

Wednesday, August 26, 2026
Fourteenth 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
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ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

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

BAPTISM OF ISABELLA WOLF, CHILD OF GOD

READING: see next page

SERMON

SONG: ELW 659 "Will You Let Me Be Your Servant?" *

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: *Romans 12:9-21*

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

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 16:21-28

Reflection Questions

- During this season after Pentecost, we learn about what it looks like to follow Jesus. In this passage, Jesus told the disciples something difficult. What did he tell them?
- How did Peter and the other disciples react to what Jesus said?
- How was Jesus' response different from Peter's response?
- Describe a time when doing the right thing felt difficult. What made that situation challenging?
- Who or what helps people keep choosing love, kindness, fairness, or inclusion when these choices feel difficult?

Activity

In this passage, Jesus tries to help his disciples understand that following him means living with faith, compassion, love, justice, and integrity even when it's difficult. Jesus knows he will face difficult moments in the future—his disciples will too. He's preparing them to do what is faithful, even when it requires courage.

Together with the children in your life, focus on Peter's choice in today's story. Jesus tells the disciples that hard things are ahead, and Peter wants Jesus to avoid suffering because he loved him and wanted to protect him. Talk together about Peter's choice and Jesus' choice. What does Peter want Jesus to do? What path does Jesus choose instead? Why might Peter have wanted Jesus to avoid those difficult things?

Next, choose two people to briefly act out the scene. Invite one volunteer to play Peter and one to play Jesus. Then ask the group to imagine the two paths in the story: the path Peter hopes Jesus will take and the faithful path Jesus chooses, even though it's difficult. Take turns with this role play until everyone has had a chance.

After each version, pause and reflect together. What choices are being made? What choice best reflects God's love and compassion? How do those choices shape what happens next?

Next, brainstorm together some situations in which they have faced a difficult decision (e.g., speaking up when someone is being mean to someone else, sharing what you have with someone in need, telling the truth when it feels scary, or asking for help when something unfair is happening). Pick a few situations and act them out in two ways: first, showing the choice that feels more comfortable and avoids difficulty, and then showing God's love and care for others. Afterward, have everyone share and reflect on how our choices matter. What helps us choose the faithful path when it feels difficult?

Prayer

God who journeys with us, your way is marked by compassion, justice, and peace. When hate or injustice try to block the path, help us remember your love is stronger. Give us the courage to stay steady and confident in you. Amen.

Look it Up!

Do you know about Sophie Scholl and the White Rose? They spoke out against injustice even when it was dangerous.

Look up who they were and what they did. What can their story teach us about choosing what is right when it is costly?



**micro
PRACTICE**

To follow Jesus, it helps to know what he cared about. You can also follow Jesus by following someone who has followed Jesus for a long time.

We call these people "elders." When you face tough moments, consider what your "elders" might do.

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Thank you for your offering of **\$9,269.88** for the week of **August 23rd!**

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by Roberta Modin, in memory of Robert and Ramona Sletten.

Thank you!

We celebrate the **baptism of Isabella Wolf**, child of Chris and Ashley Wolf, with (Brooklyn Stavn and Maynard Jungling Jr. as sponsors. **Welcome to our church family, child of God!**

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!

Rice Pudding is coming up! Please join us **during Coffee Hour this Sunday, August 30th for Rice Pudding Sunday!** Enjoy our famous Rice Pudding, and **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.** Look out in the September newsletter for a brief history of this fun tradition!

Church Announcements Continued

This weekend, make sure to join in the **Installation for our new WND Synod Bishop, Rev. Lisa Lewton! Join in person at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church (146 6th Ave West, Dickinson, ND), or online using St. John's YouTube page (youtube.com/@stjohnelc), on Saturday, August 29th at 2pm MDT/3pm CDT.** Help celebrate and welcome our bishop into her new role in our Synod!

Women of all ages are invited to our **WELCA Gathering on Tuesday, September 1st at 7pm.** Join us for fellowship, to discuss past and future events, to help assemble pillowcase dress kits for Lutheran World Relief and **hear from Mercy Carkuff about the WELCA Triennial Gathering this past July!**

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”.**

Message: Joseph Michalka
Liturgy: Pastor Sylvia Bull
Music: Dmytro Somkin

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CALENDAR

Thursday, August 27

6:00 Knit & Crochet Group

Friday, August 28

5:45 Improv Workshop

8:00 NA

Saturday, August 29

3:00 Installation for Rev. Lisa
Lewton as Bishop of WND
(St John Lutheran
Church, Dickinson)

Sunday, August 30

Rice Pudding Sunday

9:30 Worship

4:00 Cub Scouts

Monday, August 31

7:00 AA

Tuesday, September 1

9:00 Quilting

2:00 Crafts

7:00 Scouts

7:00 WELCA Gathering

Wednesday, September 2

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

