



Faith Lutheran

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

August 2025

Volume 2025, Issue 7

MISSION STATEMENT

"We are building a welcoming, nurturing faith community guided by Jesus to share the Gospel."



SCRIPTURE CIRCLES

Come share in a transformative method of studying the Bible that is accessible to all! No prior experience or knowledge needed; led by scripture teacher U.S. Jones, II.

Light supper will be served starting at 5:00 pm, study begins at 5:45pm. A free will offering will be collected, but the events are FREE.

THURSDAYS FROM 5:00-8:00PM ON:

JULY 17 @ McCabe United Methodist Church
(1030 N 6th St, Bismarck)

AUGUST 14 @ Missouri Slope North Campus Chapel
(4916 N Washington St, Bismarck)

SEPTEMBER 11 @ Lord of Life (1143 N 26th St, Bismarck)

OCTOBER 9 @ Trinity Lutheran (502 N 4th St, Bismarck)



Questions? Call 701-223-2236 for more information

REGULAR WORSHIP HOURS

We will be returning to our Regular Worship Hours the week of September 3 & 7!

Wednesday: 7:00 pm (Livestream)

Sunday: 8:30 am (Livestream) & 11:00 am

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH CLERGY

Pastor Derek Harkins
(Fridays off)

Pastor Sylvia Bull
(Fridays off)

SUMMER WORSHIP

SCHEDULE

SUNDAY:

9:30am

WEDNESDAY:

7:00pm

LIVESTREAM AT

SUN 9:30am &

WED 7:00pm

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.

FLC Executive Team

Jim Sheldon, Chair

Amy Steiner, Vice-Chair

Lyla Timm, Vice-Chair

Mark Schneider, Secretary

Billie Ann Caya, Treasurer

Pastoral Ministries

Baptisms:

Cora and Dakota Gust

Weddings:

Emily Schumacher and

Nathan Anderson



FINANCIAL UPDATE

June General Fund:

Revenues: \$38,063.39

Expenditures: \$47,088.97

2025 Year-to-Date:

Revenues: \$296,135.98

Expenditures: \$317,443.63



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 **General Fund**, in memory of James "Jim" Bakko.

For **Landscaping Fund**, in memory of Kelly Carlson.

For **Sunshine Basket Fund**, in memory of Jerry and Bev Zins.

For **NC Mission Trip**, in memory of Bonita "Bonnie" Maier

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



The Neighborhood

For decades I have been driving through a neighborhood in Bismarck and recently realized that I didn't know the place. From one's car window, one can only understand a little bit of the places we drive through. The other day I walked that neighborhood and found it to be a treasure.

As a pedestrian in that community, I experienced the pleasure of sidewalks separated from the street by wide boulevards and was in awe of the stately trees within those boulevards. I observed homes of varying design and size that were built before I was born. Homes where parents raised families of 3 to 5 or maybe 7 to 9 children.

People were outside tending their yards and flowers. Others were on their morning walks by themselves or with their trusty dog. I paused at a home where small dogs signaled to their owners that I was outside. I waved in friendship to those dogs.

I tipped my hat and said good morning to the folks I met along this journey. With some of them, I visited. Three of whom were Helen, Roger, and Joseph. I told them that I was walking their neighborhood for my August article in Faith Lutheran's newsletter.

A back injury while working has disabled Joseph. He is most grateful for Medicaid healthcare. Roger is a retired concrete finisher. He lives in a house owned by his brother. His retirement job consists of lawn mowing and minor maintenance.

Hazel recently moved into her home and loves the area. She works for the State of North Dakota and is currently doing her job from home. When I mentioned Faith Lutheran, Hazel said she watches and enjoys our online Sunday morning service.

This, My Friends in Faith, is our neighborhood. The neighborhood of Faith Lutheran Church. I walked the area from Rosser Avenue to Avenue F and from 10th Street to 18th Street. I found a neighborhood that is alive and vibrant. We are lucky to have forefathers who chose this location to build a church. What was once on the outskirts of town, is now part of the heart of the city. And we, who come to worship in this church at the corner of 14th Street and Avenue C are in that heart.

Bennett R. Kubischta

July 11, 2025, 11:48 pm



Library Link

by LeAnn Severson

If reading fictional books that contain mystery and suspense is of interest to you, you'll want to check out books written by Terri Blackstock from our church library. In her three book series entitled IF I RUN, IF I'M FOUND and IF I LIVE, Blackstock combines intrigue, mystery and spiritual truth to the delight of her readers.

Newly accessioned books include her INTERVENTION series of three books that offers a harrowing look at drug addiction, human trafficking and the choices that can change lives forever. Her book SMOKE SCREEN comes with this warning from a reader: "If you decide to read this book - don't plan to do anything else until you finish it". These books in addition to her CAPE REFUGE series are available for check out in the library.

We have a collection of mystery books for elementary age readers available in the children's section, as well.



LIVESTRONG PRESENTATION

Monday, August 11th @7pm
Faith Lutheran Fellowship Hall

Men of Faith and WELCA invite everyone to attend a presentation about Livestrong, a training program for Cancer Survivors, led by Jennifer Bandy. Following the presentation, Men of Faith and WELCA will meet separately to discuss business and plan events for the future. Hope to see you there!

