



1402 East Avenue C, Bismarck, ND 58501

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After Hours Emergency Line: 701-595-0223

www.faithbismarck.com

News and Views

September 2025
Volume 2025, Issue 8

MISSION STATEMENT

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

REGULAR WORSHIP HOURS

We will be returning to our
Regular Worship Hours the week of
September 3 & 7!

Wednesday: 7:00 pm (Livestream)

Sunday: 8:30 am (Livestream) & 11:00 am

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH CLERGY

Pastor Derek Harkins
(Fridays off)

Pastor Sylvia Bull
(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.

WHAT A
MESS

RALLY DAY 2025

Join us on Wednesday, September 3rd and Sunday,
September 7th for the start of the Church School year!
Registration forms for 3 year-5th Grade (Church School),
and 6th-9th Grade (Confirmation), and the Church School
Handbook can be found under the Forms Tab starting in
mid-August.

www.faithbismarck.com/forms



FLC Executive Team

Jim Sheldon, Chair

Amy Steiner, Vice-Chair

Lyla Timm, Vice-Chair

Mark Schneider, Secretary

Billie Ann Caya, Treasurer

Pastoral Ministries

Baptisms:

Brooks Wayne Kuhnert

Emery Carlson

Weddings:

Olivia German and Cameron
Erbele

Funerals:

Bernice Scherer



FINANCIAL UPDATE

July General Fund:

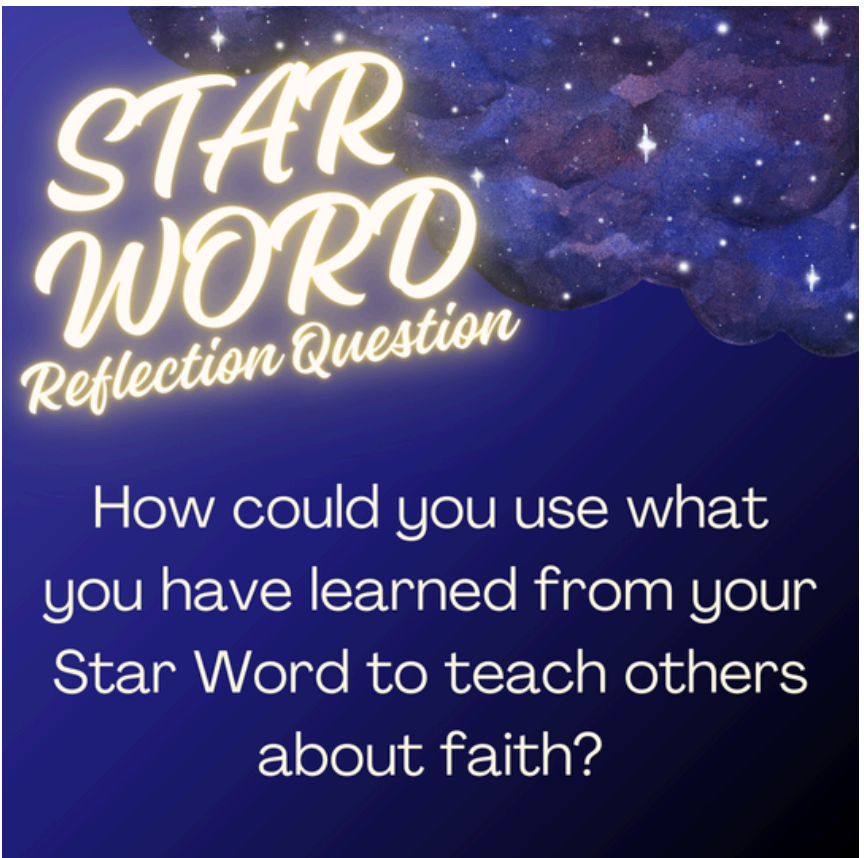
Revenues: \$52,168.11

Expenditures: \$45,842.12

2025 Year-to-Date:

Revenues: \$348,304.09

Expenditures: \$363,285.75



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

Tree Donation, in memory of Ray & Lavern Frank.

