



1402 East Avenue C, Bismarck, ND 58501

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After Hours Emergency Line: 701-595-0223

www.faithbismarck.com

News and Views

October 2026

Volume 2026, Issue 9

MISSION STATEMENT

"We are building a welcoming, nurturing faith community guided by Jesus to share the Gospel."

PIE & COFFEE DAY

**SATURDAY,
OCTOBER
24
9AM-2PM**



Faith Lutheran Church

1402 E Ave C
Bismarck, ND 58503

Join us in the fellowship hall on Saturday, October 24th for:

- **Delicious rolls, muffins, pie & coffee** (Free Will Offering for FLCW)
- **Soup and Sandwiches** from 10:00 am to 12:15 pm (Free Will Offering for Youth)
- **Shopping for homemade goods**, crafts, quilts, white elephant treasures, and our **NEW addition: homemade Kuchen!** (Other featured homemade items include Knoephla and Rice Pudding.)

How You Can Help Ahead of Time:

- **Knoephla Prep:** Monday, October 12th at 6:30 pm & Thursday, October 15th at 9:00 am
- **Kuchen Making** (Learn from our experts!): Friday, October 23rd at 5:30 pm
- **White Elephant Donations:** Drop off items at the church beginning Thursday, October 22nd



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH CLERGY

Pastor Derek Harkins
(Fridays off)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY:

8:30am & 11am

WEDNESDAY:

7:00pm

LIVESTREAM AT

SUN 8:30am &

WED 7:00pm

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday

8:00 AM - 12 PM

1:00 PM - 5 PM

Friday: 8:00 AM - Noon

Pastoral Care

Emergency Number
701-595-0223

Answering machine is available evenings and weekends when the office is not staffed.

Office is not open during the lunch hour.

FLC Executive Team

Amy Steiner, Chair

Gail Skaley, Vice-Chair

Ryan Sprynczynatyk, Vice-Chair

Pat Groce, Secretary

Billie Ann Caya, Treasurer

Pastoral Ministries

Funerals:

Patricia Stadig



FINANCIAL UPDATE

August General Fund:

