

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

Lent Midweek

The Good News is Protection and Care for the Vulnerable



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

CENTERING MOMENT

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

BREAKING NEWS UPDATE

SONG: ACS 987 "Guide My Feet" *

GOSPEL RE-ENACTMENT - Jesus Blesses Children

Characters: Jesus, John, Judas, Children, Crowd, Joanna, Shiloh

POEM - "Unwritten Agreement" by Rev. Sarah A. Speed

RESPONSIVE PRAYERS

During this time of prayer, we invite you to pray over the ribbon you received at the beginning of worship. You could pray for someone who needs to hear this week's good news, to be able to hear it in your own life, or give thanks for somewhere you see this good news in the world. When you are ready, you can bring up your ribbon and tie it to one of the branches of the trees as a visual sign of your prayer.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

HOLY COMMUNION

BLESSING

SONG: "Bring Forth The Kingdom"

DISMISSAL

READING

Reading: *Matthew 19:13-15*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 19th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Then children were being brought to [Jesus] in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them, but Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

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

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Why do you think the disciples were trying to keep the children away from Jesus?
- Jesus tells the people that they need to be more like children. What do you think he means by that? What are some of the things kids are better at than adults?
- The parents of the children were hoping for a blessing from Jesus. We still do that in our church when we baptize a new baby. What prayer, words of hope, or blessing would you give a new baby?
- In Jesus' time, children were ignored and not seen as important. Who are some people that are overlooked today?
- The laws in the Hebrew Bible have lots of ways to care for people who are ignored, like not picking all the fruit and vegetables in your garden so people without food can come harvest from your garden. What are some ways to care for others in our community?

POEM

Unwritten Agreement

We have this unwritten agreement,
us members of humanity.
When the toddler at the coffee shop runs round the corner,
when her mom, at the register, looks up in panic,
we, the adults in the room, will pledge,
with quick smiles and silent head nods, to keep watch.
We will lean out of our seats.
We will put down our phones.
We will stand at the ready
to scoop up,
to offer words of comfort,
to make silly faces,
to keep an eye on the door.
And we will do this,
because we cannot ignore the instinct to care.
We will do this,
because we cannot ignore the child right in front of us.
We will do this,
because love always includes the least of these.



CHURCH
Announcements

Thank you for your offering of **\$15,140.68** for the week of **March 15!**

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by Bonnie Kubler and Jamie Zins, in memory of Bev and Jerry Zins. **Thank you!**

The **March Newsletter is now in the mail and available online!** If you would like to pick up a paper copy, look on the table in front of the Avenue C entrance.

Lent is here! Join us on **Wednesdays at 11:15am for Soup Lunch, and Midweek Services at 12:05pm and 7pm. Sign-ups** are currently available on the table next to the Coffee Hour area to **bring bread and bars for our Lent Soup Lunches!**

Easter is almost here! Please join us for **Maundy Thursday, April 2, at 7pm, Good Friday, April 3 at 12:05pm or 7pm, the Community Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 4th at 7pm (hosted at Bismarck UCC) and Easter Sunday, April 5th at 7am, 9am, or 11am.** Don't forget our **Easter Sunday Continental Breakfast from 7:30am-11am** to support our youth with your free will offering!

Holy Week Worship Assisant Sign-ups are now available in the Gathering Place! We appreciate all the volunteers that help make our Holy Week services possible.

Join others in our community for **Beer and Hymns this Monday, March 23rd at 7pm** at the Mandan Eagles!

The Faith Crafters have created **handmade Easter cards, table favors and Easter basket stuffers that they will be selling between services this Sunday, March 22nd.**

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.**

Don't forget to **direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars!** Individuals with certain types of accounts can direct money, donated by Thrivent, to specific non-profits in the area. The **deadline to direct your Dollars is Monday, March 31st.** Make sure to log-in to the online portal, or talk to your Thrivent representative, to select any non-profits you would like to support. In the past, we have used Thrivent Choice Dollars to fund devotionals and Bible Study materials, speakers and special events at Faith Lutheran. Thank you for supporting non-profits!

Please join us **Thursday, April 9th 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 here at Faith Lutheran, 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 another Scripture Circle opportunity on May 14th (Lutheran Church of the Cross, 1004 E Highland Acres Rd, Bismarck)!

Join us on **Thursday, April 16th at 6pm for Taste of Home-Ukraine!** Enjoy a delicious variety of homemade dishes from Ukraine, hear personal stories of resilience and hope, and connect with others in the spirit of community. **Free-will Offering will go to support Global Neighbors** and their mission to empower and support local newcomers as they build new lives in our community.

Please join us on **Sunday, May 17th at 4:30pm for a concert featuring Dmytro Somkin and Kseniia Somkina!** Free-will offering will go towards Dima and his family as they assess the best way to attain long-term legal residency here in the US.

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

Front Bulletin Image, Slide and Advertising Graphics (Graphic design by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman), portions of the liturgy (by Rev. Sarah A. Speed), Gospel Re-enactment and Reflection Questions (by Rev. Anna Strickland), and "Unwritten Agreement" (by Rev. Sarah A. Speed), 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

Thursday, March 19

Friday, March 20

8:00 NA

Saturday, March 21

Sunday, March 22

8:30 Worship

9:45 Church School

10:00 All Comers' Choir Rehearsal

11:00 Worship

4:00 Cub Scouts

Monday, March 23

3:30 Worship & Music

7:00 Beer & Hymns (Mandan Eagles)

7:00 AA

Tuesday, March 24

9:00 Quilting

2:00 Crafts

5:15 BIO Girls

6:00 Compass Group

7:00 Executive Committee

7:00 Scouts

Wednesday, March 25

10:00 Lent Bible Study

11:15 Lent Soup Lunch

12:05 Worship

5:30 Handbells

6:00 Church School & Confirmation

6:00 Lent Book Study

7:00 Worship

MISSION Focus



MARCH: SCOUTING FOR FOOD

This month, we will be partnering with the Scouts in their Scouting for Food Project! Bring in any non-perishable food items throughout the month of March, and the scouts will bring them to food banks throughout the community. The Northern Lights Council is looking to keep growing this event, and reach their goal of 85,000 pounds of food collected, and your contributions can help!

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat." - Matthew 25:35