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



Faces of Faith

Throughout this summer's worship series, "Faces of our Faith" Pastors Derek and Sylvia brought us insights into people we likely hadn't thought deeply about before. Insights such as Deborah remaining calm while seeking God's wisdom during the chaos of war. Joseph of Arimathea who sacrificed his standing to give Jesus a proper burial. The strength of Mary Magdalene which lives on in the women of today. And Judas, who I think may be the most important apostle.

As I sat in the sanctuary during worship, I looked at the banners on either side of the altar. Upon these banners were abstract faces of faith. Some had names and some had words. They were posted by those who worshipped here this summer. In the Gathering Place is another posting of the faces of faith. It is the photo of Jesus that was made in 2007 of the faces of the people of Faith Lutheran.

My favorite depiction of faces of faith is on the exterior wall of the Sacred Heart Parish School in East Grand Forks, Minnesota. It is a sculpture in bricks of the people of Sacred Heart Parish. The sculptor was Kathryn McCleery who was a professor of art at the University of North Dakota.

Life size members of Sacred Heart from babies to the elderly are depicted. Jesus is larger than life and is reaching out to the people in a somber yet caring fashion. Some of the people have their heads turned towards Jesus. Some do not, they are looking straight ahead.

A great thing about art is that we can look at a sculpture or a painting and see things that the artist didn't. I do not know what Kathryn or the people of Sacred Heart see in this sculpture. I see people who are strong in their faith. I see people who are questioning their faith. But I cannot tell who is strong or who has questions. I see a Jesus who welcomes all.

As we go about our daily lives look into the faces of those you meet. You will not see adversaries. You will not see someone who shares your beliefs. You will see faces of faith.

Bennett R. Kubischta

August 11, 2025, 11:02 am



Library Link

by LeAnn Severson

Now that school is back in session, teachers are encouraging their students to choose good books to read. They know that reading improves vocabulary, background knowledge, curiosity, listening and visualization skills and enjoyment of reading a good book.

Parents and grandparents play an important part in a child learning to read. Reading aloud helps to increase interest in reading. Listening to them read is important, too.

In addition to books from the school and public library, we have many books available for check out from our church library. An added component with these books is the teaching of moral values and Christian beliefs within narratives that are enjoyable to read.

Have a young child not yet in school? We have a large collections of board books fitting for pre-school ages.

Men of Faith

Gentlemen, what are some topics that come up for discussion that all can relate to?.....Sports (so many teams and types of sports).....Hobbies (again, so many).....Travel (I've Been Everywhere Man).....Politics (yeah, not going there), how about the weather? On **Thursday October 2nd at 9:00AM, Meghan Chada from the KFYP Weather Team** will be doing a presentation on a subject that we all can find a connection to. Not to say the others wouldn't, but this at least is much safer than say...politics!!! See you in October.

*Volunteer at the
Rice Pudding
Booth!*

September 12 & 13
Downtown Street
Fair



Look next to the
Coffee Fellowship
table for Volunteer
Sign-Ups for our
Rice Pudding
Booth! Help us
continue the
tradition!



Pumpkin Patch

It's pumpkin patch time! **October 4th is Faith Family Day at Papa's Pumpkin Patch.** We have a shelter reserved from 3p-6pm. **Free Admission passes** will be available to pick up at the church offices after September 15th. Once you sign up, you will receive your passes!

Food and beverages will be provided at the shelter. We will also have the church bus available for those that cannot drive.

Hope to see you all there!

Scholarship Recipients

The FLC Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the 2025 recipients. Each recipient will receive \$500 for tuition at the university of their choice. Applicants were chosen based on being active members of FLC and their community.