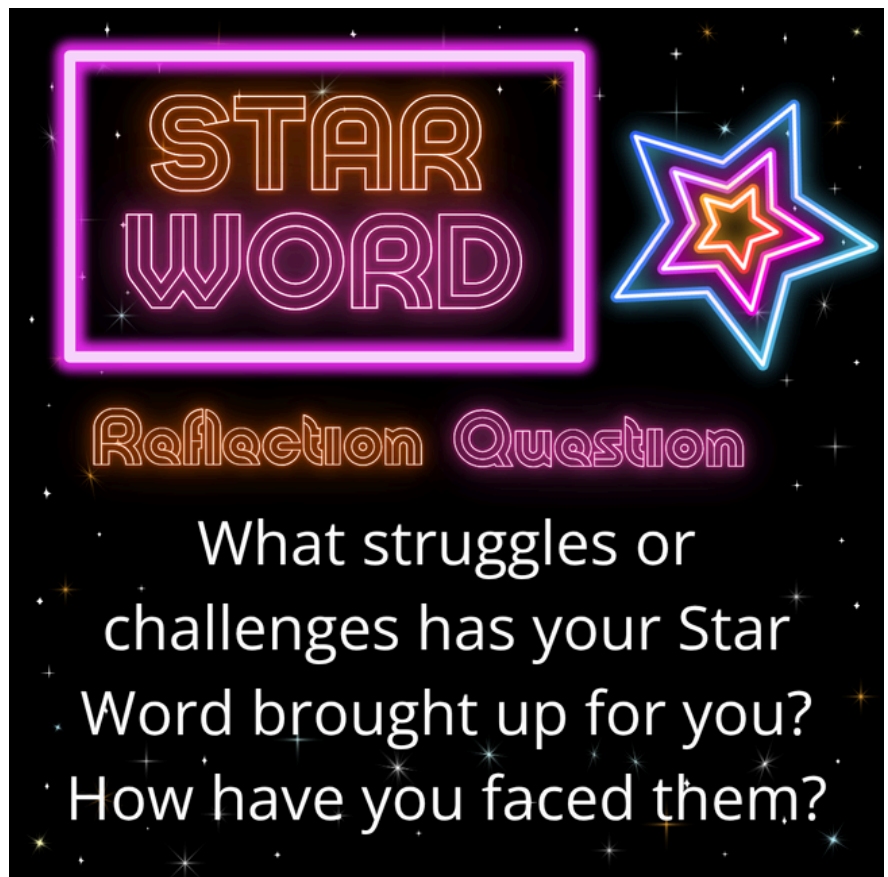
Revenues: \$37,824.97

Expenditures: \$55,281.49

2026 Year-to Date:

Revenues: \$383,089.23

Expenditures: \$449,296.22



The deadline to submit information to the News and Views newsletter is the 10th of each month prior to the next newsletter. The church bulletin deadline is at noon on Tuesday for the coming Sunday bulletin. Articles, schedules, etc., can be sent to: communications.bisfaith@gmail.com For additional information, call the church office at 701-223-2236

Church Memorials

For **General Fund**, in memory of Sandra Darling.

Details can be found in the Memorial Book in the Gathering Place.



Remember being Homesick

It is most likely that we all have had a yearning for something from the past or to be near loved ones who are far away. In our youth it might have been at our first sleepover. It could have been when we entered college. Maybe it was when our children had to move out of state for work.

Across the decades of my life my first strong experience of that feeling of longing for the past occurred in the fall of 1970. I was twenty years old and was working for the North Dakota State Highway Department in Grand Forks.

My home was a farm near Hope, North Dakota and on weekends I would come to visit. On the return trip to Grand Forks, I would think about my parents, my siblings, the farm and wish that I could stay there forever. It was a feeling of homesickness and love.

As the decades went by, and for different reasons, the feelings of longing continued. I grew to understand them and recognize that they are an essential part of being human. A feeling of caring for others.

We all have it. We know that caring for others is more important than caring for ourselves. I witness the exemplary care for others given by the members of Faith Lutheran. The caring you always have done, you currently are doing, and you will continue to do in the future.

Take time to remember when you were homesick and how that affected your life. Take time to think about friends and coworkers who have had a great impact upon your life. Take time to remember when you first helped someone and how the aid you gave led to giving aid to others.

We long to help. It is who we are. Goodbye for now, and remember to always take time talk to the cows.

Bennett R. Kubischta

September 11, 2026, 10:03 am



Library Link

by LeAnn Severson

The Protestant Reformation began in Wittenberg, Germany on October 31, 1517 when Martin Luther, a teacher and a monk, published a document he called 95 THESES. This writing ranks as the most important text of the Reformation in impact. This book (along with several others) is available in our church library for you to read and study.

Catharina von Bora became Martin Luther's wife and played a powerful part in the Protestant Reformation. We have two books in the library that tell her story from her narrowing escape from a Nimbschen convent to her sometimes trying, but always colorful, marriage to Martin Luther. We still have the old classic entitle KITTY MY RIB by Jane Mall. Even though this book was published over 60 years ago, it tells her story in the easy to read style of a novel. A more recent book, DAUGHTER OF THE REFORMATION by Mary Jackson, was published in 2014 in time for the observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. In this book we learn of the Luthers rocklike faith in their battles with illness, poverty and the deaths of loved ones.

A children's book about Luther is also available as is the DVD entitled LUTHER.

Men of Faith

The October Men of Faith meeting on **October 8 at 9am** will include a presentation from Kari Hausauer, the lead ambassador for Forever Memory Keeping, which specializes in cloud storage of photos and other personal data. Please "store" this in your memory banks and make plans to attend.

LYO Fall Youth Event

The LYO Board invites all **6th–12th grade youth** to join them on **October 16–18, 2026**, for a fall faith formation experience filled with phenomenal speakers, informative breakout sessions, and of course...tons of fun! The **Middle School Event runs Oct. 16 (1:00 PM) to Oct. 17 (2:30 PM)**, and the **High School Event runs Oct. 17 (6:00 PM) to Oct. 18 (2:30 PM)** at the **Baymont Inn in Mandan, ND**.

Join Our Church Family!

If you are interested in becoming a new member, please **contact the church office** to let us know! We will host our **New Member Orientation in October** and officially welcome our newest members during our **New Member Services on Wednesday, October 21, and Sunday, October 25**, during Reformation Week.

STAFF EMAILS

**Need to reach one of our staff?
Emails can be found below!**

Faith Lutheran's General Email

faith.bisfaith@gmail.com

Derek Harkins

Senior Pastor

derek.bisfaith@gmail.com

Cheryl Johnson

Office Manager and Financials

cheryl.bisfaith@gmail.com

Alex Johnson

Temporary Communications Assistant

communications.bisfaith@gmail.com

Kenny Opsal

Director of Education and Youth

kenny.bisfaith@midconetwork.com

Pastor Derek's Parables



Grace and peace to you, siblings in Christ!

