Faith Lutheran
1402 East Avenue C, Bismarck, ND 58501
Phone: 701-223-2236 Fax: 701-223-0485
After Hours Emergency Line: 701-595-0223
www.faithbismarck.com

News and Views

November 2026
Volume 2026, Issue 10

MISSION STATEMENT

"We are building a welcoming, nurturing faith community guided by Jesus to share the Gospel."





FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH CLERGY

Pastor Derek Harkins
(Fridays off)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY:
8:30am & 11am
WEDNESDAY:
7:00pm

LIVESTREAM AT
SUN 8:30am &
WED 7:00pm

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday
8:00 AM - 12 PM
1:00 PM - 5 PM
Friday: 8:00 AM - Noon

Pastoral Care Emergency Number 701-595-0223

Answering machine is available evenings and weekends when the office is not staffed.

Office is not open during the lunch hour.

FLC Executive Team
Amy Steiner, Chair
Gail Skaley, Vice-Chair
Ryan Sprynczynatyk, Vice-Chair
Pat Groce, Secretary
Billie Ann Caya, Treasurer

Pastoral Ministries
Funerals:
Wes Sprenger
Mike Link



FINANCIAL UPDATE

September General Fund:
Revenues: $55,349.40
Expenditures: $56,764.43

2026 Year-to-Date:
Revenues: $438,438.63
Expenditures: $506,060.65



The deadline to submit information to the News and Views newsletter is the 10th of each month prior to the next newsletter. The church bulletin deadline is at noon on Tuesday for the coming Sunday bulletin. Articles, schedules, etc., can be sent to: communications.bisfaith@gmail.com For additional information, call the church office at 701-223-2236

Church Memorials

For **General Fund**, in memory of Sandra Darling.
For **General Fund**, in memory of Lois Stay.

Details can be found in the Memorial Book in the Gathering Place.

Friends in Faith



They are Welcome at our Table

Thanksgiving 1966 was a very special one in Bismarck. The idea started with Mrs. John Conrad. She felt that the people of Bismarck should invite the boys and young men at the Lewis & Clark Job Corps Center into their homes for Thanksgiving. There were 122 enrollees at the Center. About half went home and about 30 stayed at the Center for Thanksgiving. Thirty-four accepted invitations into private Bismarck homes. Many were Black. A year earlier the Bismarck City Commission and the Park Board were opposed to having a Job Corp Center established here. One of the arguments of Mayor Evan Lips was that that Bismarck has no Negro families. He said "We feel, therefore, that a location where the Negro boys could have social relations with Negro families and girls would be more advantageous to them."

The City Commission and the Park Board were receiving many calls against having the Job Corps Center. We are not racists in Bismarck was a common comment, but some people believed these youth had a criminal past and that they would commit crimes in our city. A businessman said "I don't care what color they are; they are not the kind of people we want in Bismarck. The Farmers Liberty League in North Dakota mailed copies of the "White American," a segregationist newspaper to local officials and clergymen. Governor William Guy was a supporter of the Center. He gave it State approval noting that it will provide opportunities to people from across the United States. Guy asserted "Christ laid down our guideline when he said "In as much as you would do it unto the least these my brethren, you would do it unto me.' "

A Pastor from McLaughlin, South Dakota stated "I note that Governor Guy misquotes Christ to support the Job Corps proposal. Can a reasonable person believe that the practical Christ, who never traveled a hundred miles from his home town would favor this systematic uprooting process?" Twice the Bismarck Ministerial Association refused to take a stand on the issue. Some clergymen scolded their fellow members for not "allowing us to prove ours is not a Mickey Mouse religion." There were clergymen who spoke up in support of the Center. One was Reverand T. W. Wedward of Peace Lutheran Church in Mandan. He said the action of city officials isn't surprising "when you consider that recently the Protestant leaders of Bismarck refused to exert some degree of Christian leadership on this issue."

Another was Father Arnold Spain of St. Annes Church who said "These kids are American kids who have never had a chance. Don't we care enough to want to help them?" He also said "We only ask what can my country do for me?" The first group of boys and young men arrived in Bismarck in August 1966. Three months later Mrs. Conrad, and other Bismarck families, welcomed them to their Thanksgiving table. Goodbye for now, and remember to always take time to talk to the cows.

