



**Faith Lutheran**

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](http://www.faithbismarck.com)

# News and Views

April 2026

Volume 2026, Issue 3

## MISSION STATEMENT

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

YOU ARE INVITED TO A

# TASTE OF HOME Event




Enjoy a delicious variety of homemade dishes from Ukraine, hear personal stories of resilience and hope, and connect with others in the spirit of community.

**Admission: Freewill Donation**

All proceeds go to support Bismarck Global Neighbors (BGN) and their mission to empower and support local newcomers as they build new lives in our community.

**Thursday Apr 16th | 6:00pm-7:30 pm | Faith Lutheran 1402 E Avenue C, Bismarck**



## FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH CLERGY

**Pastor Derek Harkins**  
(Fridays off)

**Pastor Sylvia Bull**  
(Fridays off)

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY:

8:30am & 11am

WEDNESDAY:

7pm

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.

# Holy Week 2026 Schedule



Wednesday, April 1: No Service

Maundy Thursday, April 2: Service @7pm

Good Friday, April 3: Service @12:05pm & 7pm

Saturday, April 4: Community Easter Vigil @7pm (Bismarck UCC)

Easter Sunday, April 5: Service @ 7am, 9am, 11am

Easter Continental Breakfast: 7:30am - 11am

## FLC Executive Team

Amy Steiner, Chair

Gail Skaley, Vice-Chair

Ryan Sprynczynatyk, Vice-Chair

Pat Groce, Secretary

Billie Ann Caya, Treasurer

## Pastoral Ministries

*None last month*



## **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

### **February General Fund:**

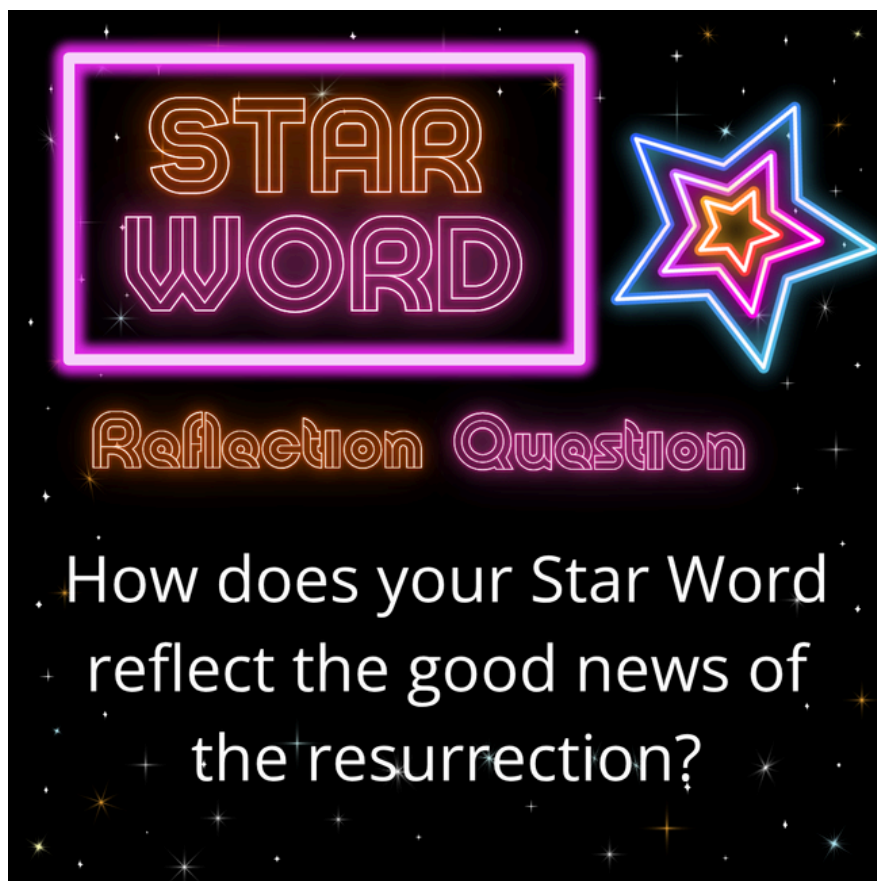
Revenues: \$48,952.96

Expenditures: \$51,772.14

### **2026 Year-to Date:**

Revenues: \$89,157.94

Expenditures: \$118,600.00



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](mailto:communications.bisfaith@gmail.com) For additional information, call the church office at 701-223-2236

## **Church Memorials**

For **Scholarship Fund**, in memory of Eugene "Gene" Severson

For **Library Fund**, in memory of Eugene "Gene" Severson

for **Handbells Fund**, in memory of Eugene "Gene" Severson and Melvin "Cork" Mehlhoff

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



## The Kid Who Struck Out

Baseball season has begun and we will again be cheering for our favorite teams. With belief and hope that at the end of October our team will be the World Series Champion.