It is great being back with you all at Faith Lutheran after my sabbatical! Thank you for your warm welcome back. It made me feel loved. A very big thank you to Pastor Sylvia for encouraging and covering for me while I was away. Also, thank you to the FLC staff for continuing to be amazing and I want to thank Pastor Steve Sathre for his help in covering for me as well. I was excited to see so many

of our lay members step up this summer and try out preaching! You are brave and inspiring!

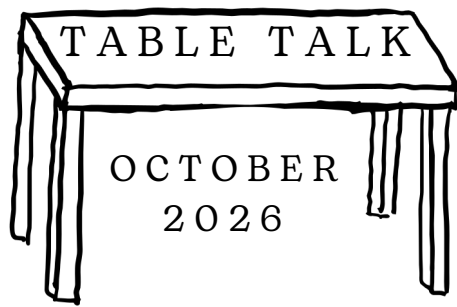
It was a wonderful summer and sabbatical. Thank you for the generous gift of those three months away to rest and rejuvenate. While I was away from ministry and being on-call, I was able to get some projects completed that I had been wanting to do for quite some time, including building a fence. It is always great to build something with my hands and see the progress from start to finish. I was able to get a great deal of reading done, 14 books in total. Half of the books were novels, the other half were mostly on spirituality and spiritual disciplines. I spent time practicing contemplation and meditation, caring for my body, resting, cooking, and even started practicing piano again. All of these things were incredibly life-giving and rejuvenating. I hope to continue these practices as I delve back into ministry and the work of the church.

As I return, I know we as a community enter into a metaphorical time of “wilderness.” Dmytro has left for Europe in order to try and find a way back to us, Caitlin is away on parental leave, and Pastor Sylvia ended her call. We enter this journey perhaps with a bit of fear, a bit of anxiety, and also a great deal of sadness. I hope though that you also have a feeling of hope and anticipation as we begin this wilderness journey. We trust that God is beginning a new thing amidst these transitions and that God will guide our way through the wilderness.

I pray for your patience and for your grace during this time. Things most certainly won't run as efficiently or ministry as smoothly during this time, but I promise you that the ministry and work will be just as faithful.

It is good to be back among you!

In Christ,
Pastor Derek



Sit together at the table.
Be fed at the table.
Make more room at the table.

Bishop Lisa Lewton

When the Tables Turn

After she received the bread and the wine in her living room room, where Ruth spent most of her time, we sat in silence for a moment. As usual when I visit homebound folks, I said a post-communion prayer. I thanked God for the simple meal, for Ruth, and for the love of God in Christ. “Amen,” I concluded, ready to get up and say goodbye to Ruth. But then, unexpectedly, she began her own prayer. She also thanked God for the meal and for Jesus, and then she prayed for *me*. This one whom I had gone to visit to bring her hope and peace had given me just as much. The tables had turned!

Ruth reminded me that ministry in a congregation is not the work of a pastor alone. Ministry is shared, it is mutual, it is a swelling up of promises we make to one another as the body of Christ in the world. Her prayer relieved some pressure. I noticed my shoulders loosen up. Through her words, the Holy Spirit whispered in my ear, “See what I can do? I can turn tables so that the *giver* of prayer becomes the *recipient* of prayer. Cool, huh!”

As I visit congregations that are in-between pastors, I hear the longing for God to hurry up already and bring a pastor. I hear the layers of grief. We miss the season in the church not so long ago when there were more pastors and perhaps the call process was not as lengthy.

And then I look around the room and remember the Holy Spirit’s whispering in my ear. I look at the Congregation Council, the Call Committee, and members of congregations drinking coffee together at round tables in Fellowship Rooms. “See what I can do?” I hear the Spirit remind me, “I can turn tables, so that the *recipients* of a pastors ministry become the *ministers*.”

The priesthood of all believers is abundant and alive in the Western North Dakota Synod! God has scattered just the right gifts in just the right corners of the church. God is shaping our synod into the vision of a lay-led, clergy supported church. Can you see it?

