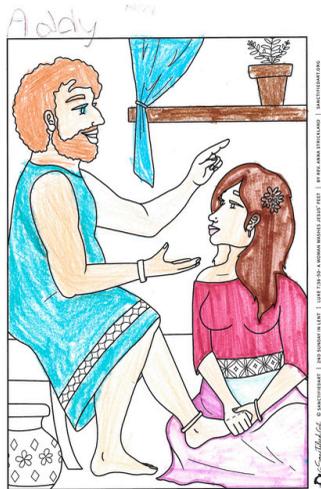


Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Lent Midweek

The Good News is Great Love for God and Neighbor



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

CENTERING MOMENT

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

BREAKING NEWS UPDATE

SONG: ACS 925 "Beautiful Things" *

GOSPEL RE-ENACTMENT - Dinner at Simon's House

Characters: Jesus, Simon, Servant, Miriam

POEM - "If God Lived Next Door" by Rev. Sarah A. Speed

RESPONSIVE PRAYERS

During this time of prayer, we invite you to pray over the ribbon you received at the beginning of worship. You could pray for someone who needs to hear this week's good news, to be able to hear it in your own life, or give thanks for somewhere you see this good news in the world. When you are ready, you can bring up your ribbon and tie it to one of the branches of the trees as a visual sign of your prayer.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

HOLY COMMUNION

BLESSING

SONG: ELW 768 "Lead Me, Guide Me" *

DISMISSAL

READING

Reading: *John 2:1-11*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 7th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and when he went into the Pharisee's house he reclined to dine. And a woman in the city who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair, kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him, that she is a sinner." Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "speak." "A certain moneylender had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt." And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly." Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven loves little." Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" But he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

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

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Imagine you were Simon. How would it feel to have someone come into your home and start washing your guest's feet?
- If you had Jesus over for dinner, what would you talk about?
- What do you think happens after this story? Is Simon kinder to people? Does the woman's life change?
- The woman was overcome with love for Jesus and showed him love the best way she knew how. How do you show love for Jesus?
- The Bible says we are all made in the image of God, so when we show love to others, we show love to God. How do you show love for others?

POEM

"If God Lived Next Door" - by Sarah A. Speed

If God lived next door,
I'd drop off a loaf of bread.
I'd use my mom's best recipe.
I'd wrap it in parchment and ribbon
and place it on the front stoop.
If God lived next door,
I'd leave a note with my phone number.
Call anytime you need anything!
I'm always happy to help!
If God lived next door,
I'd keep sugar on the shelf,
just in case she needed a cup.
I'd put a picnic table in the front yard
and begin taking my coffee there.
Whenever God passed by with their gaggle of rescue dogs,
I could say, *Want to sit for a moment? Want to rest your legs?*

Poem Continued on next page

Poem Continued

I'd keep a jar of dog treats and water by the mailbox
and change my doormat to one that says:

All are welcome here.

I'd invite God over for dinner.

She'd bring bread and juice.

I'd host a block party,

so that everyone could meet her.

I'd start a community garden

so that the kids could run between rows of squash and tomatoes
while we adults put our hands in the dirt.

We'd share stories while we weeded,

and eat harvest meals at the end of the season.

If God lived next door,

I'd want to build something beautiful.

Then again,

who says she doesn't?



CHURCH
Announcements

Thank you for your offering of **\$8,381.61** for the week of **March 1!**

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by Pastor Sylvia, in gratitude for 9 years in ministry together.

Thank you!

Lent is here! Join us on **Wednesdays at 11:15am for Soup Lunch, and Midweek Services at 12:05pm and 7pm. Sign-ups** are currently available on the table next to the Coffee Hour area to **bring bread and bars for our Lent Soup Lunches!**

Easter is almost here! Please join us for **Maundy Thursday, April 2, at 7pm, Good Friday, April 3 at 12:05pm or 7pm, the Community Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 4th at 7pm (hosted at Bismarck UCC) and Easter Sunday, April 5th at 7am, 9am, or 11am.** Don't forget our **Easter Sunday Continental Breakfast from 7:30am-11am** to support our youth with your free will offering!

