

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Second Week after Epiphany



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING SONG: "I Will Call Upon the Lord"

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

READING (see next page)

SERMON

SONG: "Peace Like a River"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING

WORD OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION (Song during is ELW 483 "Here Is Bread")

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONGS: ELW 538 "The Lord Now Sends Us Forth" *

DISMISSAL

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

READING

Reading: *John 1:29-42*

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 1st Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

[John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One."

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

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

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 John 1:29-42

Reflection Questions

- In this passage, John the Baptist introduces his followers to Jesus. Jesus is described by four different names here. What are they? What does each description tell us about who Jesus is?
- Who first uses each name to describe Jesus, and what is their relationship to him? How might this relationship impact how they see Jesus?
- John says he has seen and can testify Jesus is the Chosen One. We may not fully understand everything about Jesus or God, but we do know some true things about Jesus. What's something you know is true about Jesus?
- Where have you seen love like Jesus' in the world? In what people? Through what actions?
- How can you show what you believe about Jesus through your actions?

Activity

In this passage, John the Baptist sees Jesus and confidently says, "I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One." He notices who Jesus is, not just by words, but by the way Jesus shows up with love, humility, and truth. Together with the children in your life, listen to different real life scenarios, and come up with some responsive actions that reflect Jesus' way and some that don't. Invite the group to come up with two different responses for each scenario: one that reflects Jesus and one that does not.

Scenarios:

- someone forgets their lunch
- someone says, "You can't sit with us because you're weird."
- someone feels scared during a storm

- someone makes fun of another person's clothes
- someone notices a person becoming anxious while waiting in line
- someone says, "You don't believe in God, so you can't come to my party."
- someone's friend is sad
- someone shouts over others to get their way
- someone notices a new student sitting alone

After each set of responses, pause and ask, "What does that response tell us about love or justice? Have you ever seen someone model this type of behavior before? If so, who?" Keep the pace upbeat, but give everyone time to explain how they crafted their responses. Wrap up by saying: "Every time we act with love, courage, or kindness, we're being witnesses, just like John was."

Prayer

God who teaches, welcomes, loves, and protects, there is always more of you to discover! May we live with kindness, courage, and curiosity, inspiring those around us to say, "I want to come and meet Jesus too." Amen.

Look it Up!

Do you know about witness trees? These trees stood silently rooted during historical events like battles and marches.

Look up how people protect and visit these trees today to learn from the past by imagining what the tree might have seen.



**micro
PRACTICE**

**Jesus is called the Chosen One,
but God chooses each of us, too!**

**This week, post this phrase
somewhere you can see it to
remind yourself you are
chosen and beloved by God:
"God chooses you, (your
name), and God loves you!"**

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CHURCH
Announcements

Thank you for your offering of **\$12,965.46** for the week of **January 11th!**

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by Harold and Marvel Lue Harter. **Thank you!**

The **Church Office will be closed Monday, January 19th**, in honor of MLK Jr Day.

This year, we will be **mailing giving statements in mid-January!** You can also access a record of your donations in your ICON online portal.

All experience levels are invited to join us for **Choir Practice on Sundays at 10am** in the East Room! **Our next meeting will be January 25th.**

Our **2026 Flower Chart is up!** Sign up to sponsor altar flowers (cost is usually around \$60) on a Sunday during the year for a special event, in honor or memory of someone, or just because! Look for the flower chart out in the Gathering Place.

Please join us **tomorrow, January 15th 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 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 other Scripture Circle opportunities on February 12 and March 12 (location details coming soon)!

The next **Men of Faith meeting** will be **tomorrow January 15th, 2026 at 9AM** and will feature Ben Kubischta doing a presentation on Building the Interstate through the Badlands

All ages and skill levels invited to **join us for Worship-Palooza! Join us on Sunday, January 25th from 12:15pm - 1:15pm for an afternoon of planning for our Lent and Easter season.** We will have lunch with a time of devotion on our Lent theme, then split into groups to brainstorm on how to convey our theme in worship. Talk to Pastor Sylvia or Judy Kubischta if you would like more information!

Are you **stressed out about our divisive political climate**, yet unsure of how to respond? Join for conversation and support as we build connections and community **Sunday, January 25th at 5:15pm at Lucky's 13 (915 South 3rd St., Bismarck).** Questions? Reach out to Pastor Sylvia.

Thank you for all the gifts and treats brought in by members for staff during the Christmas season! It's always nice to have some extra Christmas cheer during this busy season.

Many members have reached out to **thank the church for Sunshine Bags and Flowers!** Thank you for helping provide some sunshine to those who may be struggling during the holiday season.

Message: Pastor Derek Harkins
Liturgy: Pastor Sylvia Bull
Music: Sounds of Faith

CALENDAR

Thursday, January 14

9:00 Men of Faith
5:00 Scripture Circle at Faith Lutheran

Friday, January 16

8:00 NA

Saturday, January 17

Sunday, January 18

8:30 Worship
9:45 Church School
9:45 5th Grade P/S
11:00 Worship

Monday, January 19

MLK Jr Day
Church Office Closed
7:00 AA

Tuesday, January 20

9:00 Quilting
2:00 Crafts
5:15 HR Committee
7:00 Scouts

Wednesday, January 21

10:00 Bible Study
5:30 Handbells
6:00 Church School and Confirmation
6:00 5th Grade P/S
7:00 Worship

MISSION Focus

JANUARY: STEPPING STONES MINISTRIES



Stepping Stones Ministries provides a safe and healing environment for individuals experiencing homelessness who need to recover from illness or injury. We are looking to support their mission with donations of toilet paper, tissues, and Lysol spray. Thank you for your generosity!

"... when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'" - Matthew 25:39-40