



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

February 2025

Volume 2025, Issue 1

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Rice Pudding Sunday

Sunday, February 16, 2025
9:45am
Free Will Offering

Join us on Sunday, February 16th during Coffee Fellowship for a special treat! Members of the Rice Pudding Committee will make and serve our famous Rice Pudding. The Free Will Offering will go towards 4 new bar stools to go around our new Kitchen Island!



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH CLERGY

Pastor Derek Harkins
(Fridays off)

Pastor Sylvia Bull
(Fridays off)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY:

8:30am & 11am

WED: 7:00pm

LIVESTREAM AT

SUN 8:30am &

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.

Faith Lutheran Men of Faith Present the

Potato/ Chili Feed

FUNDRAISER

Join us for the 29th annual Potato/Chili Feed! Proceeds from the Free Will Offering will benefit Camp of the Cross Ministries.

Wednesday,
March 5, 2025

at Faith Lutheran Church
5:00-6:30 PM

Dinner includes baked potatoes, chili, and dessert bars!



FLC Executive Team

Jim Sheldon, Chair

Amy Steiner, Vice-Chair

Lyla Timm, Vice-Chair

Mark Schneider, Secretary

Matthew Nygard, Treasurer

Pastoral Ministries

Funerals:

Dennis Haaland

Robyn Stuart

Robert "Bob" Speckmann

Ruth Speidel

Leona Reuer

Judy Fandrich

Baptism:

Holly Hoff

Chloe Hoff

Willow Hain

Terry Chase



FINANCIAL UPDATE

December General Fund:

Revenues: \$90,925.50

Expenditures: \$49,060.60

2024 Total:

Revenues: \$636,801.33

Expenditures: \$602,415.04

STAR WORD

Reflection Question

What are your initial impressions of your Star Word? How does it relate to your faith life currently?

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 Gloria Olson and Ruth Speidel.

For **Music Fund**, in memory of Ruth Speidel.

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

Stewardship Committee

It is with grateful hearts that we recognize our faithful members! Faith Lutheran Church ended 2024 with a **surplus of over \$34,000!**

Throughout the year, we hold our breath (okay, that may be an exaggeration) in anticipation of what will need to be done if expenses are not covered. So picture it: a collective sigh of relief escaping the lips of committee members when they looked at the bottom line on the financial statement during their January meeting!

Thank you, so much, for your generosity in 2024!

Reflecting back on "Our Money Story" series from this fall:

- We remembered we are gifted with God's provisions, and that God is served in our service to our neighbor!
- We released what held us back from being the best stewards we can be!
- We re-imagined our own perspectives on money!
- We continue to restore our faithful steward spiritual practices and relationships!

Keep up the good work in 2025!

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



Knit/Crochet Group Update



Our Knit/Crochet group is able to provide yarn for participants, and both knit and crochet patterns to use and make hats.

If you would like more information, please contact Caitlin McCleary by calling the office at (701) 223-2236, emailing communications.bisfaith@gmail.com, or stopping by!

If you would like to join our group, we will be meeting Thursday, Feb. 13 at 2pm, and Thursday, Feb 27 at 6pm.

Friends in Faith



Winners and Losers

We give glory to champions and quite often champions give thanks to God in a manner that through their faith in God they won. Many of us find these comments wonderful because here are athletes who give glory to God for their accomplishment.

Do we have it wrong? Do we give too much praise to God when we win? Do we believe God was not with us when we lose? We do give too much praise when we win, and yes, God is with us when we lose.

Last September, at a collegiate volleyball match, I witnessed two faith-based universities gather in prayer. They were Augustana University from Sioux Falls, SD and the University of Mary here in Bismarck. Augustana won the match three sets to none. Afterwards, and after the fans had left the arena, these teams gathered in a circle on the court.

Led by U Mary athletic chaplain Father Jarad Wolf a prayer was given that was heard only by the players and coaches. If you had entered the arena at that time, you would not have been able to tell which team won the match. And that is what I believe God wants.

We are entering the winter sports tournament season. Be happy for the winning teams and be happy for those who do not. For the effort put forth by those who lose is as strong as those who win.

Bennett R. Kubischta

10 January 2025, 10:03 am



Library Link

by LeAnn Severson

FACT or FICTION?

You'll find both in your church library! Since the fiction section of the library is the most widely used, it continues to be expanded with newly accessioned books. Whether you are looking for a stand-alone novel or a complete series by well-loved authors, you'll find something to pique your interest there.

