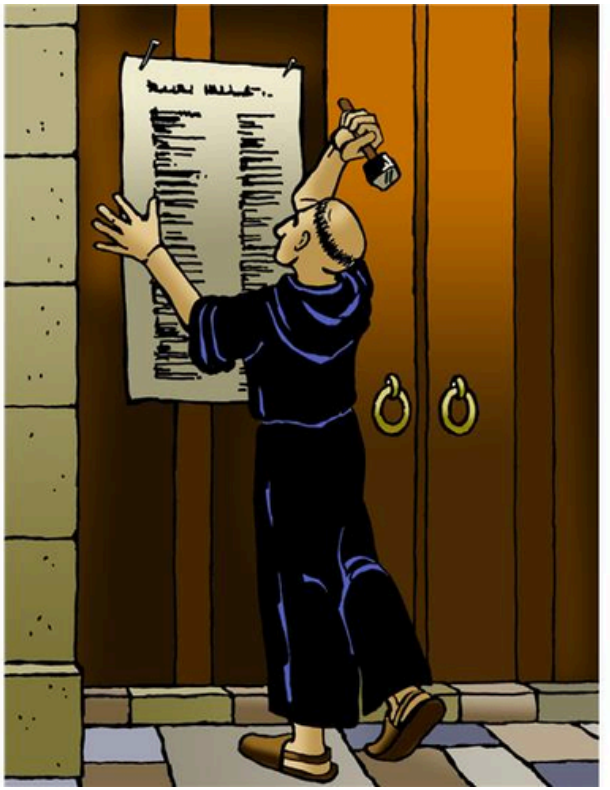
Sunday, October 25, 2026
Reformation Sunday



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
GATHERING HYMN: ELW 665 "Rise, Shine, You People!" *
CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS
GREETING
KYRIE & HYMN OF PRAISE (This Is the Feast) - ELW Setting 4 (pp. 147-148, 149-150)
PRAYER OF THE DAY

Word: God speaks to us through scripture reading, preaching and song.

READINGS: see next page
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW Setting 4 (pg. 151)
GOSPEL READING: see next page
CHILDREN'S SERMON & SERMON
HYMN OF THE DAY: ACS 1048 "Founded on Faith" *
RECEIVING OF NEW MEMBERS
SHARING OF THE PEACE
PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH
OFFERING

Meal: God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING and HOLY HOLY HOLY: ELW Setting 4 (pg. 152-153)
WORDS OF INSTITUTION
THE LORD'S PRAYER
COMMUNION HYMNS:
ELW 471 "Let Us Break Bread Together" *
ELW 494 "For the Bread Which You Have Broken" *

Sending: God blesses us and sends us into the world to love and serve our neighbors.

BLESSING
SENDING HYMN: ELW 504 "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" *
DISMISSAL

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

READING(S)

First Reading: *Jeremiah 31:31-34*

Second Reading: *Romans 3:19-28*

Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 22:34-46*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 22nd Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

When the Pharisees heard that [Jesus] had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Readings Continued

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

'The Lord said to my Lord,
"Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet" '?

"If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

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

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Monday - Prayer of the Day
The first option, based on a prayer printed in the Saxon Church Order of 1539, thanks God for the Spirit given to the church and asks for God's continued help and guidance. The second option, inspired by a prayer written by William Laud, a seventeenth-century Archbishop of Canterbury, is a stunning litany of petitions for the church that always needs reform.

Tuesday - Connections with the Liturgy
In the opening confession and forgiveness in Evangelical Lutheran Worship's Holy Communion (ELW p. 95), we confess that "we are captive to sin." This language recalls Jesus' words in today's gospel that we are slaves to sin. The rite of Holy Baptism within Evangelical Lutheran Worship (p. 231) announces that the newly baptized are now daughters and sons of God. We now have a place in God's house forever. The baptismal sponsors promise to help the newly baptized live "in the covenant of baptism," recalling the imagery from Jeremiah. The new covenant is sealed by Christ's blood, poured out for us in the weekly meal of grace (pp. 108, 109).

Wednesday - Let the Children Come
In the psalm for the day, God brings an end to weapons. Talk with the children about war games and about children around the world who suffer from real

warfare. Our prayer is that God will break the bow and shatter the spear. If God will help us put an end to war, we will not need shields any longer. We will be free from the fear of violence. Depending on the age and situation of the children, "violence" can mean anything from fighting in the playground to relatives wounded in the armed forces, from video games to gunshots in the street. On Reformation Day, we ask God to make us into the kind of people who work to end war and violence, who will reform the world to be what God desires it to be.

