Wednesday, November 18, 2026

Christ the King Week



Faith Lutheran Church

Mission Statement
"Building a welcoming, nurturing faith community that is guided by Jesus and shares the Gospel."

MINISTERS **Every Member**
SENIOR PASTOR **Derek Harkins**

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING SONG: ELW 532 “Gather Us In” *

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

READING: see next page

SERMON

SONG: ELW 726 “Light Dawns on a Weary World” *

PRAYERS

OFFERING

HOLY COMMUNION

BLESSING

SENDING SONG: ELW 439 “Soon and Very Soon” *

DISMISSAL

READING(S)

Reading: *Matthew 25:31-46*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 25th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life.

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

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Monday - Prayer of the Day

The prayer for Christ the King year A was composed for Evangelical Lutheran Worship. It prays for the wisdom to know what is right and for the strength to serve all those in need.

Tuesday - Connections with the Liturgy
Annually on Good Friday, in the revised Solemn Reproaches (see Evangelical Lutheran Worship Leaders Desk Edition pp. 639-641), we conclude our litany of confession with a paragraph in which we repeat the words of today's Matthean parable: we gave Christ no food, no drink, we did not welcome him, we gave him no clothes. Remembering his parable, we beg for God's mercy, and we worship Christ who reigned from the cross Each Sunday that we sing the classic canticle of praise "Glory to God in the highest," we repeat Ephesians' language of the risen Christ "seated at the right hand" of Power in the heavenly places.

Wednesday - Especially for Children
Sometimes people say that they want to see Jesus, to meet him, talk with him, and take care of him. In the story we heard in today's gospel, Jesus says that when we acted in a kindly way to anyone who is in need, we helped him, since Jesus is among us now, in every one who needs our kindness and assistance. Even children can help others, and so be helping Jesus: by befriending the new kid on the block, by giving a dime from one's allowance to feed those who are poor.

Thursday - Life on the Earth
Many theologians teach that God is available to us as Savior only in Jesus Christ. Yet God can been seen as mighty creator in the earth itself. Perhaps in our time we can sometimes speak of caring for Christ when we care for the earth, as if the parable also included lines like "I was deforested, and you planted trees."

Friday - Reflection on the Gospel Reading
Unique to Matthew's Gospel, this parable includes all non-Jewish nations in the final judgment and the arrival of the kingdom of heaven. It refers to the Son of Man as "King," bridging earth and heaven. Using everyday Palestinian imagery of mixed sheep and goats alongside the fires of Gehenna—the burning garbage dump outside Jerusalem—Matthew emphasizes the mandatory love of neighbor. Writing decades after the resurrection, Matthew asserts not only that Christ remains with believers always (28:20), but that he is unexpectedly present in the midst of all peoples across the world.

Saturday - Hymn of the Day
The hymn "Thine the Amen" (ELW 826) is ideal for the last Sunday of the church year. Written by Lutheran hymnwriter Herbert Brokering at Holden Village, its stanzas trace the entire redemption story. Stanza one celebrates the weekly Word and table, stanza two recalls Jesus' crucifixion, and stanza three celebrates the resurrection. Stanzas four and five point toward the consummation of all things, with stanza four's "welcome to the least" reflecting today's gospel reading. The hymn transforms the crucifixion tree into the tree of life within the city of God. Ultimately, it emphasizes that only God remains at the end of time—"only thee, only thee."

CHURCH Announcements

Thank you for your offering of **$12,712.61** for the week of **November 15th!**
General Fund year-to-date update as of 10/31/2026
Revenues: **$483,854.25** Expenditures: **$547,208.98**

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by Allen & Diane Dockter for their Anniversary. **Thank You!**

The Men of Faith are hosting a **Spaghetti Benefit Dinner** for **Donna and John Gilbertson** on **Monday, November 23rd at 5:30 PM** at the church. Donna has faced severe health complications from diabetes since February, resulting in **bilateral below-the-knee amputations** and ongoing care at Sanford Hospital and St. Vincent's Nursing Home. Donations can be made by writing checks to **Faith Lutheran** with "**For the Gilbertson Benefit**" in the memo line.

