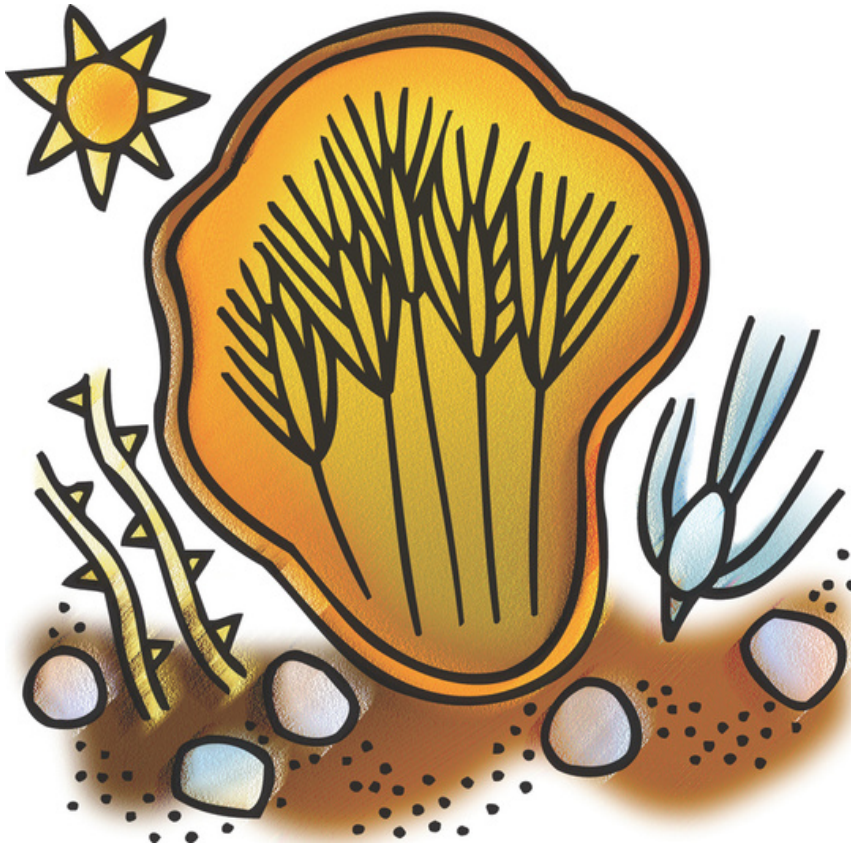


Sunday, July 12, 2026
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost



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

Sylvia Bull

1402 E Ave C Bismarck, ND 58501

Pastoral Care Emergency Number: 701-595-0223

faithbismarck.com

701-223-2236

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN: ELW 856 "How Great Thou Art" *

BAPTISM OF SKYLEE MANSFIELD, CHILD OF GOD

GREETING

KYRIE: by Ben Splichal Larson

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Word: God speaks to us through scripture reading, preaching and song.

READINGS: see next page

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: by Ben Splichal Larson

GOSPEL READING: see next page

CHILDREN'S SERMON & SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: ACS 975 "O God, Whose Word Well-Planted" *

SHARING OF THE PEACE

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

Meal: God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING & HOLY, HOLY, HOLY: by Ben Splichal Larson

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN:

ELW 697 "Just a Closer Walk With Thee" *

ELW 752 "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" *

Sending: God blesses us and sends us into the world to love and serve our neighbors.

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN: ELW 838 "Beautiful Savior" *

DISMISSAL

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

READING(S)

First Reading: *Isaiah 55:10-13*

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Second Reading: *Romans 8:1-11*

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. If you have ears, hear!"

“Hear, then, the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

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

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Monday - Prayer of the Day

The prayer of the day comes from #85 in the 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. The seed of the word grows in us, forming us to live by the Spirit of the risen Christ.

Tuesday - Connections with the Liturgy

In each Thanksgiving at Table, we pray with Paul that the Spirit of God come to dwell among us: with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us; Holy God, we long for your Spirit; Come, Holy Spirit; pour out upon us the Spirit of your love; send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, whose breath revives us for life; Come, Spirit of freedom!; we pray for the gift of your Spirit, in our gathering, within this meal, among your people; the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior, to establish our faith in truth; Come, Holy Spirit.

Wednesday - Let the Children Come

Seeds are never too hard to find, and they are a great way to hold Jesus' words in our hands today. Find seeds of any variety: sunflower seeds from the convenience store, seeds from the inside of an apple in your fridge, a packet of seeds that

haven't yet made their way into a pot or garden this season. Distribute these seeds to the children in your life to hold throughout the service, or during prayers or reading the Bible at home. Invite them to reflect on how the word of God's kingdom is like a seed, mysteriously ready to sprout and grow with God's watering and tending.

Thursday - Life on the Earth

The reading from Isaiah includes both a naturalistic description of the rain nourishing the grain and a poetic passage in which the trees are clapping their hands. This earth, with its snowstorms and its singing hills, is God's gift to us. May we treasure it.

Friday - Reflection on the Gospel

Christians have used Matthew's parable of the sower to honor the preaching of the word and to encourage right and fruitful reception of it.