If you prefer true stories or factual materials, check out our biography, educational resources, Lutheran doctrine, Bible commentary and history sections in the library.

If you like to combine the two, we have several selections labeled as historical fiction where the author has done extensive research on the historical event and woven a fictional story using those facts.

How nice to see that more books were checked out of the library in 2024 than in recent years! Some new names appeared on check-out cards and more children's books were read as well. You can be a part of this trend by visiting the library and adding your name to a card.

See you in the library!

Men's Christmas Supper Thank you

And just like that, another Men of Faith Christmas Supper is wrapped up....(see what I did there?). I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Men of Faith for helping with set-up and the continuing ritual of taste testing....you all know, that they take this very seriously. Connie Isaak for her role as main chef. The Boys Scouts and parents for helping with serving and clean-up....so thankful for that youthful energy. Isabella and Lillian Carkuff for their decorating expertise. Miranda Bergquist for her donation of the ham. Judy Kubishta for providing the music. Those amazing bakers for furnishing the bars. Thrivent for supplying an Action Team card which was used towards the purchase of supplies utilized. Most of all, to those that gathered with their support that raised just under \$1300.00. As stated previously, these funds will be distributed between the kitchen upgrade project, the baptismal meal ministry and our local Boy Scout Troop. Again, much thanks and now it's time to relax.....at least for awhile.

Thank you from Heart River Lutheran

There were four large bins of gifts delivered to residents of the Youth Correctional Center and the Heart River Correctional Center on Christmas Eve thanks to a gift from the Faith Lutheran Endowment Fund. What a wonderful way to share the joy of Christmas with a hurting corner of the world.



Hat & Mitten Tree



Thank you to everyone that brought or made items for our Hat & Mitten Tree! Donations were brought to Ministry on the Margins, BECEP, and Salvation Army. Thanks to your generosity, many will be able to keep warm this winter!

Pastor Sylvia's Parables



"Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord." - James 5:13-14

Pastor Derek's and my letters of call to this congregation state that one of the aspects of our ministry to is "to provide pastoral care."

This is one of the most meaningful parts of our ministry, and also one of the most difficult. In a congregation of 1,500 people, that's a lot of people and situations to keep track of! It's ministry that Pastor Derek and I simply cannot do alone. When you called us to this work, our letters of call state that you also pledged "our prayers, love, esteem, and personal support for the sake of the ministry entrusted to you by God and for our ministry together in Christ's name."

So, as we start out a new year of ministry together in 2025, what could your personal support for the pastoral care ministry of this congregation look like? It is my hope that the information and ideas below will help all of us undertake this ministry more effectively together.

As it states in James, if you are sick or suffering and in need of a visit or call for prayer and support - for any reason - PLEASE CALL. Reach out to the church office. Have the hospital chaplain or a friend or family member call for you. I promise: We want to know what is going on in your life. You are not bothering us. *And* we are not mind readers. Due to the very important need to protect people's private medical information, it is very difficult for us to find out that you are in the hospital. We do not always check the hospitals every day, and even if we did, people are often missing from the list we are able to access. Consider asking at your next appointment if we are listed as your home congregation on your medical record. And again, PLEASE CALL. This is the best and only way to be sure that we could visit or check on you if needed.

Make a plan for how we would find out if you moved into a care center, nursing home, or rehab, or if you moved between care centers; especially if you do not have other family members that attend here. One of the saddest things that happens every single year is that we lose track of elderly members whose families do not notify us of them moving. We have absolutely no way to access that information. Care centers are not allowed to give us that information. Communicate to your family members or legal representatives that you want them to notify us when you move. Consider calling the church office to make sure we have a phone number on file for a family member or friend we could call to find out where you are.

Prayerfully consider whether you would be open to visiting another member of our church. We have about 50 members in local care centers alone; that does not include anyone who is homebound in their own home. Pastor Derek and I cannot regularly visit those folks along with our other responsibilities. We typically can only see everyone a few times per year, if that. This work of visiting has to belong to our whole community. If you are interested in visiting another member, or if you already do, please reach out to me. I would be happy to know how you are already connecting with and checking on each other or to help match you up with another person who could use some extra companionship from a fellow member of the Body of Christ.

