



1402 East Avenue C, Bismarck, ND 58501

Phone: 701-223-2236 Fax: 701-223-0485

After Hours Emergency Line: 701-595-0223

www.faithbismarck.com

News and Views

December 2023/January 2024

Volume 2023, Issue 12

MISSION STATEMENT

"We are building a welcoming, nurturing faith community that is guided by Jesus and shares the Gospel."



It's that time again!

Faith Lutheran Church's Annual

Cookie Walk

Saturday, December 9th, starting at 9am

1402 E Ave C, Bismarck, ND 58501

We will have a wide variety of cookies (\$8.00 per pound), as well as specialty items, such as krumkake, rosettes and a variety of breads. You can also shop our selection of crafts! Proceeds will help us replace window treatments in our church office. The parking lot and entrance with the elevator are on the North side of the church. Doors open at 9am!

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH CLERGY

Pastor Derek Harkins
(Fridays off)

Pastor Sylvia Bull
(Fridays off)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY: 8:30am & 11 am

WED: 12:05 & 7:00pm
until Dec. 20, then
WED: 7:00pm

**LIVESTREAM AT SUN 8:30
& WED 7:00**

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday
8:00 AM - 12 PM

1:00 PM - 5 PM

Friday: 8:00 AM - Noon

Pastoral Care
Emergency Number
701-595-0223

Answering machine is available evenings and weekends when the office is not staffed.

Office is not open during the lunch hour.

Faith Lutheran Church

Advent and Christmas Schedule

Midweek Advent Services
Wed., Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13 & 20
12:05pm & 7pm

Christmas Program
Wednesday, December 13 at 7pm
Sunday, December 17 at 11am

Longest Night Service
Wednesday, December 20
12:05pm & 7pm

How does a weary world rejoice?
An Advent series in Luke's Gospel

Christmas Eve Services
Sunday, December 24
2 pm, 4 pm, 6pm and 11pm
(NO MORNING SERVICES)

Christmas Day Service
Monday, December 25
10 am

Services return to normal schedule
the week of Dec. 27 & Dec. 31
(Wed. at 7pm, Sun. at 8:30 & 11am)



FLC Executive Team

Jim Sheldon, Chair
Amy Steiner, Vice-Chair
Lyla Timm, Vice-Chair
Mark Schneider, Secretary
Matthew Nygard, Treasurer

Pastoral Ministries

Funerals:

Vance Rogers
Nick Jolliffe
Gloria Hoff
Ardeen Belile Brenneise

Baptisms:

Evren Jane Hoffmann
Rowynn Rae Eckman
Crue Scott Eckman



**FINANCIAL UPDATE
WILL BE PROVIDED AT
THE CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING ON DECEMBER
10TH (see page 3)**

Star Word Reflection Question



How has your Star Word helped you in times of weariness? How can you prepare with joy for the coming of the infant Christ?

The deadline to submit information to the News and Views newsletter is the 10th of each month prior to the next newsletter. The church bulletin deadline is at noon on Tuesday for the coming Sunday bulletin. Articles, schedules, etc., can be sent to: communications.bisfaith@gmail.com For additional information, call the church office at 701-223-2236

Church Memorials

For **Church School Chairs**, in memory of Barb Holwegner.

Details can be found in the Memorial Book in the Gathering Place.

Friends in Faith

My Friends in Faith,

In the middle 1960s, my mother asked me what I wanted for Christmas. I told Mom an electric football game and showed her the one in the Christmas catalog I wanted. She visited with Dad and they agreed to get me this game. Mom sent the order off in the mail and my wait for it to arrive began.

A few days before Christmas, when I got home from school, I started to ask if the football game had arrived. Mother said it has not. Everyday the answer was no. On December 24th when it was not in the mail, I was resigned to the fact that I would have to wait till after Christmas for my present.

When my siblings and I were young, presents were not placed around the tree until Christmas Eve which continued our belief that they were brought by Santa Claus. This Christmas Eve Mom told me to help Dad bring in the presents. I went with him out into the cold of the evening to the building where he and Mom hid them. When we went in and the light was turned on, I saw it. My electric football game was there.