FLC Knit & Crochet Group

Thank you so much for all your yarn donations! We are excited to make hats for local non-profits again this year.

Interested in attending our group?

Currently, we meet at 2pm on the second Thursday of the month, and 6pm on the fourth Thursday of the month. **Our dates for August are the 14th at 2pm, and the 28th at 6pm.** We would love for you to join! We have yarn and patterns for knit and crochet available, but you can also use your own hat pattern, or bring along another project you are working on.

We also have yarn available for those who would like to make hats but can't join us in person! Contact Caitlin McCleary in the office at (701) 223-2236 or email communications.bisfaith@gmail.com for more information.

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@gmail.com

Caitlin McCleary

Communications/Administrative Assistant
communications.bisfaith@gmail.com

Kenny Opsal

Director of Education and Youth
kenny.bisfaith@midconetwork.com

Online Portal Invitations



We have sent out invitations to our online portal through our database, ICON! The portal provides access to members to see the information we have for members in their household, change contact information, see donations and giving statements from their household, and view the online directory. If you did not receive an email, or your link expired and you would like us to resend it, please call the church office at (701) 223-2236 or email communications.bisfaith@gmail.com

Pastor Sylvia's Parables



The Lord has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God? - Micah 6:8

Some of you may have seen in the news recently that the IRS has said it will now “allow houses of worship to endorse candidates for political office without losing their tax-exempt status.”¹ Since 1954, the Johnson Amendment has prevented 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations (including churches) from participating in or intervening in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Basically, this has meant that any non-profit organization which publicly endorses or opposes any candidate is putting its non-profit status at risk. It's unclear how much the Johnson Amendment has been enforced over the years, as audits of specific tax-exempt nonprofits are subject to taxpayer privacy laws. Only one church has ever had its tax-exempt status revoked for violating this rule.² But until now, both the law itself and the stated policy of the IRS has specifically prohibited churches and clergy from endorsing political candidates from the pulpit. I want to share with you that, despite this change, Pastor Derek and I will continue to observe the Johnson Amendment. And I want to share with you a few reasons why.

In our hyper-partisan and polarized political environment, it is already enough of a challenge to preach and lead faithfully and clearly according to the gospel without being seen as “too political.” Speaking for or against certain candidates for office would only muddy the waters even further!

This doesn't mean that our faith doesn't inform our politics. In reality, the Gospel of Jesus Christ is highly “political.” What I mean by that is that the Gospel has deep implications for our common life. Our political participation, our votes, and the policies of our government really matter for our neighbors - locally in school board elections and city and county commissions, in our state legislature, and nationally. Our faith should inform our political participation, which is why you will hear Pastor Derek and myself encourage you to faithfully participate in the political process and to actively work for cooperation and neighborliness to have a larger role in our political system. There is also a distinction between talking about *politics* and talking about *policies*. So, you will still hear us speak about *policies* that impact our neighbors, especially the most vulnerable, and you may hear us encouraging you to use

¹ NPR, “IRS says churches can now endorse political candidates,” July 8, 2025, www.npr.org

² Lloyd Hitoshi Mayer, “IRS says churches may endorse political candidates despite a decades-old federal statute barring them from doing that,” July 11, 2025, theconversation.com.

your voice to speak out on behalf of your neighbors. An example of this is the pastoral letter we sent out in January regarding the end of refugee resettlement, which goes against clear biblical teaching to welcome the stranger.

As your pastors, we are called to “preach and teach the Word of God in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions... to speak for justice in behalf of the poor and oppressed... and to guide [the congregation] in proclaiming God’s love through word and deed.”³ The Bible has many things to say about justice, neighborliness, and how God desires our communities to care for the most vulnerable. Faithful proclamation of the Gospel speaks to these values.

However, instructing you to support one candidate or another is, in my view, an abuse of the pastoral office. It does not build up our community life, it does not encourage faithful discernment or allow for faithful disagreement, and it does not build trust in the pastor-parishioner relationship. By clearly leading, preaching, and teaching from biblical values and avoiding partisanship, Pastor Derek and I hope to model what it looks like to proclaim God’s love through word and deed and give you tools to do that - in your own life and in our community life together. We trust that as we are shaped by the diverse community of love God has called us into, God’s Spirit will speak in our hearts to guide our political witness as Christians, not for any one candidate or party, but for *policies* that reflect the values of love for our neighbors and enemies, and especially the most vulnerable in our society.

Finally, when clergy or churches endorse particular candidates for office, it opens us up to be viewed by politicians and political action groups as organizations to be wooed. There could even be the temptation for the votes churches represent to be “bought” by favors or money. And whether or not churches give in to that temptation, the mere possibility of it diminishes the credibility of the whole Body of Christ and negatively impacts our ability to proclaim the Gospel in a hurting world.

By continuing to observe the Johnson Amendment, our gospel witness here at Faith Lutheran will be more clear, as we focus on the values of community life and discipleship that God teaches us throughout scripture and which Jesus shows us in his life, death, and resurrection.

