

Sunday, October 4, 2026
19th Sunday 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

Every Member
Derek Harkins

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN: ELW 803 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" *

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

GREETING

KYRIE & HYMN OF PRAISE (This Is the Feast) - ELW Setting 4 (pp. 147-148)

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 595 "Jesus Loves Me!" *

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

COMMUNION HYMNS:

ELW 466 "In the Singing" *

ELW 343 "My Song Is Love Unknown" *

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

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN: ELW 835 "All Creatures, Worship God Most High!" *

DISMISSAL

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

READING(S)

First Reading: *Isaiah 5:1-7*

Second Reading: *Philippians 3:4b-14*

[Paul writes:] If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 21:33-46*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 21st Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

[Jesus said:] "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. Then he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.'

So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

'The stone that the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone;

this was the Lord's doing,

and it is amazing in our eyes'?"

"Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Monday - Prayer of the Day

The prayer of the day, based on #556 in the seventh-century Gelasian Sacramentary, asks that, with the power and guidance of God's Spirit, we come to know and to do what is right

Tuesday - Connections with the Liturgy

The poetic litany of Good Friday, called the Solemn Reproaches, newly adapted for our century (see Evangelical Lutheran Worship Leaders Desk Edition, pp. 639-641), includes the refrain "what more could I have done for you," echoing Isaiah 5:4, and in its fourth stanza, we refer to the church as the vineyard that brings forth bitter fruit.

Wednesday - Let the Children Come

Three of the four readings today (Isa. 5:1-7; Ps. 80:7-15; Matt. 21:33-46) draw on the imagery of vineyards. Children may not be familiar with vineyards, but most will recognize a cluster of grapes. Grapes are the fruit of the vineyard. "Let the

vineyards be fruitful” (ELW 181–184) or a similar hymn is particularly appropriate this day as an offertory. In addition to the bread and wine, invite children to carry to the altar table grapes on the vine and a loaf of bread (if your congregation typically uses wafers) as more visible signs of the elements, symbolizing the good fruits God gathers from our midst and with which God feeds us at the communion table. Use offertory and communion prayers that mention grapes to uplift these fruits of the land in our daily lives and consider serving grapes and/or grape-flavored snacks at the fellowship hour.

Thursday - Reflection on Philippians Reading

In this passage Paul again argues that the regulations of Torah are not salvific: rather, it is faith in Christ, who died and is raised, that saves. The passage includes Paul’s short autobiography. Paul again emphasizes God’s action: his making Christ his own follows upon Christ having already made him God’s own. The Greek noun gently translated as “rubbish” actually means “shit.” Biblical translations have sometimes sacrificed linguistic accuracy so as to accommodate perceived sensibilities.

Friday - Reflection on the Gospel

The focus of the evangelist Matthew on the Jewish Christian communities is evident in this harsh parable-become-allegory. That Jesus himself would have re-used the traditional imagery of Israel as a vineyard is likely. But in the gospels, the rejection experienced by the prophets of the past is made parallel to the death of Jesus, who is depicted as the landowner’s son. The details in verse 33 mean to recall Isaiah 5. The quotation from Psalm 118:22-23 summarizes the psalm’s theme that God is praised for giving victory to Israel; yet the gospels alter the reference of “the stone” from the historic Israel to Jesus himself. Matthew has added the condemnation in verse 43 to Mark’s version of the parable.

Saturday - A Hymn for the Day

An excellent choice for this Sunday’s hymn is “My song is love unknown” (ELW 343). Although Matthew meant to identify the wicked tenants with those Jews who agitated for the execution of Jesus, Evangelical Lutheran Worship’s careful emendation of the hymn by Samuel Crossman makes clear,

especially in stanzas 3-4, that it is we ourselves who have betrayed and crucified Christ. This intensely poetic hymn about Christ's passion was written in about 1660 by Samuel Crossman, an Anglican priest. Some phrases of the hymn echo lines in the long poem entitled "Love unknown," written by the great British poet George Herbert.



CHURCH
Announcements

Thank you for your offering of **\$7,366.61** for the week of **September 27th!**

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by LeAnn Severson, in memory of Judy Kocis. **Thank you!**

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

It's pumpkin patch time! **Today 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!

The October Men of Faith meeting on **October 8 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.

It's time again for our **annual Pie & Coffee Day!** Please join us on **Saturday, October 24th from 9am-2pm.** Enjoy a pie or other baked good while browsing our rummage sale, handmade crafts, and homemade baked goods including Knoephla, Kuchen, and our famous Rice Pudding. Join us from **10:00am to 12:15pm for sandwiches and soup served by the youth**, with free-will offering going towards youth programming. Hope to see you there!

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 & Liturgy: Pastor Derek Harkins

Assisting Minister: Joseph Michalka (8:30); Hadley Steiner (11:00)

Musicians: Judy Kubischta

Worship Assistants:

8:30 - Team C: Ron Schneider, Mary Schneider, GT Solseth, Erica Solseth, Brendan Solseth, Allen Pedersen, Avis Pedersen, Deb Bensen, and Orlin Bensen

11:00 - Team 4: Andy Steiner, Amy Steiner, Hadley Steiner, Collins Steiner, Lincoln Steiner, Ann Schlafman, Kayla Mahowald, and Lisa Bennett

CALENDAR

Monday, October 5

7:00 AA

Tuesday, October 6

9:00 Quilting

2:00 Crafts

7:00 Scouts

Wednesday, October 7

5:15 Mentor Training

5:30 Handbells

5:30 BLAST Meal

6:00 Church School &
Confirmation

7:00 Worship

Thursday, October 8

9:00 Men of Faith

2:00 Knit & Crochet Group

7:00 Ruth Circle

Friday, October 9

8:00 NA

Saturday, October 10 **Newsletter Deadline**

Sunday, October 11

8:30 Worship

9:45 4th Grade P/S

9:45 Church School

11:00 Worship

4:00 Cub Scouts

MISSION Focus



OCTOBER: LINCOLN COMMUNITY CUPBOARD

The Food Pantry in Lincoln is in need of a few items that are seldom available through bulk distributors. Community members can help stock the shelves with affordable donations from dollar stores, including household cleaners (floor, dish, laundry, and bathroom), feminine hygiene products (pads and tampons), toilet paper, and canned soups for the fall and winter months. Thank you for your generosity!

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

— 2 Corinthians 9:7