Many decades of years past by before I realized that that Christmas was when I learned about the importance of Advent. That season taught me that the humility in my wait resulted in the joy of my gifts' arrival.

Throughout our lives we experience many advents. Waiting to celebrate the birth of Jesus the Christ is but one of them. What periods of advent have been important to you and why?

Bennett R. Kubischta

13 November 2023, 8:57 am



Library Link

by LeAnn Severson

It's that time of year to encourage you to visit the church library during the Advent/Christmas season. All the books and DVDs pertaining to the season have been pulled from the shelves and are on display to provide ease in finding something of interest for you.

In this season of reflection, preparation and renewal, you can take a fresh look at the nativity story with author, Liz Curtis Higgs, in her book *THE WOMEN OF CHRISTMAS*. Higgs explores the biblical stories of three women who played vital roles in the Messiah's birth: Elizabeth, Mary and Anna.

THE CHRISTMAS MIRACLE OF JONATHAN TOOMEY is a holiday classic that has been warmly embraced by readers, critics and book sellers alike. This is a great story to read with children and grandchildren. We have the DVD of the story available, as well.

I've planned to set aside time to read some of the selections available. Won't you join me?



MEN OF FAITH
CHRISTMAS
DINNER

**Thursday, December 7th at
6pm**

Tickets on Sale starting
November 26th

The 36th (yep, that's right) annual Men's Christmas Dinner is scheduled for Thursday, 7 December, beginning at 6:00 PM. The meal will be the traditional (I guess we aren't quite ready for reformation) ham, potatoes, green beans, etc. This year's proceeds will be directed to the youth who are attending the 2024 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Tickets (\$10, age's 10 and under are free) will be sold on the Sunday's and Wednesday's, 2 weeks prior to the event and or at the church office. A sign-up sheet for bars will be located on the concierge table. Thank you all for the past and continuing support!

STAFF EMAILS

**Need to reach one of our staff?
Emails can be found below!**

Faith Lutheran's General Email

faith.bisfaith@gmail.com

Derek Harkins

Senior Pastor

derek.bisfaith@gmail.com

Sylvia Bull

Associate Pastor

sylvia.bisfaith@gmail.com

Cheryl Johnson

Office Manager and Financials

cheryl.bisfaith@midconetwork.com

Caitlin McCleary

Communications/Administrative Assistant

communications.bisfaith@gmail.com

Kenny Opsal

Director of Education and Youth

kenny.bisfaith@midconetwork.com

Janine Johannes

Music Coordinator

janine.bisfaith@gmail.com

Congregational Meeting

Join us on Sunday, December 10 at 9:45 for a Congregational Meeting. We will be discussing the budget, electing new committee chairs and members, and discussing our vision as a church!

Pastor Sylvia's Parables



"O holy night, the stars are brightly shining, it is the night of the dear Savior's birth;

Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn."

Placide Cappeau, translated by John Sullivan Dwight

These words are taken from the beloved Christmas carol "O Holy Night" and serve as the inspiration for our Advent and Christmas worship series from A Sanctified Art: "How Does A Weary World Rejoice?" Over the next six weeks or so, we will reflect on this question together alongside the account of Jesus' birth from Luke's gospel.

Perhaps, like me, you find yourself weary heading into this holiday season. The days are shorter, life is hectic and busy with days scheduled to the hilt. You leave the house when it is still dark and don't return until long after the sun sets. Or maybe this season is one of isolation and loneliness as the lengthening darkness and bad weather keep you confined to your home. Perhaps the holidays which bring joy to others are reminders of losses you've experienced, of the people who won't be there around your holiday tables. Perhaps you are just worn down from reading all the sad news in the world and worrying about what the future will hold. Or maybe you are weary from one of a thousand other reasons that we humans grow tired in body and soul.

If any of this is true for you, I invite you to join us this Advent and Christmas season as we seek to find joy, even in the midst of weariness. Through worship, story, song, art, and reflection, we will hear the good news about Emmanuel - God-with-us - and discover paths of rejoicing.