At times collegiate athletes in our community ask me what my favorite sport is. The person asking might be a soccer or volleyball player who has become a friend. I tell them that it is baseball and then I tell them why.

Baseball was the sport of my youth and the San Francisco Giants are the only professional team that I identify with. I tell them that my only sports hero was Willie Mays. And they understand.

Many decades ago, I heard a story about a rabbi and a priest who were at a baseball game. The rabbi noticed a player who made the sign of the cross before he stepped into the batter's box. He asked the priest "Does that help him?" The priest replied "Only if he can hit the curve ball."

When I played baseball, I could never hit a curve ball. In fact, I couldn't hit any pitch. I was one of those kids who got to play because there weren't many kids in my hometown.

After sporting events we hear the interview with one of the stars of the game. And on occasion that person thanks God for helping him and his team win. Being a kid who couldn't hit the curve ball I know that God doesn't care who wins games.

God does not help the winner win. God, however, wraps his arms around the kid who, with the tying run on 3rd and the winning run on 2nd, strikes out to end the game.

Goodbye for now and remember to always take time talk to the cows.

-Bennett R. Kubischta, March 13, 2026, 8:56am

## Men of Faith Updates

**A huge thank you to all who attended and provided chili and bars for the 30<sup>th</sup> annual Potato/Chili Feed.**

We served 103 meals and through your generosity, **raised \$1876 in donations** in funding for the ongoing ministry at the Camp of the Cross. Also, thank you to the Men of Faith for their participation and Mercy Carkuff and her grand-daughter Lillian for their help with set-up.

The Men of Faith will be **meeting on Thursday, 2 April 2026**, at which Dymtro Somkin will speak about his Ukrainian and other experiences. Please note that **this meeting will be held at 11:30 AM** to best accommodate his schedule, so please note that time change.



## Library Link

by LeAnn Severson

I recently attended an event to celebrate with my neighbor, former Chief Justice Gerald Vandewalle, on the release of his biography entitled CALL ME JERRY.

Levi Andrist's dream of a biography of "The Chief" took flight in 2020. One pandemic and nearly six years later the book has been written, published and made available to readers.

Cecile Wehrman authored the book by compiling numerous interviews with Jerry and others who've had a relationship with him. Jerry provided a good number of photos to enhance the reading experience. As I continue to read the book, I can agree with the quote, "CALL ME JERRY, becomes the bridge-allowing the man to come down from the bench, take off the judge's robe and be known as himself".

I obtained a copy of the book for our church library. It is on display on the rack for new arrivals and ready for check out.

## Thank you for our New Altar Railing!

A huge thank you to Mark Aamodt, Ray Utter, and Jim Isaak for engineering, creating, and installing the new handrail in the chancel area. This helps make our worship space more accessible and safe for those who lead worship, whether acolyting, serving with altar guild, or singing in the choir.



# SOMKIN FAMILY BENEFIT CONCERT

SUNDAY  
MAY 17, 2026  
4:30PM

Faith Lutheran Church  
1402 E Ave C  
Bismarck, ND 58501



Featuring:  
Dmytro Somkin (Tenor, International Opera  
Singer & Faith Lutheran Church Music  
Coordinator),  
and Kseniia Somkina (Alto, Khreshchatyk  
Academic Chamber Choir Soloist)

Join us for an International Concert, including  
Opera music, performed by internationally  
renowned artists! Free will offering will go to  
Dmytro, Kseniia, and their family as they  
assess the best way to attain long-term legal  
residency here in the US.



# WELCA *Gathering*

May 3 | 2026

1:30 PM

Join us for Food and  
Fellowship, as we hear from  
speaker Kylie Williams from  
Steep Me Tea, and discuss  
future plans for WELCA. All  
women of the church are  
welcome to attend!



# Pastor Derek's Parables



Grace and peace to you, sisters and brothers in Christ!

One of the many things that is unique about Faith Lutheran, at least in my experience of other congregations around the country, is that Faith Lutheran doesn't just have one congregational meeting annually. Faith Lutheran has written into its constitution that it will have two congregational meetings each year — one in December and one in May. The December meeting is to take care of the business aspect of the church: elect leaders, pass budgets, and deal

with any other organizational needs. The May meeting though is almost entirely dedicated to the ministry and mission of the church. We discuss and vote on long-term goals and short-term goals. Another large piece of the May meeting is to assess and reflect on Faith Lutheran's current mission statement and then discern whether we feel God is still calling Faith Lutheran to this particular mission statement or if it is in need of a change.

