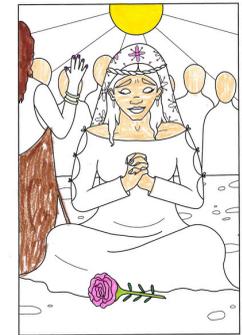
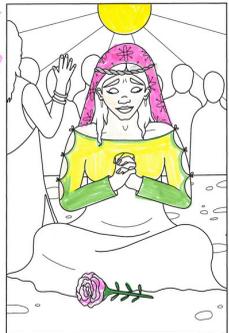


Wednesday, March 25, 2026

Lent Midweek

**The Good News is Rooted in Justice,
Mercy, and Faithfulness**



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

CENTERING MOMENT

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

BREAKING NEWS UPDATE

SONG: ACS 987 "Guide My Feet" *

GOSPEL RE-ENACTMENT - A Woman Caught in Adultery

Characters: Jesus, Crowd, Simon, Pharisee 1 & 2, Tamar

POEM - "The Things that Matter Most" by Rev. Sarah A. Speed

RESPONSIVE PRAYERS

During this time of prayer, we invite you to pray over the ribbon you received at the beginning of worship. You could pray for someone who needs to hear this week's good news, to be able to hear it in your own life, or give thanks for somewhere you see this good news in the world. When you are ready, you can bring up your ribbon and tie it to one of the branches of the trees as a visual sign of your prayer.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

HOLY COMMUNION

BLESSING

SONG: "Bring Forth The Kingdom"

DISMISSAL

READING

Gospel Reading: *John 8:2-11*

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 8th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

Early in the morning [Jesus] came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and, making her stand before all of them, they said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."

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

POEM

The Things that Matter Most

I wrecked the family car, an old gold minivan
that had traveled every inch of I-95. It had worn cushions
and an old school map in the glove box.

It held a folder full of mix CDs under the passenger seat
and every memory of every family trip,
and I wrecked it.

I called the tow truck while the engine
hissed and smoked. I called my dad,
my own apologies tripping over themselves
to get to the front of the line.

I expected to be grounded.

I expected a *"How could you?"*

But when I got home that night,
my dad held me close and said,

"A car is just a car, but you are my child.

The only thing that matters is that you are okay."

And I knew it for what it was.

It was mercy. It was love.

It was the thing that mattered most.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- In this story, the people were trying to trick Jesus. They knew that the law of the government and Jewish law said two different things about how the woman should be punished. Either way he answered, Jesus would have been wrong! Have you ever felt like you're stuck between two choices? What did you do?

- Jesus tells the people that if any of them have never made a mistake, they can throw the first rock. But none of them do, because none of us are perfect. Do you think it's easier to forgive other people or yourself?
- How do you think the woman felt when Jesus saved her and told her she was forgiven?
- How do you know what is the right thing to do? Who can you ask for help?
- Is there a rule you think needs to change? Is there a rule you think would make the world a better place?



Thank you for your offering of **\$10,011.54** for the week of **March 22!**

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by Ray Utter, in memory of Bernice Utter. **Thank you!**

Reminder that there will be **NO SERVICE on Wednesday, April 1.** Please join us for our other Holy Week services next week!

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!

Holy Week Worship Assisant Sign-ups are now available in the Gathering Place! We appreciate all the volunteers that help make our Holy Week services possible.

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 this 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.**

A **huge thank you** to all who attended and provided chili and bars for the **30th annual Potato/Chili Feed**. We served 103 meals and through your generosity, **raised \$1876 in donations** in funding for the ongoing ministry at the Camp of the Cross. Also, thank you to the Men of Faith for their participation and Mercy Carkuff and her grand-daughter Lillian for their help with set-up.

The Men of Faith will be meeting on **Thursday, 2 April 2026, at which Dymtro Somkin will speak about his Ukrainian and other experiences. Please note that this meeting will be held at 11:30 AM** to best accommodate his schedule, so please note that time change.

Please join us **Thursday, April 9th for a Scripture Circle led by U.S. Jones, II!** This powerful method of studying scripture focuses on details and connections across Scripture. The event, **hosted here at Faith Lutheran, 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 another Scripture Circle opportunity on May 14th (Lutheran Church of the Cross, 1004 E Highland Acres Rd, Bismarck)!

Join us on **Thursday, April 16th at 6pm for Taste of Home-Ukraine!**

Enjoy a delicious variety of homemade dishes from Ukraine, hear personal stories of resilience and hope, and connect with others in the spirit of community. **Free-will Offering will go to support Global Neighbors** and their mission to empower and support local newcomers as they build new lives in our community.

Please join us on **Sunday, May 17th at 4:30pm for a concert featuring**

Dmytro Somkin and Kseniia Somkina! Free-will offering will go towards Dima and his family as they assess the best way to attain long-term legal residency here in the US.

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!

Liturgy: Pastor Derek Harkins & Pastor Sylvia Bull

Music: Dmytro Somkin

Front Bulletin Image, Slide and Advertising Graphics (Graphic design by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman), portions of the liturgy (by Rev. Sarah A. Speed), Gospel Re-enactment, Coloring Sheets, and Reflection Questions (by Rev. Anna Strickland), and "The Things that Matter Most" (by Rev. Sarah A. 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

Thursday, March 26

6:00 Knit & Crochet Group

Friday, March 27

5:45 Improv Workshop

8:00 NA

Saturday, March 28

Sunday, March 29

Palm Sunday

8:30 Worship

9:45 Church School

10:00 All Comers' Choir Rehearsal

11:00 Worship

3:00 Palm Sunday Path

Processional (Trinity)

4:00 Cub Scouts

4:00 Palm Sunday Path Ecumenical
Worship at Capitol Steps

Monday, March 30

5:00 Altar Guild

7:00 AA

Tuesday, March 31

9:00 Quilting

2:00 Crafts

5:15 BIO Girls

7:00 Scouts

Wednesday, April 1

No Church School

No 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