

Sunday, January 25, 2026

3rd Sunday 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

1402 E Ave C Bismarck, ND 58501

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN: ELW 650 "In Christ There Is No East or West" *

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

KYRIE: ELW Setting 8, pg. 184 *

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

READINGS: see next page

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW Setting 8, pg 188 *

GOSPEL READING: see next page

CHILDREN'S SERMON & SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 659 "Will You Let Me Be Your Servant"*

APOSTLES' CREED

SHARING OF THE PEACE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING MOMENT & PRAYER

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

GREAT THANKSGIVING & HOLY, HOLY, HOLY: ELW Setting 8, pg. 190 *

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMNS:

LAMB OF GOD: ELW Setting 8, pg. 191 *

ELW 479 "We Come to the Hungry Feast" *

ELW 494 "For the Bread Which You Have Broken" *

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

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN: ELW 547 "Sent Forth By God's Blessing" *

DISMISSAL

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

READING(S)

First Reading: *Isaiah 9:1-4*

Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 1:10-18*

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been made clear to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

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

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 4:12-23*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 4th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

"Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—
the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned."

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called

Readings Continued

Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Monday - Prayer of the Day

Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Tuesday - Connections with the Liturgy

Paul’s comments remind us that all Christians are baptized either into the name of our Lord Jesus Christ or into the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Baptism is into the Christian church as a whole, rather than into its denominational units, and nearly all branches and denominations of the church agree not to re-baptize anyone who has already received baptism.

Wednesday - Let the Children Come

You would think that for something as important as following Jesus we would need a lot of stuff. But Jesus tells us that what we most need is to let go, to keep our hearts open, and to say yes to going where God leads us. Share with the children in your life the wonderful hymn “Lead me, guide me” (ELW 768). They can be invited to clap or use percussive instruments (like tambourines or egg shakers) on the off beats of the refrain. We find in this hymn that following Jesus can be energetic, joyous, and fun.

Thursday - Images in the Readings

The gospel describes the first disciples as **fishermen**. This may be a memory of the profession of some in the Jesus movement. As well, it grounds the early Christian imagery of baptism as water, believers as water-dwellers, the net as the gospel, and the boat as the church. The Greek of the early Christian creed, “Jesus **[i]** Christ **[ch]**, God’s **[th]** Son **[u]**, Savior, **[s]**” produces the acronym ichthus, fish, and fish show up in much Christian iconography.

Friday - Reflection on the Gospel Reading

Matthew refers to Jesus as the great light and stresses the immediacy of the fishermen’s obedience to Jesus’ call. Jesus’ call is to repentance. Over the centuries, Christian theologians have variously understood what Matthew means by “the kingdom of heaven.”

Saturday - Hymn of the Day

A hymn appropriate for the day is “Jesus calls us; o’er the tumult” (ELW 696). The sea is made a metaphor for the restlessness of our very lives. The second stanza features the call of Andrew by the Sea of Galilee, as does today’s gospel. The last stanza is a prayer that we will follow Christ, as Andrew, Simon, James, and John did. The hymn was written in 1852 by Cecil Frances Alexander, the wife of an Irish Anglican priest, for the commemoration of St. Andrew on November 30.



CHURCH
Announcements

Thank you for your offering of **\$8,925.98** for the week of **January 18th!**

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by Mercy Carkuff, in memory of Greg. **Thank you!**

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.

Christmas Poinsettias and Christmas Ornaments are available for pick-up from the table in the Gathering Place. Thank you for helping decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas season!

All experience levels are invited to join us for **Choir Practice on Sundays at 10am** in the East Room!

Registration is open now for the Faith Lutheran BIO Girls group! BIO Girls aims to improve the self-esteem of adolescent girls through service to others and self-empowerment, using a life-skills curriculum and small-group mentoring. The program hosted here will be **Tuesdays from 5:15pm-6:45pm, starting Tuesday, February 17th until May 5th**, with a Finale Event on Sunday, May 3rd. More information and a **link to registration can be found on our Facebook page!**

All ages and skill levels invited to **join us for Worship-Palooza! Join us today, January 25th from 12:15pm - 1:15pm for an afternoon of planning for our Lent and Easter season.** We will have a light 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 **today, January 25th at 5:15pm at Lucky's 13 (915 South 3rd St., Bismarck).** Questions? Reach out to Pastor Sylvia.

Join us on **Friday, January 30th from 5:45 to 7:15 PM** at Faith Lutheran Church for a playful, hands-on **workshop in improv comedy and drama.** We'll cover the basics of good improv and create space for laughter, creativity, and connection with others from the church and local community. No experience needed — just a willingness to say “yes, and!” Teenagers are welcome with adult supervision. Questions? Contact Joseph Michalka at **joseph.michalka@gmail.com**. Newcomers are always welcome!

Join us on **Wednesday, February 4th starting at 6:30 for a Hymn Sing**, featuring Sounds of Faith and Colleen Reinhardt! Come sing along with your favorite hymns.

Come on out to an **Interfaith Potluck on Saturday, February 7th from 11:30am to 1pm at Lord of Life Lutheran Church (1143 N 26th St, Bismarck)**. Bring a dish to share from your cultural heritage, and learn how to plarn (weave with plastic yarn) mats for unhoused neighbors in our area. Bring your used plastic grocery bags (no Walmart or Dollar Store bags) to contribute. Come to make new friends, eat great food, and learn something new!

Please join us **Thursday, February 12th 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, 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 March 12th (McCabe UMC), April 9th, and May 14th!

Message: Pastor Sylvia Bull

Liturgy: Pastor Derek Harkins

Music: Dmytro Somkin

Worship Assistants:

8:30 - Team H: John Power, Jill Power, Larry Hill, Shelley Hill, Dwight Barden, Connie Barden, Doug Johnson, Betty Johnson

11:00 - Team 5: Harvey Haakenson, Vonnie Haakenson, Bob Hertz, Judy Hertz, Caitlin McCleary, Patty Maier, Sandee Jenkin, Pat Groce, Amy Groce, Anna Groce

CALENDAR

Monday, January 26

5:00 Altar Guild

7:00 AA

Tuesday, January 27

9:00 Quilting

2:00 Crafts

6:00 Compass Group

7:00 Executive Committee

7:00 Scouts

Wednesday, January 28

10:00 Bible Study

5:30 Handbells

6:00 5th Grade P/S

6:00 Church School and
Confirmation

7:00 Worship

Thursday, January 29

Friday, January 30

5:45 Improv Workshop

8:00 NA

Saturday, January 31

Sunday, February 1

8:30 Worship

9:45 Church School

10:00 Choir Practice

11:00 Worship

12:15 Youth/YA NC Mission Trip
Interest Meeting

4:00 Cub Scouts

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