

Wednesday, July 8, 2026

Seventh Week 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

1402 E Ave C Bismarck, ND 58501

Pastoral Care Emergency Number: 701-595-0223

faithbismarck.com

701-223-2236

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING SONG: ELW 512 “Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil” x2

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

READING: see next page

SERMON

SONG: ACS 975 “O God, Whose Word Well-Planted”

PRAYERS

OFFERING

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD’S PRAYER

HOLY COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: ACS 984 “May the God of Hope Go With Us”

DISMISSAL

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

READING

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying:

"Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. If you have ears, hear!"

"Hear, then, the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

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 Genesis 25:19-34

Reflection Questions

- Before Jacob and Esau were born, they were already struggling inside Rebekah. What does this tell us about the two boys?
- Esau made a big decision when he was starving and desperate. What happens when people make choices too quickly?
- Jacob wanted the special blessing that belonged to Esau. Why do people want attention, love, or recognition?
- Jacob felt jealous of Esau. What was Jacob hoping would happen when he took Esau's birthright?
- When people have big feelings and make choices they later regret, what can help them repair what is broken and start again?

Activity

In the story, a simple bowl of stew became part of a much bigger story about jealousy, hunger, belonging, and a desire to feel important. Invite the children in your life to create a collaborative "Community Stew" mural that explores how people care for one another through big feelings, conflict, and difficult moments.

Prepare by cutting out a large paper pot or bowl to serve as the foundation of your mural. Place it in the center of the table or on the wall. Talk with the children about how stew is made from many ingredients mixed together. Like stew, families, classrooms, churches, and communities are made up of many people with different feelings, needs, gifts, and struggles.

Next, invite the children to decorate paper ingredients that they will cut into large shapes, such as carrots, potatoes, onions, and beans. On each one, ask the children to draw or write about what might help communities grow through conflict and big feelings (e.g., kindness, patience, honesty, sharing, listening,

fairness, encouragement, forgiveness, etc.). Consider inviting the children also to include the difficult feelings people carry (e.g., loneliness, anger, jealousy, or fear) and to wonder how communities can care for people experiencing these emotions. As participants finish creating their “ingredients,” have them place each item into the shared stew mural, watching the community meal come together piece by piece. End by noting what was added, and reflect on how communities are shaped not only by conflict but also by the ways people continue to care for one another through struggle until things are made right.

Prayer

Loving God, you made us for community—to love and care for each other through all our differences. When we feel hungry for attention, fairness, or belonging, remind us there is more than enough of your love to go around. Amen.

Look it Up!

Look up the prefrontal cortex.

Did you know there is a part of your brain that helps you pause before making choices? It's still growing in kids, so big feelings like hunger or jealousy can make choices feel even bigger in the moment.





CHURCH Announcements

Thank you for your offering of **\$10,392.04** for the week of **July 5th!**

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by Vicki Kunz, in honor of Jack Smith's 90th Birthday.. **Thank you!**

The **July Newsletter** is now in the mail and available online! Paper copies can be found on the table in front of the Avenue C Entrance.

We are needing **volunteers to help with watering outdoor plants here at church this summer!** The time commitment would be once a week for about 30 minutes. Call the church office at (701) 223-2236 if you can help us out.

We are so excited to announce this year's **FLC Summer Week of Service! From July 25 to 30**, we have a full schedule each day of service opportunities, meals, and fun activities open to the congregation. We hope that you will find moments to join us as we serve others in all kinds of different ways and build relationships within our community and across the area. **See the schedule and sign up now in the Gathering Place!**

You are invited to an **Open House Baby Shower for Pastor Sylvia and our administrative assistant, Caitlin McCleary, on Sunday, July 12th after our 9:30am worship service.** In lieu of gifts, please bring donations of newborn diapers, baby wipes, baby hygiene items (such as lotion, baby wash, diaper cream and towels) and baby socks and onesies for pregnant and new mothers at Heart River Correctional Center. We are excited to celebrate with you!

Join us on **Saturday, July 18th for a Medical Benefit for member Heather Zins.** Travel and other costs for a cornea transplant have caused financial insecurity for her and her family. The benefit will consist of a **Taco Bar from 4-7pm (free will donation) and a Silent Auction.** You can contact Brandy Schmaltz at bsizns1@gmail.com to donate Silent Auction items. You can also donate at First Community Credit Unions in ND or MN through the Jeff Zins Benefit account.

This summer, **we are looking for more people willing to give rides to church!** We are currently looking for a few more drivers to use their personal vehicle, or our bus or van, to transport a group of people to service this summer, and to the 8:30 starting in the Fall. We are also looking to potentially pair up individuals or couples who can give rides with other couples or individuals that would like one. **If you can give rides to a group about once a month, or could regularly give rides to one individual or couple, or would be interested in a ride, please call the front office** to let us know you are interested, and which service you normally attend.

In order to **fill 100 school kits for Lutheran World Relief, we need the following items: 400 Notebooks, 75 rulers, blunt scissors and crayons (24 count) and 150 black or blue pens (not gel).** We have enough of the other items to complete the kits. If you would like to donate any items, please leave them at the office and we will use them when we put the kits together in August.

Faith Lutheran will be hosting a **Clothing Drive on Saturday, August 8th from 9-5!** We are asking for **donations of clothing for all ages, including backpacks for school children.** Sack lunches will also be provided. Watch the bulletin for further information!

We want to hear from you! This summer, we **invite you to vote in our Summer Gladness Favorite Hymn Bracket Tournament.** We will start with 64 hymns, voting each week, until we find out Faith Lutheran's favorite hymn! Voting sheets can be found next to the bulletins. Listen for the top 8 hymns to be featured in worship the next few weeks. Which hymn do YOU think will win?

Message & Liturgy: Pastor Sylvia Bull

Music: Dmytro Somkin

CALENDAR

Thursday, July 9

Missouri Slope Hillview Cup

2:00 Knit & Crochet

Friday, July 10

Newsletter Deadline

8:00 NA

Saturday, July 11

Sunday, July 12

9:30 Worship

10:45 Open House Baby Shower

Monday, July 13

7:00 AA

Tuesday, July 14

9:00 Quilting

2:00 Crafts

Wednesday, July 15

10:00 Bible Study

7:00 Worship

MISSION Focus

JULY/AUGUST: BECEP

BECEP, located across 14th Street from our church, works together with families and the community to support and promote Early Childhood Education. They serve children birth to 5 years old, and work with their families to give young children the best environments to grow and thrive in.

We are asking for donations to help them in their mission!

They are currently asking for children's clothes (size 4/5 through 8/10), girls and boys backpacks, hats, waterproof mittens, and snow pants.

"[Jesus] said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them." - Mark 10: 14b-16