Faith Lutheran's current mission statement reads, *"We are building a welcoming, nurturing faith community guided by Jesus to share the Gospel."* This mission statement has served us well and I believe it continues to inform the ministry and work that we do together at Faith Lutheran Church. Community and relationships are essential to our life together at FLC.

One thing that many congregations and organizations that have mission statements have that Faith Lutheran has not yet named are "Core Values." Why does a congregation need to name "Core Values" if it already has a mission statement? I think a good way to go about answering that question is understanding the purpose of each. The mission statement tries to state succinctly *WHO* we are as a community. Core Values describe *WHY* we are who we are. Core Values are deeply held beliefs, values, and guiding principles that help direct an organization's behavior and decisions. Each community has a set of core values whether they have recognized and named them or not. However, it is incredibly beneficial to a community to discern and name their core values together. Doing so will help unite the community together in their mission. It will give leadership and sub groups direction in decision making. It will help justify necessary changes or adaptations that will better serve the community and its mission, if those changes support the shared core values of the community.

The Faith Lutheran Executive Committee would like to invite the congregation to an event where we, as a community, will help to discern what Faith Lutheran's Core Values are.

**Please join us for a Potluck on Sunday, April 19th at Noon directly following the 11am worship service!** We will join together in meal and fellowship, followed by

Your paragraph text

conversation centered around the values and principles that are most important to the community of Faith Lutheran. We will bring a report of our conversation to the congregational meeting on May 10th where we will adopt core values to accompany our mission statement.

Please join us for both the Potluck and the May Congregational Meeting. These opportunities to come together as a community to discern what God is up to among us are incredibly important to our life together as the Body of Christ.

**We hope to see you Sunday, April 19th at Noon in the basement fellowship hall. Bring a dish to share and an open heart for conversation.**

In Christ,  
Pastor Derek



**A Very Messy Vacation Bible School Christmas in June**

**Sunday, June 7- Wednesday, June 10**  
**4 Year Olds through rising 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**Games, Snacks, Music, Crafts!**

June 7: 5:30pm-8pm, pizza provided  
June 8: 6pm-8pm  
June 9: 6pm-8pm  
June 10: 6pm-8pm with performance during Worship at 7pm

\$20 per child or \$30 per family

Register at [faithbismarck.com/forms](http://faithbismarck.com/forms)



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

# WHERE DID LWR QUILTS & KITS GO IN 2025?



**803,181** QUILTS & KITS

IN **15** COUNTRIES



**315, 818**  
QUILTS



**179,200**  
SCHOOL KITS



**231,811**  
PERSONAL CARE KITS



**66,984**  
BABY CARE KITS



**9,368**  
FABRIC KITS

*This shipping information is from LWR's 2025 Fiscal Year (Oct. 2024 - Sept. 2025).*

COUNTRY	SHIPPING WAREHOUSE	QUILTS	SCHOOL KITS	PERSONAL CARE KITS	BABY CARE KITS	FABRIC KITS
ANGOLA	Maryland	33,000	16,900	27,000	9,000	
DJIBOUTI	Minnesota	9,520	15,225			
GEORGIA	Minnesota			65,100		
	Maryland	49,500				
HONDURAS	Minnesota		29,290			
JORDAN	Maryland	6,600	6,500			
LIBERIA	Minnesota	5,100			3,500	
MADAGASCAR	Minnesota	9,520			7,350	
MALI	Maryland	51,975	19,500	15,000	6,000	1,568
ROMANIA	Maryland	6,270	3,380	3,900		
SERBIA	Maryland	7,425		6,300		
SIERRA LEONE	Minnesota		15,225		7,350	
TANZANIA	Minnesota	9,520			7,350	
UKRAINE	Maryland	8,250		6,000		
UNITED STATES - EAST	Both	85,737	40,794	65,561	20,950	5,360
UNITED STATES - CENTRAL	Both	17,720	4,350	9,150	784	1,800
UNITED STATES - WEST	Both	10,581	28,036	33,800	1,200	640
ZIMBABWE	Minnesota	5,100			3,500	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>315,818</b>	<b>179,200</b>	<b>231,811</b>	<b>66,984</b>	<b>9,368</b>



# Church School News



Second quarter offering will go to Stepping Stone Ministries. The mission of Stepping Stone Ministries is to provide a safe and healing environment for individuals experiencing homelessness who need to recover from illness or injury. While providing respite recovery, we seek to foster community connections that will promote stable housing, recovery and independence.

