

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

Baptism of Our Lord Week



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING SONG: "Let All Who Are Thirsty Come"

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

READING (see next page)

SERMON

SONG: "Peace Like a River" *

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING

WORD OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONGS: ELW 538 "The Lord Now Sends Us Forth" *

DISMISSAL

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

READING

Reading: *Matthew 3:13-17*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 3rd Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

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 Matthew 3:13-17

Reflection Questions

- After Jesus was baptized, a miracle happened. What happened?
- This Sunday, we celebrate Jesus' baptism. Today marks the beginning of the season after the Epiphany, where we learn about Jesus' life. Why did Jesus choose to be baptized, even though he didn't have to?
- What does it look like when someone uses their voice or power to help others instead of helping themselves?
- What does it mean to show up for others the way Jesus showed up at the river with John?
- Have you been baptized? Have you been to a baptism? Take turns telling stories about baptisms you've experienced or witnessed.

Activity

During baptism, people make promises—vows—to love God and to care for others. Even though Jesus didn't need to be baptized, he chose to be anyway. Why? Jesus wanted to stand with others to show what kind of leader he would be—a leader who joins in, not stands apart. Invite participants to imagine what kinds of promises someone might make when they want to follow Jesus. What might they say or do to show love, care, and belonging?

With the children in your life, make an interactive art piece to reflect on baptism. Outline the shape of a dove on the poster board. Have participants cut out blue and white construction paper squares to attach to the poster. Brainstorm simple “everyday promises” that reflect Jesus' kind of love. These could be promises like, “I promise to help when someone is hurt,” “I promise to speak kindly,” or “I promise to include others.”

On white paper pieces, write or draw ways we show love to God. On blue paper pieces, write or draw ways we show love to others. For example, we show love to God through prayers, singing, or playing instruments. We show love to others by attending sports games to support them or by donating food to people in need. Glue the paper pieces to the dove, filling it with these ways of love.

Invite others to contribute to the piece as well! Consider asking other members, neighbors, or family members.

Prayer

God who goes into the water, you truly are in it together with us. You lead with humility and kindness, and your love declares justice and life for all. Teach us to lead and love like you. Amen.

Look it Up!

Do you know what your church's baptismal promises are?

Look up what baptismal promises or baptism vows mean for your faith community. If you can't find anything online, ask your pastor to see what they say



CHURCH
Announcements

Thank you for your offering of **\$19,188.94** for the week of **January 4th!**

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by Heather Schmidt, in memory of Jan Hugh. **Thank you!**

The **Church Office will be closed Monday, January 19th**, in honor of MLK Jr Day.

This year, we will be **mailing giving statements in mid-January!** You can also access a record of your donations in your ICON online portal.

All experience levels are invited to join us for **Choir Practice on Sundays at 10am** in the East Room! **For the month of January, we will be meeting on the 11th and 25th.**

Our **2026 Flower Chart is up!** Sign up to sponsor altar flowers (cost is usually around \$60) on a Sunday during the year for a special event, in honor or memory of someone, or just because! Look for the flower chart out in the Gathering Place.

Ruth Circle is beginning a new Bible Study tomorrow, January 8th at 7pm.

We will be reading the book "Messy Spirituality" by Michael Yaconelli. He states: "Open your eyes to the deep spirituality of being loved, shortcomings and all, by the God who meets you and transforms you in the midst of a messy and unpredictable life." Join us for our introductory meeting to find out more!

Please join us **on Thursday, January 15th 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 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 February 12 and March 12 (location details coming soon)!

The next **Men of Faith meeting** will be on **15 Jan 2026 at 9AM** and will feature Ben Kubischta doing a presentation on Building the Interstate through the Badlands

All ages and skill levels invited to **join us for Worship-Palooza! Join us on Sunday, January 25th from 12:15pm - 1:15pm for an afternoon of planning for our Lent and Easter season.** We will have a time of devotion on our Lent theme, then split into Visual Arts, Music and Liturgy groups to brainstorm on how to convey our theme in worship. Talk to Pastor Sylvia or Judy Kubischta if you would like more information!

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 **Sunday, January 25th at 5:15pm at Lucky's 13 (915 South 3rd St., Bismarck).** Questions? Reach out to Pastor Sylvia.

Thank you for all the gifts and treats brought in by members for staff during the Christmas season! It's always nice to have some extra Christmas cheer during this busy season.

Many members have reached out to **thank the church for Sunshine Bags and Flowers!** Thank you for helping provide some sunshine to those who may be struggling during the holiday season.

Message: Pastor Derek Harkins

Liturgy: Pastor Sylvia Bull

Music: Dmytro Somkin

CALENDAR

Thursday, January 8

11:00 Gene Severson Funeral
7:00 Ruth Circle

Friday, January 9

8:00 NA

Saturday, January 10 **February Newsletter Deadline**

Sunday, January 11

8:30 Worship
9:45 Church School
9:45 5th Grade P/S
10:00 Choir Practice
11:00 Worship
4:00 Cub Scouts

Monday, January 12

3:30 Worship & Music meeting
7:00 AA

Tuesday, January 13

9:00 Quilting
2:00 Crafts
6:00 Elementary Committee
6:00 Stewardship Committee
7:00 Scouts

Wednesday, January 14

10:00 Bible Study
5:30 Handbells
6:00 Church School and
Confirmation
6:00 5th Grade P/S
7:00 Worship

MISSION Focus

JANUARY: STEPPING STONES MINISTRIES

Stepping Stones Ministries provides a safe and healing environment for individuals experiencing homelessness who need to recover from illness or injury. We are looking to support their mission with donations of toilet paper, tissues, and Lysol spray. Thank you for your generosity!

"... when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'" - Matthew 25:39-40