Thanksgiving is coming up! Join us on **Tuesday, November 24th at 7pm for our annual Community Thanksgiving Service at Legacy United Methodist Church** (4600 Durango Drive, Bismarck). Join in worship with other area churches, hear from a guest speaker from CATCH (free will offering collected for their ministry), and join us for the **Pie Social** after!

Please note there will be **no service on Wednesday, November 25th,** and our **office will be closed from Wednesday, November 25, through Friday, November 27,** for Thanksgiving. In December, there will also be no worship service on **Wednesday, December 23rd.**

Make sure to join us on **Sunday, December 13th at 9:45am for our Congregational Meeting.** Come hear about and vote on the 2027 budget, new Executive Committee members and Compass Group chairs, and hear about our plans for the future. Hope to see you there!

The Interfaith Alliance of North Dakota, in partnership with Palm Sunday Path, is offering a **Voicing Your Values** workshop series from **October to December on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Lord of Life Lutheran Church (1143 N. 26th St).** Designed to help you effectively share your values with friends, family, and policymakers, you can attend any or all sessions. Upcoming classes include **November 19** on **Letters to the Editor and Written Testimony** led by Steve Andrist, and **December 17** on **Testifying at the ND State Legislature** (in person or online) led by Rudie Martinson.

Message & Liturgy: Pastor Derek
Music: Colleen Reinhardt

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CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS
At Faith Lutheran

Altar Guild will be **selling Christmas Poinsettias** in honor or memory of loved ones, or just because, for the Christmas season! Sign-ups will be available on **Sunday, November 29th, Wednesday, December 2nd, and Sunday, December 6th, before and between services,** or you can call the office at (701) 223-2236. Poinsettias will be **$15 each** and will decorate the sanctuary through the Christmas season.

The **Faith Lutheran Crafters have ornaments for sale** in honor or memory of loved ones again this year! These ornaments will be available **for purchase at $5 each between services on November 22nd, 29th, and December 6th.** You can also call the church office to reserve them. The ornaments will hang on the church tree during the Christmas season and will be available for pick-up as a keepsake starting in January. The proceeds from the sale will be given to the "Sunshine Fund".

Join us on **Wednesdays in Advent, starting December 2nd, for a Soup Lunch at 11:15am, and 12:05pm Midweek Worship Service**, along with our usual 7pm Worship Service. Hope to see you there!

Please join us for the **Men's Christmas Supper on Thursday, December 3rd at 6pm.** The Meal consists of traditional ham, potatoes, green beans, and bars, with carol singing and a freewill offering going towards the upcoming 2027 Youth Gathering. If anyone requires transportation, please contact the church with your name and address and arrangements will be made. **Sign ups available to bring bars!**

Join us on **Saturday, December 12th at 9am for our Annual Cookie Walk!** Please consider baking your specialties to sell at this event! **The sign-up sheet for workers will be in the gathering area.**

Make sure to join us on **Thursday, December 24th at 3pm, 5pm, and 11pm for our Christmas Eve services, and Friday, December 25th at 10am for our Christmas Day service!** Be on the lookout for Worship Assistant sign-ups coming soon!

CALENDAR

Thursday, November 19
6:00 Knit & Crochet Group
7:00 Voicing Your Values (Lord of Life)

Friday, November 20
5:45 Improv Workshop
8:00 NA

Saturday, November 21

Sunday, November 22
8:30 Worship
9:45 Church School
11:00 Worship
4:00 Cub Scouts

Monday, November 23
7:00 AA

Tuesday, November 24
9:00 Quilting
2:00 Crafts
7:00 Scouts
7:00 Community Thanksgiving Worship

Wednesday, November 25
Church Office Closed
No Church School/Confirmation
No Worship Services

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