We will begin our observance of Advent on Sunday, November 26 with our normal Sunday worship schedule of 8:30am and 11am (livestream at 8:30am). Then on Wednesdays beginning November 29, we will have a chance to dive deeper into these stories and themes with midweek services at 12:05pm and 7pm (livestream at 7pm). A light soup lunch will be served at 11:15am for the first three weeks (Nov. 29, Dec. 6, and Dec. 13). On Wednesday, December 20, we will hold a Longest Night Service at both 12:05pm and 7pm with a Liturgy for the Weary. These services are especially appropriate for anyone who is grieving or carrying a heavy burden of sickness or loss this season. Come as you are and find a space to place your sadness and weariness in the midst of holiday festivities.

In this waiting season of Advent, I hope that in worship you will experience a place to acknowledge your weariness, but also places to find joy in connection, to be amazed, to sing

songs of hope, and to be rooted in the good news of Jesus Christ, our Savior. A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices...Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

In Christ,
Pastor Sylvia

Christmas Poinsettias



Altar Guild invites you to buy Christmas Poinsettias! These flowers, dedicated to loved ones and used to decorate the church, will be for sale for \$15 on Sunday, Nov. 26, Sunday, Dec. 3, and Wednesday, Dec. 6!



Newsletter Mailing Update!

We are working on updating our mailing list for newsletters! **Starting in January, we are moving to an opt-in mailed newsletter.** We are hoping to get a better idea of how people would like to view the newsletter from month to month, and hoping to cut down on printing and mailing costs by seeing who prefers a mailed copy, and who can receive the newsletter using other methods.

If you would like to put your household on the mailing list, or transition over to picking up a printed copy, receiving an email with a PDF of the newsletter, or looking online, please let us know! We would like to know how many paper copies to leave out toward the end of the prior month.

You can call the office at (701) 223-2236, email communications.bisfaith@gmail.com, or stop in the office by December 15th to let us know what you would prefer! We also have sign-up sheets in the church or at <https://forms.gle/QjuRLp4RyijPU6899> if you would like to let us know that way.

Thank you for letting us know your preference on receiving the newsletter!

Church School News



Church school has been going great! We have done a great job learning the fruits of the spirit. We are raising money this quarter for South Central High School.



Youth News

I think it is very important that people understand the youth here at Faith have always done everything as a group. In Matthew Chapter 20, Jesus explains the kingdom of heaven being like a landowner who hired workers for the vineyard. Some were hired early in the morning. Some were hired late in the day. The workers who were hired late in the day were paid just the same as those who were hired early in the morning. After some were upset, Jesus responded in the parable saying "don't I (the landowner) have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous"

This is a hard teaching for many of us to understand because we always try to equate things with human minds of what is right or just (according to our standards). Jesus stated the last will be first, and the first will be last. One of the most important principles that I have learned from all of the pastors that I have worked with here at Faith Lutheran is shared community. And since day one, as it was shared to me, we have continued to place our value in shared community. If we grow, we grow together. If we give, we give together. When we work, we work together. We are all a community, together, and we trust that everything will work together for God's glory. Please pray for us and our hope to have a great trip and that even those who cannot attend the youth gathering with us, can grow through us upon our return. - Kenny Opsal

- Keep an eye out for announcements about a Middle School/ High School Lock-in on January 20th!

Acolyting Schedule

December

Sundays

8:30- Bennett Isaak

11:00- Zach Unruh/Trevor Hein

Wednesdays

7:00 - Kate Nowatzki/Brianna Dykema

Tech Assistant:

Ethan Keller/Drew Heisler

January

Sundays

8:30- Conner Kuntz

11:00- Collins Steiner

Wednesdays

7:00 - Lauren Schorsch/Maici Zins (3/10)

Caitlyn Brady/Cambree Brady (17/24)

Tech Assistant

Aidan Harkins

Church School / Youth Related Events

HIGH SCHOOL COFFEE HOUR

Join us the first and third Wednesday of the month for
coffee hour!

Get to know other high school age people.

We will pay for drinks!

