

Sunday, September 6, 2026
Fifteenth 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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN: ELW 522 "As We Gather At Your Table" *

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: ELW 358 "Great God Your Love Has Called Us Here" *

APOSTLES' CREED

SHARING OF THE PEACE

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING

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 496 "One Bread, One Body" *

ELW 471 "Let Us Break Bread Together" *

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

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN: ELW 543 "Go, My Children with My Blessing" *

DISMISSAL

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

READING(S)

First Reading: *Psalm 119:33-40*

Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.
Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with all my heart.
Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.
Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.
Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;
give me life in your way.
Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which is for those who fear you.
Turn away the reproach that I dread,
because your judgments are good.
Behold, I long for your commandments;
by your righteousness enliven me.

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

Second Reading: *Romans 13:8-14*

Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 18:15-20*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 18th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

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

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Monday - Prayer of the Day

The prayer of the day, based on #1213 in the seventh-century Gelasian Sacramentary, asks that, in view of continual failings and perpetual dangers, we receive the life that only our merciful God can provide.

Tuesday - Connections with the Liturgy

It is almost as if the gospel reading provides an outline for much Sunday worship: we confess our sins, we are loosed from sin's bonds, we intercede for all the world, and we gather around the table to meet the risen Christ. As well, Paul alludes to baptism, our putting on Jesus Christ. This is what it means to be church of Christ.

Wednesday - Let the Children Come

Admitting wrong and saying “I’m sorry” are difficult for both children and adults. Pointing out when someone has hurt us and forgiving those hurts can be even more difficult. Yet, each is necessary to human relationship. Our gospel reminds us that these hard conversations can bring us closer together in community. Jesus isn’t simply telling his disciples to make accusations; he’s modeling steps for

repairing relationship. In our liturgy, we model this with confession and forgiveness. The children's TV show Daniel Tiger models similar steps with the song "Saying I'm Sorry Is the First Step." Together with the children in your life, use this song from Daniel Tiger or a similar preschool show and use child-centered language that moves from "I'm sorry," to "God forgives you," to imagining together Daniel Tiger's second step: "How can I help?"

Thursday - Reflection on Romans Reading

The commandments have not gone away, but they are gathered up into the love seen in Christ's crucifixion and are realized by living in the light of baptism. Christ donned humanity that we may wear Christ. Our holy communion feeds us with strength for the day. As usual, Paul alludes to the power of sinful selfishness.

Friday - Reflection on the Gospel

Christians have used this passage to lay out the process of church discipline and to affirm the power of communal prayer. Most who hear this text on Sunday morning are indeed Gentiles, and in some ways we are all "tax collectors." The gospel is that when we gather, the risen Christ is present in the word, in the sacraments, and in the assembly.

Saturday - A Hymn for the Day

A hymn most appropriate for this day is the poignant "In all our grief" (ELW 615). The "grief" of the opening line comes from the pain we put each other through, the angry word, the will and wish to hurt. Always we plead for God's mercy. This hymn was written in 1985 by Sylvia Dunstan, an ordained minister in the United Church of Canada. She died of cancer before she was forty, and Evangelical Lutheran Worship includes four of her hymns.



CHURCH
Announcements

Thank you for your offering of **\$7,387.06** for the week of **August 30th!**

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by Larry and Shelley Hill, in memory of Beverly Hill. **Thank you!**

The **Church Office will be closed Monday, September 7th** in honor of Labor Day.

The **September newsletter** is now in the mail and online! Paper copies can be found on the table in front of the Avenue C Entrance.

It's that time of year again! **Join us at either the 8:30am or 11am service starting next Sunday, September 13th. Rally Day (first day of the program year) will also be Wednesday, September 9th (Wed. Church School/Confirmation) and Sunday, September 13th (Sunday Church School).** Make sure to join us as we kick off our Fall season!

Church School and Confirmation Registration is now available! Go to our Forms page at faithbismarck.com/forms to fill out our Google Forms for your Church School Age (3 Year Old-5th Grade) and Confirmation Age (6th Grade - 9th Grade) children! **We appreciate parents filling these out each year to help keep our records up to date.** If you have any questions about our programs, you can always talk to Kenny or one of the pastors!

Don't forget to **sign-up** to cook Rice Pudding, drive batches or work our booth during **this year's Street Fair from Friday, September 18th-Saturday, September 19th.** Sign-ups can be found in the Gathering Place, next to the Coffee Hour are. Check out the September newsletter for a brief history of this fun tradition!

Ruth Circle will resume on September 10th --- the 2nd Thursday of the Month beginning at 7 pm. We will continue our book study by Mike Yaconelli – *Messy Spirituality*. He addresses questions like: “Do you feel like you don’t pray enough, or read the Bible enough, or share our faith enough?” He stresses that imperfection and messiness are in fact, the earmarks of true Christianity. **All are invited to join us on this journey of “messy spirituality”.**

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 Sept-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! Questions? Talk to Pastor Sylvia or email wndpalmsundaypath@gmail.com.

September 17 - Voicing Your Values in an Age of Partisanship

October 15 - Voicing Your Values: Speaking with Policymakers

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

December 17 - Voicing Your Values at the Legislature

Message: Pastor Sylvia Bull

Liturgy: Pastor Derek Harkins

Music: Dmytro Somkin

Worship Team -

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

CALENDAR

Monday, September 7

Labor Day

Church Office Closed

7:00 AA

Tuesday, September 8

9:00 Quilting

2:00 Crafts

6:00 Elementary Committee

7:00 Scouts

Wednesday, September 9

Rally Day!

10:00 Bible Study

5:30 Handbells

5:30 BLAST Meal

6:00 Church School &
Confirmation

7:00 Worship

Thursday, September 10

Newsletter Deadline

2:00 Knit & Crochet

7:00 Ruth Circle

Friday, September 11

8:00 NA

Saturday, September 12

Sunday, September 13

Rally Day!

8:30 Worship

9:45 Church School

11:00 Worship

4:00 Cub Scouts

MISSION
Focus



SEPTEMBER: LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF KITS

Throughout the year, our Quilters collect items to put in Personal Care, School, and Baby Kits, sent to people in need around the world through Lutheran World Relief. Full lists are available on the Concierge Table and under our Serve tab on our website, but they are currently in need of shirts and T-shirts (sizes 6 to 24 months), jackets, and hooded sweatshirts for their baby kits. For their personal care kits, they are looking for towels (no larger than 27" x 52") and metal nail clippers. Thank you for your generosity!

If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the Lord your God is giving you... you should open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be. Deut. 15:7-8