Saturday - A Hymn for the Day

A hymn appropriate for the day is "As rain from the clouds" (ELW 508). Like the hymn suggested for last week, this also was crafted by the Benedictine sister Delores Dufner. By focusing on rain, grain, and sun rays, the stanzas pray that God soften our soil and make it fertile, and shine the light of the word onto the earth. God is the gardener, God is the farmer.



CHURCH
Announcements

Thank you for your offering of **\$10,392.04** for the week of **July 5th!**

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by Carolyn Olson, Scott & Jonna Wutzke & family, in memory of John Olson. **Thank you!**

The **July Newsletter** is now in the mail and available online! Paper copies can be found on the table in front of the Avenue C Entrance.

We celebrate the **baptism of Skylee Mansfield**, child of Brandon and Carly Mansfield, with Chad Boger, Chelsea Ensz and Jasmine Duginski as sponsors.

Welcome to our church family, child of God!

Our **All Comer's Choir** will rehearse on **Sunday, July 19th and Sunday, July 26th at 8:30am in preparation to sing in worship on Sunday, July 26th**. All ages and abilities are welcome to join in sharing this gift of music!

We are needing **volunteers to help with watering outdoor plants here at church this summer!** The time commitment would be once a week for about 30 minutes. Call the church office at (701) 223-2236 if you can help us out.

We are so excited to announce this year's **FLC Summer Week of Service! From July 25th to 30th**, we have a full schedule each day of service opportunities, meals, and fun activities open to the congregation. We hope that you will find moments to join us as we serve others in all kinds of different ways and build relationships within our community and across the area. **Check out the schedule and sign up today in the Gathering Place!**

You are invited to an **Open House Baby Shower for Pastor Sylvia and our administrative assistant, Caitlin McCleary, this morning after our 9:30am worship service.** In lieu of gifts, please bring donations of newborn diapers, baby wipes, baby hygiene items (such as lotion, baby wash, diaper cream and towels) and baby socks and onesies for pregnant and new mothers at Heart River Correctional Center. We are excited to celebrate with you!

Join us **this Saturday, July 18th for a Medical Benefit for member Heather Zins.** Travel and other costs for a cornea transplant have caused financial insecurity for her and her family. The benefit will consist of a **Taco Bar from 4-7pm (free will donation) and a Silent Auction.** You can contact Brandy Schmaltz at bszns1@gmail.com to donate Silent Auction items. You can also donate at First Community Credit Unions in ND or MN through the Jeff Zins Benefit account.

Faith Lutheran will be hosting a **Clothing Drive on Saturday, August 8th from 9-5!** We are asking for **donations of clothing for all ages, including backpacks for school children.** Sack lunches will also be provided. Watch the bulletin for further information!

In order to **fill 100 school kits for Lutheran World Relief, we need the following items: 400 Notebooks, 75 rulers, blunt scissors and crayons (24 count) and 150 black or blue pens (not gel).** We have enough of the other items to complete the kits. If you would like to donate any items, please leave them at the office and we will use them when we put the kits together in August.

This summer, **we are looking for more people willing to give rides to church!** We are currently looking for a few more drivers to use their personal vehicle, or our bus or van, to transport a group of people to service this summer, and to the 8:30 starting in the Fall. We are also looking to potentially pair up individuals or couples who can give rides with other couples or individuals that would like one. **If you can give rides to a group about once a month, or could regularly give rides to one individual or couple, or would be interested in a ride, please call the front office** to let us know you are interested, and which service you normally attend.

We want to hear from you! This summer, we **invite you to vote in our Summer Gladness Favorite Hymn Bracket Tournament.** We will start with 64 hymns, **voting each week,** until we find out Faith Lutheran's favorite hymn! Voting sheets can be found next to the bulletins. Look out for the top 8 hymns to be featured in worship throughout July! Which hymn do YOU think will win?

Message & Liturgy: Pastor Sylvia Bull

Assisting Minister: John Power

Music: Dmytro Somkin, FLC Bell Choir

Worship Team -

Team 1: Janica Sabot, Lyla Timm, Sue Rydberg, Greg Hoffman, Anita Hoffman, Damien Reinhart, Tori Reinhart, Eden Reinhart, Lawson Reinhart

CALENDAR

Monday, July 13

7:00 AA

Tuesday, July 14

9:00 Quilting

2:00 Crafts

Wednesday, July 15

10:00 Bible Study

7:00 Worship

Thursday, July 16

Friday, July 17

8:00 NA

Saturday, July 18

4:00 Heather Zins Medical Benefit

Sunday, July 19

9:30 Worship

MISSION Focus

JULY/AUGUST: BECEP

BECEP, located across 14th Street from our church, works together with families and the community to support and promote Early Childhood Education. They serve children birth to 5 years old, and work with their families to give young children the best environments to grow and thrive in.

We are asking for donations to help them in their mission!

They are currently asking for children's clothes (size 4/5 through 8/10), girls and boys backpacks, hats, waterproof mittens, and snow pants.

"[Jesus] said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them." - Mark 10: 14b-16