## Youth News

Pastor Sylvia and I have met and scheduled the 2026 summer trip. Anyone (youth 9th grade & above or adults) are eligible. IF you did not get a link and are interested contact Kenny to see if we have any open spots.

There is a Middle School Mock In on April 24 from 6-10PM at Trinity Church. ALL Middle School and High School students can attend.

## April Acolyte Schedule

### Sundays

**8:30** - Open

**11:00** - Eden Reinhart/Lawson  
Reinhart

### Wednesdays

**7:00** - Riley Hoff/Conner Kuntz (8/15)

Cash Murray/Everly Murray (22/29)

**Tech Assistant** - Bentley Schock

## Confirmation News

9th Grade Retreat is coming up April 17 from 5-9 PM. Confirmation Luncheon is April 26 @ 12:15PM. Confirmation is April 29 and May 3.

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE

# Confirmation Luncheon

SUNDAY, APRIL 26TH

12:15 PM

FELLOWSHIP HALL

Please join us after the 11am Service for the Confirmation Luncheon as we celebrate and support the young people in our congregation taking the next step in their faith journey!

# MISSION Focus



## APRIL: PENNY'S PASSION

Penny's Passion puts together care bags to give to children at their first cancer appointment, and to give to staff at the hospital to hand out to children and adults in cancer treatment. Penny's daughter, Jesse, was inspired to create these small acts of kindness after Penny passed way suddenly from Glioblastoma at 58. They are currently in need of ice packs, Press & Seal (for ports), tote bags, pennies, and individual packs of Kleenex.

*"... when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'" - Matthew 25:39-40*



# April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
<b>5 Easter Sunday</b> 7:00 Worship 7:30 Conitnetal Breakfast 9:00 Worship 11:00 Worship	<b>6 7:00 AA</b>	<b>7 9:00</b> Quilting 2:00 Crafts 5:15 BIO Girls 7:00 Scouts	<b>8 10:00</b> Bible Study 6:00 Church School & Confirmation 6:00 Spring Book Study 7:00 Worship	<b>9 2:00</b> Knit & Crochet Group 7:00 Scripture Circle (FLC) 7:00 Ruth Circle	<b>10 Newsletter</b> Deadline 8:00 NA	<b>11</b>
<b>12 8:30</b> Worship 9:45 Church School 10:00 Choir Practice 11:00 Worship 4:00 Cub Scouts	<b>13 7:00</b> AA	<b>14 9:00</b> Quilting 2:00 Crafts 5:15 Bio Girls 6:00 Elementary Comm 7:00 Scouts	<b>15 10:00</b> Bible Study 6:00 Church School & Confirmation 6:00 Spring Book Study 7:00 Worship	<b>16 6:00</b> Taste of Home: Ukraine	<b>17 5:00</b> 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat 8:00 NA	<b>18</b>
<b>19 8:30</b> Worship 9:45 Church School 10:00 Choir Practice 11:00 Worship 12:00 Core Values Potluck 4:00 Cub Scouts	<b>20 3:00</b> Worship & Music 7:00 AA	<b>21 9:00</b> Quilting 2:00 Crafts 5:15 BIO Girls 5:15 HR Committee 6:00 Stewardship Comm 7:00 Scouts	<b>22 10:00</b> Bible Study 6:00 Church School & Confirmation 6:00 Spring Book Study 7:00 Worship	<b>23 6:00</b> Compass Group 6:00 Knit & Crochet Group 7:00 Executive Comm	<b>24 8:00</b> NA	<b>25</b>
<b>26 8:30</b> Worship 9:45 Church School 10:00 Choir Practice 11:00 Worship 12:15 Confirmation Luncheon 4:00 Cub Scouts	<b>27 5:00</b> Altar Guild 7:00 AA	<b>28 9:00</b> Quilting 2:00 Crafts 5:15 BIO Girls 7:00 Scouts	<b>29 Confirmation</b> 10:00 Bible Study 6:00 Church School & Confirmation 6:00 Spring Book Study 7:00 Worship	<b>30</b>		

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## Faith Lutheran Church April 2026 News and Views



# SCRIPTURE CIRCLES

Come share in a transformative method of studying the Bible that is accessible to all! No prior experience or knowledge needed; led by scripture teacher U.S. Jones, II.

Light supper will be served starting at 5:00 pm, study begins at 5:45pm. A free will offering will be collected, but the events are FREE.

**THURSDAYS FROM 5:00-8:00PM ON:**

**APRIL 9 @ Faith Lutheran Church  
(1402 E Ave C, Bismarck)**

**MAY 14 @ Lutheran Church of the  
Cross (1004 E Highland Acres Rd,  
Bismarck)**



Questions? Call 701-223-2236  
for more information