

Sunday, March 15, 2026
Fourth Sunday in Lent
The Good News is Protection and
Care for the Vulnerable



Let the Little Children Come

by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell

11"x14" Acrylic, gold leaf, pen on paper

Inspired by Matthew 19:13-15



Fuera ICE

by Nicolette Faison

16"x20" Acrylic, marker, paper on canvas

inspired by Deuteronomy 24:17-22

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

BREAKING NEWS SEGMENT

CALL TO WORSHIP

GATHERING HYMN: ELW 328 "Restore in Us, O God" *

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

HYMN OF PRAISE: ELW 208 "Praise to You, O God of Mercy" *

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

READING: see next page

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW 513 "Listen, God is Calling" v. 1 *

GOSPEL READING: see next page

CHILDREN'S SERMON & SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: ACS 1059 "Come Now, You Blessed"*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING MOMENT

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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMNS:

ELW 338 "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" *

ELW 325 "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" *

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

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN: ELW 712 "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service" *

DISMISSAL

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

READING(S)

Reading: *Deuteronomy 24:17-22*

“You shall not deprive a resident alien or an orphan of justice; you shall not take a widow’s garment in pledge. Remember that you were a slave in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you from there; therefore I command you to do this.

“When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be left for the alien, the orphan, and the widow, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all your undertakings. When you beat your olive trees, do not strip what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow.

“When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow. Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt; therefore I am commanding you to do this.

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

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 19:13-15*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 19th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

Then children were being brought to [Jesus] in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them, but Jesus said, “Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.” And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

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

ARTIST STATEMENTS

During this Lenten season, we will have art works centered around the texts we are reading from the theme “Tell Me Something Good” from Sanctified Art. Below is a reflection on the artworks found on the front of the bulletin from the artists that created the piece.

Let the Little Children Come by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell

11”x14” Acrylic, gold leaf, pen on paper

Inspired by Matthew 19:13-15

For my little niece, Angelina, whose art rests at the heart of this composition, and in whose joy we glimpse the Kingdom of God—alongside her sisters, Angelika and Ariana.

At the center of this work is a drawing made by my five-year-old niece, Angelina. I watched her joyfully scribble it in under three minutes, churning out drawing after drawing and handing each one to me with an eager smile. In this piece, she first drew a self-portrait

(her wearing a crown), then graciously decided to include me (taking some creative liberties in giving me a third arm!).

I imagine the scene in Matthew 19: toddlers wailing, little ones slipping from their parents' arms, parents offering apologetic glances toward the frowning disciples as the scene around Jesus grows increasingly disorderly and loud. Those of us who've participated in group infant baptisms and baby dedications (when one cries, the chain reaction begins!), have led children's sermon moments with restless kids squirming about, or had the joy of watching our little ones participate in a kids' choir performance that goes delightfully rogue, can easily relate.

The disciples, feeling the weight of being seen as serious leaders alongside their rabbi, Jesus, may have tried to preserve a sense of reverence by shooing away the parents bringing their children to him. Yet here, Jesus reorients his disciples (and us) away from the illusion of control and reminds us that it is the joyful, unruly, sincere presence of a child to whom the kingdom truly belongs. Just a chapter earlier, in Matthew 18, Jesus tells his followers that unless they become like little children, they will not even enter the kingdom. Surely the disciples thought Jesus couldn't mean that literally—right?

While I've been busy making art, Angelina has been busy being an artist. I surely could learn a thing or two from her about inheriting the kingdom.

***Fuera ICE*¹⁵ by Nicolette Faison**

*16"x20" Acrylic, marker, paper on canvas
inspired by Deuteronomy 24:17-22*

They keep taking my neighbors. Chicago and other cities associated with the Democratic party are going through a humanitarian crisis under a fascist regime. Cars are being left vacant on random blocks and parking lots. People are being disappeared while their children are being ziptied at 3 a.m. We clergy and religious leaders have been shot with pepper spray and rubber bullets while demanding the freedom of our neighbors. No one deserves to live like this. This piece does not truly capture the pain I hold every day, between keeping track of what is happening in Gaza, resisting fascism, and dealing with yet another economic collapse under capitalism.

But let me tell you something good. . . I still believe in humanity. When I watched people in Gaza prepare basic meals to break their fast during Ramadan during a genocide, I saw something good. When local neighbors saw our public vigil for disappeared people and chose to join us for a time of lament, I saw something good. When Colin Kaepernick paid

15 The artist originally titled this piece, "F**k ICE," conveying the pain and emotions behind this work of art.

chose to join us for a time of lament, I saw something good. When Colin Kaepernick paid for the independent autopsy of one of the Black men recently lynched,¹⁶ I saw something good. The good is people still choosing to be empathetic and compassionate in times of crisis. That is what Christ calls us to be.

The stranger who enters foreign land is often forced to flee their own home. It is rare for people to risk their entire livelihood and their family for anything other than necessity. For that reason, each portrait has a halo deeming them holy, sacred, and divine. I used sparkling gold paper to break up each distinct image. Look deeply at these portraits. The top left is inspired by the Maasai people, a nomadic group that dwells across borders. The top right image is an indigenous woman and her child, a nod to Mary and Jesus. She has a red palm across her mouth which is a tribute to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and "Two-Spirit" people. The bottom left is a slightly aging man from Mesoamerica. The bottom right is a woman in hijab, which is commonly targeted in Islamophobic spaces. Look at the people some consider to be a threat. Look at our neighbors. Migrants are sacred. Fuera ICE.¹⁷

16 usatoday.com/story/sports/nfl/2025/09/19/colin-kaepernick-independent-autopsy-trey-reed/86244594007

17 "Fuera" can be translated to "out" or "away." ICE is an acronym for the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, which began enacting raids in US cities at the time these resources were created (2025).



