



Faith Lutheran

1402 East Avenue C, Bismarck, ND 58501

Phone: 701-223-2236 Fax: 701-223-0485

After Hours Emergency Line: 701-595-0223

www.faithbismarck.com

News and Views

August 2026

Volume 2026, Issue 7

MISSION STATEMENT

"We are building a welcoming, nurturing faith community guided by Jesus to share the Gospel."

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH CLERGY

Pastor Derek Harkins
(Fridays off)

Pastor Sylvia Bull
(Fridays off)

SUMMER WORSHIP

SCHEDULE

SUNDAY:

9:30am

WEDNESDAY:

7pm

LIVESTREAM AT

SUN 9:30am &

WED 7:00pm

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday

8:00 AM - 12 PM

1:00 PM - 5 PM

Friday: 8:00 AM - Noon

Pastoral Care

Emergency Number

701-595-0223

Answering machine is available evenings and weekends when the office is not staffed.

Office is not open during the lunch hour.

FAITH LUTHERAN

Saturday, August 8, 2026
9am-4pm

Faith Lutheran will be hosting a Free Clothing Drive on Saturday, August 8th! Stop by from 9am to 4pm and browse our selection of **children and adult sized clothing, shoes, backpacks and school supplies!** Free sack lunches provided. Hope to see you there!

FREE CLOTHING DRIVE



Faith Lutheran Church

1402 E Ave C

Bismarck, ND 58501

Elevator located off north parking lot entrance

Summer Worship Hours

As a reminder,

From Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend, we will have one 9:30 am Sunday service along with our usual 7:00 pm service Wednesday!

FLC Executive Team

Amy Steiner, Chair

Gail Skaley, Vice-Chair

Ryan Sprynczynatyk, Vice-Chair

Pat Groce, Secretary

Billie Ann Caya, Treasurer

Pastoral Ministries

Funerals:

Wilma Speidel

Wayne Schumacher

James Schatz

Baptisms:

Skylee Mansfield

Liam Benny Anderson



FINANCIAL UPDATE

June General Fund:

Revenues: \$52,038.69

Expenditures: \$54,127.87

2026 Year-to Date:

Revenues: \$297,995.49

Expenditures: \$338,750.58

STAR WORD



Reflection Question

How has your Star Word surprised you so far this year? How have you used what you've learned?

The deadline to submit information to the News and Views newsletter is the 10th of each month prior to the next newsletter. The church bulletin deadline is at noon on Tuesday for the coming Sunday bulletin. Articles, schedules, etc., can be sent to: communications.bisfaith@gmail.com For additional information, call the church office at 701-223-2236

WELCA Gathering

Women of all ages are invited to our WELCA Gathering on Tuesday, September 1st at 7pm. Join us for fellowship, discussing past and future events, and hear from Mercy Carkuff about the WELCA Triennial Gathering this past July.



Bless this Harvest

If you are a farmer or grew up on a farm, you might have had a member of the clergy come to your farmstead to bless your farm. A blessing for the health of the soil. A blessing for water. A blessing for the animals who helped work the land and the food from their bodies that sustains us. A blessing for the machinery and tools that are used. And a blessing for a bountiful harvest.

I experienced this in the middle 1960s. As a teenager, I was not impressed. As the decades of my life went by, I grew to understand that it is an important element of Christian and other faiths.

In the Christian tradition the blessing of the farm began with the early church. This ritual started in about the 5th century. It was adapted from Roman practices where they offered prayers to their gods for a favorable harvest. This became known as Rogation Days and were conducted in late April after Easter. Rogation comes from the Latin word *rogatio*, meaning to ask.

As harvest is now underway in North Dakota, let us ask for God's blessings upon the farmers, ranchers, and those who labor in the fields of our state. Let us extend the blessing of the harvest throughout the United States and across the earth.

Good and gracious God, bestow your grace upon those who provide sustenance to the people. I ask for guidance that will help me to be humble before them.

Goodbye for now, and remember to always take time talk to the cows.

