lake Hubert Assoc. Board Mtg	
SUN,	5-12: 9:00 10:00 10:30 1:00	Washin W Communian & Online	Please take your bulletin home with you to use throughout the week as a reminder of upcoming events.

Reminder: Before planning any meeting/event/gathering at church, call the church office for availability and scheduling. Thank you.



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

High School Youth Group will be meeting offsite on Weds.

Youth Mission Trip set for July 21-26. Check your calendar and let Kari or Pam know if you are interested.

We will be going to the St. Gabriel's Camp at Standing Rock Indian Reservation in Solon, North Dakota.

CROSS KIDS: save June 10—13 for VBX—sign up at: tinyurl.com/rdvz7x8v. Join us for a week of fun and learning about how animals help our church to help others around the world! All are welcome—PK

(must be toilet-trained) —4th grade.

YOUTH AND PARENTS: last Sunday for service hours on May 12 for Breakfast Burritos—helpers needed to prep and serve—be here by 8:45am.

VBX Crew Leaders needed for June 10-13, 9 Gam—12n. If you are entering grades 6-12, this fall, please sign up at the Sign Up Genius link above. Adult helpers are also needed. It's a very fun and rewarding week:-))

Summer Stretch will be on Weds. This summer from June 12—July 24. We will be joining the youth from Cross Lake Lutheran this year for morning service and afternoon fun. Registration mailers will be coming in the mail for those entering gr. 6-9. JOIN US!!

Creation Care Green Tip

Submitted by Laura Raedeke, Creation Care Team

Managing Your Garden and Landscape: Our Planet and Pollinators Depend on it.

As more people recognize that what's good for the environment is also good for them and their families, there is growing interest in making gardens and landscapes better for the Earth. Used since the 1940s, synthetic (chemical) fertilizers and pesticides have been shown to be harmful to our air, water, soils, wildlife, and to people. Synthetic nitrogen leaches nitrates into groundwater and surface waters, causing massive algal growth that harms aquatic life and threatens human life. Synthetic nitrogen also releases nitrous oxide, a greenhouse gas that is 300 times more potent than carbon dioxide. For soil fertility, use certified organic products, OMRI-listed products (Organic Materials Resource Index), or your own compost. Use mulch or ground cover to retain soil moisture, limit weeds, and to act as compost as it breaks down. While the use of peat moss is popular with gardeners, peat bogs are being destroyed by environmentally unsound practices that deprive unique ecosystems for birds and animals, as well as releasing vast amounts of carbon dioxide in the process. Instead, use coconut coir (also known as coco peat, or coir peat), which is the short fibers left over when coconuts are harvested and husked.

Thanks to our Worship Assistants!

Musicians	Cathy Taylor, Jim Roberts, Sharon Taute		
Greeters	9:00 Robb & Ann Reid		
Ushers	9:00 Pat & Molly Sloan 10:30 Bob & Peggy Beck		
Reader	9:00 Diane Dalzell 10:30 Sandra Potthoff		
Worship Coord.	9:00 Marv Green 10:30 Todd Whipple		
Altar Guild	Brian & Jenny Stubbs, Darrell Paske		
Communion Asst.	9:00 Dean & Diane Dalzell, Rachel Gerhartz 10:30 Mark & Pam Sandelin, Denny Tack		
Acolytes	9:00 Kolten Hiles 10:30 Jake Hernandez		
Coffee Fellowship	Youth serving fresh baked scones		
Tech Support	John Quist, Brad Carlson		
Nursery	Colleen, Abby & Rebecca Bakken		

^{**}Assistive Listening Devices are available in the Narthex. If you choose to use one, please leave it on the counter when you exit so it can be sanitized for the next use.



To give with your mobile device, Scan the QR code to the left. Online giving available at www.lccnisswa.org.

DIRECTORY

Church of the Cross Office 218.963.2564 Office Hours

Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Email: lcc@lccnisswa.org Web Site: Iccnisswa.org

Pastor

Rev. Drew Bakken

Children, Youth & Family Ministry Kari Erickson

High School Youth Director

Emma Trees

Custodians

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Office Manager

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ELCA Global Missionary

Pastor

Rev. Michelle Ruen

Volunteer Coordinator

Todd Whipple

Music Ministry/Organist

Cathy Taylor

Organist

Laura Raedeke

Senior Choir Director

Mike Smith

Bell Choir Director

Cheryl Karlgaard

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