CHURCH
Announcements

Thank you for your offering of **\$15,028.39** for the week of **March 8!**

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by Bonnie Kubler and Jamie Zins, in memory of Bev and Jerry Zins. **Thank you!**

The **March Newsletter is now in the mail and available online!** If you would like to pick up a paper copy, look on the table in front of the Avenue C entrance.

Easter is almost here! Please join us for **Maundy Thursday, April 2, at 7pm, Good Friday, April 3 at 12:05pm or 7pm, the Community Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 4th at 7pm (hosted at Bismarck UCC) and Easter Sunday, April 5th at 7am, 9am, or 11am.** Don't forget our **Easter Sunday Continental Breakfast from 7:30am-11am** to support our youth with your free will offering!

Holy Week Worship Assisnant Sign-ups are now available in the Gathering Place! We appreciate all the volunteers that help make our Holy Week services possible.

Lent is here! Join us on **Wednesdays at 11:15 am for Soup Lunch, and Midweek Services at 12:05pm and 7pm.**

Sign-ups are currently available on the table next to the Coffee Hour area to **bring bread and bars for our Lent Soup Lunches!**

Lent Devotionals based on our theme "Tell Me Something Good" by A Sanctified Art **are available now** in the Gathering Place. Please take one for your household! If you'd prefer an e-version, email the church office at faith.bisfaith@gmail.com. We hope you find it a meaningful companion during this season. As you read: take what you need, leave what doesn't fit, and be open to hearing different perspectives!

All experience levels are invited to join us for **Choir Practice on Sundays at 10am!** Contact our music coordinator, Dima Somkin, by calling the office or emailing dmytro.bisfaith@gmail.com for more information!

Don't forget to **direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars!** Individuals with certain types of accounts can direct money, donated by Thrivent, to specific non-profits in the area. The **deadline to direct your Dollars is Monday, March 31st.** Make sure to log-in to the online portal, or talk to your Thrivent representative, to select any non-profits you would like to support. In the past, we have used Thrivent Choice Dollars to fund devotionals and Bible Study materials, speakers and special events at Faith Lutheran. Thank you for supporting non-profits!

2,000 years ago, Jesus entered into Jerusalem at the beginning of Passover on a donkey, an image reflecting his just, humble leadership and care for those in need. Christian communities from across our region are invited to gather for a **time of communal prayer and public witness at 3 pm on Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026 for a processional from Trinity Lutheran Church in Bismarck (502 N 4th St) to the ND State Capitol Steps. An ecumenical worship service uplifting our shared values of feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, and welcoming the stranger will be held on the Capitol Steps at 4pm.**

Church Announcements Continued

Please join us **Thursday, April 9th 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 here at Faith Lutheran, 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. Look out for another Scripture Circle opportunity on May 14th (Lutheran Church of the Cross, 1004 E Highland Acres Rd, Bismarck)!

The Faith Crafters have created **handmade Easter cards, table favors and Easter basket stuffers that they will be selling between services on March 22nd.**

Altar Guild is currently **accepting donations for our Easter Mums** this year! You can sign-up to have an Easter Mum in honor or memory of a loved one, or just because! Altar Guild members will be available **this Sunday, March 15** between services to take orders. You can also call the office to order. Mums will be \$15.

Message: Pastor Derek Harkins

Liturgy: Pastor Sylvia Bull

Music: Dmytro Somkin; FLC Bell Choir

Worship Assistants:

8:30 -Team G: Dalene Berger, Vince Berger, Sam May, Meme May, Mary Verlinde, Paul Verlinde, Lori Wanner, Rod Wanner, Deb Diede, Andi Johnson, Marlene Adolf

11:00 - Team 1: Janica Sabot, Colleen Preszler, Lyla Timm, Sue Rydberg, Greg Hoffman, Anita Hoffman, Damien Reinhart, Tori Reinhart, Eden Reinhart, Lawson Reinhart

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CALENDAR

Monday, March 16

7:00 AA

Tuesday, March 17

9:00 Quilting
2:00 Crafts
5:15 BIO Girls
5:15 HR Committee
6:00 Stewardship Committee
7:00 Scouts

Wednesday, March 18

10:00 Bible Study
11:15 Lent Soup Lunch
12:05 Worship
5:30 Handbells
6:00 Lent Book Study
6:00 Church School & Confirmation
7:00 Worship

Thursday, March 19

Friday, March 20

8:00 NA

Saturday, March 21

Sunday, March 22

8:30 Worship
9:45 Church School
10:00 Choir Practice
11:00 Worship
4:00 Cub Scouts

MISSION Focus



MARCH: SCOUTING FOR FOOD

This month, we will be partnering with the Scouts in their Scouting for Food Project! Bring in any non-perishable food items throughout the month of March, and the scouts will bring them to food banks throughout the community. The Northern Lights Council is looking to keep growing this event, and reach their goal of 85,000 pounds of food collected, and your contributions can help!

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat." - Matthew 25:35