

**Sunday, August 17, 2025**  
**10th 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**

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# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**GATHERING HYMN: ELW 519 "Open Your Ears, O Faithful People" \***

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

## GREETING

**KYRIE & HYMN OF PRAISE: ELW Setting 10, pg 203-204 \***

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

**READINGS:** see next page

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW Setting 10, pg. 205 \***

**GOSPEL READING:** see next page

## CHILDREN'S SERMON & SERMON

**HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 704 "When Pain of the World Surrounds Us" \***

## APOSTLES' CREED

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**OFFERING MOMENT** - Special Performance of "The Lord's Prayer" from Dmytro "Dima" Somkin (our new Music Coordinator)

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

**GREAT THANKSGIVING & HOLY, HOLY, HOLY: ELW Setting 10, pg. 207 \***

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

## COMMUNION HYMNS:

**LAMB OF GOD: ELW Setting 10, pg. 208 \***

**ELW 491 "Come, Let Us Eat" \***

**ELW 484 "You Satisfy the Hungry Heart" \***

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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

## BLESSING

**SENDING HYMN: ELW 815 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" \***

## DISMISSAL

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

## GOING DEEPER

- What is on your heart as you come to worship today?
- What connected with you in the sermon today?
- What challenged you?
- What prayers are on your heart today?
- What nourishment do you need from Jesus for the days ahead?
- What will you carry with you from worship this week?

## READING(S)

### **First Reading:** *Jeremiah 23:23-29*

Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord. I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the Lord. Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

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

### **Second Reading:** *Hebrews 11:29 - 12:2*

### **Gospel Reading:** *Luke 12:49-56*

The Holy Gospel according the Luke, the 12<sup>th</sup> Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

[Jesus said:] "I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided:

father against son  
and son against father,  
mother against daughter  
and daughter against mother,  
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law  
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain,' and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

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

## **DWELLING IN THE WORD**

- What words or phrases catch your attention in the reading(s)? What surprises you?
- What questions do you have?
- What might God be saying to you, or to us as a community, through the reading(s)?

## **WEEKLY DEVOTIONS**

### **Monday - Prayer of the Day**

O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

### **Tuesday - Connections with the Liturgy**

Jeremiah proclaims that God fills heaven and earth. We sing this in the "Holy, holy, holy" of the eucharist: "Heaven and earth are full of your glory."

### **Wednesday - Especially for Children**

What are good things about fire? Fire brings warmth, it can light the darkness, it protects ancient peoples from wild animals, it cooks our food, it melts metals so they can be shaped into tools that we need, it burns up our trash, and when forests burn, it releases seeds that require this heat to begin their growth. So God's word is like fire. When we think about it, we can see all the goodness that comes from God's fiery words.

### **Thursday - Connections with Creation**

Jesus states boldly, "I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!" (Luke 12:49). Listeners might note that fire has already come to the earth; wildfire season grows longer and more intense as our climate continues to change. Metaphorical fires are also raging; divisions much like Jesus describes are something many people in our pews face. So, what is the good news in a reading so blunt and descriptive? How do we interpret the present time while clinging to the resurrection promise?

### **Friday - Reflection on the Gospel Reading**

Luke writes that faithfulness to Christ and to the community of the baptized is likely to be countercultural, unpopular, even divisive. Much in current Christianity emphasizes instead the open inclusiveness of the church and its commitment to peace. This gospel reading reminds us that frequently, a statement about Christianity needs to be held together with its opposite. Next to the dove of peace is the sword of the word.

### **Saturday - Hymn of the Day**

As if we are preparing for the hardships that Luke anticipates, we may choose to sing "If God my Lord be for me" (ELW 788). The life of the eminent Lutheran hymnwriter Paul Gerhardt (1607–1676) was marked by the agonies of the Thirty Years' War, troubles in his ministry, and sorrows in his family. Yet he trusts in Christ, who is his salvation, his eternal good, his splendor, the sun, light, defender, and king.



The offering total for the week of **August 10** will be available in next week's bulletin.

**Altar Flowers** for the week are provided by Dave and Rosy Watson, in memory of loved ones. **Thank you!**

We are excited to announce that we have **hired a new Music Coordinator!** **Dmytro "Dima" Somkin** grew up in Lutsk, Ukraine, and has an **impressive musical background**, including bachelor's and master's degrees in music from the Kyiv National University of Culture and Arts, performing as a soloist with several orchestras and choirs in Europe, and teaching vocals and piano. Dima has visited 35 countries in total through touring concerts, including Bismarck in 2018. **Dima moved to Bismarck together with his wife and child (with another born in Bismarck) in September 2024.** He also teaches piano and voice lessons, and enjoys the kindness and support of the people in Bismarck. He looks forward to meeting new people and making friends, and hopes that his piano playing and singing will help inspire others to do good works. He hopes to be an important spiritual support for all who attend our services. A more in-depth bio and picture will also be available in the September newsletter. **Welcome Dima!**

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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> (at Trinity Lutheran, 502 N 4<sup>th</sup> St, Bismarck), with more opportunities coming soon!

## *Church Announcements Continued*

Make sure to **join us today for Coffee Hour!** We will be **serving our famous Rice Pudding** for everyone, and **sign-ups to volunteer** for the Downtown Street Fair on Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> will be available. We need volunteers to cook, work at the booth, and drive between the church and the fair. Many hands make light work, so please consider signing up! Free Will Offering for Coffee Hour will go to buying supplies for the Rice Pudding booth.

Join us on **Wednesday, August 27<sup>th</sup> for a Hymn Sing Service** featuring Sounds of Faith and Colleen Reinhardt. Enjoy **special music, starting at 6:30pm**, before service begins. Hope to see you there!

We will be returning to our **Regular Worship Hours**, 8:30am and 11am services, on **Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>** (the weekend after Labor Day).

Mark your calendars for **Rally Day!** Join us on **Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>** for the start of the Church School year! **Registration forms available now** and Church School Handbook will be available soon at [faithbismarck.com/forms](http://faithbismarck.com/forms)!

**Message: Pastor Derek Harkins**

**Liturgy: Pastor Sylvia Bull**

**Music: Janine Johannes**

**Worship Assistants:**

**Team 2: John Wittenberg, Nikki Wittenberg, Shelby VonWahlde, Joe VonWahlde, Hope Schreiner, Shannon Schreiner, Billie Ann Caya, Sara Caya Giltner, Joyce Hellman**

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## CALENDAR

### Monday, August 18

7:00 AA

### Tuesday, August 19

9:00 Quilting

2:00 Crafts

5:15 HR Committee

6:00 Stewardship Committee

6:00 Elementary Committee

### Wednesday, August 20

10:00 Bible Study

2:00 Edgewood Service

7:00 Worship

### Thursday, August 21

### Friday, August 22

8:00 NA

### Saturday, August 23

### Sunday, August 24

9:30 Worship

# MISSION Focus



## AUGUST: LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF KITS

Throughout the year, our Quilters collect items to put in Personal Care, School and Baby Kits, sent to people in need around the world through Lutheran World Relief. Full lists are available on the Concierge Table and under our Serve tab on our website, but they are currently running low on shirts and t-shirts for boy and girls, size 6 month to 24 months, notebooks, pens, rulers, crayons and scissors.

Thank you for your generosity!

*If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the Lord your God is giving you... you should open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be. Deut. 15:7-8*