

**Sunday, February 8, 2026**  
**5th Sunday after Epiphany**



**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**

**Sylvia Bull**

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# ORDER OF WORSHIP

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING HYMN: ELW 665 "Rise, Shine, You People!" \***

**CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS (8:30)**

**BAPTISM OF EVELYN ROSE JOHNSON (11)**

**KYRIE: ELW Setting 8, pg. 184 \***

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*Word: God speaks to us through scripture reading, preaching and song.*

**READINGS:** see next page

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW Setting 8, pg 188 \***

**GOSPEL READING:** see next page

**CHILDREN'S SERMON & SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 715 "Christ Be Our Light"\***

**APOSTLES' CREED (8:30)**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**OFFERING MOMENT & PRAYER**

*Meal: God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**GREAT THANKSGIVING & HOLY, HOLY, HOLY: ELW Setting 8, pg. 190 \***

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**COMMUNION HYMNS:**

**LAMB OF GOD: ELW Setting 8, pg. 191 \***

**ELW 479 "We Come to the Hungry Feast" \***

**ELW 494 "For the Bread Which You Have Broken" \***

*Sending: God blesses us and sends us into the world to love and serve our neighbors.*

**BLESSING**

**SENDING HYMN: ELW 712 "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service" \***

**DISMISSAL**

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

## READING(S)

**Reading:** *Isaiah 58:1-12*

Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side.

“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers.

You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.”

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading:** *1 Corinthians 2:1-12*

**Gospel Reading:** *Matthew 5:13-20*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 5<sup>th</sup> Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

[Jesus said:] "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

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

## **WEEKLY DEVOTIONS**

### **Monday - Prayer of the Day**

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### **Tuesday - Connections with the Liturgy**

At the welcome to the newly baptized (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 231), we hear reminders of today's gospel reading. Option 1 connects Matthew's words about light with John's: our light comes from the Light that is Christ. Option 2 quotes Matthew 5:16: our light draws people, not to ourselves, but to our Father in heaven.

### **Wednesday - Let the Children Come**

There are many ways we can pray—with or without words, through music or silence—but one of the most important ways we can pray is in the form of service and generosity. The prophet Isaiah gives us action words like sharing and providing. Ask the children in your life what is easy to share and what is harder to share. This is a great opportunity to tell children about tithing, that throughout the year we practice sharing a portion of the money God has given us as generously as we can so that everyone can have enough.

### **Thursday - Life on the Earth**

It is not only humans who need healing. The very earth itself, with its animals and plants, is signaling its need for human societies to show justice to God's creation. The second reading speaks of God's gifts to us, one of which is the earth itself.

### **Friday - Reflection on the Gospel Reading**

Christians receive the call to be salt and light, for the gospel means to transform not merely the self or the members of the church, but the entire world. The impossibility of our living such a perfect life makes us rely on the mercy of God and the power of the Spirit.

### **Saturday - A Hymn for the Day**

A hymn appropriate for this Sunday is "Christ, Be Our Light" (ELW 715). Through the words of this hymn we ask Christ to enlighten us, so that we can give light, peace, food, and shelter to those who are in need. Both the text and the tune were composed by the British Roman Catholic hymn writer Bernadette Farrell.



**CHURCH**  
*Announcements*

**Thank you** for your offering of **\$12,267.31** for the week of **February 1st!**

**Altar Flowers** for the week are provided by Jenell Loftesnes in honor of her 85<sup>th</sup> Birthday. **Thank you!**

The **February Newsletter is now available** online and in the mail! Paper copies are available on the table across from the Avenue C entrance.

We celebrate the **baptism of Evelyn Rose Johnson**, child of Payton and Hannah Johnson, with Hannah Grotsun and Brock Saewert as sponsors. **Welcome to our church family, child of God!**

**Christmas Ornaments are available for pick-up** from the table in the Gathering Place. Thank you for helping decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas season!

All experience levels are invited to join us for **Choir Practice on Sundays at 10am** in the East Room!

**Registration is open now for the Faith Lutheran BIO Girls group!** BIO Girls aims to improve the self-esteem of adolescent girls through service to others and self-empowerment, using a life-skills curriculum and small-group mentoring. The program hosted here will be **Tuesdays from 5:15pm-6:45pm, starting Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> until May 5<sup>th</sup>**, with a Finale Event on Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. More information and a **link to registration can be found on our Facebook page!**

We are looking for **volunteers to help serve at The Banquet at the Dream Center on Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup>**. We also need volunteers to make **unfrosted brownies**. Sign up sheet can be found on the table near the Coffee Fellowship area!

Come celebrate **Sue Rydberg's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday** at an open house celebration on **Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup> from 2pm to 4pm** at the Sierra Court Apartments Community Room (2821 Ithica Drive, Bismarck, ND).

Please join us **Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup> for a Scripture Circle led by U.S. Jones, II!** This powerful method of studying scripture focuses on details and connections across Scripture. The event, **hosted at Lord of Life (1143 N 26th St), will start with a light dinner at 5pm, and then study from 5:45pm-8pm.** A free-will offering will be taken if you feel moved to help supplement the speaker fee. Look out for other Scripture Circle opportunities on March 12<sup>th</sup> (McCabe UMC), April 9<sup>th</sup>, and May 14<sup>th</sup>!

Ready to hit the slopes? Join us on **Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 5pm for a Huff Hills Ski Day!** Whether you are ready to try something new, or brush up on your skills, we would love to see **people of all ages** enjoying time doing winter activities together. Contact Kenny for more information. Hope to see you there!

It's almost time for Lent! Join us on **Wednesdays, starting Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, at 11:15 am for Soup Lunch, and Midweek Services at 12:05pm and 7pm.** Starting **Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, we will also have Lent Book Study on Wednesdays at 10am and 6pm.** We will be studying *The Good and Beautiful God* by James Bryan Smith.

**Message: Pastor Sylvia Bull**

**Liturgy: Pastor Derek Harkins**

**Music: Sounds of Faith, Brett Loftesnes & Ann Loftesnes Porter (8:30)**

**Worship Assistants:**

**8:30 -Team A: Allen Dockter, Diane Dockter, Laurel Kukert, Gary Grosz, Marlene Grosz, Marge Loritz, Ken Hoffman, Lana Hoffman**

**11:00 - Team 3: Aaron Franklund, Jack Skaley, Gail Skaley, Jan Franklund, Les Franklund, Glenn Anderson, Tina Anderson, Carolee Hoffman, LeRoy Anderson, Janice Anderson**

## CALENDAR

### Monday, February 9

3:00 Worship & Music

7:00 AA

### Tuesday, February 10

#### **Newsletter Deadline**

9:00 Quilting

2:00 Crafts

6:00 Elementary Committee

7:00 Scouts

### Wednesday, February 11

#### **No Church School**

10:00 Bible Study

5:30 Handbells

7:00 Worship

### Thursday, February 12

#### **Serving the Banquet**

2:00 Knit & Crochet Group

5:00 Scripture Circle (Lord of Life)

7:00 Ruth Circle

### Friday, February 13

8:00 NA

### Saturday, February 14

10:00 Huff Hills Ski Day

### Sunday, February 15

#### **No Church School**

8:30 Worship

10:00 Choir Practice

11:00 Worship

3:00 Scouts

**MISSION**  
*Focus*



## **FEBRUARY: HEART RIVER CORRECTIONAL CENTER**

HRCC are looking for donations to help support pregnant and new mothers housed at the facility and their families with baby items. We would like to collect packs of newborn diapers (smaller packs are best), baby wipes, bibs/burp cloths, baby socks and Newborn or 0-3 month clothing (especially neutral or for girls).

*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*