

**Wednesday, March 11, 2026**  
**Lent Midweek**  
**The Good News is**  
**Together, the Impossible is Possible**



## **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**

**CENTERING MOMENT**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME**

**BREAKING NEWS UPDATE**

**SONG: ACS 925 "Beautiful Things" \***

**GOSPEL RE-ENACTMENT - Feeding the 5,000**

**Characters: Jesus, Judas, John, Crowd**

**POEM - "Surely, This Must Be It" by Rev. Sarah A. Speed**

**RESPONSIVE PRAYERS**

*During this time of prayer, we invite you to pray over the ribbon you received at the beginning of worship. You could pray for someone who needs to hear this week's good news, to be able to hear it in your own life, or give thanks for somewhere you see this good news in the world. When you are ready, you can bring up your ribbon and tie it to one of the branches of the trees as a visual sign of your prayer.*

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**BLESSING**

**SONG: ELW 768 "Lead Me, Guide Me" \***

**DISMISSAL**

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

## READING

**Reading:** *John 2:1-11*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 25<sup>th</sup> Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

And [Jesus and his disciples] went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things. When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat." But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." They said to him, "Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?" And he said to them, "How many loaves have you? Go and see." When they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to his disciples to set before the people, and he divided the two fish among them all. And all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

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

## POEM

### **Surely, This Must Be It**

Everyone has a job. I wash the potatoes, filling the sink with slivers of potato peel. You brine the turkey, hovering by the oven all afternoon. Someone sets the table, taking care to fill a vase with asters and marigolds, sprigs of holly and shoots of evergreen. We play music while we prepare. *"What The World Needs Now is Love"* comes on. We can't get it out of our heads. We whistle along to Dionne all afternoon. And eventually, the doorbell rings.

You've invited the neighbors, the grad student who sits on the second row at church, the widower in the choir. We add seats to the table. We go around the room and share one thing we're grateful for. Eyes well as we create a laundry list of beauty. The kids get squirmy, but we're grateful for that too.

And then we eat! We scoop whipped potatoes and crisp green beans with fresh garlic. We pass the bread basket, leaving crumbs all over the table. They are tiny reminders of communion in our midst. And at the end of the night, when we walk our guests to the car and carry sleeping children to their car seats, our neighbors say, *What a holy moment it all was.* Surely this must be what heaven feels like. Surely we *can* create it together.

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- When Jesus tells the disciples to feed the crowd, they tell him they can't because they don't have enough money. What are some other excuses we might give when something seems too hard?
- Some people think Jesus magically made more bread and fish, and some people think the crowd was inspired by Jesus to share what they had. Which do you think would be more surprising?
- Have you ever felt like you were trying to do something impossible? Did you try it on your own? Ask for help? Give up?
- What is easy about teamwork? What is hard?
- What are some amazing things our church (or community) has done together? What impossible things would you like to try to do together?



**CHURCH**  
Announcements

**Thank you** for your offering of **\$15,028.39** for the week of **March 8!**

**Altar Flowers** for the week are provided by Renee Polsfuss, in memory of Dave Polsfuss. **Thank you!**

The **March Newsletter is now in the mail and available online!** If you would like to pick up a paper copy, look on the table in front of the Avenue C entrance.

Lent is here! Join us on **Wednesdays at 11:15am for Soup Lunch, and Midweek Services at 12:05pm and 7pm. Sign-ups** are currently available on the table next to the Coffee Hour area to **bring bread and bars for our Lent Soup Lunches!**

Please join us **today, Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 5pm for the Men of Faith Potato/Chili Feed!** Free will offering will go toward Camp of the Cross. Hope to see you there!

**Lent Devotionals** based on our theme “Tell Me Something Good” by A Sanctified Art **are available now** in the Gathering Place. Please take one for your household! If you'd prefer an e-version, email the church office at [faith.bisfaith@gmail.com](mailto:faith.bisfaith@gmail.com). We hope you find it a meaningful companion during this season. As you read: take what you need, leave what doesn't fit, and be open to hearing different perspectives!

Easter is almost here! Please join us for **Maundy Thursday, April 2, at 7pm, Good Friday, April 3 at 12:05pm or 7pm, the Community Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 4th at 7pm (hosted at Bismarck UCC) and Easter Sunday, April 5th at 7am, 9am, or 11am.** Don't forget our **Easter Sunday Continental Breakfast from 7:30am-11am** to support our youth with your free will offering!

