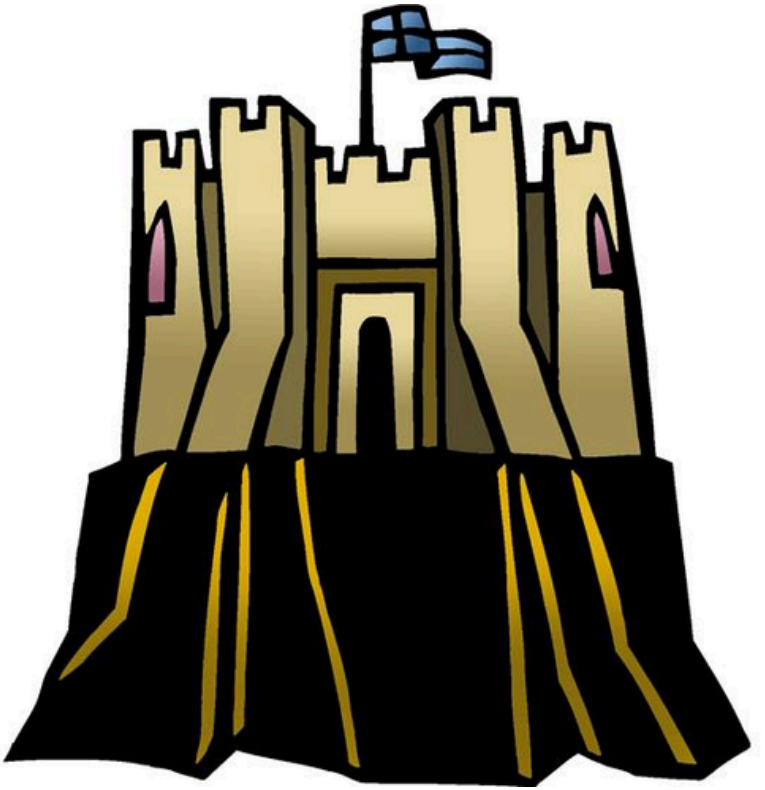
Wednesday, October 21, 2026
Reformation Week



Faith Lutheran Church

Mission Statement
"Building a welcoming, nurturing faith community that is guided by Jesus and shares the Gospel."

MINISTERS **Every Member**
SENIOR PASTOR **Derek Harkins**

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING SONG: ELW 513 "Listen, God Is Calling" *

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

READING: see next page

SERMON

SONG: ACS 1048 "Founded on Faith" *

RECEIVING OF NEW MEMBERS

OFFERING

HOLY COMMUNION

BLESSING

SENDING SONG: ELW 504 "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" *

DISMISSAL

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

READING(S)

Reading: *Matthew 22:34-46*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 22nd Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

When the Pharisees heard that [Jesus] had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

'The Lord said to my Lord,
"Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet" '?

"If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

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 Matthew 22:34-46.

Reflection Questions

- We are in the Season after Pentecost, a time when the church grows in its understanding of how faith shapes life together. When religious leaders tried to trick Jesus by asking him what law was the greatest, how did Jesus answer?
- What did Jesus say are the two greatest commandments?
- By pairing these two commandments, Jesus shows us that loving God means loving our neighbors, and loving our neighbors means loving God. How do you share this love?
- What do you notice when people's actions show love for others? What do you notice when they don't?
- When we help everyone live well together, how is God's goodness shown through us?

Activity

Before the session, create a large infinity symbol (∞) on the floor. Label one loop "Love God" and the other "Love Neighbor." Prepare scenarios about loving God and loving neighbor. Invite participants to walk the infinity path together. Explain that the infinity symbol (∞) is a line that loops around and crosses through the middle without a beginning or an end. It often represents something that continues without stopping. Today, we'll use it to explore how Jesus connects loving God and loving our neighbors. As we follow the line, notice how each loop continually leads into the other.

Share with participants that Jesus pairs these two commandments together. Loving God shapes how we love our neighbors, and loving our neighbors is part of how we show love to God. What might happen if we imagine these two kinds of love being connected? Pause participants at different points along the path, and

offer a scenario: welcoming someone lonely, sharing food, praying for your community, caring for creation, speaking up when someone is treated unfairly, or making time for rest. Ask, "Where might this action belong on our infinity path?"

Participants can move to either loop or stand where the loops meet. When in place, invite the youth to explain their choices. Encourage disagreement and movement as participants hear one another's ideas. There doesn't need to be a single correct place. In the final round, invite participants to create their own situations, and then decide where to stand. Ask: "Where would this belong on our infinity path?" "What did you discover when you tried to separate loving God from loving our neighbors?" "How does one lead us back to the other?"