Together, we are called to build a welcoming, nurturing faith community guided by Jesus to share the gospel. Part of that call is to care for each other in the difficult moments of life. Let's work together as a whole community to do that a little better in 2025. I am so honored and blessed to share in this ministry with you. Thank you for your trust, and your phone calls!

In Christ,
Pastor Sylvia

Thank you!



A word of thanks to Boy Scout Perry Kerner, for his outstanding job on the brick platform, located next to the south entrance of the church. As some of you may know, quite a few of the paver bricks had settled and had created an issue, especially for the Men of Faith, who use this area for the nativity scene. Along with being a mobility hazard, the unevenness made snow removal very difficult. Perry did a great job in detailing the process and procedure, along with the materials required to complete this project.

Job Well Done, Perry!

Men of Faith

Poinsettias

Thank you to the following for providing our Christmas Poinsettias!



Purchased by:

Sheila Just
Bruce Kauk and Delila (Kauk) Shaw
Ray Utter
Gene and LeAnn Severson
Ruth Graf
Roberta Modin
John and Jill Power
Ron and Mary Schneider
Kevin and Myra Kosse
Deb and Orlin Bensen
Jenell Loftesnes
Dolores Camp

Sandra Darling
Sylvia Brown
Randy and Deb Diede
Sandy Wallner
Marge Loritz
Dennis and Eileen Fallgatter
Heather Schmidt
Casey, KennaDee and Callie Carlson
Pat and Gary Ritter
Sue and Dave Anderson
Allen and Diane Dockter
Dave and Rosy Watson
Hertha Adolf
Jason and Brenda Dockter
Dalene and Vincent Berger
Bonnie Kubler
Florence Baesler
Robert and Judy Hertz
Norbert and Sharon Mayer

In Honor/Memory of:

In Memory of Family - Leo and Violet
In Memory of Eddie and Verna Kauk
In Memory of Bernice Utter
In Memory of Our Parents and Judy Kocis
In Memory of Larry Graf
In Memory of Colt William Bush-Modin
In Memory of our Moms and Dads
In Memory of Rev. Gerald and Barb Leaf
In Memory of Gwen Egly
In Memory of Loved Ones
In Memory of Howard Loftesnes
In Memory of Harry Camp and 2 sons, Steve and Craig
In Memory of Harry Darling
In Memory of George Brown
In Memory of Loved Ones
In Memory of Tom Wallner
In Memory of Harold Loritz
In Memory of Loved Ones
In Memory of Jan Hugh
In Memory of Keith Hanson
In Memory of Loved Ones
In Honor of sister Julie
In Honor of Loved Ones
In Memory of Mom and Dad
In Memory of Raymond Adolf
In Memory of Loved Ones
In Memory of Loved Ones
In Memory of Jerry and Beverly Zins
In Memory of Gordon
In Memory of Heather Ryberg
In Memory of Loved Ones



Church School News



We are collecting this quarter for our Congregational Trip this summer!

Many people understand that Church School can be a challenge, and people have varied expectations, but often times they don't reflect or direct their thoughts through the appropriate channels. For many years, parents stepped up and volunteered to teach and assist Church School. Over the years, one of the biggest challenges is that our parents have been busier, and unable to help in the ways they used to. Fortunately, many of our youth have begun volunteering in our Church School programs. Youth building relationships with our children is a blessing, and often leads to strengthened relationships between children of all different ages, but the lack of experience in youth can sometimes mean trial and error with the best ways to teach Church School. If adults are nervous about how to handle a classroom, imagine how challenging it can be for someone with less life experience.

Next, it is difficult to address Church School challenges if the board and I are not receiving direct feedback. If one feels they are not having their needs met, they need to come talk to me so I know there is an issue. People often times feel afraid to address their concerns, please don't! If we hear about some of the concerns directly, we have a better chance of coming up with the solutions necessary to keep improving the program.

If in any area of your life you feel a need is not being met, it is best for you to address this need to the person or persons who can hopefully help rectify the issue. In Matthew 18, it talks about a similar issue within the early church. It explains why direct communication can make a difference. Please feel free to reach out and speak to me about any concerns and of course please reach out if you would be interested in helping out our Church School program. Thanks!

