



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

July 2026

Volume 2026, Issue 6

## MISSION STATEMENT

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

## Heather Zins Medical Benefit

Saturday,  
July 18

4-8pm

Faith Lutheran  
Church

Member Heather Zins requires a cornea transplant, due to a rare genetic eye condition, in her one remaining functional eye. Due to travel to Cincinnati for the best possible chance of success, working with an out-of-network provider, and needing to temporarily close her childcare business during her recovery, Heather, Jeff and their three children are facing financial insecurity.

Join us for a Taco Bar (Free Will Donation) and Silent Auction. If you have some items you would like to donate to the Silent Auction, you can contact Brandy Schmaltz at [bzins1@gmail.com](mailto:bzins1@gmail.com). You can also **donate at First Community Credit Unions in ND or MN, through the Jeff Zins Benefit account.**

## Summer Worship Hours

As a reminder,

From Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend, we will have one 9:30 am Sunday service along with our usual 7:00 pm service Wednesday!

## FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH CLERGY

**Pastor Derek Harkins**  
(Fridays off)

**Pastor Sylvia Bull**  
(Fridays off)

## SUMMER WORSHIP

### SCHEDULE

SUNDAY:

9:30am

WEDNESDAY:

7pm

LIVESTREAM AT

SUN 9:30am &

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.

**FLC Executive Team**

**Amy Steiner, Chair**

**Gail Skaley, Vice-Chair**

**Ryan Sprynczynatyk, Vice-Chair**

**Pat Groce, Secretary**

**Billie Ann Caya, Treasurer**

**Pastoral Ministries**

***Funerals:***

Elaine Anderson

Eric Barnick

***Baptisms:***

John Schultz

Bennett Schultz

***Weddings:***

Jack Beyer and Madison

Wutzke



**FINANCIAL UPDATE**

**May General Fund:**

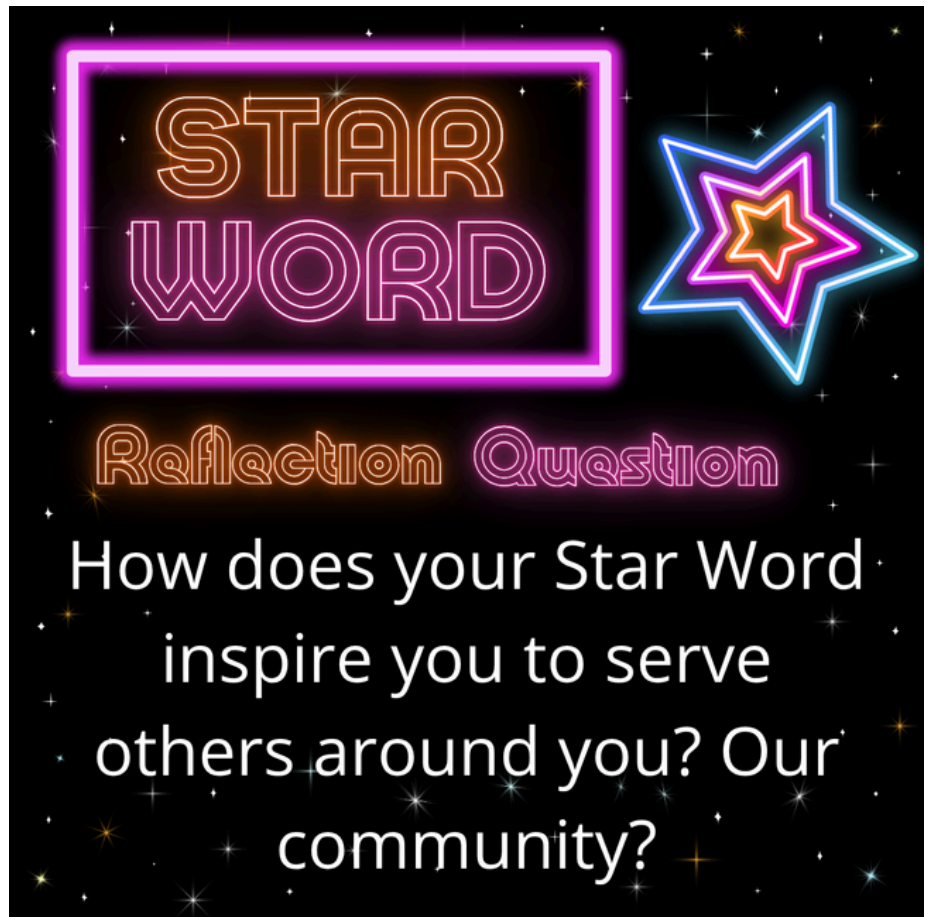
Revenues: \$37,322.59

Expenditures: \$60,393.17

**2026 Year-to Date:**

Revenues: \$245,256.80

Expenditures: \$283,922.71



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



8th Annual  
*Hillview Cup*  
Registration Open Now!

