Sunday, November 15, 2026

25th Sunday After Pentecost



Faith Lutheran Church

Mission Statement
"Building a welcoming, nurturing faith community that is guided by Jesus and shares the Gospel."

MINISTERS **Every Member**
SENIOR PASTOR **Derek Harkins**

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Pastoral Care Emergency Number: 701-595-0223 701-223-2236

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE
WELCOME
GATHERING HYMN: ELW 715 "Christ, Be Our Light" *
CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS
GREETING
KYRIE & HYMN OF PRAISE (This Is the Feast) - ELW Setting 4 (pp. 147-148, 149-150)
PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

READINGS: see next page
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW Setting 4 (pg. 151)
GOSPEL READING: see next page
CHILDREN'S SERMON & SERMON
HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 632 "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" *
APOSTLES' CREED
SHARING OF THE PEACE
PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH
OFFERING

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

GREAT THANKSGIVING and HOLY HOLY HOLY: ELW Setting 4 (pg. 152-153)
WORDS OF INSTITUTION
THE LORD'S PRAYER
HOLY COMMUNION
COMMUNION HYMNS:
- **Sounds of Faith Special Music ***
- **ELW 494 "For the Bread Which You Have Broken" ***

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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

BLESSING
SENDING HYMN: ELW 674 "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" *
DISMISSAL

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

READING(S)

First Reading: *Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12*

Second Reading: *1 Thessalonians 5:1-11*

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 25:14-30*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 25th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two

more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

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

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Monday - Prayer of the Day
The prayer of the day, composed for Evangelical Lutheran Worship, prays for wisdom and the ability to serve God and others with generosity and joy.

Tuesday - Connections with the Liturgy
Paul's description of us as "children of light" is found in the rite of Holy Baptism: a candle, lighted from the paschal candle of Easter, is presented to the newly baptized. Jesus, the light of life, gives light to the baptized, and we are to live so that others may see us shining with Christ.

Wednesday - Especially for Children
There is social pressure for school children to act like everyone else and thus to play down their individual abilities, unless the skill is in the field of sports. Ask the children what their talents are—for example, being kind, making music, drawing pictures, gardening—and give examples of how children's talents can be used for God's purposes, long before the children have grown into adults.

Thursday - Life on the Earth
As scientists warn of the ways that the lands and the seas may react to global climate change, the apocalyptic poetry of the prophets gains our renewed appreciation. The future may indeed bring "ruin and devastation" to the earth as we now know it. We pray for wisdom to care for the earth, and we beg God, in spite of our errors, to continue to create days in which plants, animals, and humankind can thrive.

Friday - Reflection on the Gospel Reading
The English word "talent" meaning a person's natural ability arose in the fifteenth century as preachers allegorized this parable, applying the Roman coins to individual capabilities. A common use of this parable is to stress what Lutherans call "law": we are obligated to use our talents to the best of our ability, or the punishment of hell awaits us. The parable also proclaims what Lutherans call "gospel": all good comes from God, who provides us far more than we need, God's grace given in abundance for our use.

Saturday - Hymn of the Day
A hymn appropriate for the day is "Lord of light" (ELW 688). This hymn includes the contemporary use of the word "talent" to refer both to the parable and to human abilities. The hymn lists various examples of the talents we have been given that we are to use in God's service. Howard E. Lewis, a Welsh Congregational ordained minister, wrote "Lord of light" in 1915 in order to provide a hymn which stressed our active participation in God's will. In the words of today's gospel, we are to use our talents to further God's purposes.

CHURCH Announcements

Thank you for your offering of **$11,681.06** for the week of **November 8th!**

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by Allen & Diane Dockter for their Anniversary. **Thank you!**

Thanksgiving is coming up! Join us on **Tuesday, November 24th at 7pm for our annual Community Thanksgiving Service at Legacy United Methodist Church** (4600 Durango Drive, Bismarck). Join in worship with other area churches, hear from a guest speaker from CATCH (free will offering collected for their ministry), and join us for the **Pie Social** after!

Please note there will be **no service on Wednesday, November 25th,** and our **office will be closed from Wednesday, November 25, through Friday, November 27,** for Thanksgiving. In December, there will also be no worship service on **Wednesday, December 23rd.**

The Men of Faith Lutheran Church is hosting a **Spaghetti Benefit Dinner** for **Donna and John Gilbertson** on **Monday, November 23rd at 5:30 PM** at the church. Donna has faced severe health complications from diabetes since February, resulting in **bilateral below-the-knee amputations** and ongoing care at Sanford Hospital and St. Vincent's Nursing Home. Donations can be made by writing checks to **Faith Lutheran** with "**For the Gilbertson Benefit**" in the memo line.

