

Sunday, July 26, 2026
Ninth Sunday 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

Derek Harkins

Sylvia Bull

1402 E Ave C Bismarck, ND 58501

Pastoral Care Emergency Number: 701-595-0223

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN: ELW 779 "Amazing Grace" *

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

GREETING

KYRIE: by Ben Splichal Larson

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

READINGS: see next page

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: by Ben Splichal Larson

GOSPEL READING: see next page

CHILDREN'S SERMON & SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: ACS 952 "The Reign of God Like Farmer's Field" *

APOSTLES' CREED

SHARING OF THE PEACE

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

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

GREAT THANKSGIVING & HOLY, HOLY, HOLY: by Ben Splichal Larson

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN:

ELW 697 "Just a Closer Walk With Thee" *

ELW 752 "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" *

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

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN: ELW 661 "I Love to Tell the Story" *

DISMISSAL

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

READING(S)

First Reading: *1 Kings 3:5-12*

Second Reading: *Romans 8:26-39*

The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Monday - Prayer of the Day

The prayer of the day, composed for Evangelical Lutheran Worship, asks God that by the Spirit we may come to treasure and gladly embody the promises offered us through Christ Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

Tuesday - Connections with the Liturgy

Both the first and second reading speak about prayer. Whenever the church gathers for worship, the assembly prays for the church, the world of nature, the human community, all who are sick or suffering, and the specific needs of that congregation. Our intercessions, recalling Romans 8:26, are always “not as we ought, but as we are able” (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 109). We pray along with the risen Christ, who Paul writes is interceding for us.

Wednesday - Especially for Children

Some children might find the parable of the treasure hidden in the field to be most accessible, granting the treasure-hunting figures in many stories and cartoons. Most people would love to find hidden treasure. Here in the Bible story, in the font, at the table, in the pews, is a surprising treasure: the love of God for us.

Thursday - Life on the Earth

In the past some Christians commonly equated Matthew's "kingdom of heaven"—what Mark calls "the kingdom of God"—with the afterlife. Yet biblical scholars remind us that the term "kingdom" is misleading, since it suggests a piece of land, rather than the power of the divine. In our century, we are looking to understand how this very created earth is also the locus of God's power, God caring not only for humans in this life and the next, but also for the entire creation, all of which relies on God's loving authority.

Friday - Reflection on the Gospel

It is too easy to rush through these parables without encountering the surprises: the mustard bush is not, in fact, a great tree; the woman is baking leavened, thus nonreligious, bread; the treasure calls for total commitment; the net includes both eatable fish and trash. Many but not all Christians have literalized Matthew's apocalyptic imagery about punishment following the final judgment.

Saturday - A Hymn for the Day

A most appropriate hymn for the day is "Jesus, priceless treasure" (ELW 775). Using some of the imagery of today's gospel, such as a treasure that is priceless, the author Johann Franck adds his own image of the merciful domain of God: God is lover, for whom we are thirsting, in whose arm we rest. Such erotic religious imagery was more common in its time, 1653, than it is for some Christians in the present time. Any suggestions why?



CHURCH *Announcements*

Thank you for your offering of **\$13,840.18** for the week of **July 19th!**

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by Jack and Gail Skaley, in memory of beloved ones. **Thank you!**

We still have some spots available for the **FLC Summer Week of Service! From July 25th to 30th**, 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. **Check out the schedule and sign up today in the Gathering Place!**

Faith Lutheran will be hosting a **Clothing Drive on Saturday, August 8th from 9am-4pm!** We are asking for **donations of clothing for all ages, including backpacks for school children.** Sack lunches will also be provided. You can bring donations in during office hours, and between 8am and 9am Monday through Friday if you would like a custodian's assistance. You can also make monetary donations toward school supplies by making a check out to Faith Lutheran and adding "School Supplies" in the memo line.

Looking for some fun music opportunities? Head on out to **the Reeder Community Center (501 Main Street, Reeder, ND 58649) to hear Dmytro Somkin, Kseniia Somkina and Colleen Reinhardt in concert on Sunday, August 9th from 5pm-7pm (MDT)!** Free Will Donation will go to the Reeder Community Center. On **August 13th at 6:30pm, join Dmytro, Kseniia and their family (including a special performance by their son, Adrian) for a Blessing Concert and Dessert Social at Lord of Life Lutheran!** Free Will Offering will go toward relocation costs for their family.

Join others in our community for **the next Interfaith Potluck at Sertoma Park, Shelter 9 on Saturday, August 8th from 11:30am to 1pm.** Bring a dish to share, reusable tableware if you can, and donations of school supplies for local students! Financial donations will also be accepted for upcoming events. Come enjoy some of the best food in Bismarck, and spend time with others in our community!

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.

We want to hear from you! This summer, we **invite you to vote in our Summer Gladness Favorite Hymn Bracket Tournament.** We will start with 64 hymns, **voting each week,** until we find out Faith Lutheran's favorite hymn! Voting sheets can be found next to the bulletins. Look out for the top 8 hymns to be featured in worship throughout July! Which hymn do YOU think will win?

Message: Dave Jenkins, Missionary Pastor

Liturgy: Pastor Sylvia Bull

Assisting Minister: Brad Carroll

Music: Dmytro Somkin, FLC Choir

Worship Team -

Team 3: Aaron Franklund, Jack Skaley, Gail Skaley, Jan Franklund, Les Franklund, Glenn Anderson, Tina Anderson, Carolee Hoffman, LeRoy Anderson, Janice Anderson

CALENDAR

Monday, July 27

FLC Week of Service

7:00 AA

Tuesday, July 28

FLC Week of Service

9:00 Quilting

2:00 Crafts

5:30-7:30 FLC Night on the Lewis
and Clark Riverboat

Wednesday, July 29

FLC Week of Service

10:00 Bible Study

7:00 Worship

Thursday, July 30

FLC Week of Service

6:00 Week of Service Closing
Celebration at General Sibley
Shelter 2

Friday, July 31

5:45 Improv Workshop

8:00 NA

Saturday, August 1

Sunday, August 2

9:30 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