The first scholarship recipient is Madison Wutzke. She is a student at NDSU pursuing a Pharmacy degree. The next recipient is Connor Dykema. He is attending the University of Mary obtaining a degree in Business Education. The last recipient is Hailey Dykema. She is attending the University of Mary working towards a degree in Radiologic Technology. Congratulations to these amazing students!

The Scholarship Committee would like you to prayerfully consider contributing to the FLC scholarship fund. In order to continue to assist FLC youth we are in need of your gracious donations. If you feel called we are looking for new members to join our committee. Our committee and our scholarship recipients appreciate your prayers and contributions.

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

Sylvia Bull

Associate Pastor
sylvia.bisfaith@gmail.com

Cheryl Johnson

Office Manager and Financials
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Caitlin McCleary

Communications/Administrative Assistant
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Kenny Opsal

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

Dmytro Somkin

Music Coordinator
dmytro.bisfaith@gmail.com

Thank you from Cheryl

Friends at Faith,

Thank you for your prayers, hugs, and comforting sympathy cards you sent after my dad's passing. They brought peace and a reminder of the love and faith we share in this place.

With gratitude, Cheryl Johnson & Family

Pastor Derek's Parables



Grace and peace to you sisters and brothers in Christ!

Where in the world did the summer go?! It's hard to believe school has already started and very soon we will be kicking off our Program Year here at Faith Lutheran with Rally Day. I hope everyone has gotten your children or grand-children registered for Church School and/or Confirmation. It's going to be another incredible year of

learning about God and growing together in our faith!

I know it's a crazy time of the year and an incredibly busy time of the year. It is also an exciting time where many people are gathering back together for worship and church school and the life of the church is full of energy. I invite you all to participate in worship and the life of the church here at Faith Lutheran whether that is through church school, bible study, coffee and fellowship time, choir, or any number of other ways you are able to connect with others centered in Christ here at FLC.

I also encourage you to invite others to engage and participate as well. Whether they are already members here at Faith Lutheran who you haven't seen in awhile or people who would be new to the community, I encourage you to invite people to participate and experience the amazing gift that this community is!

Invitation is so important. It is a necessary and essential aspect of our mission that God has called us to — "We are building a welcoming, nurturing faith community guided by Jesus to share the Gospel." Inviting others to participate is the only way to continue to BUILD our community. And when the invitation is accepted, it is then our responsibility to be welcoming and nurturing to those who are new to the community. But it starts with an invitation.

We invite friends, family, and coworkers to other things that we find important and life-giving. Whether it's a party, a dinner, a concert, or a sports event we are quick to give invitations to those we think would enjoy it and gain life from it. I believe the community here at Faith Lutheran has so much to offer — most especially the love of God! We should not be afraid to invite those we care about to experience God's love and grace through our community.

Revelation 22:17 says, "The Spirit and the bride (the church) say, 'Come.' And let everyone who hears say, 'Come.' And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift." God calls us to invite everyone to participate and experience God's love, "Come." I also love that those who are invited also the spread the invitation to others

by repeating the invitation first given to them, "Come." Come, sisters and brothers, and experience God's love and grace!

In Christ,
Pastor Derek

New Music Coordinator!



We are pleased to welcome our new music coordinator, Dmytro "Dima" Somkin! Dima is 32 years old, and was born in Lutsk, Ukraine. From 2002 to 2009 he studied piano and vocals at a music school in his hometown. From 2009 to 2013, he studied at the Kyiv National University of Culture and Arts, majoring in academic conducting and singing. In 2013, he received a bachelor's degree in music. During this period, he won many international competitions.

From 2013 to 2014, he studied at the Kyiv National University of Culture and Arts and became a soloist of the academic chamber choir "Anim".

In 2014, he received a master's degree in music from the Kyiv National University of Culture and Arts.

From 2014 to 2022, he was a leading stage master and soloist of the Khreshchatyk Academic Chamber Choir of the Kyiv City State Administration. From 2016 to 2022, he was a soloist with the Kyiv Symphony Orchestra and Choir, with whom he sang 36 solo pieces in a concert tour of Canada in 2016 and performed 39 solo pieces in the United States (also in Bismarck) in 2018. From 2012 to 2022, he taught piano and vocals at the Kyiv School of Arts.