July 9, 2026





## Good and Gracious God

Several years ago, I heard this story about a missionary. He was sent to new lands to bring Jesus to native peoples. As he grew to understand their language he could tell them about Jesus. In a discussion with one of the elders the missionary said "In order to enter Heaven you must believe in Jesus."

The elder asked "Before you came here and I didn't know about Jesus, would I get into Heaven?" The missionary replied "Yes, because you had no knowledge of Jesus. Now, because I told you about him, if you do not accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior you will not be saved and will not enter Heaven."

The elder replied "I wish you never would have come."

It is likely we all have met or know someone who said you will not enter Heaven unless you follow the guidelines they follow. And we might have looked at a person or a group of people and in sincerity said "They are not going to be let in."

What if these people are correct? What if those who do not believe like them will not be allowed into Heaven? Do I want to be in Heaven while my neighbors are turned away? I will stay out with my neighbors.

The late Sister Thomas Welder would begin her public prayers with "Good and gracious God." Those simple words had a profound effect upon me. They helped me to understand that God welcomes all, and all on the road that they choose will be welcomed to Heaven.

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

Bennett R. Kubischta  
June 10, 2026, 7:47 pm

## New Bishop for WND Synod

The Rev. Lisa Lewton was elected as the new Western North Dakota Bishop on the 4th ballot of the 2026 Synod Assembly. Rev. Lewton has served at St. John's Lutheran Church in Dickinson for the past 19 years. Rev. Lewton and her husband, Marcus, have three children: Tom, Sam, and Karis. Please continue to pray for wisdom and guidance as we transition to new leadership for our Synod!



## Library Link

by LeAnn Severson

The library now has the first two books in the HOME TO GREEN CREEK series written by Lauraine Snelling and Kiersti Giron. Amalia Gunderson befriends a fellow passenger on the ship bringing them to America. Amalia makes a solemn promise to the dying mother, vowing to watch over her five-year-old daughter, Ruth. Together they trek to Iowa to begin a new life. You'll read about the many struggles they endure but also about their resilient spirits thanks, in part, to the kindness of strangers.

The library has been gifted the book BOX of BUTTERFLIES by Roma Downey. Her name may be familiar to you as the actress who played the angel, Monica, on the TV series TOUCHED BY AN ANGEL. In this book, Roma tells her life story of her own struggles and sorrows and how she relied on the hope in God's healing power. Her book is filled with uplifting stories, beautiful poetry, meaningful quotations and Bible verses filled with inspiration, love and grace. Reading this book is like having a conversation with her.



*Volunteer at the  
Rice Pudding  
Booth!*

**September 18 & 19  
Downtown Street  
Fair**

**Look out for  
Volunteer Sign-Ups  
in August for our  
Rice Pudding  
Booth! Help us  
continue the  
tradition!**



The poster features a green background with a white and red striped awning illustration on the right. At the bottom left, there is a photograph of two small white ramekins filled with rice pudding, topped with a dusting of brown powder, resting on a wooden surface next to a green and white checkered cloth and a silver spoon.

# FAITH LUTHERAN

# CLOTHING DRIVE

*Save the Date!*

Faith Lutheran will be hosting a Clothing Drive on Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup>. We will be looking for donations of clothing for all ages, and backpacks for school age children. Keep an eye on the bulletin and August newsletter for more info!



## Searching for Volunteers!

**We are needing volunteers to help with watering outdoor plants here at church this summer! The time commitment would be once a week for about 30 minutes. Call the church office if you can help us out!**



# STAFF EMAILS

**Need to reach one of our staff?  
Emails can be found below!**

### **Faith Lutheran's General Email**

[faith.bisfaith@gmail.com](mailto:faith.bisfaith@gmail.com)

#### **Derek Harkins**

Senior Pastor (on Sabbatical)

[derek.bisfaith@gmail.com](mailto:derek.bisfaith@gmail.com)

#### **Sylvia Bull**

Associate Pastor

[sylvia.bisfaith@gmail.com](mailto:sylvia.bisfaith@gmail.com)

#### **Cheryl Johnson**

Office Manager and Financials

[cheryl.bisfaith@gmail.com](mailto:cheryl.bisfaith@gmail.com)

#### **Caitlin McCleary**

Communications/Administrative Assistant

[communications.bisfaith@gmail.com](mailto:communications.bisfaith@gmail.com)

#### **Kenny Opsal**

Director of Education and Youth

[kenny.bisfaith@midconetwork.com](mailto:kenny.bisfaith@midconetwork.com)

#### **Dmytro Somkin**

Music Coordinator

[dmytro.bisfaith@gmail.com](mailto:dmytro.bisfaith@gmail.com)

# Pastor Sylvia's Parables



*"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen." - 1 Peter 4:10-11*

Last summer, a group of 16 of us from FLC and Lord of Life Lutheran traveled to western North Carolina for a week of service, worship, and fellowship with one another in an area that was hit hard by Hurricane Helene in September 2024. Catastrophic flooding and landslides damaged homes, businesses, bridges, and roads, and over one hundred people lost their lives. Rural and low-income mountain areas were especially hard hit. During our time there, we got to meet and talk with many community members who were affected by the hurricane and to work with local organizations on the years-long clean up and rebuilding process. Altogether, our group contributed over 300 hours of work in three days toward debris removal, clean up, and work on new Habitat for Humanity homes needed desperately by families who had been living in campers even before the storm.