Bennett R. Kubischta

July 10, 2026, 2:16 pm

Upcoming Concerts

Looking for some fun music opportunities? Head on out to the **Reeder Community Center (501 Main Street, Reeder, ND 58649) to hear Dmytro Somkin, Kseniia Somkina and Colleen Reinhardt in concert on Sunday, August 9th from 5pm-7pm (MDT)! Free Will Donation will go to the Reeder Community Center. On **August 13th at 6:30pm, join Dmytro, Kseniia and their family (including a special performance by their son, Adrian) for a Blessing Concert and Dessert Social at Lord of Life Lutheran!** Free Will Offering will go toward relocation costs for their family.**



Library Link

by LeAnn Severson

It is hard to believe that we're already talking about back to school time. This would be a good time to bring your children /grandchildren to the church library to choose books to read to get them ready for the new school year.

A favorite of mine is Jan Karon's book THE TRELLIS AND THE SEED. In this tale, the moonflower seed is sometimes discouraged because it is different from the other seeds in the garden. You'll learn that faith, love, patience and beauty can convince us that God made us special. This is a great time to read the book and then bring the children to the church to see the moonflowers blooming near the front entrance of the church.

A newly donated book for 4 to 6 year olds is the PLAY and LEARN BIBLE. This book contains 50 Bible stories accompanied by colorful illustrations and prompted interactive activities for each story whether acting out prompts, singing or matching pictures with the words.

See you in the library!

Recognizing Gene Severson



FLC member Gene Severson was posthumously inducted into the inaugural Bismarck Youth Baseball Hall of Fame in a ceremony on June 4, 2026 at the Bismarck Municipal Ballpark. Gene founded the youth baseball program from one field and one vision. Today, over 1300 players call the Bismarck Youth Baseball program home. We give thanks for Gene's life of faithful service to our community!

Gene's wife and FLC member LeAnn Severson receiving the award in Gene's memory

Rice Pudding Sunday and Volunteer Sign- Ups



Join us on Sunday,
August, 30, for
Rice Pudding
during Coffee
Hour! Sign-ups
will be available
for volunteering
at the Rice
Pudding Booth in
September. Help
us continue the
tradition!

Rice Pudding
Sunday:
August 30th
Booth:
September 18 & 19



LWR School Kits

In order to fill 100 school kits for Lutheran World Relief, we need the following items: 400 Notebooks, 75 rulers, blunt scissors and crayons (24 count) and 150 black or blue pens (not gel). We have enough of the other items to complete the kits. If you would like to donate any items, please leave them at the office and we will use them when we put the kits together in August.

STAFF EMAILS

**Need to reach one of our staff?
Emails can be found below!**

Faith Lutheran's General Email

faith.bisfaith@gmail.com

Derek Harkins

Senior Pastor (on Sabbatical)

derek.bisfaith@gmail.com

Sylvia Bull

Associate Pastor

sylvia.bisfaith@gmail.com

Cheryl Johnson

Office Manager and Financials

cheryl.bisfaith@gmail.com

Caitlin McCleary

Communications/Administrative Assistant

communications.bisfaith@gmail.com

Kenny Opsal

Director of Education and Youth

kenny.bisfaith@midconetwork.com

Dmytro Somkin

Music Coordinator

dmytro.bisfaith@gmail.com

Pastor Sylvia's Parables



"[A bishop] must be hospitable, a lover of goodness, self-controlled, upright, devout, and restrained, holding tightly to the trustworthy word of the teaching..." Titus 1:8-9a

Did you know that the Western North Dakota Synod of the ELCA, of which we are a part, recently elected a new bishop to lead our shared ministry? Bishops are ministers of word and sacrament who are elected by the Synod Assembly's voting members to serve a term of 6 years as the leader of our synod. This is a big job that includes administration, oversight of synod ministries, representing our synod in the wider church, leadership in raising up and approving candidates for ministry, supporting the churches of our synod in their ministries, conflict resolution, and more.