If you have questions about the Johnson Amendment, our approach to preaching on current events and issues, or anything that I’ve shared in this article, please stop in or give me or Pastor Derek a call. We are always willing to engage in good faith conversations about how we live together as God’s people.

With love and in Christ,

Pastor Sylvia

³ Direct quotation from our letters of call, issued to us by you, the people of Faith Lutheran Church.

BY THE GRACE OF GOD AND THE CALL OF THE CHURCH,

ADAM CONNOR BARDEN

WILL BE ORDAINED TO THE
MINISTRY OF WORD AND SACRAMENT
IN CHRIST'S ONE, HOLY, CATHOLIC,
AND APOSTOLIC CHURCH

AUGUST

SATURDAY

9

AT 2 PM CST

2025

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

1402 EAST AVE. C BISMARCK, ND 58501

LINK TO WATCH THE SERVICE:

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FAITHLUTHERANBISMARCK](https://www.facebook.com/faithlutheranbismarck)

ROSTERED LEADERS ARE INVITED
TO VEST AND PROCESS IN RED;
THERE WILL BE TIME FOR FELLOWSHIP
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SERVICE.

ADAM HAS BEEN CALLED TO SERVE
AT FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH IN MANDAN, ND.



SUMMER COMMUNITY POTLUCK

SATURDAY,
AUGUST 9, 2025

11:30am - 1:00pm

Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter-day Saints
1500 Country West Road
Bismarck, ND 58503

Free!
Bring a dish to share
if you are able,
and school supplies to
donate to area non-
profits



Volunteer Opportunity!

As a member of an ELCA church, we are uniquely joined as sisters with other ELCA Women in our community. Throughout North Dakota, church women are grouped together in what are called clusters. We at Faith are in a cluster with women from Ashley, Bismarck, Lincoln, Napoleon, Steele, Wilton, Wing, Wishek, Tuttle, Driscoll, Dawson. Normally our cluster will gather together twice a year.

In lieu of gathering together in a meeting setting this past spring, it was suggested that we together share our talents within our communities. We are currently looking for volunteers at the Missouri Slope North Campus to assist residents in playing Bingo. If you are interested in volunteering on any Tuesday from 1:45pm to 3pm, please contact Connie Isaak at 258-2025 (home) or 391-2825 (cell).

Rice Pudding Booth Kick-off!

August 17th @10:45am
Rice Pudding for Coffee Hour
Free Will Donation for
Rice Pudding Booth Supplies



Please join us on Sunday, August 17th for Rice Pudding during Coffee Hour! We will also have sign up sheets available for the Rice Pudding booth at the Downtown Street Fair (Friday, September 12th and Sunday, September 13th)

We greatly enjoy this tradition, and many hands make light work! Even a 2 hour shift helps! Look for sign-ups in the Gathering Place, right next to the table where we serve for Coffee Fellowship!

MISSION Focus





AUGUST: LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF KITS

Throughout the year, our Quilters collect items to put in Personal Care, School and Baby Kits, sent to people in need around the world through Lutheran World Relief. Full lists are available on the Concierge Table and under our Serve tab on our website, but they are currently running low on shirts and t-shirts for boy and girls, size 6 month to 24 months, notebooks, pens, rulers, crayons and scissors.

Thank you for your generosity!

If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the Lord your God is giving you... you should open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be. Deut. 15:7-8

August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 NC Trip 8:00 NA	2
3 9:30 Worship	4 7:00 AA	5 9:00 Quilting 2:00 Crafts	6 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Worship	7 9:00 Esther Circle	8 8:00 NA	9 11:30 Interfaith Potluck (LDS) 2:00 Adam Barden Ordination
10 Newsletter Deadline 9:30 Worship	11 Church Office Closed (Staff Retreat) 4:15 Worship and Music 7:00 Livestrong Presentation 7:00 AA	12 9:00 Quilting 2:00 Crafts 6:00 Elementary Comm 7:00 Scouts	13 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Worship	14 2:00 Knit & Crochet Group 5:00 Scripture Circle (MSLCC North Campus)	15 8:00 NA	16
17 9:30 Worship 10:45 Rice Pudding Kick-off	18 7:00 AA	19 9:00 Quilting 2:00 Crafts 5:15 HR Comm 6:00 Stewardship Comm	20 10:00 Bible Study 2:00 Edgewood 7:00 Worship	21	22 8:00 NA	23
24 9:30 Worship	25 5:00 Altar Guild 7:00 AA	26 9:00 Quilting 2:00 Crafts	27 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Worship	28 6:00 Knit & Crochet Group	29 8:00 NA	30
31 9:30 Worship						

Faith Lutheran Church
1402 E Avenue C
Bismarck, ND 58501-4398
www.faithbismarck.com
(701)223-2236

Faith Lutheran Church August 2025 News and Views

WHAT A
MESS

RALLY DAY 2025

Join us on Wednesday, September 3rd and Sunday, September 7th for the start of the Church School year! Registration forms for 3 year-5th Grade (Church School), and 6th-9th Grade (Confirmation), and the Church School Handbook can be found under the Forms Tab starting in mid-August.

www.faithbismarck.com/forms