Personally, I was so proud of our group over the course of that week. Kenny and I heard time and time again about how impressed local leaders were with the positive attitude, work ethic, kindness, and respect of the North Dakota contingent! It was beautiful to see the relationships that grew and the faith connections that were made. As we made our way back to ND, the group wondered about the possibility for follow-up service activities in our area. We initially planned for a return trip to NC for this year due to ongoing needs there, but as circumstances changed and we re-considered the trip, those conversations about local service came back to our minds as a powerful opportunity to invite many of you to join us in this work.

We are so excited to announce this year's FLC Summer Week of Service. From July 25 to 30, we have a full schedule each day of service opportunities, meals, and fun activities open to the congregation. We hope that you will find moments to join us as we serve others in all kinds of different ways and build relationships within our community and across the area. Whatever your gifts, interests, or abilities, there are ways for you to connect and participate with us during this week. In our serving, Christ is present and

glorified - shining not only through us but also to us in the people and places that we meet and learn from along the way.

Check out the schedule highlights on the next two pages to see what we have planned. The full schedule and details are available in the Gathering Place. We request that you sign up/RSVP for most of the activities throughout the week so that we can plan and prepare adequately. You can do that by signing up in person at church or by calling the church office. All congregational meals and activities during the week are totally free to participate in. However, if you would like to help offset costs, you can share a gift with the church office with "Summer Service Week" in the memo line.

We hope that you will join us, however you can, during this week of service as we rejoice and participate in what God is up to here in the Bismarck-Mandan area!

In Christ,  
Pastor Sylvia

## FLC SUMMER WEEK OF SERVICE GENERAL SCHEDULE JULY 25-30, 2026

### SATURDAY, JULY 25

Time	Activity
7:00am-11:30am	Help with Bismarck Cancer Center Fundraiser at Cross Ranch State Park
11:30am-1:00pm	Lunch (Location TBD)
1:00pm-3:00pm	Weeding and Watering at Bismarck Global Neighbors Community Garden
4:00pm-5:15pm	Escape Rooms at Breakout ND
5:30-7:00pm	Pizza Party at Church (All Ages Welcome)
7:00-10:00pm	Mock-In at Church (Middle and High School Youth)
10:00pm+	Overnight Lock-In at Church (High School Youth only)

### SUNDAY, JULY 26

Time	Activity
9:30am-11:00am	Worship and Coffee Hour at Church
11:00am-12:30pm	Neighborhood Clean Up (meet at Church)
12:30-2:00pm	Lunch at Church
2:00-4:00pm	Assist with Worship at Missouri Slope Assisted Living
4:00-6:00pm	Meet-Up at Dakota Zoo (No sign-up required - just meet us at the zoo entrance!)

## MONDAY, JULY 27

Time	Activity
8:00am	Morning Devotion and Donuts (from Bearscat) at Church
8:30am-6:00pm	Work Day and Lunch at Camp of the Cross
6:00-7:00pm	Dinner at Culver's (No sign-up required - meet us at 4424 Skyline Crossings, Bismarck)
7:00-10:00pm	Movie Night at the Grand (No sign-up required - meet us at 1486 Interstate Loop)

## TUESDAY, JULY 28

Time	Activity
9:00am	Morning Devotions at Church
9:30am-12:00pm	Morning Work Shift at BECEP Preschool (Outdoor Window Cleaning)
12:00-1:00pm	Lunch (Location TBD)
1:00-4:30pm	Service at Furry Friends Rockin' Rescue
4:30pm-5:30pm	Break
5:30-7:30pm	Faith Lutheran Night on the Lewis and Clark Riverboat (All are welcome - sign up required!) (DINNER NOT PROVIDED)

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

Time	Activity
8:00am	Morning Devotions and Pastries at Brick Oven Bakery (No sign-up required - meet us at the Bakery!)
9:00-11:30am	Worship and Lunch at Missouri Slope N. Washington Campus
11:45am-4:00pm	Service at AgeWell Center
4:00-7:00pm	Break
7:00-7:45pm	Worship at Church
7:45pm	Post-Worship Trip to Dairy Queen! (No sign-up required - meet us at church or at 230 W Broadway Ave)