We have been blessed by Bishop Craig Schweitzer's ministry in this role over the past 6 years. His call as our bishop ends July 31, and our new bishop, Pastor Lisa Lewton, will begin her ministry on August 1. To help you get to know Bishop Lisa, this month I'd like to share a recent interview she gave with Living Lutheran magazine, reprinted with permission. **Bishop Lisa's Service of Installation will take place on Saturday, August 29th at 2:00pm Mountain Time at St. John Lutheran in Dickinson.**

Presiding Bishop of the ELCA Yehiel Curry will be there for the installation as well. You are invited to join for this special occasion in the life of our church! The service will also be live-streamed at stjohnelc.org. Click "Watch Live" at the top of their homepage.

It has been such a privilege to have Pastor Lisa as a colleague over the past 10 years, and I am so excited that she has accepted God's call to serve in this new role! I hope that you will take this chance to get to know her and to pray for her as she begins her ministry among us.

In Christ,
Pastor Sylvia

Article from Living Lutheran

Elected on May 31 as bishop of the Western North Dakota Synod, Lisa Lewton envisions a table where all are invited to sit together enjoying God's grace through Christ.

Lewton, who previously served as a pastor of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Dickinson, N.D., spoke with Living Lutheran about how congregations can become unifying community leaders in a time of deep division.

Living Lutheran: What is your vision for the future of the synod?

The Western North Dakota Synod is my home synod, home to 153 congregations. Like every synod, we are discerning how to live faithfully together in a time when people hold differing convictions about our country's partisan life. My vision is of a larger table, one where we gather with our differing perspectives and interpretations. I am hopeful that we might focus less on determining who is right or wrong and set our attention on the urgent need in our world to give away God's grace through Jesus Christ, leaving no one out. I wonder: Could ELCA congregations become leaders in their communities by inviting people to sit together at a time in America when we so often sit apart, devices in hand? To move toward this vision, I would listen deeply to congregations and seek ways to equip one another to gather around the word, beginning with the commandments Jesus lifted up: to love God and to love neighbor.

How did you feel when you were elected?

My family had discerned with me in the weeks leading up to the assembly. As I visited with my husband and each of my kids to hear their thinking, I heard only support and pride that I would be considered for such a privileged office. My colleagues were also encouraging. When the results of the final ballot were announced, I felt both relieved and a sense of peace as the tears rolled down. Although this call will be incredibly complex and challenging, I believe it is God's call for me. I feel humbled as well as grateful for the colleagues God has placed around me.

What experiences in your ministry do you feel have best prepared you to serve as bishop? What have you learned in your ministry that you might incorporate into your approach to leading the synod?

I have served 19 of my 22 years of ministry at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Dickinson, N.D. This large, steady congregation has a heart for service in Jesus' name. It is a congregation that has cared for its pastors, most of whom stuck around for many years. One congregation member joked that St. John had "raised a bishop," and I think it's true. This community of faith has helped shape and prepare me for this call. Because of these people, I know what it looks like when pastor and congregation work together, meet gaps in a community, forgive one another and trust in God's abundance, that what

we have is what God needs for the church. In the Western North Dakota Synod, we can get caught up in the falsehood of scarcity and miss out on the abundance God offers in a few loaves of bread and a couple of fish.

This article by Leah Taber, entitled "A Larger Table," originally appeared on [LivingLutheran.org](https://www.livinglutheran.org/voices-of-faith/a-larger-table/) on July 13, 2026. <https://www.livinglutheran.org/voices-of-faith/a-larger-table/> Reprinted with permission. © ELCA.



Thank you!



Thank you so much to everyone who came out to support us at the baby shower during coffee hour, and to those who couldn't make it but reached out. It was wonderful to feel all your love and support and share fellowship time with you! Thank you to everyone who donated items in honor of us for the Heart River Correctional Center baby pantry. We know our kid is going to have a great start in life, and it means a lot to us that your generosity will help other babies with more complicated circumstances have a good start, too. Special thanks to those who helped host and serve - we appreciate you so much. Thank you all for being there for us during this special time in our lives - we really felt your love!

Blessings, Pastor Sylvia and Seth

Matthew and I felt very loved and appreciated during our baby shower last month! Thank you so much to everyone who attended, donated to Heart River Correctional Center, sent cards, and gave us well wishes. We are glad to be part of a community that is so open and welcoming, and are excited for our baby to grow up here. Special thank you to everyone who helped host and serve!