Please contact Kenny to ask questions, or to let him know
you are coming!

Phone: Call (701) 223-2236 and ask for Kenny

Email: kenny.bisfaith@midconetwork.com

1st and 3rd Wednesday
8:00-9:00

Starbucks on State Street
2124 N 12th Street



Church School Chairs

We are looking for donations to replace
the chairs in the church school
classrooms! All donations will be in
honor of Barb Holwegner, who
contributed greatly to our Church School
program for years! If you would like
more information, please contact Kenny.



Faith Lutheran Cookbook

Debut Potluck

Sunday, December 17th
12:15-1:45

Enjoy dishes from various people in the
church, and purchase our new cookbook!
Cookbooks are \$10, and proceeds will benefit
those going to the National Youth Gathering!
Sign-ups to bring dishes can be found in the
Gathering Place.

All Ages Caroling

Please join us on **Sunday, December 17th,**
starting at 2pm, as we sing carols at various
assisted living and nursing homes! Contact
Kenny for more information!



Thrivent Choice Dollars

As we draw to the end of the year please remember to direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars if you haven't done so! If you do not have a particular destination for your dollars you can direct them to Faith Lutheran Church. We use these dollars for various things the church needs. Thanks!

Thank you!

Thank you from the Nick Jolliffe family for the prayers during his battle with cancer these past 6 years. Thank you for the visits, cards, memorials, flowers, and food. Thanks to Pastor Sylvia for the comforting words at the funeral and to the Women of Faith for serving the lunch. From: Rhonda, Nicklaus, Ben, and Marlene Jolliffe.

FLC Crafters Ornaments

Thank you to those who purchased the handcrafted Christmas ornaments in memory/honor of your loved ones. The proceeds from the sale were given to the Sunshine Basket Fund. The fund not only provides a basket of "sunshine" for some of our members during the Christmas season, but can offer assistance, as needed, during the rest of the year as well.

Purchased ornaments will be available for pick-up at the Concierge Table in mid-January.

MISSION Focus

DECEMBER: GAS & GROCERY GIFT CARDS



This month we are focusing on the immediate needs of our community. Many people need help with groceries and gas, so we would like to bless them with gift cards! Cards can be any amount, but we ask that you write in pen or marker the amount on the card.

*"And if you give yourself to the hungry
And satisfy the desire of the afflicted,
Then your light will rise in darkness
And your gloom will become like midday."
Isaiah 58: 10*



December 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 8:00 NA	2
3 8:30 Worship 9:45 CP Practice 11:00 Worship 4:00 Cub Scouts	4 5:00 Worship and Music 7:00 AA	5 9:00 Quilting 5:30 Choir 7:00 Scouts 7:00 Sounds of Faith	6 10:00 Bible Study 11:15 Soup Lunch 12:05 Worship 4:30 8th/9th Confirmation 5:30 Handbells 6:00 CP Practice 7:00 Worship 8:00 HS Coffee Hour	7 9:00 Esther Circle 1:30 Mary Martha Circle 6:00 Men of Faith Christmas Supper	8 8:00 NA	9 9:00 Cookie Walk
10 Newsletter Deadline 8:30 Worship 9:45 CP Practice 9:45 Congregational Meeting 11:00 Worship 4:00 Cub Scouts	11 7:00 AA	12 9:00 Quilting 5:30 Choir 7:00 Ruth Circle 7:00 Scouts 7:00 Sounds of Faith	13 10:00 Bible Study 11:15 Soup Lunch 12:05 Worship 5:30 Handbells 6:00 CP Practice 7:00 Worship/Church School Christmas Program	14	15 8:00 NA	16
17 8:30 Worship 9:45 CP Practice 11:00 Worship/Church School Christmas Program 12:00 Cookbook Potluck 2:00 All-Ages Caroling 4:00 Cub Scouts	18 7:00 AA	19 9:00 Quilting 5:30 Choir 7:00 Sounds of Faith 7:00 Scouts	20 NO CHURCH SCHOOL 10:00 Bible Study 12:05 Longest Night Worship 5:30 Handbells 7:00 Longest Night Worship	21	22 Church Office Closed 8:00 NA	23
24 Christmas Eve NO MORNING SERVICES 2:00 Worship 4:00 Worship 6:00 Worship 11:00 Worship	25 Christmas Day 10:00 Worship 7:00 AA	26 7:00 Scouts	27 NO CHURCH SCHOOL 7:00 Worship	28	29 8:00 NA	30
31 NO CHURCH SCHOOL 8:30 Worship 11:00 Worship						



