

Wednesday, September 10, 2025
14th Week after Pentecost



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: ELW 666 "What Wondrous Love Is This" *

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

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 15:1-10*

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable: “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

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 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Reflection Questions

- We are in the Season after Pentecost, when the Church remembers how God’s Spirit helps us grow in love and service. This passage talks about God’s mercy, which means showing kindness even when it’s not deserved. What mercy was given in this story?
- Paul thought he was doing the right thing, but Jesus showed him mercy and a better way. Think of a time you were shown mercy—how did you feel?
- Paul talks about his past not to feel bad but to show how much he’s changed. How can learning from mistakes help us live in new ways?

- Paul says, “The grace of our Lord overflowed for me.” What are some real-life ways you’ve seen God’s love and mercy overflow in your life or someone else’s?
- At the end of the passage, Paul gives honor to God. What are some ways we can show we’re thankful for God’s mercy?

Activity

In 1 Timothy, the author shares how Jesus showed mercy to Paul, even though Paul had made many mistakes. Because of that mercy, Paul changed his life and helped others. Mercy isn’t just something offered in biblical times. We can practice helping people grow and make our communities stronger and kinder places to live every day too.

Begin by explaining to the children in your life that mercy means giving someone a new chance, just like Jesus gave Paul. Mercy helps people grow in love, kindness, and understanding. It also helps us build better friendships and stronger communities. Next, think of some simple situations to act out. Some examples might be: a friend accidentally breaks a toy and wants to apologize and replace it, a new student feels left out and wants to join a game, or a neighbor forgets to return something they borrowed. Together, act out how mercy can help fix the problem and bring people back together.

After role playing, talk about what they noticed. How did mercy help the people in each story? How did showing mercy make people feel loved, safe, and welcomed in their community? Encourage them to think about times when mercy helped them, or someone they know, grow into kinder people.

To conclude, invite the children to draw or write about a time mercy changed something for the better. Remind them that, like Paul, God’s mercy helps each of us grow into kinder, stronger people who can help others, too.



Look it Up!

Did you know your brain can grow and change?

Look up neuroplasticity. When you try new things, solve problems, or show kindness, your brain builds new pathways— helping you become more patient, creative, and compassionate every day.

Prayer

God of mercy, your love is stronger, louder, and more vibrant than any of our mistakes! You meet us with kindness, not punishment, and call us to grow. May we never stop trying to share love and bring healing to our world. Amen.



CHURCH
Announcements

Thank you for your offering of **\$13,172.18** for the week of **September 7th!**

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by Larry and Shelley Hill, in memory of Beverly Hill. **Thank you!**

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!

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!

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.

Recent deportations, arrests and detainments have had a significant impact on our community in the past week, with many local families separated from parents or spouses unexpectedly. . **Bismarck Global Neighbors has started a Heart Fund, dedicated to supporting families in crisis with essentials like food, rent, utilities and childcare.** All funds will be held and distributed locally, with accountability and transparency, with Global Neighbors working directly with local families. If you are **interested in contributing, you can send a check to Bismarck Global Neighbors with “Heart Fund” in the memo line, or give directly on their website.** Please also be in prayer for these families, and that our community will embody Christ’s love in this moment. The pastors will also be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Please join us **tomorrow, 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!

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!

Interested in learning about our **new Assisted Listening Device System?** We recently upgraded our system so you can connect your Bluetooth enabled hearing aid directly to our system, as well as use our Assisted Listening Devices here at church. Join us for a **brief training on Sunday, September 28th at 9:45am or 10:45am** to learn more. Please **bring your smartphone with you if you have one!**

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! **Saturday, 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 Sylvia Bull
Liturgy: Pastor Derek Harkins
Music: Dmytro Somkin

CALENDAR

Thursday, September 11

2:00 Knit & Crochet Group
5:00 Scripture Circle
7:00 Ruth Circle

Friday, September 12 **Downtown Street Fair**

8:00 NA

Saturday, September 13 **Downtown Street Fair**

Sunday, September 14

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

Monday, September 15

7:00 AA

Tuesday, September 16

9:00 Quilting
2:00 Crafts

Wednesday, September 17

1:30 Edgewood Service
4:00 Worship and Music
6:00 3rd Grade P/S
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