- Who might you tap on the shoulder to invite them to consider sharing their gifts to lead a Bible study, to visit the homebound, or to serve as an adult advisor for LYO, coming up soon, Oct. 16-18!
- Have you sat still long enough lately for the Spirit to get a word in edgewise? What gifts might *you* share, *you* who are equipped to be a minister through baptism?
- How might imagining the Christian church today as lay-led and clergy-supported, instead of clergy-led and lay-supported, turn the tables and reshape your prayer for the church?

Gospel PraiSing Fiesta!

Nourish the Body

Mayas Mexican
Restaurant



1601 W. Century Ave, Bismarck, ND
Lunch - order off menu
(patron's expense)

Nourish the Soul

SUNDAYS

11:30 AM-1:30 PM

Christian Music
presented by:
Colleen Reinhardt
Julie Ternes
& Guests



October 4, 2026
October 25, 2026
November 15, 2026
November 29, 2026



December 13, 2026 - Christmas Fiesta

Free-will donations September through December
will support Community Action Food Pantry.



Presented by: Gospel PraiSing (GPS) Ministries,
a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.
Julie Ternes 701-226-0356



Church School News



Our first quarter donations will go towards Miles of Love to help animals! Our second quarter will go towards Cure International.

Youth News

In October (16-18) we have the Synod gathering for youth (LYO). Our summer trip in 2027 will be to Minneapolis to the ELCA Youth Gathering. If you are interested or have any questions please contact Kenny for more information. We have already sent information through the blast system and letters to eligible homes.

October Acolyte Schedule

Sunday (Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25)

8:30 - Open

11:00 - Aabriella Muth / Oliver Muth
Jacey Kerner / Micah Nygard

Wednesday (Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28)

7:00 - Hayden Berquist /
Hudson Berquist

Tech Assistant - Easton Schriock

Confirmation News

Confirmation kids will need to help with the Pie & Coffee Day event on the 24th. They will either serve a shift or bring sandwiches.



Pastor Sylvia's Farewell Potluck

Thank you to all the helpers and everyone who came out to give Pastor Sylvia such a warm and memorable send-off.



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

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Serving the Banquet 9:00 Esther Circle	2 8:00 NA	3
4 Pumpkin Patch Day 8:30 Worship 9:45 3 rd Grade P/S 9:45 Church School 11:00 Worship 4:00 Cub Scouts	5 7:00 AA	6 9:00 Quilting 2:00 Crafts 7:00 Scouts	7 5:15 Mentor Training 5:30 Handbells 5:30 BLAST Meal 6:00 Church School & Confirmation 7:00 Worship	8 9:00 Men of Faith 2:00 Knit & Crochet Group 7:00 Ruth Circle	9 8:00 NA	10 Newsletter Deadline
11 8:30 Worship 9:45 4 th Grade P/S 9:45 Church School 11:00 Worship 4:00 Cub Scouts	12 6:30 Making Knoephla 7:00 AA	13 9:00 Quilting 2:00 Crafts 6:00 Elementary Comm 7:00 Scouts	14 5:30 Handbells 6:00 4 th Grade P/S 6:00 Church School & Confirmation 7:00 Worship	15 9:00 Making Knoephla 6:00 Voicing Your Values (Lord of Life)	16 LYO 8:00 NA	17 LYO
18 LYO 8:30 Worship 9:45 4 th Grade P/S 9:45 Church School 11:00 Worship	19 3:00 Worship & Music 7:00 AA	20 9:00 Quilting 2:00 Crafts 5:00 HR Committee 7:00 Scouts	21 No Church School New Member 10:00 Bible Study 1:30 Edgewood Service 5:30 Handbells 7:00 Worship	22 6:00 Knit & Crochet Group	23 5:30 Making Kuchen 8:00 NA	24 Pie & Coffee Day
25 No Church School Reformation and New Member 8:30 Worship 11:00 Worship 4:00 Cub Scouts	26 4:30 Altar Guild 7:00 AA	27 9:00 Quilting 2:00 Crafts 6:00 Compass Group 7:00 Executive Comm 7:00 Scouts	28 10:00 Bible Study 5:30 Handbells 6:00 4 th Grade P/S 6:00 Chruch School & Confirmation 7:00 Worship	29	30 8:00 NA 5:45 Improv Workshop	31

Faith Lutheran Church
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Bismarck, ND 58501-4398
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Faith Lutheran Church October 2026 News and Views

Papa's Pumpkin Patch



It's pumpkin patch time! **Sunday, October 4th is Faith Family Day at Papa's Pumpkin Patch from 12 pm- 7 pm.** Free Admission passes are available to pick up at the church office. Hope to see you all there!