

Wednesday, April 8, 2026
Second Week Of Easter



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: ELW 388 "Be Not Afraid"

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

READING (see next page)

SERMON

SONGS: ELW 375 "Alleluia! Christ Is Arisen!"

PRAYERS

OFFERING

WORD OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: ELW 364 "Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia"

DISMISSAL

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

READING

Reading: *John 20:19-31*

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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 Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Reflection Questions

- Peter spoke to a large crowd. Who was listening to what Peter said? Who did Peter talk about? What did Peter tell the crowd?
- During the season of Easter, we celebrate Jesus' resurrection. Peter was a witness to God raising Jesus from the dead, and he shared that good news. Being a witness means telling the truth about what you've seen. Why would Peter want to share with the crowd about what he had seen?
- When have you spoken up for something that mattered?
- Peter shared about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. How did God surprise the world in Peter's story?
- Practice being a witness. Share one way you have seen God's goodness in your life the past week.

Activity

The Sunday after Easter is sometimes called Holy Humor Sunday. For hundreds of years, Christians celebrated this day of surprise with laughter. When it looked like evil had won, God surprised everyone with new life. Laughter helps us remember that joy is stronger than fear.

Practice being eyewitnesses to something funny with the children in your life. An eyewitness is someone who sees something happen and then tells others what they saw. Sometimes witnesses tell serious stories. Together, you can tell silly ones.

Choose one person to be the eyewitness. An adult may go first to demonstrate. The eyewitness will look at a funny picture for 10–20 seconds. Then, put the image away. The eyewitness has one to two minutes to describe exactly what they saw, while individuals try to draw the scene based on what they hear. After the

description time ends, allow a brief moment for participants to finish their drawings. Then, invite the group to ask clarifying questions, and allow the eyewitness to respond. Participants may update their drawings based on the answers. Finally, reveal the original image, and compare the drawings with the real scene. Celebrate the differences, and enjoy the laughter. Continue with different eyewitnesses.

After the activity, reflect together. What was challenging about being an eyewitness? What was challenging about listening carefully and drawing what you heard? What happened when someone misunderstood part of the story? How did asking good questions help? Then, connect this experience to the story in Acts. Peter said, “We are witnesses.” He saw something unbelievable—Jesus alive—and tried to explain it to others. What might have been hard about telling that story? Holy Humor Sunday reminds us that resurrection itself was a surprising kind of joy. Being a witness can feel serious, but it can also be filled with laughter, hope, and delight.

Prayer

God of surprises, your life is never-ending, and your love is stronger than all things. When it’s hard to find joy or hold on to hope, help us remember the stories we’ve heard, the wonder we’ve witnessed, and the laughter we’ve shared. Amen.

Look it Up!

Did you know the word “witness” can mean more than one thing?

Look up the meaning of the word “witness.” What kinds of witnesses are there? How do these meanings help you understand what it means to be God’s witness?





CHURCH
Announcements

Thank you for your offering of **\$20,325.76** for the week of **April 5th!**

Easter Mums for the season are provided by many members, listed on the poster on the back counter.

Thank you!

The **April Newsletter is now available** online and in the mail! Paper copies are available on the table across from the Avenue C entrance.

All experience levels are invited to join us for **Choir Practice on Sundays at 10am** in the East Room!

We still have spots available for our **summer service trip to Boone, NC from July 25-30, 2026!** Anyone going into 9th grade through adults of any age can join this intergenerational service trip experience. Registrations are due by April 15th. **Scan the QR code to learn more and register today!**



Unfortunately, Scripture Circle for Thursday, April 9th at Faith Lutheran has been cancelled.

Join us on **Thursday, April 16th at 6pm for Taste of Home-Ukraine!** 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. **Free-will Offering will go to support Global Neighbors** and their mission to empower and support local newcomers as they build new lives in our community.

Please join us for a **Congregational Potluck and Core Values Workshop on Sunday, April 19th at noon!** Over a shared meal, we will discuss some of our community's deeply held beliefs, values and guiding principles. This conversation will **help discern the Core Values of Faith Lutheran Church**, which we will adopt at our May 10th Congregational Meeting, along with our mission statement. Hope to see you so you can learn more and join the discussion!

Join other members for the **2026 Race for Parkinson's, held on Saturday, April 25th at Sertoma Park.** For more information, look for the Bismarck Parkinson's Support Group on Facebook, visit <https://bismarckparkinsons.wordpress.com/>, or reference the poster on the counter beside the sanctuary

Save the Date for our upcoming **Confirmation Luncheon on Sunday, April 26th at 12:15pm in the Fellowship Hall.** Everyone is invited to join us as we celebrate our ninth graders taking the next step in their faith journey! **Confirmation services** will be Wednesday, April 29th at 7pm and Sunday, May 3rd at 11 am.

Please join us **Thursday, May 14th for a Scripture Circle led by U.S. Jones, II!** This powerful method of studying scripture focuses on details and connections across Scripture. The event, **hosted at Lutheran Church of the Cross (1004 E Highland Acres Rd Bismarck), will start with a light dinner at 5pm, and then study from 5:45pm-8pm.** A free-will offering will be taken if you feel moved to help supplement the speaker fee.

Please join us on **Sunday, May 17th at 4:30pm for a concert featuring Dmytro Somkin and Kseniia Somkina! Free-will offering** will go towards Dima and his family as they assess the best way to attain long-term legal residency here in the US.

Message: Pastor Derek Harkins

Liturgy: Pastor Sylvia Bull

Music: Dmytro Somkin

CALENDAR

Thursday, April 9

2:00 Knit & Crochet Group
7:00 Ruth Circle

Friday, April 10

Newsletter Deadline

8:00 NA

Saturday, April 11

Sunday, April 12

8:30 Worship
9:45 Church School
10:00 All Comers' Choir
11:00 Worship
4:00 Cub Scouts

Monday, April 13

10:00 Funeral for Wayne Lindteigen
7:00 AA

Tuesday, April 14

9:00 Quilting
2:00 Crafts
5:15 BIO Girls
6:00 Elementary Committee

Wednesday, April 15

10:00 Bible Study
6:00 Church School &
Confirmation
6:00 Spring Book Study
7:00 Worship

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