Life on the Earth

The first reading begins, "the days are coming," and Jesus' words in the gospel begin, "If you continue in my word." Both of these clauses can call us to look to the future here on the earth, to its coming days, and to our continuing as Jesus' disciples in this land. What would it mean for us to be free to continue to follow Jesus on this earth?

Thursday - Reflection on Romans Reading

Probably written in 57, the letter to the Romans includes the fullest extant essay of Paul's theology: that through Christ God has freed us from the power of sin and gives us the Spirit to live the way of salvation. The appointed excerpt is replete with Pauline vocabulary: law, justification, sin, righteousness, faith, grace, redemption, atonement. Verse 28 proclaims the Reformation emphasis on faith rather than on works. Paul's especially negative reaction to Jewish Torah contrasts with the understanding of devout Jews today, who see the law as a divine gift that lays out the good way to live in community.

Saturday - A Hymn for the Day

A hymn suited for Reformation Day is Martin Luther's "Lord, keep us steadfast in your word" (ELW 517). A trinitarian prayer, the hymn originally expressed Luther's polemic against the Pope and the Turk and included the sort of angry words that characterized much of the Reformation debate. Subsequently, Lutherans edited the text to be a more accessible prayer to Father, Son, and Spirit.

CHURCH
Announcements

Thank you for your offering of $19,802.56 for the weeks of October 11th & 18th!

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by LeRoy & Janice Anderson, in memory of Randy. **Thank you!**

We are excited to **officially welcome** Lynn Lundgren (Wednesday) and Delores Helm (Sunday 8:30) as **new members of our church.** Welcome to our Church Family!

Friends at Faith,
Thank you for your prayers, hugs, and comforting sympathy cards. Your kind expressions of sympathy brought peace and a reminder of the love & faith we share.
With grateful appreciation, Cheryl Johnson & Family

Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour before bed **on Saturday night, November 1**, as daylight saving time officially ends.

Elections are right around the corner! On **Monday, November 2nd, from 7:00 PM to 7:45 PM,** a **Prayer Vigil for Peace** will be held at **Bismarck United Church of Christ** (1200 E Highland Acres Rd, Bismarck). This event is co-hosted by Bismarck UCC, Heart River Lutheran, Legacy UMC, Lord of Life Lutheran, Lutheran Church of the Cross, and St. George's Episcopal.

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 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 Oct-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!

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

Steve Andrist leads this session on how to communicate your values effectively through letters to the editor and written legislative testimony.

December 17 - Voicing Your Values: Testifying at the ND State Legislature

Rudie Martinson leads this session on the process for testifying in person or online at the ND Legislature.

Message & Liturgy: Pastor Derek
Assisting Minister: John Power (8:30); Lisa Bennett (11:00)
Musicians: Judy Kubischta

Worship Assistants:
8:30 - Team E: Joe Grotsun, Hannah Grotsun, Brooke Sundvor, Steve Sundvor, Allison Germolus, Ben Kubischta, Judy Kubischta, Mercy Carkuff, Emily Grote, and David Ruiz
11:00 - Team 5: Harvey Haakenson, Vonnie Haakenson, Bob Hertz, Judy Hertz, Patty Maier, Sandee Jenkin, Pat Groce, and Amy Groce

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CALENDAR

Monday, October 26
4:30 Altar Guild
7:00 AA

Tuesday, October 27
9:00 Quilting
2:00 Crafts
6:00 Compass Group
7:00 Executive Comm.
7:00 Scouts

Wednesday, October 28
10:00 Bible Study
5:30 Handbells
6:00 4th Grade P/S
6:00 Church School & Confirmation
7:00 Worship

Thursday, October 29

Friday, October 30
5:45 Improv Workshop
8:00 NA

Saturday, October 31

Sunday, November 1
Daylight Saving Time Ends
8:30 Worship
9:45 Church School
11:00 Worship
4:00 Cub Scouts

MISSION Focus



OCTOBER: LINCOLN COMMUNITY CUPBOARD

The Food Pantry in Lincoln is in need of a few items that are seldom available through bulk distributors. Community members can help stock the shelves with affordable donations from dollar stores, including household cleaners (floor, dish, laundry, and bathroom), feminine hygiene products (pads and tampons), toilet paper, and canned soups for the fall and winter months. Thank you for your generosity!

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."
— 2 Corinthians 9:7