Bennett R. Kubischta
October 11, 2026, 1:57 pm



Library Link

by LeAnn Severson

North Dakota became a state on November 2, 1889. Since that time, there have been many stories to tell about the state's history. Our church library has several books telling those stories, plus fiction books written by North Dakota authors.

DAKOTA DIASPORA tells about the struggles Jewish immigrants faced living in the Wilton and Wing area. Ron Vossler shares stories from the Germans from Russia heritage in his book DAKOTA KRAUT. NOTHING TO DO BUT STAY by Carrie Young tells the true story of a 25-year-old single Scandinavian woman who staked out her own 160-acre homestead on the North Dakota prairie.

We have several North Dakota-themed books for children, including P is for PEACE GARDEN: A NORTH DAKOTA ALPHABET, which provides readers with a guided A-Z tour of our state. When I read the entry for the letter K, I knew this book belonged in our church library!

Many of these books are on display in the library and available for checkout.

Crafters Christmas Ornaments

The Faith Lutheran Crafters have created this year's edition of a Christmas tree ornament that can be purchased to memorialize a loved one or to honor a family member or someone special to you.

The ornaments will hang on the church tree during the Christmas season. When the ornaments are removed from the tree in January, they will be returned to the purchaser as a keepsake.

These ornaments will be available for purchase at $5 each between services on November 22, 29, and December 6th. You can also call the church office to reserve them. The proceeds from the sale will be given to a mission or need within the church and/or community, yet to be determined.

Pie & Coffee Thank You

Another fun Pie & Coffee Day has passed. It was nice to see the fellowship happening over that piece of pie and cup of coffee. This event could not happen without the help of many, many folks. Thanks to all who moved tables, unpacked and repacked white elephant items, made rice pudding, kuchen and knoephla, worked in the kitchen, washed dishes, cleaned up tables, cashiered, baked goodies and made purchases. The money raised was $5,300 and will help many local community and Lutheran World Relief missions as well as supporting the women in seminary. The Faith Women also encourage Camp of the Cross attendees by paying 40% of each camper's registration. Job well done!

Thanksgiving Office Closure

Please note that our office will be closed from Wednesday, November 25, through Friday, November 27, for Thanksgiving. We will reopen with normal business hours on Monday, November 30. Have safe and happy Thanksgiving!

STAFF EMAILS

Need to reach one of our staff? Emails can be found below!

Faith Lutheran's General Email
faith.bisfaith@gmail.com

Derek Harkins
Senior Pastor
derek.bisfaith@gmail.com

Cheryl Johnson
Office Manager and Financials
cheryl.bisfaith@gmail.com

Alex Johnson
Temporary Communications Assistant
communications.bisfaith@gmail.com

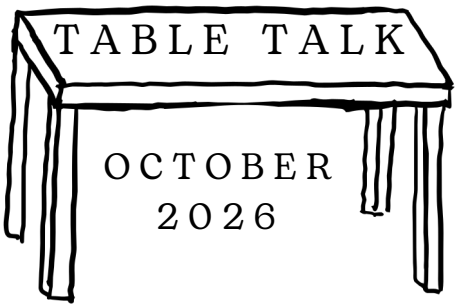
Kenny Opsal
Director of Education and Youth
kenny.bisfaith@midconetwork.com

Pastor Derek's Parables



Grace and peace to you, siblings in Christ!

Historically, congregations mostly only ever think about the wider church body, like our Synod (Western North Dakota Synod) or the Church Wide organization (ELCA - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) that we are a part of when we are in the Call Process and needing a new pastor, deacon, or leader. Yes, we lift up voting members once a year to go to the WND Synod Assembly where we learn more about the wider church and complete the business of the larger church body, but otherwise we don't think about it. We think about our individual congregation and perhaps the other congregations in our community. We are now in one of those times of transition where we are in deeper conversation and collaboration with the Bishop and the Synod Office. This past Synod Assembly our synod elected a new Bishop, Rev. Lisa Lewton. It is an exciting time for our Synod and we are thankful for Bishop Lisa's willingness to accept this call in our larger church. One of her goals as she begins her first term as Bishop of our Synod is to strengthen communication and bring more awareness of the Synod and its role to the congregations it serves. One of the ways she is hoping to achieve this is through a monthly newsletter she is writing called "Table Talk." Check out her latest "Table Talk" below:



When the Tables Turn

Bishop Lisa Lewton

After she received the bread and the wine in her living room room, where Ruth spent most of her time, we sat in silence for a moment. As usual when I visit homebound folks, I said a post-communion prayer. I thanked God for the simple meal, for Ruth, and for the love of God in Christ. "Amen," I concluded, ready to get up and say goodbye to Ruth. But then, unexpectedly, she began her own prayer. She also thanked God for the meal and for Jesus, and then she prayed for *me*. This one whom I had gone to visit to bring her hope and peace had given me just as much. The tables had turned!

Ruth reminded me that ministry in a congregation is not the work of a pastor alone. Ministry is shared, it is mutual, it is a swelling up of promises we make to one another as the body of Christ in the world. Her prayer relieved some pressure. I noticed my shoulders loosen up. Through her words, the Holy Spirit whispered in my ear, "See what I can do? I can turn tables so that the *giver* of prayer becomes the *recipient* of prayer. Cool, huh!"

Table Talk Continued

And then I look around the room and remember the Holy Spirit's whispering in my ear. I look at the Congregation Council, the Call Committee, and members of congregations drinking coffee together at round tables in Fellowship Rooms. "See what I can do?" I hear the Spirit remind me, "I can turn tables, so that the *recipients* of a pastors ministry become the *ministers*."

The priesthood of all believers is abundant and alive in the Western North Dakota Synod! God has scattered just the right gifts in just the right corners of the church. God is shaping our synod into the vision of a lay-led, clergy supported church. Can you see it?

- Who might you tap on the shoulder to invite them to consider sharing their gifts to lead a Bible study, to visit the homebound, or to serve as an adult advisor for LYO.
- Have you sat still long enough lately for the Spirit to get a word in edgewise? What gifts might *you* share, *you* who are equipped to be a minister through baptism?
- How might imagining the Christian church today as lay-led and clergy-supported, instead of clergy-led and lay-supported, turn the tables and reshape your prayer for the church?

Dec/Jan Newsletter



We will be combining our December 2026 and January 2027 Newsletter! Reminder that submissions will need to be in by Tuesday, November 10th to guarantee a spot in the newsletter.

Congregational Meeting

Join us Sunday, December 13 at 9:45am, for a Congregational Meeting. We will be discussing the budget, electing new committee chairs and members, and discussing our vision as a church!

Men of Faith

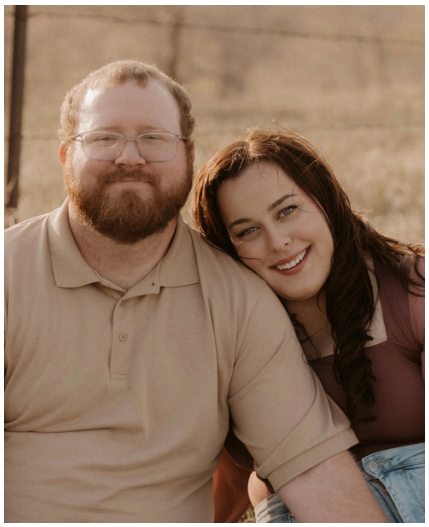
The next Men of Faith meeting will be held at **9:00 AM on Thursday, November 5th** and will feature Rod Wanner's presentation on the family search org. Have you often wondered if you are truly related to that person in the next pew? Well, as they say, there is an app for that. Please plan on attending.

Fall 2026 New Members

We are excited to announce that on Wednesday, October 21st, and Sunday, October 25th, we officially welcomed several new members into our congregation!



