

Wednesday, September 9, 2026

Sixteenth Week After Pentecost



Faith Lutheran Church

Mission Statement

*"Building a welcoming, nurturing faith community that
is guided by Jesus and shares the Gospel."*

MINISTERS
SENIOR PASTOR
ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Every Member
Derek Harkins
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ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING SONG: "You Are the Light of the World"

TEACHER INSTALLATION

READING: see next page

SERMON

SONG: ELW 815 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" *

FAREWELL AND GODSPEED for Dmytro Somkin, Music Coordinator

OFFERING

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER (SUNG BY DMYTRO SOMKIN)

HOLY COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: ELW 677 "This Little Light of Mine" *

DISMISSAL

**ELW = Red Hymnal; ACS = Purple Hymnal*

READING(S)

First Reading: *John 1:4-5*

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 1st Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

Second Reading: *Matthew 18:21-35*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 18th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

BRINGING IT HOME

This section provides guidance on how to discuss a passage from the Revised Common Lectionary for the week as a family! The devotions for this week are for Matthew 18:21-35.

Reflection Questions

- We are in the season after Pentecost when we learn how to follow Jesus. One day, Peter wanted to know how many times forgiveness should be given, so he asked. How did Jesus respond?
- Jesus told Peter a story about mercy. Mercy is the compassionate treatment of someone suffering or in need. Imagine yourself watching the servant leave after his huge debt was forgiven. What do you think he might do next?
- The servant received great mercy but struggled to share it. What makes it hard for people to offer kindness and forgiveness to others?
- How are people and communities different when mercy is shared instead of not given?
- What kinds of responses help people learn, grow, and begin again?

Activity

Jesus told a story about mercy that was meant to keep going. The king showed incredible mercy to his servant, but the servant chose not to pass that same mercy on to someone else. This activity reminds us that mercy grows stronger when it is shared from person to person.

Invite each participant to decorate a strip of colored paper with a word, phrase, or drawing that reminds them of mercy. They might write words like “kindness,” “forgiveness,” “patience,” “welcome,” or “begin again,” or they might draw pictures of helping, sharing, or encouraging someone. When finished, connect all the paper strips, making them into one long paper chain. Display it where everyone can see. As each link is added, notice how the chain becomes longer and stronger because everyone contributes. When the chain is complete, remind participants that every act of mercy becomes another link that strengthens a community. Jesus invites us

to receive God's mercy and keep it moving, helping others experience forgiveness, compassion, and the joy of a new beginning.

Prayer

Merciful God, you have shown us what forgiveness looks like through the life-changing opportunities of second, third, and seventy-seventh chances. May we be generous with your mercy, creating room for everyone to experience the gift of a fresh start. Amen.

Look it Up!

Did you know that new stars are born inside clouds of gas and dust called nebulae?

Look up pictures of star-forming nebulae. The universe reminds us that things can begin in unexpected places, just like God's mercy creates new beginnings.



CHURCH
Announcements

Thank you for your offering of **\$13,663.87** for the week of **September 6th!**

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by Larry and Shelley Hill, in memory of Beverly Hill. **Thank you!**

Our Summer Worship Services have come to an end, and we're excited to welcome you back to our **regular worship schedule beginning this Sunday, September 13!** Join us this Sunday for worship **at 8:30am or 11:00am**, along with **Rally Day** marking the start of **Church School and Confirmation**. Make sure to join us as we kick off our Fall season!

Tonight is our Music Coordinator Dmytro "Dima" Somkin's last Wednesday with us for a while. Due to challenges and limitations within the US immigration system, in order to maintain legal status and the ability to work, Dmytro and his family must leave the US this month and attempt to re-apply for residency under a different visa type. Our hope is that this time of separation will only be for a few months while his new application is processed and approved, at which point they would be able to return to Bismarck and Faith Lutheran. Your prayers and support during this challenging time mean the world. **Make sure to thank Dima tonight and send him with your well-wishes.**

Church School and Confirmation Registration is now available! Go to our Forms page at faithbismarck.com/forms to fill out our Google Forms for your Church School Age (3 Year Old-5th Grade) and Confirmation Age (6th Grade - 9th Grade) children! **We appreciate parents filling these out each year to help keep our records up to date.** If you have any questions about our programs, you can always talk to Kenny or one of the pastors!

Ruth Circle will resume on September 10th --- the 2nd Thursday of the Month beginning at 7 pm. We will continue our book study by Mike Yaconelli – *Messy Spirituality*. He addresses questions like: "Do you feel like you don't pray enough, or read the Bible enough, or share our faith enough?" He stresses that imperfection and messiness are in fact, the earmarks of true Christianity. **All are invited to join us on this journey of "messy spirituality".**

Don't forget to **sign-up** to cook Rice Pudding, drive batches or work our booth during **this year's Street Fair from Friday, September 18th-Saturday, September 19th**. Sign-ups can be found in the Gathering Place, next to the Coffee Hour table. Check out the September newsletter for a brief history of this fun tradition!

Want to learn how to be a more engaged citizen in your community?

Interfaith Alliance of North Dakota is partnering with the Palm Sunday Path to offer a series of workshops to help you feel equipped to speak about your values - with friends and family, policymakers, and at the upcoming North Dakota legislative session. This **Voicing Your Values** series will be offered Sept-Dec on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 6-8pm at Lord of Life Lutheran Church (1143 N. 26th St). Join for any or all of these sessions as you learn not *what* to say, but how to share effectively about the issues and concerns that are important to you! Questions? Talk to Pastor Sylvia or email wndpalmsundaypath@gmail.com.

September 17 - Voicing Your Values in an Age of Partisanship

Pastor Sylvia leads this session on the challenges of speaking about your values in a partisan environment and shares practical tips for engaging about the things that are important to you in a positive way.

October 15 - Voicing Your Values: Speaking with Policymakers

Ross Keys and Sonda Sauers lead this session to help you build skills for speaking about your values with policymakers at all levels.

November 19 - Voicing Your Values: Letters to the Editor and Written Testimony

Steve Andrist leads this session on how to communicate your values effectively through letters to the editor and written legislative testimony.

December 17 - Voicing Your Values: Testifying at the ND State Legislature

Rudie Martinson leads this session on the process for testifying in person or online at the ND Legislature.

Message: Pastor Derek Harkins

Liturgy: Pastor Sylvia Bull

Music: Judy Kubischta; Dmytro Somkin (special music)

CALENDAR

Thursday, September 10

Newsletter Deadline!

2:00 Knit & Crochet Group

7:00 Ruth Circle

Friday, September 11

8:00 NA

Saturday, September 12

Sunday, September 13

Rally Day!

8:30 Worship

9:45 Church School

11:00 Worship

4:00 Cub Scouts

Monday, September 14

7:00 AA

Tuesday, September 15

9:00 Quilting

2:00 Crafts

5:00 HR Committee

7:00 Scouts

Wednesday, September 16

3rd Grade Acolyte Training

Giving of Bibles

10:00 Bible Study

5:30 Handbells

6:00 Church School &
Confirmation

7:00 Worship

MISSION Focus



SEPTEMBER: LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF KITS

Throughout the year, our Quilters collect items to put in Personal Care, School, and Baby Kits, sent to people in need around the world through Lutheran World Relief. Full lists are available on the Concierge Table and under our Serve tab on our website, but they are currently in need of shirts and T-shirts (sizes 6 to 24 months), jackets, and hooded sweatshirts for their baby kits. For their personal care kits, they are looking for towels (no larger than 27" x 52") and metal nail clippers. Thank you for your generosity!

If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the Lord your God is giving you... you should open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be. Deut. 15:7-8