January 2024

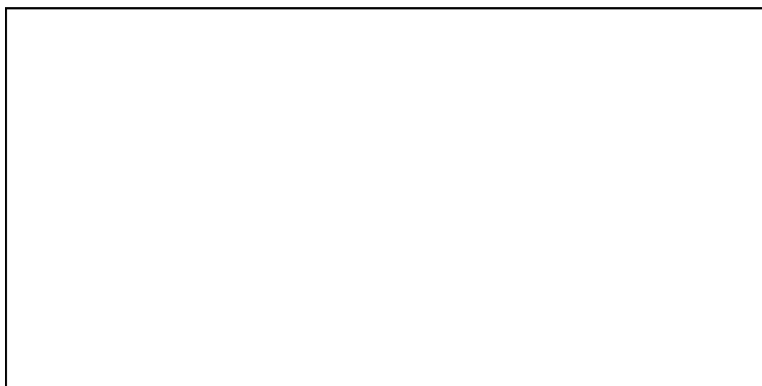


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Church Office Closed 7:00 AA	2 5:30 Choir 7:00 Scouts	3 4:30 8th/9th Confirmation 5:30 Handbells 6:00 Church School 7:00 Worship 8:00 HS Coffee Hour	4 9:00 Esther Circle 9:00 Men of Faith 1:30 Mary Martha Circle	5 8:00 NA	6
7 8:30 Worship 9:45 Church School 11:00 Worship 4:00 Cub Scouts	8 7:00 AA	9 9:00 Quilting 2:00 Crafts 5:30 Choir 6:00 Elementary Comm 7:00 Ruth Circle 7:00 Scouts 7:00 Sounds of Faith	10 Newsletter Deadline 10:00 Bible Study 5:30 Handbells 6:00 Church School 6:00 7th Grade P/S 7:00 Worship	11	12 8:00 NA	13
14 8:30 Worship 9:45 Church School 11:00 Worship 4:00 Cub Scouts	15 church Office Closed 7:00 AA	16 9:00 Quilting 2:00 Crafts 5:30 Choir 7:00 Sounds of Faith 7:00 Scouts	17 10:00 Bible Study 5:30 Handbells 6:00 7th Grade P/S 6:00 Church School 7:00 Worship 8:00 HS Coffee Hour	18	19 8:00 NA	20 MS/HS Lock-in
21 8:30 Worship 9:45 Church School 11:00 Worship 4:00 Cub Scouts	22 7:00 AA	23 9:00 Quilting 2:00 Crafts 5:00 HR Comm 5:30 Choir 6:00 Compass Group 7:00 Exec Comm 7:00 Scouts 7:00 Sounds of Faith	24 10:00 Bible Study 5:30 Handbells 6:00 7th Grade P/S 6:00 Church School 7:00 Worship	25	26 8:00 NA	27 9:30 Altar Guild
28 8:30 Worship 9:45 Church School 11:00 Worship 4:00 Cub Scouts	29 7:00 AA	30 9:00 Quilting 2:00 Crafts 5:30 Choir 7:00 Scouts 7:00 Sounds of Faith	31 10:00 Bible Study 5:30 Handbells 6:00 7th Grade P/S 6:00 Church School 7:00 Worship			

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED
December - 2023



December 2023/January 2024 News and Views

ALL-AGES SKI TRIP

**PRESIDENT'S DAY
WEEKEND
FEBRUARY 17-20, 2022**

**Bridger Bowl
Bozeman, Montana**

**SIGN-UPS AVAILABLE IN THE GATHERING PLACE SOON!
CONTACT KENNY FOR MORE INFO!**