Prayer

God of wisdom, your love is like rich soil in a bountiful garden, nourishing vibrant life. May we be like gardeners planting seeds of compassion and care, choosing to love God and our neighbors in all that we do. Amen.

Look it Up!

Some schools charge for daily lunches, and some families cannot afford them. Did you know that communities sometimes work together to pay off students' school lunch debt?

Look up an example. How does ensuring everyone can eat show love for our neighbors?



CHURCH
Announcements

Thank you for your offering of $19,802.56 for the weeks of October 11th & 18th!

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by Delmar & Marlene Adolf, in memory of Bruce. **Thank you!**

We are excited to **officially welcome** Lynn Lundgren (Wednesday) and Delores Helm (Sunday 8:30) as **new members of our church.** Welcome to our Church Family!

Friends at Faith,
Thank you for your prayers, hugs, and comforting sympathy cards. Your kind expressions of sympathy brought peace and a reminder of the love & faith we share.
With grateful appreciation, Cheryl Johnson & Family

October brings our annual **Pie & Coffee event on Saturday, October 24th.** It will be a fun day to enjoy a piece of pie with our community. There will be **baked items, knoephla, and Rice Pudding** to purchase, **soup and sandwiches provided by the youth,** and of course, treasures to be found in **the White Elephant rooms.** We are adding something **NEW – kuchen for sale. On Friday, October 23rd at 5:30 pm,** we will be making kuchen. This is a good time to learn from our experts. Come join us! **White Elephant items** can be brought to the church beginning on **Thursday, October 22nd.**

Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour before bed **on Saturday night, November 1**, as daylight saving time officially ends.

Elections are right around the corner! On **Monday, November 2nd, from 7:00 PM to 7:45 PM,** a **Prayer Vigil for Peace** will be held at **Bismarck United Church of Christ** (1200 E Highland Acres Rd, Bismarck). This event is co-hosted by Bismarck UCC, Heart River Lutheran, Legacy UMC, Lord of Life Lutheran, Lutheran Church of the Cross, and St. George's Episcopal.

Thanksgiving is coming up! Join us on **Tuesday, November 24th at 7pm for our annual Community Thanksgiving Service at Legacy United Methodist Church** (4600 Durango Drive, Bismarck). Join in worship with other area churches, hear from a guest speaker from CATCH (free will offering collected for their ministry), and join us for the **Pie Social** after! Please note there will be **no service on Wednesday, November 25th,** and our **office will be closed from Wednesday, November 25, through Friday, November 27,** for Thanksgiving.

Want to learn how to be a more engaged citizen in your community? Interfaith Alliance of North Dakota is partnering with the Palm Sunday Path to offer a series of workshops to help you feel equipped to speak about your values - with friends and family, policymakers, and at the upcoming North Dakota legislative session. This **Voicing Your Values** series will be offered Oct-Dec on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 6-8pm at Lord of Life Lutheran Church (1143 N. 26th St). Join for any or all of these sessions as you learn not *what* to say, but how to share effectively about the issues and concerns that are important to you!

November 19 - Voicing Your Values: Letters to the Editor and Written Testimony

Steve Andrist leads this session on how to communicate your values effectively through letters to the editor and written legislative testimony.

December 17 - Voicing Your Values: Testifying at the ND State Legislature

Rudie Martinson leads this session on the process for testifying in person or online at the ND Legislature.

Message & Liturgy: Pastor Derek
Music: Colleen Reinhardt

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CALENDAR

Thursday, October 22
6:00 Knit & Crochet Group

Friday, October 23
5:30 Making Kuchen
8:00 NA

Saturday, October 24
Pie & Coffee Day

Sunday, October 25
Reformation and New Member Sunday
No Church School
New Member Installation
8:30 Worship
11:00 Worship
4:00 Cub Scouts

Monday, October 26
4:30 Altar Guild
7:00 AA

Tuesday, October 27
9:00 Quilting
2:00 Crafts
6:00 Compass Group
7:00 Executive Comm.
7:00 Scouts

Wednesday, October 28
10:00 Bible Study
5:30 Handbells
6:00 4th Grade P/S
6:00 Church School & Confirmation
7:00 Worship

MISSION Focus



OCTOBER: LINCOLN COMMUNITY CUPBOARD

The Food Pantry in Lincoln is in need of a few items that are seldom available through bulk distributors. Community members can help stock the shelves with affordable donations from dollar stores, including household cleaners (floor, dish, laundry, and bathroom), feminine hygiene products (pads and tampons), toilet paper, and canned soups for the fall and winter months. Thank you for your generosity!

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."
— 2 Corinthians 9:7