

Wednesday, September 23, 2026
18th 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 677 "This Little Light of Mine" *

READING: see next page

SERMON

SONG: "Bring Forth the Kingdom" *

OFFERING

HOLY COMMUNION

THANKSGIVING AT THE CONCLUSION OF A CALL

BENEDICTION

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

DISMISSAL

READING(S)

Reading: *Matthew 5:1-16*

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.

"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

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 21:23-32.

Reflection Questions

- Who questioned Jesus in the temple? What did they say when Jesus gave John the authority to baptize?
- In this season after Pentecost, we learn how to live together as Jesus' followers. What does the story of the two sons teach us about putting our faith into action?
- The first son changed his mind. It's okay to change your mind—it's an important part of learning and growing! But it can sometimes feel embarrassing or scary. When have you changed your mind and made a better choice?
- What helps you feel brave enough to change your mind? How might you help others feel brave enough to change their minds too?
- What might help someone change their mind after making a poor choice?

Activity

We are going to play a game where we try to change each other's minds. Have a leader describe an unwise choice, such as "I want to take a toy my brother has," or "I want to eat all the cookies when no one is looking." Invite participants to take turns trying to convince the leader to make a better choice, as well as why the current action is unwise. Encourage them to think about who might be affected by the decision and how a different choice might help themselves or others.

Then, invite participants to take turns sharing their own unwise choice. With younger participants, consider offering example scenarios. If they create their own, have them whisper the scenario to you first to ensure it is appropriate for the group. Afterward, work together to create a short, repeatable phrase that will remind participants to pause and think before making a decision.

Prayer

Caring God, you invite us to participate in your work of restoration, giving us a chance to say yes or no. Fill our hearts with compassion and the desire to work with you, sharing hope and healing with our world. Amen.

Look it Up!

Did you know there was a time when people didn't always wear seat belts?

Look up how seat belts became required. As people learned more about safety, many changed their minds and made safer choices.



CHURCH
Announcements

Thank you for your offering of **\$10,232.86** for the week of **September 20th!**

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by KennaDee Carlson, in memory of Keith Hanson. **Thank you!**

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!

Join us in giving thanks for Pastor Sylvia's ministry at FLC!! We will be hosting a potluck and celebration for Pastor Sylvia on her last Sunday with us, **September 27th at 12:15pm** directly following the 11am worship service in the Fellowship Hall. Please come and wish her well as she enters into the new calling of parenthood with her spouse, Seth. **Bring a dish to share as well as a favorite memory or words of what Pastor Sylvia has meant to you** over her almost 10 years of service to Faith Lutheran Church!

Attention **8th–12th grade parents!** If your student is interested **in attending the 2027 ELCA National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis next summer**, please let Kenny know **by September 30th**. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity!

The October Men of Faith meeting on **October 1 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.

Church School and Confirmation Registration is now available! Go to our Forms page at faithbismarck.com/forms to fill out our Google Forms for your Church School Age (3 Year Old-5th Grade) and Confirmation Age (6th Grade - 9th Grade) children! **We appreciate parents filling these out each year to help keep our records up to date.** If you have any questions about our programs, you can always talk to Kenny or one of the pastors!

Looking to boost your communication skills and stretch your improvisational muscles? Join us on **Friday, September 25th and/or Friday, October 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”. Teenagers are welcome with adult supervision. No RSVP required, but feel free to reach out with questions at **joseph.michalka@gmail.com**. Newcomers are always welcome!

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 Sept-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! Questions? Talk to Pastor Sylvia or email wndpalmsundaypath@gmail.com.

October 15 - Voicing Your Values: Speaking with Policymakers

Ross Keys and Sonda Sauers lead this session to help you build skills for speaking about your values with policymakers at all levels.

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: Pastor Sylvia Bull

Liturgy: Pastor Derek Harkins

Music: Colleen Reinhardt

CALENDAR

Thursday, September 24

6:00 Knit & Crochet Group

Friday, September 25

5:45 Improv Workshop

8:00 NA

Saturday, September 26

Sunday, September 27

8:30 Worship

9:45 3rd Grade P/S

9:45 Church School

11:00 Worship

12:15 Pastor Sylvia Farewell Potluck

4:00 Cub Scouts

Monday, September 28

4:30 Altar Guild

7:00 AA

Tuesday, September 29

9:00 Quilting

2:00 Crafts

7:00 Scouts

Wednesday, September 30

5:30 Handbells

6:00 3rd Grade P/S

6:00 Church School &
Confirmation

7:00 Worship

MISSION Focus



SEPTEMBER: LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF KITS

Throughout the year, our Quilters collect items to put in Personal Care, School, and Baby Kits, sent to people in need around the world through Lutheran World Relief. Full lists are available on the Concierge Table and under our Serve tab on our website, but they are currently in need of shirts and T-shirts (sizes 6 to 24 months), jackets, and hooded sweatshirts for their baby kits. For their personal care kits, they are looking for towels (no larger than 27" x 52") and metal nail clippers. Thank you for your generosity!

If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the Lord your God is giving you... you should open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be. Deut. 15:7-8