

Wednesday, September 3, 2025 13th Week after Pentecost Rally Day!



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
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ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING SONG: "I Will Call Upon the Lord"

READING (see next page)

SERMON

SONG: ACS 1006 "By Grace We Have Been Saved" *

TEACHER INSTALLATION

OFFERING

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

HOLY COMMUNION

BLESSING

SENDING SONGS: ELW 540 "Go, Make Disciples" *

DISMISSAL

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

READING

Reading: *Luke 5:27-32*

After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up, left everything, and followed him.

Then Levi gave a great banquet for him in his house, and there was a large crowd of tax collectors and others reclining at the table with them. The Pharisees and their scribes were complaining to his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus answered them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician but those who are sick; I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

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

BRINGING IT HOME

This section provides guidance on how to discuss a passage from the Revised Common Lectionary for the week as a family! The devotions for this week are for Luke 14:25-33

Reflection Questions

- We are in the Season after Pentecost, when the church grows in love, faith, and community. Jesus invites people to decide what matters most and what it means to follow him. What else does he say in our story?
- In the story, Jesus said something confusing: we must "hate" even our families. The word for "hate" here doesn't mean to be mean or angry; instead, "hate" means to turn away from something to follow a different path. What does Jesus want us to turn toward?
- Jesus uses surprising statements and stories to help us think, listen, and choose what is loving and just. What choice might not be easy to make, even though you know it is the loving and right thing to do?
- Jesus talked about a builder and a king. Let's re-read that part. What do these examples have in common? What do they show us about commitment and courage?
- What would you give up to advocate for someone else?

Activity

Jesus uses strong words and bold examples to help us know following him isn't always easy. We must consider what matters most and let go of things that get in the way. Jesus asks us to carry our own cross, or live by our values even when it's hard. A value is something you believe is really important to live by: respect, patience, helping others, telling the truth, trying your best, etc. Encourage the children in your life to name as many values as they can, recording them on a piece of paper or electronically. Then, invite the children to pick the top five values most important to them, and write, or draw, them down on their index card.

For added movement, consider placing values around the room. Children then walk to the one they value most, and share a time they lived it out.

For a game, create cards with values and matching action cards (e.g., kindness + helping a friend). Children match pairs and act out living their values.

Converse with them using these questions:

- Which value is the easiest to follow? Which is the hardest?
- When has following one of your values “cost” you something? What did you give up?
- What values do you live by that come from following Jesus?
- Are there moments when you act in ways that don't match your values? What helps you return to what matters?

End by affirming that following Jesus isn't about being perfect. Instead, it's about growing and choosing again and again to live in ways that are loving, just, and true. Invite participants to take their values list home as a reminder of who they are and who they're becoming.



Look it Up!

How do intentional communities benefit people?

Look up types of intentional communities: co-ops, housing cooperatives, mutual-aid groups, or shared land for growing food. How can groups like these support one another even if they don't all have the same resources?

Prayer

God, our teacher, your way of love is like no other. It expands our hearts and stretches our imagination, which is not always comfortable or easy. Keep us focused on this journey, sharing your radiant love with all the earth. Amen.



CHURCH
Announcements

Thank you for your offering of **\$10,441.98** for the week of **August 31st**!

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by Roberta Modin, in memory of Robert and Ramona Sletten.

Thank you!

We will be returning to our **Fall Worship Hours**, 8:30am and 11am services, on **Sunday, September 7th**.

Our **September newsletter is now available** online and in the mail! If you would like to pick up a paper copy, they are available on the table across from the Avenue C entrance. You can always update your newsletter preferences by calling the front office, or by emailing communications.bisfaith@gmail.com!

Our **Knit/Crochet Group will now be meeting on Thursday, September 4th at 6pm** (instead of tomorrow, August 28th). Please join if you would like to spend more time with other knit/crochet enthusiasts, would like to work on a project of your own, would like to pick up patterns or yarn to make hats for non-profits, or would just like more information!

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

Sign-ups for the Rice Pudding booth at Downtown Street Fair on **Friday, September 12th and Saturday, September 13th** are now available! You can find them in the Gathering Place, next to the Coffee Hour table. We need volunteers to cook, work at the booth, and drive between the church and the fair, especially in the afternoons/evenings. Many hands make light work, so please consider signing up!

Please join us **on Thursday, September 11th 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 Lord of Life Lutheran (1143 N 26th Street, 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 October 9th (at Trinity Lutheran, 502 N 4th St, Bismarck), with more opportunities coming soon!

Sign-ups available now for **Serving the Banquet on Thursday, September 18th!** We need volunteers to serve from 4pm to 8pm, and to bake and bring bars. Look for sign-ups next to the Coffee Fellowship table.

All ages and skill levels invited to **join us for Worship-Palooza! Join us on Sunday, September 28th from 5:30-7pm for a light supper and evening of planning for our Advent and Christmas season.** We will have a time of devotion on our Advent theme, then split into Visual Arts, Music and Liturgy groups to brainstorm on how to convey our theme in worship. Talk to Pastor Sylvia or Judy Kubischta if you would like more information!

The **FLC Scholarship Committee** is pleased to announce the **2025 recipients** of \$500, for tuition at the university of their choice, chosen based on being active members of FLC and their community: **Madison Wutzke, Connor Dykema, and Hailey Dykema**. Congratulations to these amazing students! We ask that you **prayerfully consider contributing monetarily or joining the FLC Scholarship Committee**, so we can continue to assist FLC youth. Our committee and our scholarship award recipients appreciate your prayers and contributions!

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!

Join the Alzheimer's Association on **Saturday, October 11th at the Capitol for the Walk to End Alzheimer's**. Money raised will go to the care, support and research efforts of the Alzheimer's Association. Talk to Lisa Bennett for more information, and register today at alz.org/walks.

Message: Pastor Derek Harkins
Liturgy: Pastor Sylvia Bull
Music: Dmytro Somkin

CALENDAR

Thursday, September 4

9:00 Esther Circle
6:00 Knit & Crochet Group

Friday, September 5

6:00 BisMan MS/HS Mock -in
(Peace Lutheran)
8:00 NA

Saturday, September 6

Sunday, September 7

Rally Day!

8:30 Worship
9:45 Church School
11:00 Worship
4:00 Cub Scouts

Monday, September 8

7:00 AA

Tuesday, September 9

9:00 Quilting
2:00 Crafts
6:00 Elementary Committee

Wednesday, September 10 **October Newsletter Deadline**

6:00 Church School and
Confirmation
7:00 Worship

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