Wednesday, November 4, 2026
24th Wednesday After Pentecost



Faith Lutheran Church

Mission Statement
"Building a welcoming, nurturing faith community that is guided by Jesus and shares the Gospel."

MINISTERS **Every Member**
SENIOR PASTOR **Derek Harkins**

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Pastoral Care Emergency Number: 701-595-0223 701-223-2236

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING SONG: ELW 638 “Blessed Assurance” *

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

READING: see next page

SERMON

SONG: ACS 949 “Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning” *

PRAYERS

OFFERING

HOLY COMMUNION

BLESSING

SENDING SONG: ACS 950 “Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In” *

DISMISSAL

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

READING(S)

Reading: *Matthew 25:1-13*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 25th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! There will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Monday - Prayer of the Day

In the prayer of the day, composed for Evangelical Lutheran Worship, we liken ourselves to the bridesmaids of Matthew's parable: we need light from Christ to see both our own way and the needs of others

Tuesday - Connections with the Liturgy

As part of the thanksgivings at the table I, III, IV, VI, VII, VIII, and IX in Evangelical Lutheran Worship, the assembly calls out the ecumenically popular credo "Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again." With Paul we place our faith in the death and resurrection of Christ, and we stand with Amos, Paul, and Matthew to anticipate the coming of God our Savior. Christians believe that Christ comes, not only at the end of time, but here this Sunday in word, bread and wine.

Wednesday - Let the Children Come

In 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Paul assures believers that the dead in Christ will be raised. Each week in our intercessory prayers, we remember those who have died. This week, invite children to participate by naming out loud those in their lives who have died. If you have worship bags or children's bulletins, providing a small card to use to write names or draw pictures of their loved ones may be another option. Be aware that for many small children, the first loss they have experienced may be a pet. If you are uncomfortable including pets in the communion of saints, an additional petition for beloved animals may be appropriate. Active participation in this prayer can help children give thanks for the promise that we will all be together again in Christ (v. 17).

Thursday - Life on the Earth

The poetry in Amos' condemnation of injustice is a poignant reminder that nature is not always nice. God's creation includes darkness, lions, bears, and snakes. Our attention to the earth cannot be merely a sentimental love of beautiful sunsets, but must become a mature appreciation of the complex universe that God made, even of the food chain that reflects God's way to keep the earth alive.

Friday - Reflection on the Gospel Reading

Matthew 25, the chapter before Matthew's passion narrative begins, includes three parables that deal symbolically with the end time. Only Matthew tells the bridesmaids' parable, and its sad conclusion evidences Matthew's call for all individuals to live the perfect life. The New Testament records Jesus as preaching the imminent arrival of the eschaton, the new time at the end of this time, and the use of the wedding imagery suggests joy and fulfillment, not dread or sorrow, as our response to the end of this world and the coming of God. These Matthean parables have often been turned into allegories or literalized. However, it is unlikely that Jesus or Matthew advocated our ignoring the requests of others.

Saturday - Hymn of the Day

A hymn appropriate for the day is "Arise, my soul, arise!" (ELW 827). In the hymn we join with the wise bridesmaids, arising to attend the banquet of love. The first stanza is available also in Finnish, if the assembly has any members who can sing that language. The hymn was first written in Swedish in the eighteenth century by Johann Kahl, about

whom we know almost nothing. But three centuries later, we still sing his songs. Alternatively, access the Lectionary Notes for Advent 1 B for commentary on "Wake, awake, for night is flying" (ELW 436).

CHURCH Announcements

Thank you for your offering of **$11,732.35** for the week of **November 1st!**

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by Ron & Mary Schneider. **Thank you!**

The **November Newsletter** is now in the mail and available online! If you would like a printed copy, you can find them on the table near the Ave C entrance. Reminder that the deadline for the **December/January Newsletter** is coming up! Please submit by Monday, November 10th to guarantee a spot.

The next **Men of Faith** meeting will be held at **9:00 AM on Thursday, November 5th** and will feature **Rod Wanner's presentation on the family search org.** Have you often wondered if you are truly related to that person in the next pew? Well, as they say, there is an app for that. Please plan on attending.

All Women of Faith are invited to the **WELCA Gathering on Saturday, November 14th starting at 1:30pm.** Come listen to speaker Amy Nelson from Heart River. Hope to see you there!

