

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Ninth Week 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

1402 E Ave C Bismarck, ND 58501

Pastoral Care Emergency Number: 701-595-0223

faithbismarck.com

701-223-2236

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING SONG: ELW 512 “Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil” x2

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

READING: see next page

SERMON

SONG: ACS 952 “The Reign of God, Like Farmer’s Field”

PRAYERS

OFFERING

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD’S PRAYER

HOLY COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: ELW 439 “Soon and Very Soon”

DISMISSAL

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

READING

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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 Romans 8:26-39

Reflection Questions

- In this season of Pentecost, we focus on learning how God is always with us. What does this scripture say cannot separate us from God?
- This scripture tells us God loves and understands us with all of the big, difficult feelings we have. What are some examples of big, difficult feelings?
- When you have felt big, difficult feelings, who or what helped you feel settled again?
- This passage tells us we're part of a big family with Jesus. What is good about being a part of a community or family?
- God sends the Holy Spirit to help us care for one another as a community. How can your community show up for and help people who are struggling with big, difficult feelings?

Activity

This passage from Romans reminds us that—through the Holy Spirit—God loves us and is with us always. God understands and cares about all the struggles we go through, even if we don't really understand them ourselves. God offers us comfort and wisdom. One way God does this is by helping us support one another. God's love has made us all one big family—a community of faith. Communities work together to help each other, so everyone gets the support they need. As a community, we can do more together than we ever could do on our own.

Play a game together with the children in your life to practice what it looks like to work as a community and support one another. This is a riff on the classic childhood game where the floor is lava, but this version focuses on God's love instead. Cover the floor with boxes, cushions, blankets, and other "safe" objects for people to step on. Indicate a starting place and an ending point, and explain that

the ending point is God's love. The "lava" is all the difficult things we sometimes have to deal with. The objects scattered on the floor are safe "pockets of love" everyone can step on as they try to safely cross over to God's love. Remind everyone that the goal of this game is for everyone to get across safely. You can help each other by lending hands, pushing/kicking safe spaces to others so they can reach them, offering instructions, and cheering others on. Work together to get everyone safely across.

Afterward, discuss and reflect together:

- What was tricky about the game?
- How did working together help?
- What can this game teach us about supporting one another as a community?

Prayer

Persistent God, your love never gives up. You will go anywhere to find us and hold onto us. When we feel hopeless or overwhelmed, help us remember that nothing in all of creation can separate us from you. Amen.

Look it Up!

Did you know there are "intentional communities" of Christians where everyone lives and works together serving others?

Look up the Corrymeela Community in Northern Ireland and the Iona Community in Scotland. How do these communities help each other and the world?





CHURCH
Announcements

Thank you for your offering of **\$13,840.18** for the week of **July 19th!**

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by Jenell Loftesnes, in memory of Howard. **Thank you!**

We are so excited to announce this year's **FLC Summer Week of Service! From this Saturday, July 25 to Thursday, July 30**, we have a full schedule each day of service opportunities, meals, and fun activities open to the congregation. We hope that you will find moments to join us as we serve others in all kinds of different ways and build relationships within our community and across the area. **See the schedule and sign up now in the Gathering Place!**

Faith Lutheran will be hosting a **Clothing Drive on Saturday, August 8th from 9-5!** We are asking for **donations of clothing for all ages, including backpacks for school children.** Sack lunches will also be provided. You can bring donations in during office hours, and between 8am and 9am Monday through Friday if you would like a custodian's assistance. You can also make monetary donations toward school supplies by making a check out to Faith Lutheran and adding "School Supplies" in the memo line.

Looking for some fun music opportunities? Head on out to **the Reeder Community Center (501 Main Street, Reeder, ND 58649) to hear Dmytro Somkin, Kseniia Somkina and Colleen Reinhardt in concert on Sunday, August 9th from 5pm-7pm (MDT)!** Free Will Donation will go to the Reeder Community Center. On **August 13th at 6:30pm, join Dmytro, Kseniia and their family (including a special performance by their son, Adrian) for a Blessing Concert and Dessert Social at Lord of Life Lutheran!** Free Will Offering will go toward relocation costs for their family.

Join others in our community for **the next Interfaith Potluck at Sertoma Park, Shelter 9 on Saturday, August 8th from 11:30am to 1pm.** Bring a dish to share, reusable tableware if you can, and donations of school supplies for local students! Financial donations will also be accepted for upcoming events. Come enjoy some of the best food in Bismarck, and spend time with others in our community!

This summer, **we are looking for more people willing to give rides to church!** We are currently looking for a few more drivers to use their personal vehicle, or our bus or van, to transport a group of people to service this summer, and to the 8:30 starting in the Fall. We are also looking to potentially pair up individuals or couples who can give rides with other couples or individuals that would like one. **If you can give rides to a group about once a month, or could regularly give rides to one individual or couple, or would be interested in a ride, please call the front office** to let us know you are interested, and which service you normally attend.

We want to hear from you! This summer, we **invite you to vote in our Summer Gladness Favorite Hymn Bracket Tournament.** We will start with 64 hymns, voting each week, until we find out Faith Lutheran's favorite hymn! Voting sheets can be found next to the bulletins. Listen for the top 8 hymns to be featured in worship the next few weeks. Which hymn do YOU think will win?

Message: Dave Jenkins, Missionary Pastor
Liturgy: Pastor Sylvia Bull
Music: Dmytro Somkin

CALENDAR

Thursday, July 23

6:00 Knit & Crochet Group

Friday, July 24

8:00 NA

Saturday, July 25

FLC Week of Service

Sunday, July 26

FLC Week of Service

9:30 Worship

Monday, July 27

FLC Week of Service

7:00 AA

Tuesday, July 28

FLC Week of Service

9:00 Quilting

2:00 Crafts

5:30-7:30 FLC Night on the Lewis
and Clark Riverboat

Wednesday, July 29

FLC Week of Service

10:00 Bible Study

7:00 Worship

MISSION Focus

JULY/AUGUST: BECEP

BECEP, located across 14th Street from our church, works together with families and the community to support and promote Early Childhood Education. They serve children birth to 5 years old, and work with their families to give young children the best environments to grow and thrive in.

We are asking for donations to help them in their mission!

They are currently asking for children's clothes (size 4/5 through 8/10), girls and boys backpacks, hats, waterproof mittens, and snow pants.

"[Jesus] said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them." - Mark 10: 14b-16

