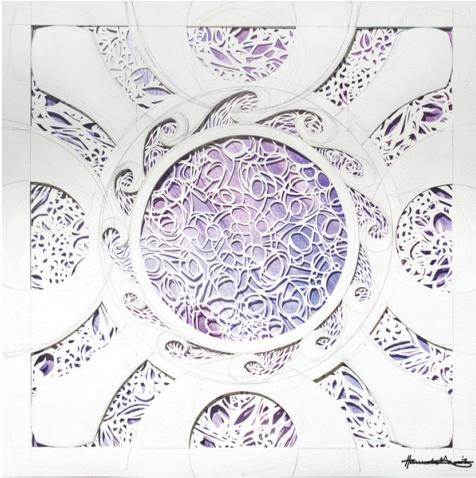


**Sunday, March 8, 2026**  
**Third Sunday in Lent**  
**The Good News is**  
**Together, the Impossible is Possible**



***Scarce Abundance***  
**by Hannah Garrity**

*18"x18" Paper lace with watercolor  
Inspired by Mark 6:32-44*



***Far More Abundantly***  
**by Lauren Wright Pittman**

*11"x14" Hand-carved block printed with  
oil-based ink on paper, with gold leaf  
detail, inspired by Ephesians 3:20-21*

## **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](http://faithbismarck.com)

701-223-2236

# **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BREAKING NEWS SEGMENT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**GATHERING HYMN: ACS 1000 "God's Work, Our Hands" \***

**CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

**HYMN OF PRAISE: ELW 208 "Praise to You, O God of Mercy" \***

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

**READING:** see next page

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW 513 "Listen, God is Calling" v. 1 \***

**GOSPEL READING:** see next page

**CHILDREN'S SERMON & SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: "Human Minds Just Can't Imagine" (Tune of ELW 823)\***

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**OFFERING MOMENT**

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

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**COMMUNION HYMNS:**

**ELW 461 "All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly" \***

**ELW 496 "One Bread, One Body" \***

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

**BLESSING**

**SENDING HYMN: ELW 576 "We All Are One in Mission" \***

**DISMISSAL**

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

## READING(S)

**Reading:** *Ephesians 3:20-21*

**Gospel Reading:** *Matthew 25:35-40*

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

And [Jesus and his disciples] went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things. When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat." But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." They said to him, "Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?" And he said to them, "How many loaves have you? Go and see." When they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to his disciples to set before the people, and he divided the two fish among them all. And all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

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

## ARTIST STATEMENTS

During this Lenten season, we will have art works centered around the texts we are reading from the theme "Tell Me Something Good" from Sanctified Art. Below is a reflection on the artworks found on the front of the bulletin from the artists that created the piece.

### ***Scarce Abundance* by Hannah Garrity**

*18"x18" Paper lace with watercolor*

*Inspired by Mark 6:32-44*

In this account from Mark, Jesus had compassion.<sup>11</sup> This word, *splagchnizomai* in Greek, comes from the root *splagchnon* (meaning "bowels") which has a sense of a visceral, gut-level form of compassion. It intrigues me that this deep, embodied compassion prompted

Jesus to teach.

Leading up to this moment, Jesus is trying to get away, to rest. His disciples row him toward the people; however, he is compelled by compassion to teach. As he is teaching, I imagine the crowd turning to one another—What did he say?—repeating his words, passing them along.

In this artwork, the elements of the story are framed in a stained glass window design. Centered, the people gather in circles, passing the scarcely abundant food to one another. Waves encircle the crowd, representing the twelve disciples. The outer architectural elements portray the twelve baskets full of pieces of bread and fish—a representation of abundance from scarcity, powered by collective belief.

Jesus did not have a microphone. It was the people in the front who passed the still, small voice of God back to those behind them. It was the people in the front who passed more than enough food back to those who were hungry. In our propaganda-filled global information system, we must remember: God is not holding the mic. God is present in the still, small voice and in the smallest offerings, multiplying one by one. The message, the compassion, the corners of bread, and the pieces of fish all return in abundance.

