

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Fifteenth 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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

**OPENING SONG: ACS 949 "Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and
Burning" ***

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

READING: see next page

SERMON

SONG: ELW 744 "Lord, Be Glorified" *

PRAYERS

OFFERING

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

HOLY COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: ELW 535 "Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises" *

DISMISSAL

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

READING

Reading: *Matthew 18:15-20*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 18th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

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 18:15-20

Reflection Questions

- In this season after Pentecost, we grow as followers of Jesus by learning how to love God, neighbor, and ourselves. What do you remember most from this story?
- What situations cause disagreements between people? How could Jesus' ideas help in those situations?
- Jesus talked about how communities are shaped by what they choose to hold on to and let go of. What are some things your community holds on to? What are some things your community lets go of?
- Besides offering forgiveness, how might someone make life a little easier for a person having a really hard day?
- Who do you know that helps others feel welcomed and included? What do they do to help people feel they belong?

Activity

As we think about the call to work together to restore community and show kindness, welcome, and forgiveness, together with the children in your life, you can create small bunches of craft flowers that will be bound together. To make the flowers, begin by demonstrating how to cut out the individual cup sections for the flower blossom from empty egg cartons. Using scissors, trim around the top to create a petal shape, and color as desired. Next, use the scissors to poke a small hole in the center of the blossom, and thread a chenille stem or green pipe cleaner through the hole, twisting it inside the cup to anchor it. When each person has completed three flowers, encourage everyone to trade flowers, always ending up with three. Then, bind flowers into a bouquet using the string or twine. Think about

people in our congregation or your community who may appreciate these mini-bouquets, such as older members, nursing homes, individuals in the hospital. or anyone you think could use some encouragement.

Prayer

Loving God, thank you for the gift of community. How special it is to experience life with each other and with you. When conflicts arise, may we hold on to kindness, trust, and belonging while letting go of exclusion and fear. Amen.

Look it Up!

Did you know there is a way to resolve conflicts and strengthen connections called restorative practices?

Look up the tools and strategies of restorative practices, and discover whether there are any you might use in your family, church, or school.



Thank you for your offering of **\$7,387.06** for the week of **August 30th!**

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by Robin and Allen Schumacher, in memory of Matthew Watson.

Thank you!

The **Church Office will be closed Monday, September 7th** in honor of Labor Day.

The **September newsletter** is now in the mail and online! Paper copies can be found on the table in front of the Avenue C Entrance.

It's that time of year again! Our last Summer Worship Service will be Sunday, September 6th (Labor Day Weekend), so remember to **join us at either the 8:30am or 11am service starting Sunday, September 13th. Rally Day (first day of Church School/Confirmation) will also be Wednesday, September 9th and Sunday, September 13th.** Make sure to join us as we kick off our Fall season!

Church School and Confirmation Registration is now available! Go to our Forms page at faithbismarck.com/forms to fill out our Google Forms for your Church School Age (3 Year Old-5th Grade) and Confirmation Age (6th Grade - 9th Grade) children! **We appreciate parents filling these out each year to help keep our records up to date.** If you have any questions about our programs, you can always talk to Kenny or one of the pastors!

Men of Faith....Welcome back after a 3 month summer (but not from the heat) hiatus. We will start our monthly meetings with a **presentation from Sarah Matthews, who represents the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library**, in which she will speak of the services and opportunities that they offer. Make sure to mark **9AM, Thursday, 3 September 2026** on your calendar. Remember, treats might be offered.

Ruth Circle will resume on September 10th --- the 2nd Thursday of the Month beginning at 7 pm. We will continue our book study by Mike Yaconelli – *Messy Spirituality*. He addresses questions like: “Do you feel like you don’t pray enough, or read the Bible enough, or share our faith enough?” He stresses that imperfection and messiness are in fact, the earmarks of true Christianity. **All are invited to join us on this journey of “messy spirituality”.**

Don't forget to **sign-up** to cook Rice Pudding, drive batches or work our booth during **this year's Street Fair from Friday, September 18th-Saturday, September 19th**. Sign-ups can be found in the Gathering Place, next to the Coffee Hour are. Check out the September newsletter for a brief history of this fun tradition!

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 Sept-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! Questions? Talk to Pastor Sylvia or email wndpalmsundaypath@gmail.com.

September 17 - Voicing Your Values in an Age of Partisanship

October 15 - Voicing Your Values: Speaking with Policymakers

November 19 - Voicing Your Values: Letters to the Editor and Written Testimony

December 17 - Voicing Your Values at the Legislature

Message: Pastor Sylvia Bull

Liturgy: Pastor Derek Harkins

Music: Dmytro Somkin

CALENDAR

Thursday, September 3

9:00 Esther Circle

9:00 Men of Faith

Friday, September 4

8:00 NA

Saturday, September 5

Sunday, September 6

Last Summer Worship Service

9:30 Worship

Monday, September 7

Labor Day

Church Office Closed

7:00 AA

Tuesday, September 8

9:00 Quilting

2:00 Crafts

6:00 Elementary Committee

7:00 Scouts

Wednesday, September 9

Rally Day!

10:00 Bible Study

5:30 Handbells

5:30 BLAST Meal

6:00 Church School &
Confirmation

7:00 Worship

MISSION Focus



SEPTEMBER: LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF KITS

Throughout the year, our Quilters collect items to put in Personal Care, School, and Baby Kits, sent to people in need around the world through Lutheran World Relief. Full lists are available on the Concierge Table and under our Serve tab on our website, but they are currently in need of shirts and T-shirts (sizes 6 to 24 months), jackets, and hooded sweatshirts for their baby kits. For their personal care kits, they are looking for towels (no larger than 27" x 52") and metal nail clippers. Thank you for your generosity!

If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the Lord your God is giving you... you should open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be. Deut. 15:7-8