

Wednesday, October 14, 2026
21st Wednesday 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

Every Member
Derek Harkins

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING SONG: ELW 819 "Come, All You People" *

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

READING: see next page

SERMON

SONG: ELW 583 "Take My Life, That I May Be" *

PRAYERS

OFFERING

HOLY COMMUNION

BLESSING

SENDING SONG: ELW 661 "I Love to Tell the Story" *

DISMISSAL

READING(S)

Reading: *Matthew 22:15-22*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 22nd Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

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 Matthew 22:15–22.

Reflection Questions

- What happened when the leaders asked Jesus about paying taxes to Caesar? What surprising thing did Jesus say about the coin?
- We are in the Season after Pentecost, when the church grows in its understanding of how faith shapes our life together. The religious leaders tried to trick Jesus with questions, but we know from other stories that Jesus loved curious, honest questions. What curious, honest questions would you ask Jesus?
- Caesar's face was on the coin because he was the emperor of Rome. Whose faces are on your coins?
- Jesus did not let others trap him into choosing between two unfair options. Tell of a time when you had to choose between two unfair options. What did you do?
- What could "giving God what belongs to God" look like in your everyday life at school, home, or with friends?

Activity

Invite participants to stand where they have room to move. Explain that you will make different movements for everyone to copy. Begin with simple actions like clapping, marching, touching your toes, or wiggling.

After several rounds, change the directions: "This time, you get to choose. You can copy my movement, make your own movement, or be still." Continue with several more movements. Then gather together and ask, "What was it like when everyone copied? What changed when you could choose? What helped you decide what to do?"

Explain that sometimes when people around us are doing something, we feel pressure to do it too. Give a familiar example, such as everyone leaving someone out or laughing when someone makes a mistake. Invite participants to wonder, “What could help you pause and choose what to do instead of simply following the crowd? How might love, justice, or wisdom help you choose?”

Prayer

God of justice and love, when people or powers try to claim our loyalty, help us remember we belong to you. May we follow your way each day by being kind, fair, and brave, always reminding others they belong too. Amen.

Look it Up!

Did you know following a group can sometimes influence the choices we make?

Look up “conformity,” and find an everyday example. What makes people want to follow a group, and what might help someone pause and choose differently?





CHURCH Announcements

No offering for this week's bulletin (October 11th).

The offering will be included in **next week's bulletin.**

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by Patty Maier, in memory of Bonnie. **Thank you!**

Please be advised that our office will be **closed in the afternoon this week, October 12-16.**

New to our community? We would love to officially welcome you! **Please join us on Sunday, October 18th at 9:45am for a New Member Orientation and Wednesday October 21st or Sunday October 25th during service for our New Member Installation.** Call the front office at (701) 223-2236 to let us know you are interested!

October brings our annual **Pie & Coffee event on Saturday, October 24th.** It will be a fun day to enjoy a piece of pie with our community. There will be **baked items, knoephla, and Rice Pudding** to purchase, **soup and sandwiches provided by the youth,** and of course, treasures to be found in **the White Elephant rooms.** We are adding something **NEW – kuchen for sale.** So, we need your help: dates for making knoephla are **Monday, October 12th at 6:30 pm** and **Thursday, October 15th at 9:00 am.** **On Friday, October 23rd at 5:30 pm,** we will be making kuchen. This is a good time to learn from our experts. Come join us! **White Elephant items** can be brought to the church beginning on **Thursday, October 22nd.**

Thanksgiving is coming up! Join us on **Tuesday, November 24th at 7pm for our annual Community Thanksgiving Service at Legacy United Methodist Church** (4600 Durango Drive, Bismarck). Join in worship with other area churches, hear from a guest speaker from CATCH (free will offering collected for their ministry), and join us for the **Pie Social** after! Please note there will be **no service on Wednesday, November 25th,** and our **office will be closed from Wednesday, November 25, through Friday, November 27,** for Thanksgiving.

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 Oct-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!

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: John Power

Liturgy: Pastor Derek Harkins

Music: Sounds of Faith

CALENDAR

Thursday, October 15

9:00 Making Knoephla
6:00 Voicing Your Values
(Lord of Life)

Friday, October 16

LYO - Middle School

8:00 NA

Saturday, October 17

LYO - High School

Sunday, October 18

LYO - High School

8:30 Worship
9:45 New Member Orientation
9:45 4th Grade P/S
9:45 Church School
11:00 Worship

Monday, October 19

7:00 AA

Tuesday, October 20

9:00 Quilting
2:00 Crafts
5:00 HR Committee
6:00 Stewardship Committee
7:00 Scouts

Wednesday, October 21

No Church School/Confirmation New Member

10:00 Bible Study
1:30 Edgewood Service
5:30 Handbells
7:00 Worship

MISSION Focus



OCTOBER: LINCOLN COMMUNITY CUPBOARD

The Food Pantry in Lincoln is in need of a few items that are seldom available through bulk distributors. Community members can help stock the shelves with affordable donations from dollar stores, including household cleaners (floor, dish, laundry, and bathroom), feminine hygiene products (pads and tampons), toilet paper, and canned soups for the fall and winter months. Thank you for your generosity!

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

— 2 Corinthians 9:7