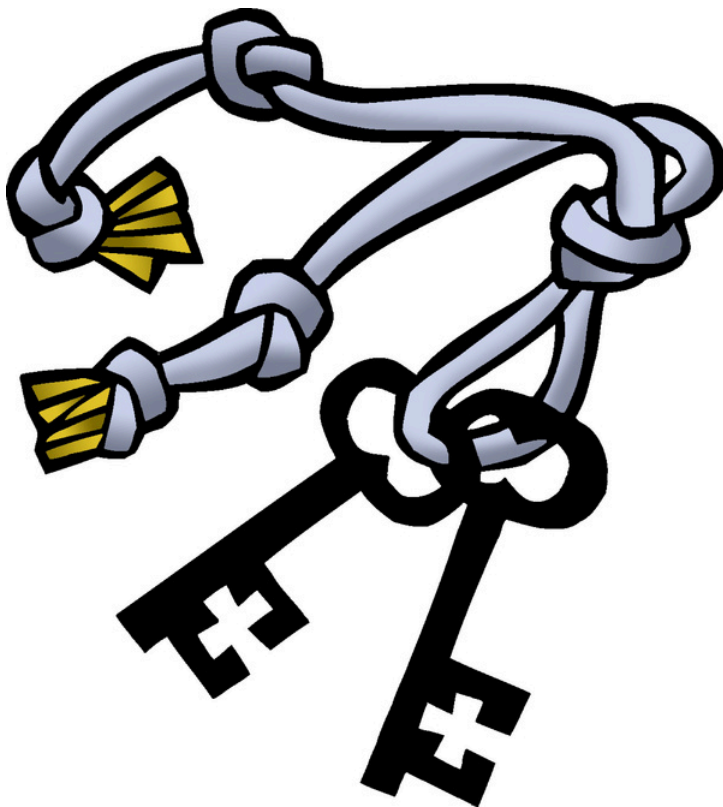


Sunday, August 23, 2026
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost



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
Sylvia Bull

1402 E Ave C Bismarck, ND 58501
Pastoral Care Emergency Number: 701-595-0223

faithbismarck.com
701-223-2236

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN: ACS 979 "Making Their Way" *

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

GREETING

KYRIE: by Ben Splichal Larson

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

READINGS: see next page

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: by Ben Splichal Larson

GOSPEL READING: see next page

CHILDREN'S SERMON & SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 597 "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" *

APOSTLES' CREED

SHARING OF THE PEACE

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

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

GREAT THANKSGIVING & HOLY, HOLY, HOLY: by Ben Splichal Larson

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN:

ELW 496 "One Bread, One Body" *

ELW 471 "Let Us Break Bread Together" *

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

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN: ACS 1024 "Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand" *

DISMISSAL

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

READING(S)

First Reading: *Isaiah 56: 1, 6-8*

Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah, who bore you,
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.

For the LORD will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation,
for a teaching will go out from me
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

I will bring near my deliverance swiftly;
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.

Lift up your eyes to the heavens
and look at the earth beneath,
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats,
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

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

Second Reading: *Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32*

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 16: 13-20*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 16th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Monday - Prayer of the Day

In the prayer of the day, composed for Evangelical Lutheran Worship, we join with Peter to praise Christ as our rock, and we pray with Paul to be formed into the body of the risen Savior.

Tuesday - Connections with the Liturgy

In the creed the church joins Peter to name Jesus "Christ" God's only Son, and in pronouncing the forgiveness of sin, the minister takes up the authority to "loose on earth" what we trust will be loosed "in heaven," that is, with God.

Wednesday - Let the Children Come

The image of a rock shows up in our readings for today, and we think of how God's faithfulness is as solid and dependable as a rock. Consider singing the song "I Will Call Upon the Lord," with the lyrics "Blessed Be the Rock," with the children in your life. It lends itself well to actions and will involve children in moving their bodies in an expression of joy. If you are not familiar with this camp song and it's movements, you can look up "I Will Call Upon the Lord" performed by Cross Road Campers and Staff on YouTube.

Thursday - Life on the Earth

Paul calls the Romans to resist being conformed to the values of this world, but rather to transform the world by the Spirit of Christ. It is just such a radical transformation of values that Christians are now called—from a triumphant "red" church to an ecological "green" church.

Friday - Reflection on the Gospel

Every Sunday is Easter, and Peter speaks for us all the resurrection faith: that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Roman Catholics and Protestants have quarreled over the referent of "the rock": yet for all Easter communities who hear this reading, the Rock is Christ, as well as the faith in that Christ and the believers who share that faith. Enlivened by that rock, we will conquer Hades, an archaic way to speak of the realm of death.

