

Wednesday, October 15, 2025
19th Week 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

OPENING SONG: ELW 172 “Halle Halle Hallelujah” *

READING (see next page)

SERMON

SONG: ELW 770 “Give Me Jesus” *

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD’S PRAYER

HOLY COMMUNION

BLESSING

SENDING SONGS: ELW 565 “All Praise to Thee My God This Night” *

DISMISSAL

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

READING

Reading: *Luke 18:1-10*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 18th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' " And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

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 Luke 18:1-8.

Reflection Questions

- Who are the main characters in Jesus' story? How does Jesus describe each of them?
- We are in the Season of Pentecost, a time when we listen and grow, stretching toward justice. What traits do the widow and the judge have?
- Jesus' story shows that acting for justice is a form of prayer. What do you usually think of when you hear the word prayer? What does prayer look like to you? What does it sound like?
- How are the widow's demands for justice different from how prayer is usually thought to be?
- How can we be persistent like the widow when calling for justice? Brainstorm ways to advocate for justice where you are.

Activity

Today's story teaches us prayer isn't just a quiet time alone with God; sometimes prayer means persistently working for justice to make a change for the better. In this story, Jesus tells us that the woman is a widow. In Jesus' time, women didn't have as much power as men, and a widow did not have a husband to fight for her rights. Who in our society is vulnerable like the widow (e.g., children without parents or guardians, people without enough money to pay a lawyer, etc.)?

Justice is bigger than the things we want. Brainstorm some things you might want but would not be a justice issue (e.g., ice cream, to never wait in line, etc.). Justice is about giving each person respect, dignity, and fairness.

Look up the United Nations' Declaration of Human Rights. For younger children, simplify the list or find a children's version online. This is an international agreement listing issues of human respect and dignity. Jesus doesn't tell us what justice the widow needed; yet, based on the Declaration of Human Rights, brainstorm a list of ideas of what kind of justice the widow may have needed.

Invite the children in your life to act out the story. Select an idea listed as the issue. For the first round, you may decide your or another adult should be the judge. Act out the judge telling the woman to leave, as the judge is very busy. Have the other children encourage her to keep asking! Eventually, the judge-actor should relent and grant her justice.

Continue acting out the story. Trade parts, and explore various ideas of what the widow may have been requesting. Ask the children:

- How does it feel to be told no and turned away repeatedly?
- In real life, would you have given up?
- Did it help to know the judge would eventually give up?
- How is that like trusting in God's justice?

Prayer

God who notices, you always listen. When those in power dismiss us, make us annoyingly persistent! May we never stop seeking justice or advocating for what is fair. Help us listen well, speak clearly, and show up with love. Amen.

Look it Up!

What is it called when people come together and speak out about injustice? Protesting!

Look up “Protesters’ Rights.” In the United States, these can vary from state to state. The United Nations has also established a similar framework.



CHURCH
Announcements

Thank you for your offering of **\$11,053.50** for the week of **October 12th!**

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by John and Jill Power, in memory of Phyllis Fuglie. **Thank you!**

New to our community? We would love to officially welcome you! Please join us on **Sunday, October 19th for a New Member Orientation and Wednesday October 22nd or Sunday October 26th during service for our New Member Installation.** Call the front office at (701) 223-2236 to let us know you are interested!

Sign-ups to **bake bars for Serving the Banquet this Saturday (October 18th)** are available near Coffee Fellowship. Bars can be dropped off at Faith Lutheran by noon on Friday, October 17th.

Interested in **singing with our choir**? Join us for rehearsal on **Sunday, October 19th from 10am-10:45 am**. All experience levels welcome!

It's time again for our **annual Pie & Coffee Day**! Please join us on **Saturday, October 25th from 9am-2pm**. Enjoy a pie or other baked good while browsing our rummage sale, handmade crafts and homemade baked goods to bring home (including knoephla and our famous Rice Pudding). Join us from **11:30am-1:30pm for sandwiches and soup served by the youth**, with free-will offering going towards youth programming. We will be **accepting donations** of lightly used items (no clothes or shoes) **starting Thursday, October 23rd**. Please consider **signing up to volunteer** using sheets in the Gathering Place, with various opportunities and shifts provided. We also invite you to **help us make knoephla** (no prior experience needed) **tomorrow, October 16th at 9:30am**. Hope to see you there!

Are you **stressed out about our divisive political climate**, yet unsure of how to respond? Join for conversation and support as we build connections and community on **Monday, October 27th at 5:15pm at Lucky's 13 (915 South 3rd St., Bismarck)**. Questions? Reach out to Pastor Sylvia.

Looking to boost your communication skills and stretch your improvisational muscles? Join us on **Friday, October 24th from 5:45 to 7:15 PM at Faith Lutheran Church** for a playful, hands-on **workshop in improv comedy and drama**. We'll cover the basics of good improv and create space for laughter, creativity, and connection with others from the church and local community. No experience needed — just a willingness to say “yes, and!” Teenagers are welcome with adult supervision. No RSVP required, but feel free to reach out with questions at [**joseph.michalka@gmail.com**](mailto:joseph.michalka@gmail.com). Newcomers are always welcome!

Join us on **Sunday, November 2nd at 6pm for our annual Luminaria Walk** honoring members and loved ones who died in the past year. **Sign-up sheets** to submit names of loved ones is available near the Coffee Hour area, as well as a sign-up for setting up and tearing down the event.

Please join us **on Thursday, November 13th 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 McCabe United Methodist, (1030 N 6th Street, Bismarck), 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 December 11th at Faith Lutheran, with more opportunities coming soon!

Message & Liturgy: Pastor Derek Harkins

Music: Dmytro Somkin

CALENDAR

Thursday, October 16

LYO

9:30 Knoephla Making

Friday, October 17

LYO

8:00 NA

Saturday, October 18

LYO

Serving the Banquet

Sunday, October 19

No Church School

8:30 Worship

9:45 New Member Orientation

11:00 Worship

Monday, October 20

7:00 AA

Tuesday, October 21

9:00 Quilting

2:00 Crafts

6:00 Stewardship Committee

7:00 Scouts

Wednesday, October 22

Reformation and

New Member Service

10:00 Bible Study

5:30 Handbells

6:00 4th Grade P/S

6:00 Church School and
Confirmation

7:00 Worship

MISSION Focus

OCTOBER: TRACY'S SANCTUARY HOUSE

Tracy's Sanctuary House is a non-profit that provides temporary sanctuary for out-of-town families during a time when their loved one is facing a medical emergency or life-threatening crisis. They focus on giving families a place of privacy, comfort, and compassion during an extremely difficult time in their lives. This month, we would like to collect gift cards (gas, WalMart, Target, grocery) labelled with the amount, stamps, thank you cards, Kleenex, disinfectant wipes/sprays and household cleaners, to help in their mission.

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

- Galatians 6:2

