

Sunday, February 22, 2026
First Sunday in Lent
The Good News is
So Good It Catches Us by Surprise



Messianic Secret
by T. Denise Anderson
14"x18" Acrylic on canvas
inspired by John 2:1-11



We Are Small, We Are Numerous,
We Are Deep
by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell
11"x14" Acrylic, mustard seed on paper
inspired by Matthew 13:31-32

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 326 "Bless Now, O God, the Journey" *

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: "In a Neat and Tidy Garden" (to the tune of ELW 807 "Come Thou Fount")*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

INSTALLATION OF EXECUTIVE AND TASK GROUP LEADERS

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 461 "All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly" *

ELW 496 "One Bread, One Body" *

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)

Reading: *Matthew 13:31-32*

[Jesus] put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

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

Gospel Reading: John 2:1-11

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 2nd Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to me and to you? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the person in charge of the banquet." So they took it. When the person in charge tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), that person called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

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.

***Messianic Secret* by T. Denise Anderson**

14"x18" Acrylic on canvas

inspired by John 2:1-11

The Wedding at Cana is my favorite text because there is a lot of humor in it. There’s humor in a mother approaching her son and telling him to do something without ever actually telling him to do it. There’s his pouty resistance to his mother’s non-demand while she completely ignores him and paints him in a corner. There is humor in a raucous wedding reception where the people are so “lit” that the wine has run out. And, for me, it’s particularly humorous that there’s this huge, beautiful secret of which only a few people are aware.

Those people include Jesus’ mother and the select servants who help him pull off the miracle that inaugurates his ministry. Servants are normally meant to be inconspicuous, so I wanted to focus on the servant who goes to the chief steward⁵ with a cup full of what, as far as he’s concerned, is water.

If Jesus—whose ministry has not started, so there haven’t been any wonders associated with him yet—tells you to fill jars with water and draw from the jar to give to the chief steward, what is going through your mind at that moment? I invite the viewer to focus on this servant and all his curiosity and expectation, and think of a time when you were surprised by something God did. What actions preceded the miracle? Did it make sense? What did you know, and what was hidden from you? What “secrets” might God be keeping from you now as God works clandestinely on your behalf?

⁵ Depending on the translation of this text, the “chief steward” could alternatively be referred to as the “master of the feast,” “headwaiter,” or “person in charge of the banquet.”

***We Are Small, We Are Numerous, We Are Deep* by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell**

*11"x14" Acrylic, mustard seed on paper
inspired by Matthew 13:31-32*

Loose mustard seeds are nearly impossible to contain. They drift and scatter with the slightest breeze, asserting their own unruly will much like the mustard plants themselves. The mustard plant, dismissed as invasive weeds by some, is cultivated for healing and nourishment by others. Even now, after completing this piece, I am still finding stray seeds in my laundry, my car, my hair.

"They tried to bury us; they didn't know we were seeds," a line attributed to Greek poet Dinos Christianopoulos,⁶ has become a rallying cry for separated families along the Mexican-American border. More than a century earlier, Toussaint Louverture—the formerly enslaved commander of the self-emancipated army of Black cultivators in Saint-Domingue (colonial Haiti)—voiced a similar belief upon his deportation and imprisonment in France: "You have done no more than cut down the trunk of the tree of Black liberty. . . It will spring back from the roots, for they are numerous and deep."

From the Corn Mother of Indigenous myth to African women braiding okra seeds into their hair as they were forced from their homelands, many of our ancestors understood the power of carrying life in its smallest form. Seed-carrying is an act of faith. These tiny, unassuming specks hold the audacious hope that wherever we go, we already have what we need to take root and flourish in strange and foreign soils. May our faith and our hopes be just as audacious, resilient, and uncontainable as the seeds which hold the fruits of our faith.

5 Dinos Christianopoulos (1931-2020) wrote the couplet in 1978 (published in his book, *The Body and the Wormwood*) as a defiant statement against the Greek literary establishment, which had ostracized him due to his homosexuality.



CHURCH
Announcements

Thank you for your offering of **\$6,594.02** for the week of **February 15th!**

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by Altar Guild.
Thank you!

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!

Lent is here! Join us on **Wednesdays at 11:15 am for Soup Lunch, and Midweek Services at 12:05pm and 7pm.** Starting **Wednesday, February 25th,** we will also have **Lent Book Study on Wednesdays at 10am or 6pm.** We will be studying *The Good and Beautiful God* by James Bryan Smith. **Copies are available** in the office for \$22!

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!

An **informational session about our summer service trip** (July 25-30, 2026) to Boone, NC, for continued hurricane relief efforts **will be held on Sunday, March 1 at 12pm.** This trip is open to anyone entering 9th grade and above - all ages welcome! Come learn more about this powerful opportunity for faith and service!

Please join us **Thursday, March 12th 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 at McCabe UMC (1030 N 6th St, Bismarck), 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 other Scripture Circle opportunities on April 9th, and May 14th!

Church Announcements Continued

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. **More information about this Palm Sunday Path will be available in the March News & Views and will be shared in info sessions on Sunday, March 1 at 10am and Wednesday, March 11 at 6pm in the East Room.**

Youth and Adults are invited to a **Murder Mystery Dinner on Saturday, March 7, from 6:30pm - 8:30pm.** For more information and to sign up, talk to Kenny!

Please join us on **Wednesday, March 11 at 5pm for the Men of Faith Potato/Chili Feed!** Free will offering will go toward Camp of the Cross. Look for sign-ups to bring chili and bars, coming soon!

Message: Pastor Derek Harkins

Liturgy: Pastor Sylvia Bull

Music: Dmytro Somkin, All Comers' Choir

Worship Assistants:

8:30 -Team D: DaLana Mayer, Todd Erickson, Phyllis Larson, Larry Larson, Loren Larson, Melissa Lien, Jeff Lien, Sara Fisher, Blake Fisher, Mark Fisher

11:00 - Team 4: Andy Steiner, Amy Steiner, Hadley Steiner, Collins Steiner, Lincoln Steiner, Ann Schlafman, Kayla Mahowald, Lisa Bennett

Front Bulletin Images and Artist Statements ("Messianic Secret" by T. Denise Anderson and "We Are Small, We Are Numerous, We Are Deep" by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell), Slide and Advertising Graphics (Graphic design by Lauren Wright Pittman), portions of the liturgy (by Sarah Speed) and Hymn of the Day ("In a Neat and Tiny Garden" by Anna Strickland) from A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. Bulletin texts from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2025. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #26214. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Service and Hymns printed in this bulletin—unless in the public domain—are covered by CCLI License 2214977 and One License.net #A-704330.(All rights reserved) Permissions for live-streaming also covered by One License and CCLI.

CALENDAR

Monday, February 23

5:00 Altar Guild

7:00 AA

Tuesday, February 24

9:00 Quilting

2:00 Crafts

5:15 BIO Girls

6:00 Compass Group

7:00 Executive Committee

7:00 Scouts

Wednesday, February 25

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, February 26

6:00 Knit & Crochet Group

Friday, February 27

8:00 NA

Saturday, February 28

Sunday, March 1

8:30 Worship

9:45 Church School

10:00 Choir Practice

10:00 Palm Path Info Meeting

11:00 Worship

12:15 NC Trip General Info Meeting

4:00 Scouts

MISSION Focus



FEBRUARY: HEART RIVER CORRECTIONAL CENTER

HRCC are looking for donations to help support pregnant and new mothers housed at the facility and their families with baby items. We would like to collect packs of newborn diapers (smaller packs are best), baby wipes, bibs/burp cloths, baby socks and Newborn or 0-3 month clothing (especially neutral or for girls).

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