

Sunday, September 7, 2025
13th Sunday after Pentecost
Rally Day!



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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN: ELW 482 "I Come with Joy" *

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

GREETING

KYRIE & HYMN OF PRAISE: ELW Setting 10, pg 203-204 *

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

READINGS: see next page

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW Setting 10, pg. 205 *

GOSPEL READING: see next page

CHILDREN'S SERMON & SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: ACS 1006 "By Grace We Have Been Saved" *

TEACHER INSTALLATION

SHARING OF THE PEACE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING MOMENT

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

GREAT THANKSGIVING & HOLY, HOLY, HOLY: ELW Setting 10, pg. 207 *

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMNS:

LAMB OF GOD: ELW Setting 10, pg. 208 *

ELW 471 "Let Us Break Bread Together" *

ELW 752 "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" *

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN: ELW 540 "Go, Make Disciples" *

DISMISSAL

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

GOING DEEPER

- What is on your heart as you come to worship today?
- What connected with you in the sermon today?
- What challenged you?
- What prayers are on your heart today?
- What nourishment do you need from Jesus for the days ahead?
- What will you carry with you from worship this week?

READING(S)

First Reading: *Philemon 1-21*

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To our beloved coworker Philemon, to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

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

Gospel Reading: *Luke 5:27-32*

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

After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up, left everything, and followed him.

Then Levi gave a great banquet for him in his house, and there was a large crowd of tax collectors and others reclining at the table with them. The Pharisees and their scribes were complaining to his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus answered them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician but those who are sick; I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

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

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Monday - Prayer of the Day

O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Tuesday - Image in the Readings

Although most of the world no longer maintains slavery, societies still have persons at the bottom of the pile who do the dirty work for little pay and who are unable to rise into a better economic situation. Early Christians popularized the language of family, for many believers had come to baptism individually, having left their natural family for the fictive family of the church. The hope is that baptism impels us to treat all persons, even the hired help, as sisters and brothers.

Wednesday - Especially for Children

Jesus uses surprising statements and stories to help us think, listen, and choose what is loving and just. What choice might not be easy to make, even though you know it is the loving and right thing to do? What would you give up to advocate for someone else?

Thursday - Reflection on Philemon Reading

Reading Philemon makes clear that Christian ethics has always been debated: Paul is asking that Onesimus be treated now as a brother, not merely a slave; and yet the household codes tell slaves and masters to keep to their places. Thus on many issues both sides of ethical disputes can find some support in the Bible. We hear Paul's counsel for Christians to live in compassion to others and to enact the familial love given them in baptism. This is the only place in the three-year lectionary that appoints Philemon.

Friday - Reflection on the Gospel Reading

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus challenges us to reconsider how we interact with people around us, especially those we may disagree with. Jesus meets with those who were considered sinful and traitorous on equal footing, sharing a meal with them. How can we be open and inviting to everyone we interact with, even those who live in a way we don't agree with?

Saturday - Hymn of the Day

In 1833, when he was 19 years old, Charles Everest published the text of "Take up your cross, the Savior said" (ELW 667). Like Paul's attitude toward slavery, Everest's text has been changed over the years. As we carry the cross, we are strengthened by Christ's Spirit.



CHURCH
Announcements

Thank you for your offering of **\$10,441.98** for the week of **August 31st!**

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by Larry and Shelley Hill, in memory of Beverly Hill. **Thank you!**

Our **September newsletter is now available** online and in the mail! If you would like to pick up a paper copy, they are available on the table across from the Avenue C entrance. You can always update your newsletter preferences by calling the front office, or by emailing communications.bisfaith@gmail.com!

Sign-ups for the Rice Pudding booth at Downtown Street Fair on **Friday, September 12th and Saturday, September 13th** are now available! You can find them in the Gathering Place, next to the Coffee Hour table. We need volunteers to cook, work at the booth, and drive between the church and the fair, especially in the afternoons and evenings. Many hands make light work, so please consider signing up!

Please join us **on Thursday, September 11th 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 Lutheran (1143 N 26th Street, Bismarck), 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 October 9th (at Trinity Lutheran, 502 N 4th St, Bismarck), with more opportunities coming soon!

All ages and skill levels invited to **join us for Worship-Palooza! Join us on Sunday, September 28th from 5:30-7pm for a light supper and evening of planning for our Advent and Christmas season.** We will have a time of devotion on our Advent theme, then split into Visual Arts, Music and Liturgy groups to brainstorm on how to convey our theme in worship. Talk to Pastor Sylvia or Judy Kubischta if you would like more information!

Sign-ups available now for **Serving the Banquet on Thursday, September 18th!** We need volunteers to serve from 4pm to 8pm, and to bake and bring bars. Look for sign-ups next to the Coffee Fellowship table.

It's pumpkin patch time! **October 4th is Faith Family Day at Papa's Pumpkin Patch.** We have a shelter reserved from 3p-6pm. **Free Admission passes** will be available to pick up at the church offices after September 15th. Once you sign up, you will receive your passes! **Food and beverages will be provided at the shelter.** We will also have the church bus available for those that cannot drive. Hope to see you all there!

Join the Alzheimer's Association on **Saturday, October 11th at the Capitol for the Walk to End Alzheimer's.** Money raised will go to the care, support and research efforts of the Alzheimer's Association. Talk to Lisa Bennett for more information, and register today at alz.org/walks.

The **FLC Scholarship Committee** is pleased to announce the **2025 recipients** of \$500, for tuition at the university of their choice, chosen based on being active members of FLC and their community: **Madison Wutzke, Connor Dykema, and Hailey Dykema.** Congratulations to these amazing students! We ask that you **prayerfully consider contributing monetarily or joining the FLC Scholarship Committee,** so we can continue to assist FLC youth. Our committee and our scholarship award recipients appreciate your prayers and contributions!

Message: Pastor Derek Harkins

Liturgy: Pastor Sylvia Bull

Music: Dmytro Somkin

Worship Assistants:

8:30 - Team D: DaLana Mayer, Todd Erickson, Phyllis Larson, Larry Larson, Loren Larson, Melissa Lien, Jeff Lien, Sara Fisher, Blake Fisher

11:00 - Team 6: Matthew Nygard, Dina Nygard, Micah Nygard, Troy Olson, Roberta Modin, Alisha Sabot, Willow Hain, Casey Nyhus, Evelyn Rauser, Lillian Rauser

CALENDAR

Monday, September 8

7:00 AA

Tuesday, September 9

9:00 Quilting

2:00 Crafts

6:00 Elementary Committee

Wednesday, September 10

October Newsletter Deadline

6:00 Church School and
Confirmation

7:00 Worship

Thursday, September 11

2:00 Knit & Crochet Group

5:00 Scripture Circle (Lord of Life)

7:00 Ruth Circle

Friday, September 12

Downtown Street Fair

8:00 NA

Saturday, September 13

Downtown Street Fair

Sunday, September 14

8:30 Worship

9:45 Church School

11:00 Worship

4:00 Cub Scouts

MISSION Focus



SEPTEMBER: FRESH START KITS

We are looking to donate to the Fresh Start Kit Ministry! These kits allow individuals transitioning from incarceration to experience the love and care of the community and God while navigating their new lives. Please bring donations of travel size toothbrush and toothpaste, deodorant, socks, hats, gloves and \$25 Target or Walmart gift cards. A link to a full list is also available on our website and Facebook page. There is also a poster on the back counter in the Gathering Place

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your well-being and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."

- Jeremiah 29:11