Want a good laugh to get into the Christmas spirit? Dakota Stage Productions are presenting the play **"Away In The Basement: A Church Basement Ladies Christmas."** Faith Lutheran has purchased 25 tickets for the performance on **Sunday, December 6th, at 2:00 pm.** Anyone who is interested in attending this play with our group is asked to pay $15 and can sign up through the **Church Office at 701-223- 2236.** A portion of the ticket price will be paid through the Rice Pudding fund. **If anyone needs a ride for the play, please let us know.** If you have further questions about this event, you can contact **Mary Verlinde at 701-471-7839.** We will meet at Dakota Stage (412 East Main Ave) between 1:15 and 1:30 pm. Tickets will be at the Will Call desk at Dakota Stage and will be handed out. Deadline to sign up is **November 19th.**

Message: Mercy Carkuff
Liturgy: Pastor Derek
Music: Sounds of Faith

Worship Assistants:
8:30 - Team F: Bert Mayer, Sharon Mayer, Jenell Loftesnes, Karen Ely, Steve Ely, Matthew Ely, Robin Schumacher, Al Schumacher, and Myron/Bev Fischer.
11:00 - Team 4: Andy Steiner, Amy Steiner, Hadley Steiner, Collins Steiner, Lincoln Steiner, Ann Schlafman, Kayla Mahowald, and Lisa Bennett.

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CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS
At Faith Lutheran

Altar Guild will be **selling Christmas Poinsettias** in honor or memory of loved ones, or just because, for the Christmas season! Sign-ups will be available on **Sunday, November 29th, Wednesday, December 2nd, and Sunday, December 6th, before and between services,** or you can call the office at (701) 223-2236. Poinsettias will be **$15 each** and will decorate the sanctuary through the Christmas season.

The **Faith Lutheran Crafters have ornaments for sale** in honor or memory of loved ones again this year! These ornaments will be available **for purchase at $5 each between services on November 22nd, 29th, and December 6th.** You can also call the church office to reserve them. The ornaments will hang on the church tree during the Christmas season and will be available for pick-up as a keepsake starting in January. The proceeds from the sale will be given to the "Sunshine Fund".

Join us on **Wednesdays in Advent, starting December 2nd, for a Soup Lunch at 11:15am, and 12pm Midweek Worship Service**, along with our usual 7pm Worship Service. Hope to see you there!

Please join us for the **Men's Christmas Supper on Thursday, December 3rd at 6pm.** The Meal consists of traditional ham, potatoes, green beans, and bars, with carol singing and a freewill offering going towards the upcoming 2027 Youth Gathering. If anyone requires transportation, please contact the church with your name and address and arrangements will be made. **Sign ups available to bring bars!**

Join us on **Saturday, December 12th at 9am for our Annual Cookie Walk!** Please consider baking your specialties to sell at this event! **The sign-up sheet for workers will be in the gathering area.**

Make sure to join us on **Thursday, December 24th at 3pm, 5pm, and 11pm for our Christmas Eve services, and Friday, December 25th at 10am for our Christmas Day service!** Be on the lookout for Worship Assistant sign-ups coming soon!

CALENDAR

Monday, November 16
7:00 AA

Tuesday, November 17
9:00 Quilting
2:00 Crafts
7:00 Scouts

Wednesday, November 18
10:00 Bible Study
1:30 Edgewood Service
5:30 Handbells
6:00 Church School & Confirmation
7:00 Worship

Thursday, November 19
6:00 Knit & Crochet Group
6:00 Voicing Your Values at Lord of Life

Friday, November 20
5:45 Improv Workshop
8:00 NA

Saturday, November 21

Sunday, November 22
8:30 Worship
9:45 Church School
11:00 Worship
4:00 Cub Scouts

MISSION Focus



NOVEMBER: MINISTRY ON THE MARGINS

Ministry on the Margins needs non-perishable food like peanut butter, canned soups, ramen, canned fruits, canned vegetables, and snack items. They also need hand warmers, feet warmers, winter hats, winter gloves, diapers, small-sized personal care items like toothbrushes, deodorant, laundry soap, and dish soap. Next time you're out, grab a few extra items to help local families stay stocked and warm through the upcoming winter months. Thank you for your generosity!

"The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord."
— 1 Chronicles 29:9