

Sunday, July 5, 2026
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Observance of US
Semiquincentennial



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: ELW 888 "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies" *

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 887 "This Is My Song"*

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 838 "Beautiful Savior" *

ELW 774 "What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine" *

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

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN: ELW 756 "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" *

DISMISSAL

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

READING(S)

First Reading: *Zechariah 9:9-12*

Second Reading: *Romans 7:15-25a*

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

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

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 11th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

"For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

Then he began to reproach the cities in which most of his deeds of power had been done because they did not repent. "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. And you, Capernaum,

will you be exalted to heaven?

No, you will be brought down to Hades.

“For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I tell you that on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom than for you.”

At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Monday - Prayer of the Day

The prayer of the day, composed for Evangelical Lutheran Worship, cites the famous passage at the beginning of the Confessions, Augustine’s memoir: “You have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.” In today’s gospel, Christ promises us rest.

Tuesday - Connections with the Liturgy

The oracle from Zechariah provides the background for the Palm Procession at the outset of Holy Week, since Christians have seen the figure of a triumphant king, paradoxically riding a donkey, to be Jesus Christ.

Wednesday - Especially for Children

You might offer as a parallel to the image of the yoke a description of the old-fashioned sack races. Two children each placed one leg into a single sack, and then as if they had three legs, they tried to win the race without falling down on top of each other. In our baptism, we are connected to one another, since in the first place, we are connected to Christ. Always he is running alongside of each of us.

Thursday - Let the Children Come

In the gospel reading we hear Jesus calling us to rest. While many adults long to take a restful nap and cannot, children often battle against such an imposition on their active minds and bodies. Children may not always be able to say that they are exhausted and in need of rest, but they certainly have felt that way. Jesus offers us the rest we need, whether we long for it or resist it. Invite the children in your life (and maybe other adults, or even yourself) to experiment with resting and relaxing as they worship. What would they do to fully relax and feel God's peace? Would they plant their feet firmly on the ground, let go of tension and tightness, or maybe even lie down on the floor? Invite them, and all those gathered, to try a new posture in worship that opens them into Jesus' rest and relaxation.

Friday - Reflection on the Gospel

This beloved passage, "Come to me, and I will give you rest," contrasts with the earlier sentence, that Christians are indeed wearing the yoke of Christ. Some Christians have found such biblical passages about the Father's enigmatic will as fundamental to their faith.

Saturday - A Hymn for the Day

A hymn appropriate for today's gospel is "Come to me, all pilgrims thirsty" (ELW 777). The "Come to me" from Matthew 11:28 is expanded into six stanzas, to help us place ourselves into the words of Christ. Especially stanza 3 refers to today's Matthew selection. Delores Dufner, a Benedictine sister, wrote this hymn in 1982, and she contributed eight other hymns to the collection in Evangelical Lutheran Worship. Dufner has a remarkable skill for casting regular English into memorable poetic phrases. The stanzas, which mean to echo the words of Christ, can be sung by solo voices, and the refrain, our response, by the entire assembly.



CHURCH
Announcements

Thank you for your offering of **\$8,276.93** for the week of **June 28th!**

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by Vicki Kunz, in honor of Jack Smith's 90th Birthday. **Thank you!**

The **July Newsletter** is now in the mail and available online! Paper copies can be found on the table in front of the Avenue C Entrance.

We are needing **volunteers to help with watering outdoor plants here at church this summer!** The time commitment would be once a week for about 30 minutes. Call the church office at (701) 223-2236 if you can help us out.

We are so excited to announce this year's **FLC Summer Week of Service! From July 25th to 30th**, we have a full schedule each day of service opportunities, meals, and fun activities open to the congregation. We hope that you will find moments to join us as we serve others in all kinds of different ways and build relationships within our community and across the area. Schedule highlights will be in the July Newsletter, and **full schedule and details, with sign-up sheets, are available now in the Gathering Place!**

Join us on **Saturday, July 18th for a Medical Benefit for member Heather Zins.** Travel and other costs for a cornea transplant have caused financial insecurity for her and her family. The benefit will consist of a **Taco Bar from 4-7pm (free will donation) and a Silent Auction.** You can contact Brandy Schmaltz at bsizns1@gmail.com to donate Silent Auction items. You can also donate at First Community Credit Unions in ND or MN through the Jeff Zins Benefit account.

Faith Lutheran will be hosting a **Clothing Drive on Saturday, August 8th from 9-5!** We are asking for **donations of clothing for all ages, including backpacks for school children.** Sack lunches will also be provided. Watch the bulletin for further information!

You are invited to an **Open House Baby Shower for Pastor Sylvia and our administrative assistant, Caitlin McCleary, on Sunday, July 12th after our 9:30am worship service.** In lieu of gifts, please bring donations of newborn diapers, baby wipes, baby hygiene items (such as lotion, baby wash, diaper cream and towels) and baby socks and onesies for pregnant and new mothers at Heart River Correctional Center. We are excited to celebrate with you!

This summer, **we are looking for more people willing to give rides to church!** We are currently looking for a few more drivers to use their personal vehicle, or our bus or van, to transport a group of people to service this summer, and to the 8:30 starting in the Fall. We are also looking to potentially pair up individuals or couples who can give rides with other couples or individuals that would like one. **If you can give rides to a group about once a month, or could regularly give rides to one individual or couple, or would be interested in a ride, please call the front office** to let us know you are interested, and which service you normally attend.

We want to hear from you! This summer, we **invite you to vote in our Summer Gladness Favorite Hymn Bracket Tournament.** We started with 64 hymns and are **voting each week**, until we find out Faith Lutheran's favorite hymn! Voting sheets can be found next to the bulletins. Which hymn do YOU think will win?

Message & Liturgy: Pastor Sylvia Bull

Assisting Minister: Joe Michalka

Music: Dmytro Somkin

Worship Team -

Team C: Ron Schneider, Mary Schneider, GT Solseth, Erica Solseth, Brendan Solseth, Allen Pedersen, Avis Pedersen, Deb Bensen, Orlin Bensen

CALENDAR

Monday, July 6

7:00 AA

Tuesday, July 7

9:00 Quilting

2:00 Crafts

Wednesday, July 8

10:00 Bible Study

7:00 Worship

Thursday, July 9

Missouri Slope Hillview Cup

2:00 Knit & Crochet Group

Friday, July 10

Newsletter Deadline

8:00 NA

Saturday, July 11

Sunday, July 12

9:30 Worship

10:45 Baby Shower

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