In 2019, he became the lead singer of the vocal group IL MEN. In 2023, together with the Sophia Choir, they won the most prestigious European competition, the Grand Prix, where they became the best choir in Europe in 2023.

Dmytro has about 45 diplomas of various levels as a winner and laureate of international and regional vocal competitions. The vocal teacher who taught Dmytro (Volodymyr Fedorov) performed 60 tenor roles in Italy at the La Scala Opera House in Milan, along with Luciano Pavarotti, Placio Domingo, Di Stefano and many other world stars. Dmytro studied with the best tenors of Ukraine for 5 years and graduated from the Italian school of bel canto singing.

In total, he has visited 35 countries, most of them with concerts. Among them are Switzerland, Italy, Spain, the United States of America, Canada, North Macedonia, Poland,

Estonia, Georgia, Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and others. He has worked with dozens of the best conductors of our time, including Ennio Morricone, who has been twice awarded the Academy Award.

In September 2024, together with his family, he moved to the United States of America to the city of Bismarck. In Bismarck, he teaches piano and voice lessons. What he likes most about Bismarck is the people, their kindness and support.

On August 11, 2025, he started working as the music coordinator at Faith Lutheran Church in Bismarck, North Dakota. He is looking forward to making new friends and meeting new people. Dmytro hopes that his piano playing and singing will inspire people to do good deeds and will be an important spiritual support for all who attend services in the church.

NC Mission Trip

Our North Carolina Disaster Response Trip (July 27 - August 1) was an amazing time of service, building relationships, and deepening faith. Thank you to everyone for your prayers and support! Sixteen of us from FLC and Lord of Life provided over 300 hours of relief work through Lutherock Outdoor Ministry, Wild South (a conservation and forestry non-profit) and Avery County Habitat for Humanity. We were able to hear many stories from folks who lived through Hurricane Helene about the ongoing effects of this disaster on their lives, as well as many stories of service, resiliency, and faith. Be on the lookout for members of our group to share more about the trip in worship this fall. Again, thank you for supporting us and sending us out to be the hands and feet of Christ!





Church School News



Rally day is 9/3 and 9/7. Our theme this year is God uses Messy People (sounds like a great reason for Kenny to be messy). This is the first year we will be using new curriculum in my time here at Faith Lutheran. We are no longer using Spark curriculum we will be using Whirl lectionary material. This will be interesting to see as the lessons will go alongside the pastors lectionary material. This should make for some interesting Children's messages during church.

Youth News

Middle and High School Youth are invited to a Bis-Man Mock-in on Friday, September 5, 6-10PM @ Peace Lutheran (3310 66th St. SE, Lincoln) To Sign up, go to:

<https://render.jotform.com/252064400710038>

We recently returned from our congregational trip to North Carolina. We had 5 youth (6 including Kenny) and 11 adults. We separated into two different teams, Sylvia taking the adult crew and Kenny taking the youth (along with two adults). Sylvia's crew worked on some habitat for humanity houses while Kenny's crew worked in the mountains and at the camp. By Sylvia's calculations we were able to contribute almost 300 total hours of hours to the area.

Confirmation News

Confirmation Opening is 9/3. And remember in September the first Confirmation will then start on 9/10 for all groups.

**September
Acolyte Schedule
Coming Soon!**



WORSHIP- PALOOZA!

The Worship and Music Task Group invites YOU to join them for a light supper and evening of planning for the Advent and Christmas Season on Sunday, September 28th from 5:30-7:00pm.

We will gather for supper followed by a time of devotion on our Advent theme. Then, participants will separate out into groups for Visual Arts, Music, or Liturgy as we brainstorm on how to convey the theme in worship during Advent and Christmas.

