

Wednesday, September 30, 2026
19th Wednesday 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

Every Member
Derek Harkins

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

READING: see next page

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

SERMON

SONG: ELW 595 "Jesus Loves Me!" *

PRAYERS

OFFERING

HOLY COMMUNION

BLESSING

SENDING SONG: ELW 540 "Go, Make Disciples" *

DISMISSAL

READING(S)

Reading: *Matthew 21:33-46*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 21st Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

[Jesus said:] “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone;

this was the Lord’s doing,

and it is amazing in our eyes’?

“Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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 21:33-46.

Reflection Questions

- We are in the Season after Pentecost, a time when the church grows in its understanding of how faith shapes life together. When religious leaders tried to trick Jesus by asking him what law was the greatest, how did Jesus answer?
- What did Jesus say are the two greatest commandments?
- By pairing these two commandments, Jesus shows us that loving God means loving our neighbors, and loving our neighbors means loving God. How do you share this love?
- What do you notice when people's actions show love for others? What do you notice when they don't?
- When we help everyone live well together, how is God's goodness shown through us?

Activity

Give each participant an infinity symbol, or invite older participants to draw their own. Explain that the infinity symbol (∞) is a line that loops without a beginning or end. Today, we'll use it to explore how Jesus connects loving God and loving our neighbors.

Write "Love God" on one loop and "Love Neighbor" on the other. Trace the path with a finger, noticing how each loop flows into the other.

Invite participants to add words or symbols to the templates or shrink plastic sheets showing what these kinds of love look like. Where might prayer, sharing food, welcoming someone, or speaking up for another person fit? What might belong on both sides? If using shrink plastic, follow the manufacturer's directions for decorating, cutting, hole-punching, and heating.

As participants work, ask, “Where does one loop end and the other begin? What do you notice? What happens when we try to separate loving God from loving our neighbors?” Invite participants to take their symbols home as reminders that Jesus joins these commandments together.

Prayer

God of wisdom, your love is like rich soil in a bountiful garden, nourishing vibrant life. May we be like gardeners planting seeds of compassion and care, choosing to love God and our neighbors in all that we do. Amen.

Look it Up!

Some schools charge for daily lunches, and some families cannot afford them. Did you know that communities sometimes work together to pay off students' school lunch debt?

Look up an example. How does ensuring everyone can eat show love for others?



CHURCH
Announcements

Thank you for your offering of **\$7,366.61** for the week of **September 27th!**

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by Pat & Gary Ritter, in memory of loved ones. **Thank you!**

Attention **8th–12th grade parents!** If your student is interested **in attending the 2027 ELCA National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis next summer**, please let Kenny know **by September 30th**. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity!

It's pumpkin patch time! **Sunday, October 4th is Faith Family Day at Papa's Pumpkin Patch from 12 pm- 7 pm**. Free Admission passes are available to pick up at the church office. Hope to see you all there!

The October Men of Faith meeting on **October 8 at 9am** will include a presentation from **Kari Hausauer, the lead ambassador for Forever Memory Keeping**, which specializes in cloud storage of photos and other personal data. Please “store” this in your memory banks and make plans to attend.

October brings our annual **Pie & Coffee event on Saturday, October 24th**. It will be a fun day to enjoy a piece of pie with our community. There will be **baked items, knoephla, and Rice Pudding** to purchase, **soup and sandwiches provided by the youth**, and of course, treasures to be found in **the White Elephant rooms**. We are adding something **NEW – kuchen for sale**. So, we need your help: dates for making knoephla are **Monday, October 12th at 6:30 pm** and **Thursday, October 15th at 9:00 am**. **On Friday, October 23rd at 5:30 pm**, we will be making kuchen. This is a good time to learn from our experts. Come join us! **White Elephant items** can be brought to the church beginning on **Thursday, October 22nd**.

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!

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.

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 & Liturgy: Pastor Derek Harkins

Music: Colleen Reinhardt

CALENDAR

Thursday, October 1

Serving the Banquet

9:00 Esther Circle

Friday, October 2

8:00 NA

Saturday, October 3

Sunday, October 4

Pumpkin Patch Day!

8:30 Worship

9:45 3rd Grade P/S

9:45 Church School

11:00 Worship

4:00 Cub Scouts

Monday, October 5

7:00 AA

Tuesday, October 6

9:00 Quilting

2:00 Crafts

7:00 Scouts

Wednesday, October 7

5:15 Mentor Training

5:30 Handbells

5:30 BLAST Meal

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