### ***Far More Abundantly* by Lauren Wright Pittman**

*11"x14" Hand-carved block printed with oil-based ink on paper, with gold leaf detail  
inspired by Ephesians 3:20-21*

I read this Ephesians text alongside the feeding of the five thousand. I placed Jesus at the center of the image,<sup>12</sup> but he did not feed the crowds alone. He asked his disciples to offer what they had. They responded with meager resources, yet those small gifts were enough.

Through the lens of Ephesians, if Jesus were to ask us today what we have to give, our answer would be:

We have the power you have given us to do the impossible. The same power that turned five loaves and two fish into a feast for thousands—with leftovers—empowers us “to accomplish far more abundantly than all we can ask or imagine.” Do we allow this truth to settle into our bones and animate our actions?

I’ll admit, I tried to avoid this passage because it felt overly optimistic in light of today’s

---

12 In the center of the image, Jesus raises his arms and breaks bread. Above Jesus’ hands is a mustard seed. Surrounding the baskets are thin line carvings of mustard flowers. Like the seed, we may be small, but we hold so much potential inside of us. Surrounding the archway are twelve baskets of seven loaves or fish which take on the shape of flowers. The number twelve represents community, and seven represents wholeness. When everyone has what they need, the community is whole.

world. People still go hungry. Wars rage. The earth groans under our misuse. Yet if we reimagine the systems we created, studies show it is possible for every human being to have what they need.<sup>13</sup> That would require massive restructuring, international cooperation, and the reallocation of resources—but not more than we already possess. We don't need a miracle of multiplication. We simply need to use what we've been given.

In a world convinced of scarcity, this is astonishingly good news. We already have enough. And as my mentor used to say, "Enough is abundance." What will we do with this abundance? Is it too lofty to dream of a world that sustains all of life? Perhaps. Yet I believe it is God's own desire that all may have life, and have it abundantly.<sup>14</sup> This is the work before us, accomplished through the power at work within us, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

---

13 [globalcommonsalliance.org/news/new-research-reveals-path-to-prosperity-for-planet-and-people-if-earths-criticalresources-are-better-shared/](https://globalcommonsalliance.org/news/new-research-reveals-path-to-prosperity-for-planet-and-people-if-earths-criticalresources-are-better-shared/)

14 John 10:9-11



**CHURCH**  
Announcements

**Thank you** for your offering of **\$8,381.61** for the week of **March 1!**

**Altar Flowers** for the week are provided by Renee Polsfuss, in memory of Dave Polsfuss **Thank you!**

The **March Newsletter is now in the mail and available online!** If you would like to pick up a paper copy, look on the table in front of the Avenue C entrance.

Easter is almost here! Please join us for **Maundy Thursday, April 2, at 7pm, Good Friday, April 3 at 12:05pm or 7pm, the Community Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 4th at 7pm (hosted at Bismarck UCC) and Easter Sunday, April 5th at 7am, 9am, or 11am.** Don't forget our **Easter Sunday Continental Breakfast from 7:30am-11am** to support our youth with your free will offering!

Lent is here! Join us on **Wednesdays at 11:15 am for Soup Lunch, and Midweek Services at 12:05pm and 7pm.**

**Sign-ups** are currently available on the table next to the Coffee Hour area to **bring bread and bars for our Lent Soup Lunches!**

**Lent Devotionals** based on our theme "Tell Me Something Good" by A Sanctified Art **are available now** in the Gathering Place. Please take one for your household! If you'd prefer an e-version, email the church office at [faith.bisfaith@gmail.com](mailto:faith.bisfaith@gmail.com). We hope you find it a meaningful companion during this season. As you read: take what you need, leave what doesn't fit, and be open to hearing different perspectives!

All experience levels are invited to join us for **Choir Practice on Sundays at 10am!** Contact our music coordinator, Dima Somkin, by calling the office or emailing [dmytro.bisfaith@gmail.com](mailto:dmytro.bisfaith@gmail.com) for more information!

Don't forget to **direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars!** Individuals with certain types of accounts can direct money, donated by Thrivent, to specific non-profits in the area. The **deadline to direct your Dollars is Monday, March 31st.** Make sure to log-in to the online portal, or talk to your Thrivent representative, to select any non-profits you would like to support. In the past, we have used Thrivent Choice Dollars to fund devotionals and Bible Study materials, speakers and special events at Faith Lutheran. Thank you for supporting non-profits!

