

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

Fourth 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: "Come, Let Us Worship God"

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

READING (see next page)

SERMON

SONG: ELW 595 "Jesus Loves Me" *

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING

WORD OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONGS: "Peace Like a River"

DISMISSAL

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

READING

Reading: *Matthew 5:1-12*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 5th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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 Micah 6:1-8

Reflection Questions

- In this season after Epiphany, we remember how we can live in God's light. Micah wrestles with the question of what is good. What does this scripture say is the good God asks of us?
- The people to whom Micah is speaking in this passage have forgotten what God has done for them in the past. What does this passage tell us God has done?
- Why is it important to remember what God has done? How does God ask us to show gratitude?
- This passage defines "good" as doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with God. What are some other things we see defined as "good" in the world? How do these worldly definitions of goodness differ from God's?
- What are some ways we can do justice, love kindness (or show mercy), and walk humbly with God in our own lives?

Activity

In this passage, Micah is talking to people who have forgotten all the ways God has helped them in the past. When Micah asks them to remember, they wonder how they should say thank you to God. They suggested big ideas, such as offering fancy gifts or performing dramatic religious rituals. Micah reminds them what God wants. What God asks for is something more practical: to live with fairness (justice), treating others like they matter as much as you do (kindness), and not acting like you are better than others (humility). As a group, talk about how this kind of steady goodness is different from the big flashy things the world celebrates. Wonder together about why this difference exists.

Give the children in your life a poster board. Encourage them to think of

someone in their community or life who is steadily living out the values of Micah 6:8 in specific ways, without necessarily being recognized. Invite each child to create a poster celebrating the person they thought of who embodies this godly type of goodness. They can either draw the person or represent them through words, other images, magazine clippings, etc.

Afterward, invite each person to share their poster with the group. Assemble the posters creating a mural to honor “unsung, quiet heroes.” Ask participants to think of one way they can spread the message of goodness their person embodies with their own actions.

Prayer

God of justice, you have always been with us, guiding and delivering us into life. May we practice saying thanks in the ways you taught us: doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with you. Amen.

Look it Up!

Did you know that during the COVID-19 pandemic, actor John Krasinski self-produced a weekly web show dedicated to good news?

Look up Some Good News, and discuss why stories of people doing good are particularly meaningful during hard times.



micro
PRACTICE

Sometimes we feel overwhelmed with all we have to do. Micah 6:8 reminds us we really only have three jobs.

When what is being asked of you feels impossible, stop and reflect on the big three: do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

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CHURCH
Announcements

Thank you for your offering of **\$6653.10** for the week of **January 25th!**

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

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!**

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 (1143 N 26th St), 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!

We are looking for **volunteers to help serve at The Banquet at the Dream Center on Thursday, February 12th**. We also need volunteers to make **unfrosted brownies**. Sign up sheet can be found on the table near the Coffee Fellowship area!

Ready to hit the slopes? Join us on **Saturday, February 14th from 10am to 5pm for a Huff Hills Ski Day!** Whether you are ready to try something new, or brush up on your skills, we would love to see **people of all ages** enjoying time doing winter activities together. Contact Kenny for more information. Hope to see you there!

Message: Pastor Derek Harkins
Liturgy: Pastor Sylvia Bull
Music: Dmytro Somkin

CALENDAR

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 All Comers' Choir
11:00 Worship
12:15 Youth/YA NC Trip Interest Meeting
4:00 Cub Scouts

Monday, February 2

7:00 AA

Tuesday, February 3

9:00 Quilting
2:00 Crafts
5:30 Sounds of Faith Practice
7:00 Scouts Court of Honor

Wednesday, February 4

10:00 Bible Study
5:30 Handbells
5:30 BLAST Meal
6:00 Church School and Confirmation
6:30 Hymn Sing
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