

Sunday, October 18, 2026
21st 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

Every Member
Derek Harkins

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN: ELW 819 "Come, All 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: ELW 583 "Take My Life, That I May Be" *

APOSTLES' CREED

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:

Special Music Sounds of Faith

ELW 492 "Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup" *

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: *Isaiah 45:1-7*

Second Reading: *1 Thessalonians 1:1-10*

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

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

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 22:15-22*

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

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to

them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

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

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Monday - Prayer of the Day

The prayer of the day is inspired by one composed by John Wesley, the eighteenth-century Anglican founder of Methodism. Describing God in royal terms, we pray to live in honor of God’s gracious sovereignty.

Tuesday - Connections with the Liturgy

That Paul writes of “remembering you in our prayers” models for us the Sunday intercessions. The prayer of the day and the thanksgiving at the table offer occasions for the assembly to pray for itself, while the primary purpose of the intercessions is to pray for everything and everybody else in the world. The petition for “the church universal” can focus each week on some community of believers other than our own, especially those experiencing persecution.

Wednesday - Let the Children Come

Pass some coins around to the children. A penny pictures Lincoln and the Lincoln Memorial; a nickel, Jefferson and his home Monticello; a dime, Franklin Roosevelt, along with a torch to signify liberty, an olive branch for peace, and an oak branch for victory. A quarter depicts George Washington, as well as an eagle or a symbol of one of the fifty states of the union. Each of these images ties Americans to something centrally important as them as citizens of the United States. All the baptized have a symbol marking their forehead: the cross of Christ has tied us to Jesus, our Savior.

Thursday - Reflection on Thessalonians Reading

Today begins five Sundays of a semicontinuous reading of 1 Thessalonians. Especially if we know the political situation of Thessalonica, the reading from Paul is poignant on this Sunday. In a city famous for its loyalty to the Roman emperor, a young Christian community that is being persecuted is praised as a model of faithfulness to Christ Jesus. Jesus, not Emperor Claudius, is Lord.

Friday - Reflection on the Gospel

Jesus' ambiguity in responding to the Pharisees' question resembles the enigmatic parables for which Jesus is known. The "kingdom of heaven" about which Matthew has repeatedly written is not a phenomenon somehow equivalent to the kingdom of Rome. Rather, it is the life shared by those who accept the authority of God. The "head" that we carry is Christ, our "title" is Christian. The ambiguity of Jesus' answer has allowed for great diversity within Christian communities concerning the appropriate attitude toward civil authority.

Saturday - A Hymn for the Day

A hymn appropriate for the day is "Sing praise to God, the highest good" (ELW 871). A functioning government is good, but God is the highest good. Many times in history a system of government has been idolatrous (st. 4), but it is God's dominion that is just and right. The hymn was published by Johann Jacob Schütz in 1675. Schütz was a German Pietist lawyer who did not participate in Lutheran worship or take communion, and yet this composition of his has served generations of Lutherans who gather weekly for word and table fellowship.



CHURCH Announcements

No offering for this week's bulletin (October 11th).

The offering will be included in **next week's bulletin.**

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by Delmar & Marlene Adolf, in memory of Bruce. **Thank you!**

New to our community? We would love to officially welcome you! **Please join us on Wednesday October 21st or Sunday October 25th during service for our New Member Installation.** Call the front office at (701) 223-2236 to let us know you are interested!

October brings our annual **Pie & Coffee event on Saturday, October 24th.** It will be a fun day to enjoy a piece of pie with our community. There will be **baked items, knoephla, and Rice Pudding** to purchase, **soup and sandwiches provided by the youth,** and of course, treasures to be found in **the White Elephant rooms.** We are adding something **NEW – kuchen for sale.** So, we need your help: dates for making knoephla are **Monday, October 12th at 6:30 pm** and **Thursday, October 15th at 9:00 am.** **On Friday, October 23rd at 5:30 pm,** we will be making kuchen. This is a good time to learn from our experts. Come join us! **White Elephant items** can be brought to the church beginning on **Thursday, October 22nd.**

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: John Power

Liturgy: Pastor Derek Harkins

Musician: Sounds of Faith

Worship Assistants:

8:30 - Team B: Karen Michalka, Joe Michalka, Jim Isaak, Connie Isaak, Dave Anderson, Sue Anderson, Jason Dockter, Brenda Dockter, and Cheri Foy

11:00 - Team 6: Matthew Nygard, Dina Nygard, Micah Nygard, Troy Olson, Roberta Modin, Alisha Sabot, Willow Hain, Casey Nyhus, Evelyn Rauser, and Lillian Rauser

CALENDAR

Monday, October 19

7:00 AA

Tuesday, October 20

9:00 Quilting

2:00 Crafts

5:00 HR Committee

6:00 Stewardship Committee

7:00 Scouts

Wednesday, October 21

No Church School/Confirmation

New Member Installation

10:00 Bible Study

1:30 Edgewood Service

5:30 Handbells

7:00 Worship

Thursday, October 22

6:00 Knit & Crochet Group

Friday, October 23

5:30 Making Kuchen

8:00 NA

Saturday, October 24

Pie & Coffee Day

Sunday, October 25

**Reformation and New Member
Sunday**

No Church School

New Member Installation

8:30 Worship

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