Kenny Opsal

kenny.bisfaith@midconetwork.com

(701) 223-2236 (ask for Kenny)

Youth News

- Be paying attention for some youth events coming up! We are finalizing some events for February and March, such as skiing, lock-in, and escape room.
- Please join us for a Mock-In, hosted at Trinity Lutheran Church with other churches in the Bismarck-Mandan area, on Friday, February 21 from 6pm-10pm! Registration link: <https://form.jotform.com/250085703330144>

Thank you!

February Acolyting Schedule

Sundays

8:30 - Open

11:00 - Eden & Lawson Reinhart

Wednesdays

7:00 - Brooke, Mallory and Miriah
Nelson (5/12)

Betty & Clarence Forward (19/26)

Tech Assistant - Brennan Nelson & TJ
Lacher

We have received many thanks for our Sunshine Gifts this year! Many recipients expressed how thankful they were to receive flowers or other gifts that brightened their lives for a few weeks. The written thank you notes we received can be found on the wall between Cheryl's and Caitlin's offices. Thank you for contributing to brightening the holidays for many of our members!

The staff also enjoyed the many gifts provided to us during the Christmas season. We all appreciated some Christmas cheer as we prepared for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day!

MISSION Focus

FEBRUARY: BIO GIRLS

BIO Girls aims to improve the self-esteem of adolescent girls through service to others and self-empowerment, using a life-skills curriculum and small-group mentoring. The BIO Girls program at FLC also helps girls train for a 5k in May. They are currently seeking monetary donations to help with scholarships, supplies for classes, and items for their finale event! Checks can be made out to BIO GIRLS, with Bismarck FLC BIO Girls in the memo line, and mailed to BIO Girls, 4225 38th St S, Suite 202, Fargo, ND, 58104. Thank you for your generosity!



Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. - 1 Timothy 4:12

February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 8:30 Worship 9:45 Church School 11:00 Worship 4:00 Cub Scouts	3 7:00 AA	4 9:00 Quilting 2:00 Crafts 7:00 Scouts	5 10:00 Bible Study 4:30 8th/9th Conf 5:30 Handbells 5:30 BLAST Meal 6:00 Church School 7:00 Worship	6 9:00 Esther Circle 9:00 Men of Faith	7 8:00 NA	8
9 8:30 Worship 9:45 Church School 11:00 Worship 4:00 Cub Scouts	10 Newsletter Deadline 7:00 AA	11 9:00 Quilting 2:00 Crafts 6:00 Elementary Comm. 7:00 Scouts	12 10:00 Bible Study 5:30 Handbells 6:00 Church School 6:00 6th/7th Grade P/S 7:00 Worship	13 2:00 Knit & Crochet Group 7:00 Ruth Circle	14 8:00 NA	15
16 8:30 Worship 9:45 Rice Pudding 9:45 Church School 11:00 Worship 4:00 Cub Scouts	17 5:00 Worship and Music 7:00 AA	18 9:00 Quilting 2:00 Crafts 5:15 HR Committee 6:00 Compass Group 7:00 Exec Committee 7:00 Scouts	19 10:00 Bible Study 5:30 Handbells 6:00 Church School 6:00 6th/7th Grade P/S 7:00 Worship	20	21 6:00 Mock-in at Trinity Lutheran 8:00 NA	22 11:30 Interfaith Potluck at Bismarck UCC
23 8:30 Worship 9:45 Church School 11:00 Worship 2:00 Camp of the Cross Annual Meeting 4:00 Cub Scouts	24 5:00 Altar Guild 7:00 AA	25 9:00 Quilting 2:00 Crafts 6:00 Compass Group 7:00 Exec Comm 7:00 Scouts	26 10:00 Bible Study 5:30 Handbells 6:00 Church School 6:00 6th/7th Grade P/S 7:00 Worship	27 6:00 Knit & Crochet Group	28 8:00 NA	

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

Faith Lutheran Church February 2025 News and Views



YOU ARE INVITED TO AN

INTERFAITH POTLUCK

PREPARE FOR A SPECIAL POTLUCK
GATHERING WITH ABUNDANT FOOD AND
FRIENDLY CONVERSATIONS!
OPTIONAL FUN INCLUDES TRIVIA AND GAMES

SAT., FEB. 22 - 11:30AM TO 1:00PM
FREE! BRING A DISH TO SHARE IF YOU ARE ABLE

BISMARCK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1200 E HIGHLAND ACRES RD., BISMARCK, ND 58501

DONATE:
BRING NON-PERISHABLE
FOOD ITEMS TO SUPPORT
LOCAL NON-PROFITS