Saturday - A Hymn for the Day

A hymn appropriate for the day is "Built on a rock" (ELW 652). The hymn begins by taking with utter seriousness the problems of the church and the wider society. Although invoking the ancient mythic picture that God lives up above the skies, the hymn writer reminds Christians that we, the baptized community, are the house in which God lives. Christ is the rock who is our foundation. This hymn, especially beloved among Scandinavians, was written in the 1830s by the Danish Lutheran pastor Nikolai Grundtvig. Grundtvig, who wrote about 1500 hymns, is viewed as one of the most influential Lutheran hymn writers of all time.



Thank you for your offering of **\$5,394.05** for the week of **August 16th!**

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by Roberta Modin, in memory of Robert and Ramona Sletten.
Thank you!

It's that time of year again! Our last Summer Worship Service will be Sunday, September 6th (Labor Day Weekend), so remember to **join us at either the 8:30am or 11am service starting Sunday, September 13th. Rally Day (first day of Church School/Confirmation) will also be Wednesday, September 9th and Sunday, September 13th.** Make sure to join us as we kick off our Fall season!

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!

There's another fun music opportunity this weekend! **Come on out to the Capitol Grounds for the Gospel PraiSing Festival today, August 23rd from 11:30am to 7:30pm!** Free-will donations will go to Heaven's Helpers GoDisciple program. Make sure to be there to **hear Beer & Hymns at 1:30pm**, and to hear special guest artist Natalie Layne Band at 6:30pm. There will also be several food vendors. Hope to see you there!

Next weekend, make sure to join in the **Installation for our new WND Synod Bishop, Rev. Lisa Lewton! Join in person at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church (146 6th Ave West, Dickinson, ND), or online using St. John's YouTube page (youtube.com/@stjohnelc), on Saturday, August 29th at 2pm MDT/3pm CDT.** Help celebrate and welcome our bishop into her new role in our Synod!

Rice Pudding is coming up! Please join us **during Coffee Hour on Sunday, August 30th for Rice Pudding Sunday!** Enjoy our famous Rice Pudding, and **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.** Look out in the September newsletter for a brief history of this fun tradition!

Women of all ages are invited to our **WELCA Gathering on Tuesday, September 1st at 7pm.** Join us for fellowship, discuss past and future events, and **hear from Mercy Carkuff about the WELCA Triennial Gathering this past July!**

Men of Faith....Welcome back after a 3 month summer (but not from the heat) hiatus. We will start our monthly meetings with a **presentation from Sarah Matthews, who represents the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library,** in which she will speak of the services and opportunities that they offer. Make sure to mark **9AM, Thursday, 3 September 2026** on your calendar. Remember, treats might be offered.

Thanks to all of you who participated in the **Summer Gladness Favorite Hymn contest** this summer. We started with 64 ordinary hymns (nothing seasonal). We have a rich tradition of beautiful music and there was a little sadness each week as someone's favorite didn't make the cut. **"How Great Thou Art" was the overall favorite hymn winner by 4 votes!** "Lord, Listen to your Children Praying" came in second.

Message: Lisa Bennett
Liturgy: Pastor Sylvia Bull
Music: Dmytro Somkin

Worship Team -
Team 2: John Wittenberg, Nikki Wittenberg, Shelby VonWahlde, Joe VonWahlde, Hope Schreiner, Shannon Schreiner, Billie Ann Caya, Sara Caya Giltner, Joyce Hellman, Gage Wittenberg

CALENDAR

Monday, August 24

4:30 Altar Guild
7:00 AA

Tuesday, August 25

9:00 Quilting
2:00 Crafts
5:00 HR Committee
6:00 Compass Group
7:00 Executive Committee

Wednesday, August 26

10:00 Bible Study
7:00 Worship

Thursday, August 27

6:00 Knit & Crochet Group

Friday, August 28

5:45 Improv Workshop
8:00 NA

Saturday, August 29

3:00 Installation for Rev. Lisa
Lewton as Bishop of WND (St
John Evangelical Church,
Dickinson)

Sunday, August 30

Rice Pudding Sunday

9:30 Worship
4:00 Cub Scouts

MISSION Focus



JULY/AUGUST: BECEP

BECEP, located across 14th Street from our church, works together with families and the community to support and promote Early Childhood Education. They serve children birth to 5 years old, and work with their families to give young children the best environments to grow and thrive in.

We are asking for donations to help them in their mission!

They are currently asking for children's clothes (size 4/5 through 8/10), girls and boys backpacks, hats, waterproof mittens, and snow pants.

"[Jesus] said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them." - Mark 10: 14b-16