Lent Devotionals based on our theme "Tell Me Something Good" by A Sanctified Art **are available now** in the Gathering Place. Please take one for your household! If you'd prefer an e-version, email the church office at faith.bisfaith@gmail.com. We hope you find it a meaningful companion during this season. As you read: take what you need, leave what doesn't fit, and be open to hearing different perspectives!

Youth and Adults are invited to an **Egyptian Themed Murder Mystery Dinner on Saturday, March 7th, from 6:30pm - 8:30pm.** For more information and to sign up, talk to Kenny!

Please join us on **Wednesday, March 11th at 5pm for the Men of Faith Potato/Chili Feed!** Free will offering will go toward Camp of the Cross. **Sign-ups to bring chili and bars are now available** on the table in the Coffee Fellowship area!

2,000 years ago, Jesus entered into Jerusalem at the beginning of Passover on a donkey, an image reflecting his just, humble leadership and care for those in need. Christian communities from across our region are invited to gather for a time of communal prayer and public witness at 3 pm on Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026 for a processional from Trinity Lutheran Church in Bismarck (502 N 4th St) to the ND State Capitol Steps. An ecumenical worship service uplifting our shared values of feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, and welcoming the stranger will be held on the Capitol Steps at 4pm. **More information about this Palm Sunday Path will be available in the March News & Views and will be shared in an info session on Sunday, March 8th at 10am and Wednesday, March 11th at 6pm in the East Room.**

Please join us **Thursday, March 12th 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 UMC (1030 N 6th St, 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 April 9th (Faith Lutheran), and May 14th (Lutheran Church of the Cross, 1004 E Highland Acres Rd, Bismarck)!

The Faith Crafters have created **handmade Easter cards, table favors and Easter basket stuffers that they will be selling between services on March 22nd.**

Liturgy: Pastor Derek Harkins & Pastor Sylvia Bull
Music: Dmytro Somkin

Front Bulletin Images (Coloring Page by Rev. Anna Strickland), Slide and Advertising Graphics (Graphic design by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman), portions of the liturgy (by Rev. Sarah A. Speed), Gospel Re-enactment and Reflection Questions (by Rev. Anna Strickland), and "If God Lived Next Door" (by Rev. Sarah A. Speed), from A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. Bulletin texts from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2025. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #26214. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Service and Hymns printed in this bulletin—unless in the public domain—are covered by CCLI License 2214977 and One License.net #A-704330.(All rights reserved) Permissions for live-streaming also covered by One License and CCLI.

CALENDAR

Thursday, March 5

9:00 Esther Circle

Friday, March 5

8:00 NA

Saturday, March 7

6:30 Murder Mystery Party

Sunday, March 8

Daylight Savings Time Starts

8:30 Worship

9:45 Church School

10:00 All Comers' Choir Rehearsal

10:00 Palm Sunday Path Info Meeting

11:00 Worship

4:00 Cub Scouts

Monday, March 9

7:00 AA

Tuesday, March 10

Newsletter Deadline

9:00 Quilting

2:00 Crafts

5:15 BIO Girls

6:00 Elementary Committee

7:00 Scouts

Wednesday, March 11

10:00 Lent Bible Study

11:15 Lent Soup Lunch

12:05 Worship

5:00 MOF Potato/Chili Feed

5:30 Handbells

6:00 Palm Path Info Meeting

6:00 Lent Book Study

7:00 Worship

MISSION Focus



MARCH: SCOUTING FOR FOOD

This month, we will be partnering with the Scouts in their Scouting for Food Project! Bring in any non-perishable food items throughout the month of March, and the scouts will bring them to food banks throughout the community. The Northern Lights Council is looking to keep growing this event, and reach their goal of 85,000 pounds of food collected, and your contributions can help!

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