## THURSDAY, JULY 30

Time	Activity
8:00am	Morning Devotions at Church
8:30am-12:00pm	Morning Work Shift at Closet701
12:00-1:00pm	Lunch (Location TBD)
1:00pm-4:00pm	Volunteer at Heart River/Bridges of Hope at Heart River Correctional Center
4:00-6:30pm	FLC at Raging Rivers Water Park (No sign-up required - meet at the water park entrance!)
6:00-8:30pm	Cookout and Closing Celebration at General Sibley Park Shelter 2



# POTLUCK IN THE PARK

**WHEN: SAT, AUGUST 8**

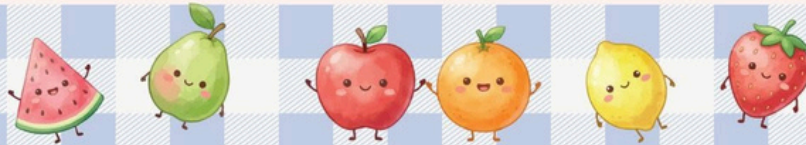
**11:30AM-1:00 PM**

**WHERE: SERTOMA PARK**

**SHELTER 9**

**IF YOU'RE ABLE, WE INVITE YOU TO BRING**

- **A DISH TO SHARE**
- **YOUR OWN REUSABLE TABLEWARE (TO REDUCE WASTE)**
- **DONATIONS OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR AREA STUDENTS**



Please join us for a

**BABY** Shower

for

Caitlin & Pastor Sylvia

Sunday | July 12 | 10:45 am

You are invited to join us at this Open House style event after Sunday service! In lieu of gifts, please bring donations of newborn diapers, baby wipes, baby hygiene items (such as lotion, baby wash, diaper cream and towels) and baby socks and onesies for pregnant and new mothers at Heart River Correctional Center.

We are excited to celebrate with you!



# Calling All Riders and Drivers!

This summer, we are looking for more people willing to give rides to church!

We are currently looking for a few more drivers to use their personal vehicle, or our bus or van, to transport a group of people to service this summer, and to the 8:30 starting in the Fall.

We are also looking to potentially pair up individuals or couples who can give rides with other couples or individuals that would like one.

If you can give rides to a group about once a month, or could regularly give rides to one individual or couple, or would be interested in a ride, please call the front office to let us know you are interested, and which service you normally attend.



## 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.


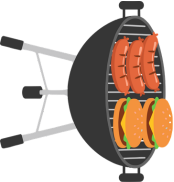
We are asking for donations to help them in their mission!

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*

# July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
<b>5</b> 9:30 Worship 10:45 Baby Shower	<b>6</b> 7:00 AA	<b>7</b> 9:00 Quilting 2:00 Crafts	<b>8</b> 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Worship	<b>9</b> Missouri Slope Hillview Cup 2:00 Knit & Crochet Group	<b>10</b> Newsletter Deadline 8:00 NA	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9:30 Worship 10:45 Baby Shower	<b>13</b> 7:00 AA	<b>14</b> 9:00 Quilting 2:00 Crafts	<b>15</b> 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Worship	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 8:00 NA	<b>18</b> 4:00 Heather Zins Medical Benefit
<b>19</b> 9:30 Worship	<b>20</b> 7:00 AA	<b>21</b> 9:00 Quilting 2:00 Crafts	<b>22</b> 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Worship	<b>23</b> 6:00 Knit & Crochet Group	<b>24</b> 8:00 NA	<b>25</b> FLC Service Week
<b>26</b> FLC Service Week 9:30 Worship	<b>27</b> FLC Service Week 7:00 AA	<b>28</b> FLC Service Week 9:00 Quilting 2:00 Crafts 6:00 Compass Group 7:00 Executive Comm	<b>29</b> FLC Service Week 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Worship	<b>30</b> FLC Service Week	<b>31</b> 8:00 NA	

Faith Lutheran Church  
1402 E Avenue C  
Bismarck, ND 58501-4398  
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(701)223-2236

## Faith Lutheran Church July 2026 News and Views



We are starting preparations for the **2027 ELCA Youth Gathering** next summer! Youth going into 8<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade in September 2026 are invited to travel with us to **Minneapolis from about June 27-July 2, 2027** for a few days of worship, service and fun with other ELCA youth from across the country! Approximate cost per person will be \$1500, but we hope to fundraise most of that. If you are interested, **please call the front office at (701) 223-2236 to give your name, and bring a \$250 deposit by September**

**30, 2026.** Please make checks out to Faith Lutheran Church with NYG Deposit in the memo line. For cash and mailed checks, please remember to indicate the participant's name. You can contact Kenny for more information and potential scholarships if cost is prohibitive. More information can be found at [elca.org/gathering](http://elca.org/gathering)