No experience necessary - this is meant to be a fun and engaging event for all ages and abilities. Bring your ideas and let's enjoy making worship meaningful for the whole congregation together!

Questions? Talk to Pastor Sylvia or Judy Kubischta

MISSION Focus






SEPTEMBER: FRESH START KITS

We are looking to donate to the Fresh Start Kit Ministry! These kits allow individuals transitioning from incarceration to experience the love and care of the community and God while navigating their new lives. Please bring donations of travel size toothbrush and toothpaste, deodorant, socks, hats, gloves and \$25 Target or Walmart gift cards. A link to a full list is also available on our website and Facebook page. There is also a poster on the back counter in the Gathering Place

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your well-being and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."

- Jeremiah 29:11

September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labor Day Church Office Closed 7:00 AA	2 9:00 Quilting 2:00 Crafts 6:00 Compass Group 7:00 Executive Committee	3 Rally Day! 10:00 Bible Study 5:30 BLAST Meal 6:00 Church School & Confirmation 7:00 Worship	4 9:00 Esther Circle 6:00 Knit/Crochet Group	5 6:00 Bis-Man Mock-in (Peace Lutheran) 8:00 NA	6
7 Rally Day! 8:30 Worship 9:45 Church School 11:00 Worship 4:00 Cub Scouts	8 7:00 AA	9 9:00 Quilting 2:00 Crafts 6:00 Elementary Comm.	10 Newsletter Deadline 10:00 Bible Study 6:00 Church School & Confirmation 7:00 Worship	11 2:00 Knit & Crochet Group 5:00 Scripture Circle (Lord of Life) 7:00 Ruth Circle	12 Downtown Street Fair 8:00 NA	13 Downtown Street Fair
14 8:30 Worship 9:45 Church School 11:00 Worship 4:00 Cub Scouts	15 5:00 Worship and Music 7:00 AA	16 9:00 Quilting 2:00 Crafts	17 10:00 Bible Study 6:00 3 rd Grade P/S 6:00 Church School & Confirmation 7:00 Worship	18 6:00 Serving the Banquet	19 8:00 NA	20
21 8:30 Worship 9:45 Church School 9:45 3 rd Grade P/S 11:00 Worship 4:00 Cub Scout 5:30 NC Trip Sponsor Dinner (Lord of Life)	22 7:00 AA	23 9:00 Quilting 2:00 Crafts 5:15 HR Committee 6:00 Compass Group 7:00 Executive Comm. 7:00 Scouts	24 10:00 Bible Study 6:00 3 rd Grade P/S 6:00 Church School & Confirmation 7:00 Worship	25 6:00 Knit & Crochet Group	26 8:00 NA	27
28 8:30 Worship 9:45 3 rd Grade P/S 9:45 Church School 11:00 Worship 4:00 Cub Scouts 5:00 Worship Palooza!	29 5:00 Altar Guild 7:00 AA	30 9:00 Quilting 2:00 Crafts 6:00 Stewardship Committee 7:00 Scouts				

Faith Lutheran Church
1402 E Avenue C
Bismarck, ND 58501-4398
www.faithbismarck.com
(701)223-2236

Faith Lutheran Church September 2025 News and Views



SCRIPTURE CIRCLES

Come share in a transformative method of studying the Bible that is accessible to all! No prior experience or knowledge needed; led by scripture teacher U.S. Jones, II. Light supper will be served starting at 5:00 pm, study begins at 5:45pm. A free will offering will be collected, but the events are FREE.

THURSDAYS FROM 5:00-8:00PM ON:

SEPTEMBER 11 @ Lord of Life (1143 N 26th St, Bismarck)

OCTOBER 9 @ Trinity Lutheran (502 N 4th St, Bismarck)

NOVEMBER 13 @ McCabe United Methodist (1030 N 6th St, Bismarck)

DECEMBER 11 @ Location TBD



Questions? Call 701-223-2236
for more information