**Holy Week Worship Assisant Sign-ups are now available** in the Gathering Place! We appreciate all the volunteers that help make our Holy Week services possible.

Please join us **tomorrow, Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> for a Scripture Circle led by U.S. Jones, II!** This powerful method of studying scripture focuses on details and connections across Scripture. The event, **hosted at McCabe UMC (1030 N 6th St, Bismarck), will start with a light dinner at 5pm, and then study from 5:45pm-8pm.** A free-will offering will be taken if you feel moved to help supplement the speaker fee. Look out for other Scripture Circle opportunities on April 9<sup>th</sup> (Faith Lutheran), and May 14<sup>th</sup> (Lutheran Church of the Cross, 1004 E Highland Acres Rd, Bismarck)!

Don't forget to **direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars!** Individuals with certain types of accounts can direct money, donated by Thrivent, to specific non-profits in the area. The **deadline to direct your Dollars is Monday, March 31st.** Make sure to log-in to the online portal, or talk to your Thrivent representative, to select any non-profits you would like to support. In the past, we have used Thrivent Choice Dollars to fund devotionals and Bible Study materials, speakers and special events at Faith Lutheran. Thank you for supporting non-profits!

2,000 years ago, Jesus entered into Jerusalem at the beginning of Passover on a donkey, an image reflecting his just, humble leadership and care for those in need. Christian communities from across our region are invited to gather for a time of communal prayer and public witness at 3 pm on Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026 for a processional from Trinity Lutheran Church in Bismarck (502 N 4th St) to the ND State Capitol Steps. An ecumenical worship service uplifting our shared values of feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, and welcoming the stranger will be held on the Capitol Steps at 4pm. **More information about this Palm Sunday Path will be available in the March News & Views and will be shared in an info session today, Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the East Room.**

Altar Guild is currently **accepting donations for our Easter Mums** this year! You can sign-up to have an Easter Mum in honor or memory of a loved one, or just because! Altar Guild members will be available **this Sunday, March 15** between services to take orders. You can also call the office to place an order. Mums will be \$15.

The Faith Crafters have created **handmade Easter cards, table favors and Easter basket stuffers that they will be selling between services on March 22nd.**

**Liturgy: Pastor Derek Harkins & Pastor Sylvia Bull**  
**Music: Dmytro Somkin**

Front Bulletin Image, Slide and Advertising Graphics (Graphic design by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman), portions of the liturgy (by Rev. Sarah A. Speed), Gospel Re-enactment and Reflection Questions (by Rev. Anna Strickland), and "Surely, This Must Be It" (by Rev. Sarah A. Speed), from A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. Bulletin texts from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2025. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #26214. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Service and Hymns printed in this bulletin—unless in the public domain—are covered by CCLI License 2214977 and One License.net #A-704330.(All rights reserved) Permissions for live-streaming also covered by One License and CCLI.

## CALENDAR

### Thursday, March 12

2:00 Knit & Crochet Group  
5:00 Scripture Circle (McCabe)  
7:00 Ruth Circle

### Friday, March 13

8:00 NA

### Saturday, March 14

### Sunday, March 15

#### No Church School

8:30 Worship  
10:00 All Comers' Choir Rehearsal  
11:00 Worship

### Monday, March 16

3:00 Worship and Music  
7:00 AA

### Tuesday, March 17

9:00 Quilting  
2:00 Crafts  
5:15 BIO Girls  
5:15 HR Committee  
6:00 Stewardship Committee  
7:00 Scouts

### Wednesday, March 18

10:00 Lent Bible Study  
11:15 Lent Soup Lunch  
12:05 Worship  
5:30 Handbells  
6:00 Church School & Confirmation  
6:00 Lent Book Study  
7:00 Worship

# MISSION Focus



## MARCH: SCOUTING FOR FOOD

This month, we will be partnering with the Scouts in their Scouting for Food Project! Bring in any non-perishable food items throughout the month of March, and the scouts will bring them to food banks throughout the community. The Northern Lights Council is looking to keep growing this event, and reach their goal of 85,000 pounds of food collected, and your contributions can help!

*"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat." - Matthew 25:35*