

Sunday, September 27, 2026
18th Sunday 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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN: ELW 525 "You Are Holy" *

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

GREETING

KYRIE - ELW Setting 4 (pp. 147-148)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Word: God speaks to us through scripture reading, preaching and song.

READINGS: see next page

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW Setting 4 (pg. 151)

GOSPEL READING: see next page

CHILDREN'S SERMON & SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Bring Forth the Kingdom" *

APOSTLES' CREED

SHARING OF THE PEACE

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING

Meal: God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING and HOLY HOLY HOLY: ELW Setting 4 (pg. 152-153)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMNS:

ELW 482 "I Come with Joy" *

ELW 462 "Now We Join in Celebration" *

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

THANKSGIVING AT THE CONCLUSION OF A CALL

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN: ELW 540 "Go, Make Disciples" *

DISMISSAL

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

READING(S)

First Reading: *Psalm 25:1-9*

To you, O Lord,
I lift up my soul.
My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.
Show me your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.
Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.
Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your
goodness, O Lord.
You are gracious and upright, O Lord;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.
You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

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

Second Reading: *Philippians 2:1-13*

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 5:1-16*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 5th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down,
his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:
"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

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

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Monday - Prayer of the Day

In the prayer of the day, inspired by #1213 in the seventh-century Gelasian Sacramentary, we confess our frailties and failings, and we ask to be led away from these dangers and toward the salvation found in Christ.

Tuesday - Connections with the Liturgy

Today's second reading includes the central Christian affirmation that Jesus is Lord. That is, we grant to Jesus the same title that originally referred to God. In greeting one another with the peace of "the Lord" and in the opening dialogue of Holy Communion—"The Lord be with you" —"the Lord" is the Risen Christ, the one who suffered death on a cross and has been exalted in the resurrection. The classic hymn of praise concludes by referring to the Trinity, "Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father," as Lord.

Wednesday - Let the Children Come

"Because I said so" is a natural default when parents or teachers lack the patience or expertise to explain the reason for their instructions. While frustrating and overused, the authority of one who is trusted and reliable can bring comfort and assurance. In the gospel, Jesus' interlocutors are essentially asking, "Who says so?" when they ask by whose authority he acts (Matt. 21:23). God, in Ezekiel, recognizes that not all parents are trustworthy (18:2) but declares, "All lives are mine" (v. 4), asking the prophet and people to trust God's authority even when humans fail. Philippians 2:6-11 exalts the authority of Christ. When we worship, we do this because God says so!

Thursday - Reflection on Philippians Reading

This important excerpt, appointed also each year on the Sunday of the Passion, includes the early Christian affirmation of Jesus as Lord, in this context meaning Divine Authority. Thus the hymn ties in well with today's gospel. The paradox of the faith is that we see the will of God of which Matthew wrote in Jesus' death on a cross. "Fear and trembling" is a phrase made famous in theology because of the anguished writings of Søren Kierkegaard; yet Paul concludes the phrase with his confidence in God's good pleasure.

Friday - Reflection on the Gospel

Why do we preach and follow Christ? According to today's gospel, we have seen in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ the will of God; in believing in Jesus as the Word of God, we enter God's "kingdom," that is, we participate in the life God offers. From the first century on, Christians have debated about what precisely is "the will of his father." Preaching on Sunday has been a primary method for exploring the will of God.

Saturday - A Hymn for the Day

A hymn appropriate for the day is "At the name of Jesus" (ELW 416). In the gospel reading, the religious leaders are questioning Jesus' authority, and in this hymn we answer their inquiry by confessing Jesus as king of glory, Lord, mighty Word, our captain, the divine light and power. The hymn was written in the mid-nineteenth century for Ascension Day by the British Anglican Caroline Noel, who wrote many hymns while suffering increasing debility.



CHURCH Announcements

Thank you for your offering of **\$10,232.86** for the week of **September 20th!**

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by Pat & Gary Ritter, in memory of loved ones. **Thank you!**

It's pumpkin patch time! **Sunday, October 4th is Faith Family Day at Papa's Pumpkin Patch from 12 pm- 7 pm.** Free Admission passes are available to pick up at the church office. Hope to see you all there!