2,000 years ago, Jesus entered into Jerusalem at the beginning of Passover on a donkey, an image reflecting his just, humble leadership and care for those in need. Christian communities from across our region are invited to gather for a time of communal prayer and public witness at 3 pm on Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026 for a processional from Trinity Lutheran Church in Bismarck (502 N 4th St) to the ND State Capitol Steps. An ecumenical worship service uplifting our shared values of feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, and welcoming the stranger will be held on the Capitol Steps at 4pm. **More information about this Palm Sunday Path will be available in the March News & Views and will be shared in info sessions today, March 8 at 10am and Wednesday, March 11 at 6pm in the East Room.**

## *Church Announcements Continued*

Please join us on **Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 5pm for the Men of Faith Potato/Chili Feed!** Free will offering will go toward Camp of the Cross. **Sign-ups to bring chili and bars are now available** on the table in the Coffee Fellowship area!

Please join us **Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> for a Scripture Circle led by U.S. Jones, III!** This powerful method of studying scripture focuses on details and connections across Scripture. The event, **hosted at McCabe UMC (1030 N 6th St, 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 April 9<sup>th</sup>, and May 14<sup>th</sup>!

The Faith Crafters have created **handmade Easter cards, table favors and Easter basket stuffers that they will be selling between services on March 22nd.**

Altar Guild is currently **accepting donations for our Easter Mums** this year! You can sign-up to have an Easter Mum in honor or memory of a loved one, or just because! Altar Guild members will be available **this Sunday, March 8, and next Sunday, March 15** between services to take orders. Mums will be \$15.

**Message: Pastor Derek Harkins**

**Liturgy: Pastor Sylvia Bull**

**Music: Dmytro Somkin**

**Worship Assistants:**

**8:30 -Team E: Joe Grotsun, Hannah Grotsun, Brooke Sundvor, Steve Sundvor, Allison Germolus, Ben Kubischta, Judy Kubischta, Mercy Carkuff, Emily Grote, David Ruiz**

**11:00 - Team 5: Harvey Haakenson, Vonnie Haakenson, Bob Hertz, Judy Hertz, Caitlin McCleary, Patty Maier, Sandee Jenkin, Pat Groce, Amy Groce, Anna Groce**

Front Bulletin Images and Artist Statements ("Scarce Abundance" by Hannah Garrity, and "Far More Abundantly" by Lauren Wright Pittman), Slide and Advertising Graphics (Graphic design by Lauren Wright Pittman), "Human Minds Just Can't Imagine (by Sarah Speed) and portions of the liturgy (by Sarah Speed) from A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. Bulletin texts from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2025. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #26214. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Service and Hymns printed in this bulletin—unless in the public domain—are covered by CCLI License 2214977 and One License.net #A-704330.(All rights reserved) Permissions for live-streaming also covered by One License and CCLI.

## CALENDAR

### Monday, March 9

7:00 AA

### Tuesday, March 10

9:00 Quilting

2:00 Crafts

5:15 BIO Girls

6:00 Elementary Committee

7:00 Scouts

### Wednesday, March 11

#### **No Church School**

10:00 Bible Study

11:15 Lent Soup Lunch

12:05 Worship

5:00 MOF Potato/Chili Feed

5:30 Handbells

6:00 Lent Book Study

6:00 Palm Sunday Path Info  
Meeting

7:00 Worship

### Thursday, March 12

2:00 Knit/Crochet Group

5:00 Scripture Circle (McCabe)

7:00 Ruth Circle

### Friday, March 13

8:00 NA

### Saturday, March 14

### Sunday, March 15

#### **No Church School**

8:30 Worship

9:45 Church School

10:00 Choir Practice

11:00 Worship

**MISSION**  
*Focus*



## **MARCH: SCOUTING FOR FOOD**

This month, we will be partnering with the Scouts in their Scouting for Food Project! Bring in any non-perishable food items throughout the month of March, and the scouts will bring them to food banks throughout the community. The Northern Lights Council is looking to keep growing this event, and reach their goal of 85,000 pounds of food collected, and your contributions can help!

*"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat." - Matthew 25:35*