Caitlin and Matthew



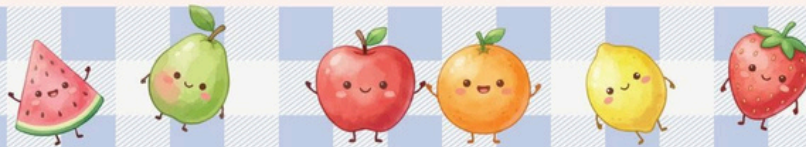
POTLUCK IN THE PARK

WHEN: SAT, AUGUST 8
11:30AM-1:00 PM

WHERE: SERTOMA PARK
SHELTER 9

IF YOU'RE ABLE, WE INVITE YOU TO BRING

- **A DISH TO SHARE**
- **YOUR OWN REUSABLE TABLEWARE (TO REDUCE WASTE)**
- **DONATIONS OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR AREA STUDENTS**



Original Communion Ware and Case

Earlier this year, we found the first chalice and flagon used at Faith Lutheran! Members of the Altar Guild found them stored in a closet, polished them, and member Vince Berger built a display cabinet for us! You can currently see these unique pieces from our church's history on the back counter.



Calling All Riders and Drivers!

This summer, we are looking for more people willing to give rides to church!

We are currently looking for a few more drivers to use their personal vehicle, or our bus or van, to transport a group of people to service this summer, and to the 8:30 starting in the Fall.

We are also looking to potentially pair up individuals or couples who can give rides with other couples or individuals that would like one.

If you can give rides to a group about once a month, or could regularly give rides to one individual or couple, or would be interested in a ride, please call the front office to let us know you are interested, and which service you normally attend.



MISSION Focus



JULY/AUGUST: BECEP

BECEP, located across 14th Street from our church, works together with families and the community to support and promote Early Childhood Education. They serve children birth to 5 years old, and work with their families to give young children the best environments to grow and thrive in.

We are asking for donations to help them in their mission!

They are currently asking for children's clothes (size 4/5 through 8/10), girls and boys backpacks, hats, waterproof mittens, and snow pants.

"[Jesus] said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them." - Mark 10: 14b-16



August 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:30 Worship	3 7:00 AA	4 9:00 Quilting 2:00 Crafts	5 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Worship	6 9:00 Esther Circle	7 8:00 NA	8 9:00 FLC Clothing Drive 11:30 Interfaith Potluck
9 9:30 Worship	10 Newsletter Deadline 7:00 AA	11 9:00 Quilting 2:00 Crafts	12 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Worship	13 2:00 Knit & Crochet Group	14 8:00 NA	15
16 9:30 Worship	17 3:00 Worship and Music 7:00 AA	18 9:00 Quilting 2:00 Crafts	19 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Worship	20	21 8:00 NA	22
23 9:30 Worship	24 4:30 Altar Guild 7:00 AA	25 9:00 Quilting 2:00 Crafts 6:00 Compass Group 7:00 Executive Committee	26 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Worship	27 6:00 Knit & Crochet Group	28 5:45 Improv Workshop 8:00 NA	29
30 9:30 Worship	31 7:00 AA					

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Bismarck, ND 58501-4398
www.faithbismarck.com
(701)223-2236

Faith Lutheran Church August 2026 News and Views



We are starting preparations for the **2027 ELCA Youth Gathering** next summer! Youth going into 8th grade through 12th grade in September 2026 are invited to travel with us to **Minneapolis from about June 27-July 2, 2027** for a few days of worship, service and fun with other ELCA youth from across the country! Approximate cost per person will be \$1500, but we hope to fundraise most of that. If you are interested, **please call the front office at (701) 223-2236 to give your name, and bring a \$250 deposit by September**

30, 2026. Please make checks out to Faith Lutheran Church with NYG Deposit in the memo line. For cash and mailed checks, please remember to indicate the participant's name. You can contact Kenny for more information and potential scholarships if cost is prohibitive. More information can be found at elca.org/gathering