Attention **8th–12th grade parents!** If your student is interested **in attending the 2027 ELCA National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis next summer**, please let Kenny know **by September 30th.** Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity!

The October Men of Faith meeting on **October 1 at 9am** will include a presentation from **Kari Hausauer, the lead ambassador for Forever Memory Keeping**, which specializes in cloud storage of photos and other personal data. Please “store” this in your memory banks and make plans to attend.

Join us in giving thanks for Pastor Sylvia's ministry at FLC!! We will be hosting a potluck and celebration for Pastor Sylvia on her last Sunday with us, **September 27th at 12:15pm directly following the 11am worship service in the Fellowship Hall.** Please come and wish her well as she enters into the new calling of parenthood with her spouse, Seth. Bring a dish to share as well as a favorite memory or words of what Pastor Sylvia has meant to you over her almost 10 years of service to Faith Lutheran Church!

It's time again for our **annual Pie & Coffee Day!** Please join us on **Saturday, October 24th from 9am-2pm.** Enjoy a pie or other baked good while browsing our rummage sale, handmade crafts, and homemade baked goods including Knoephla, Kuchen, and our famous Rice Pudding. Join us from **10:00am to 12:15pm for sandwiches and soup served by the youth**, with free-will offering going towards youth programming. Hope to see you there!

Want to learn how to be a more engaged citizen in your community? Interfaith Alliance of North Dakota is partnering with the Palm Sunday Path to offer a series of workshops to help you feel equipped to speak about your values - with friends and family, policymakers, and at the upcoming North Dakota legislative session. This **Voicing Your Values** series will be offered Sept-Dec on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 6-8pm at Lord of Life Lutheran Church (1143 N. 26th St). Join for any or all of these sessions as you learn not *what* to say, but how to share effectively about the issues and concerns that are important to you! Questions? Talk to Pastor Sylvia or email wndpalmsundaypath@gmail.com.

October 15 - Voicing Your Values: Speaking with Policymakers

Ross Keys and Sonda Sauers lead this session to help you build skills for speaking about your values with policymakers at all levels.

November 19 - Voicing Your Values: Letters to the Editor and Written Testimony

Steve Andrist leads this session on how to communicate your values effectively through letters to the editor and written legislative testimony.

December 17 - Voicing Your Values: Testifying at the ND State Legislature

Rudie Martinson leads this session on the process for testifying in person or online at the ND Legislature.

Message: Pastor Sylvia Bull

Liturgy: Pastor Derek Harkins

Music: Mary Schneider

Worship Assistants:

8:30 - Team A: Allen Dockter, Diane Dockter, Laurel Kukert, Gary Grosz, Marlene Grosz, Marge Loritz, Ken Hoffman, Lana Hoffman, and Lara Loritz.

11:00 - Team 3: Aaron Franklund, Jack Skaley, Gail Skaley, Jan Franklund, Les Franklund, Glenn Anderson, Tina Anderson, Carolee Hoffman, LeRoy Anderson, and Janice Anderson.

CALENDAR

Monday, September 28

4:30 Altar Guild

7:00 AA

Tuesday, September 29

9:00 Quilting

2:00 Crafts

7:00 Scouts

Wednesday, September 30

Deposit for 2027 NYG Due

5:30 Handbells

6:00 3rd Grade P/S

6:00 Church School &
Confirmation

7:00 Worship

Thursday, October 1

Serving the Banquet

9:00 Esther Circle

9:00 Men of Faith

Friday, October 2

8:00 NA

Saturday, October 3

Sunday, October 4

Pumpkin Patch Day!

8:30 Worship

9:45 3rd Grade P/S

9:45 Church School

11:00 Worship

4:00 Cub Scouts

MISSION Focus



SEPTEMBER: 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 in need of shirts and T-shirts (sizes 6 to 24 months), jackets, and hooded sweatshirts for their baby kits. For their personal care kits, they are looking for towels (no larger than 27" x 52") and metal nail clippers. 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