

**Wednesday, May 28, 2025 &
Sunday, June 1, 2025
Seventh Sunday in Easter**



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 532 "Gather Us In" *

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

GREETING

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

READINGS: see next page

**READING & SERMON: Bishop Craig Schweitzer,
WND Synod Bishop of the ELCA**

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 826 "Thine the Amen"

APOSTLES' CREED

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING MOMENT

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

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

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN: ELW 543 "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" *

DISMISSAL

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

READING(S)

First Reading: *Acts 16:16-34*

Second Reading: *Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21*

"See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."

Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.

"It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come."

And let everyone who hears say, "Come."

And let everyone who is thirsty come.

Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

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

Sermon Reading: *Ephesians 3:14-21*

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Monday - Prayer of the Day

O God, form the minds of your faithful people into your one will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Tuesday - Reflection on the Revelation Reading

Imagery in Revelation often feels scary to people and causes anxiety over who is saved by God and who isn't. The book is complex and does not fit our interpretive categories easily. However, this passage, which summarizes the whole letter, concludes Revelation with an open invitation and possibility that in the end God's grace prevails. There's an invitation to "come." Everyone who is thirsty is invited and welcome. "Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift" (22:17). How does this ending help hearers rethink what they assume about this powerful and puzzling conclusion of the Christian scriptures?

Wednesday - Let the Children Come

One of the amazing things about Paul and Silas's imprisonment is that their testimony knows no bounds. You can take this story as an opportunity to talk with the kids in your life about what it means to share the good news of Jesus with others. On this day, consider asking kids to write or share one thing they know or love about Jesus and one person they can share their story with. After they have shared, you and the kids can close in prayer for courage and strength to share this news with others. This activity could help children better understand and connect with the scripture passages of the day, while also encouraging them to take an active role in spreading the good news of Jesus.

Thursday - Life on the Earth

Monotheistic religion wants to give to God the powers of the universe, and so in the biblical worldview, God continues to create the natural world, but also can wreck it. Thus in the Bible God sends earthquakes, for example in today's first reading, to achieve some divine purpose. It is interesting that in Luke's story, the purpose of God in the earthquake was not to punish, but to save. However, for the last few centuries, it is far more difficult for Christians to maintain this worldview, and churches disagree about how to speak about God's role in natural disasters such as floods, volcanos, and earthquakes.

Friday - Reflection on the Acts Reading

This delightful narrative has it all, from a boisterous fortune-teller to a fortuitous earthquake. The point of the story is that God is leading the apostles through many adventures, including imprisonments, towards the conversion of the Roman Empire. We join with the jailer and his family to rejoice in baptism. Although the author of Revelation despairs of life under Roman domination, Luke suggests that the mission of Christ through the Roman Empire will succeed. This Sunday concludes Year C's Easter semi-continuous reading through Acts.

Saturday - Connection with Creation

In Revelation, Jesus refers to himself as "the bright morning star." The planet Venus is usually referred to as the morning star, or the evening star, depending on when it is visible. Venus is the brightest object in the sky other than the sun or the moon. Using a sky mapping app (Sky Map or Sky View, for example), you can easily find where the planet Venus is in the sky. Invite the assembly to look up at the morning or evening sky and be reminded by the bright planet Venus that Christ is our true light, our true guiding star, the beginning and the end.



CHURCH
Announcements

Thank you for your offering of **\$4,184.52** for the week of **May 25!**

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by Jack and Gail Skaley, in memory of Michelle. **Thank you!**

Registration for Vacation Bible School is now open! Children 4 years old to those entering 6th grade are invited to join us for games, snacks, music, crafts and learning about God together. The program will run from **Sunday, June 8th to Wednesday, June 11th, from 6pm to 8pm** each night (opening at 5:30 on Sunday with a pizza party), ending in a performance at the Wednesday 7pm service. Cost is **\$20 per child, or \$30 per family**. Registration can be found on the forms page of our website.

All students who are active members at Faith Lutheran Church may apply for a **college tuition scholarship for the 2025-2026 school year**. Whether a graduating high school student or already at college, head out to our Faith website www.faithbismarck.com/forms and email the completed form and a current transcript to the office faith.bisfaith@gmail.com by July 15.

Handmade cards for Graduation, Father's Day and Weddings are available for purchase on the small display table in the Gathering Area.

Thank you to all our NC Mission Trip Sponsors! As of this week, we have **reached our goal of \$8,000!** You can still **make a donation to Faith Lutheran with "NC trip sponsor" in the memo line or on a note, or use our Give page on our website**. Any money not used for the trip will go towards recovery efforts in Western North Carolina.

THANK YOU to Jim and Connie Isaak who delivered 8 boxes to Midwest Motors this past week. The boxes consisted of **21 Baby Kits and 26 quilts**. We also have **176 pillowcase dresses** that will be delivered in the near future. Our next and final shipment for the year will be in October. We have also been supporting local organizations and members with quilts. We have donated a total of **132 quilts** to other causes this year! A breakdown of how many quilts each non-profit received will be in the June Newsletter. Thank you also to our quilters who make the quilts and put the kits together. This would not be possible without you! **Full lists for our Lutheran World Relief Kits** are available now on the back counter. Any donations can be brought to the office. Thank you for your generosity!

Please join us on **Thursday, June 19th for a Scripture Circle led by U.S. Jones, III**! This powerful method of studying scripture focuses on details and connections across Scripture. The event, **hosted at Faith Lutheran, 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 July 17th (at McCabe) and August 14th (at MSLCC North Campus)!

Message: Bishop Craig Schweitzer, WND Synod Bishop of the ELCA

Liturgy: John Power

Music: Colleen Reinhardt (Wednesday), Judy Kubischta (Sunday)

Worship Assistants:

Team B: Karen Michalka, Joe Michalka, Jim Isaak, Connie Isaak, Dave Anderson, Sue Anderson, Jason Dockter, Brenda Dockter

CALENDAR

Monday, June 2

7:00 AA

Tuesday, June 3

9:00 Quilting

Wednesday, June 4

10:00 Bible Study

7:00 Worship

Thursday, June 5

9:00 Esther Circle

Friday, June 6

8:00 NA

Saturday, June 7

Sunday, June 8

9:30 Worship

5:30 VBS Opening (with Pizza Party)

MISSION Focus



JUNE: COMMUNITY ACTION FOOD PANTRY

The Community Action Food Pantry provide food baskets, usually filled with enough food to last approximately 4-7 days, to income qualified clients and families in need. They are currently in need of canned soups, pasta and pasta sauce, canned chicken and tuna, pancake mixes, rice, and other non-perishable food items. Thank you for your generosity!

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat." - Matthew 25:35