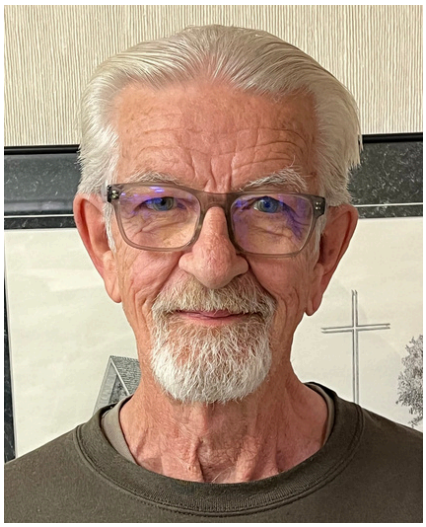
Delores Helm



Justin Knudson &
Paige Lagge



Erik, Sarah, Hope, & Vail
Prestangen



Lynn Lundgren

Thank you from Cheryl

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



Church School News



Our first-quarter donations will go towards Miles of Love to help animals! Our second-quarter donations will go towards Cure International.
No church school on 11/25 and 11/29.

Youth News

No confirmation on 11/25. Thanks to all the youth for helping with Pie & Coffee Day. We were able to raise $750 for the youth gathering next summer!

November Acolyte Schedule

Sunday (Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29)
8:30 - Lauren Gross
11:00 - Ailee Harkins / Maya Harkins
Marley Udell

Wednesday (Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25)
7:00 - Clarence Forward /
Rilke Warner
Tech Assistant - Conner Kuntz

Confirmation News

We had a great time at LYO! We had four youth attend the middle school LYO and 1 youth attend the high school LYO. Our summer trip in 2027 will be to Minneapolis to the ELCA Youth Gathering. We will be planning on doing a fundraising dinner early next year- date to be determined.





It's that time again!
Faith Lutheran Church's Annual

Cookie Walk

Save the Date!



Saturday,
December 12th
@ 9am



MISSION Focus



NOVEMBER: MINISTRY ON THE MARGINS

Ministry on the Margins needs non-perishable food like peanut butter, canned soups, ramen, canned fruits, canned vegetables, and snack items. They also need hand warmers, feet warmers, winter hats, winter gloves, diapers, small-sized personal care items like toothbrushes, deodorant, laundry soap, and dish soap. Next time you're out, grab a few extra items to help local families stay stocked and warm through the upcoming winter months. Thank you for your generosity!

"The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord."
— 1 Chronicles 29:9



November 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **Daylight Savings** **8:30** Worship **9:45** Church School **11:00** Worship **4:00** Cub Scouts	**2** **7:00** AA	**3** **9:00** Quilting **11.00** Worship & Music **2:00** Crafts **7:00** Scouts	**4** **10:00** Bible Study **5:30** Handbells **5:30** BLAST Meal **6:00** Church School & Confirmation **7:00** Worship	**5** **9:00** Esther Circle **9:00** Men of Faith	**6** **8:00** NA	**7** **Serving the Banquet**
8 **8:30** Worship **9:45** Church School **11:00** Worship **4:00** Cub Scouts	**9** **7:00** AA	**10** **Newsletter Deadline** **9:00** Quilting **2:00** Crafts **6:00** Elementary Comm **6:00** Executive Comm. **7:00** Scouts	**11** **Veterans Day** **10:00** Bible Study **5:30** Handbells **6:00** Church School & Confirmation **7:00** Worship	**12** **2:00** Knit & Crochet Group **7:00** Ruth Circle	**13** **8:00** NA	**14**
15 **8:30** Worship **9:45** Church School **11:00** Worship **4:00** Cub Scouts	**16** **7:00** AA	**17** **9:00** Quilting **2:00** Crafts **5:00** HR Committee **7:00** Scouts	**18** **10:00** Bible Study **1:30** Edgewood Service **5:30** Handbells **6:00** Church School & Confirmation **7:00** Worship	**19** **6:00** Knit & Crochet Group **6:00** Voice Your Values (Lord of Life)	**20** **5:45** Improv Workshop **8:00** NA	**21**
22 **8:30** Worship **9:45** Church School **11:00** Worship **4:00** Cub Scouts	**23** **7:00** AA	**24** **9:00** Quilting **2:00** Crafts **7:00** Community Thanksgiving Worship **7:00** Scouts	**25** **Church Office Closed** **No Church School/Conformation** **No Worship Service**	**26** **Thanksgiving** **Church Office Closed**	**27** **Church Office Closed** **8:00** NA	**28**
29 **No Church School** **8:30** Worship **11:00** Worship	**30** **4:30** Altar Guild **7:00** AA					

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