Thanksgiving is coming up! Join us on **Tuesday, November 24th at 7pm for our annual Community Thanksgiving Service at Legacy United Methodist Church** (4600 Durango Drive, Bismarck). Join in worship with other area churches, hear from a guest speaker from CATCH (free will offering collected for their ministry), and join us for the **Pie Social** after!

Please note there will be **no service on Wednesday, November 25th,** and our **office will be closed from Wednesday, November 25, through Friday, November 27,** for Thanksgiving.

Want a good laugh to get into the Christmas spirit? Dakota Stage Productions are presenting the play **"Away In The Basement: A Church Basement Ladies Christmas."** Faith Lutheran has purchased 25 tickets for the performance on Sunday, December 6th, at 2:00 pm. Anyone who is interested in attending this play with our group is asked to pay $15 and can sign up through the **Church Office at 701-223- 2236.** A portion of the ticket price will be paid through the Rice Pudding fund. **If anyone needs a ride for the play, please let us know.** If you have further questions about this event, you can contact **Mary Verlinde at 701-471-7839.** We will meet at Dakota Stage (412 East Main Ave) between 1:15 and 1:30 pm. Tickets will be at the Will Call desk at Dakota Stage and will be handed out. Deadline to sign up is **November 19th.**

The Interfaith Alliance of North Dakota, in partnership with Palm Sunday Path, is offering a **Voicing Your Values** workshop series from **October to December on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Lord of Life Lutheran Church (1143 N. 26th St).** Designed to help you effectively share your values with friends, family, and policymakers, you can attend any or all sessions. Upcoming classes include **November 19** on **Letters to the Editor and Written Testimony** led by Steve Andrist, and **December 17** on **Testifying at the ND State Legislature** (in person or online) led by Rudie Martinson.

Message: Sue Rydberg
Liturgy: Pastor Derek
Music: Colleen Reinhardt

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CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS
At Faith Lutheran

Altar Guild will be **selling Christmas Poinsettias** in honor or memory of loved ones, or just because, for the Christmas season! Sign-ups will be available on **Sunday, November 29th, Wednesday, December 2nd, and Sunday, December 6th, before and between services,** or you can call the office at (701) 223-2236. Poinsettias will be **$15 each** and will decorate the sanctuary through the Christmas season.

The **Faith Lutheran Crafters have ornaments for sale** in honor or memory of loved ones again this year! These ornaments will be available **for purchase at $5 each between services on November 22nd, 29th, and December 6th.** You can also call the church office to reserve them. The ornaments will hang on the church tree during the Christmas season and will be available for pick-up as a keepsake starting in January. The proceeds from the sale will be given to a mission or need within the church and/or community, yet to be determined.

Please join us for the **Men's Christmas Supper on Thursday, December 6th at 6pm.** The meal consists of scrumptious ham, potatoes, green beans, and, of course, those infamous Faith bars. We will also be singing carols together, so bring your best singing voices!

Join us on **Saturday, December 12th at 9am for our Annual Cookie Walk!** Please consider baking your specialties to sell at this event! **The sign-up sheet for workers will be in the gathering area.**

Make sure to join us on **Thursday, December 24th at 3pm, 5pm, and 11pm for our Christmas Eve services, and Friday, December 25th at 10am for our Christmas Day service!** Be on the lookout for Worship Assistant sign-ups coming soon!

CALENDAR

Thursday, November 5
9:00 Esther Circle
9:00 Men of Faith

Friday, November 6
8:00 NA

Saturday, November 7
Serving the Banquet

Sunday, November 8
8:30 Worship
9:45 Church School
11:00 Worship
4:00 Cub Scouts

Monday, November 9
7:00 AA

Tuesday, November 10
Newsletter Deadline
9:00 Quilting
2:00 Crafts
6:00 Elementary Comm.
6:00 Executive Comm.
7:00 Scouts

Wednesday, November 11
Veterans Day
10:00 Bible Study
5:30 Handbells
6:00 Church School & Confirmation
7:00 Worship

MISSION Focus



NOVEMBER: MINISTRY ON THE MARGINS

Ministry on the Margins needs non-perishable food like peanut butter, canned soups, ramen, canned fruits, canned vegetables, and snack items. They also need hand warmers, feet warmers, winter hats, winter gloves, diapers, small-sized personal care items like toothbrushes, deodorant, laundry soap, and dish soap. Next time you're out, grab a few extra items to help local families stay stocked and warm through the upcoming winter months. Thank you for your generosity!

"The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord."
— 1 Chronicles 29:9