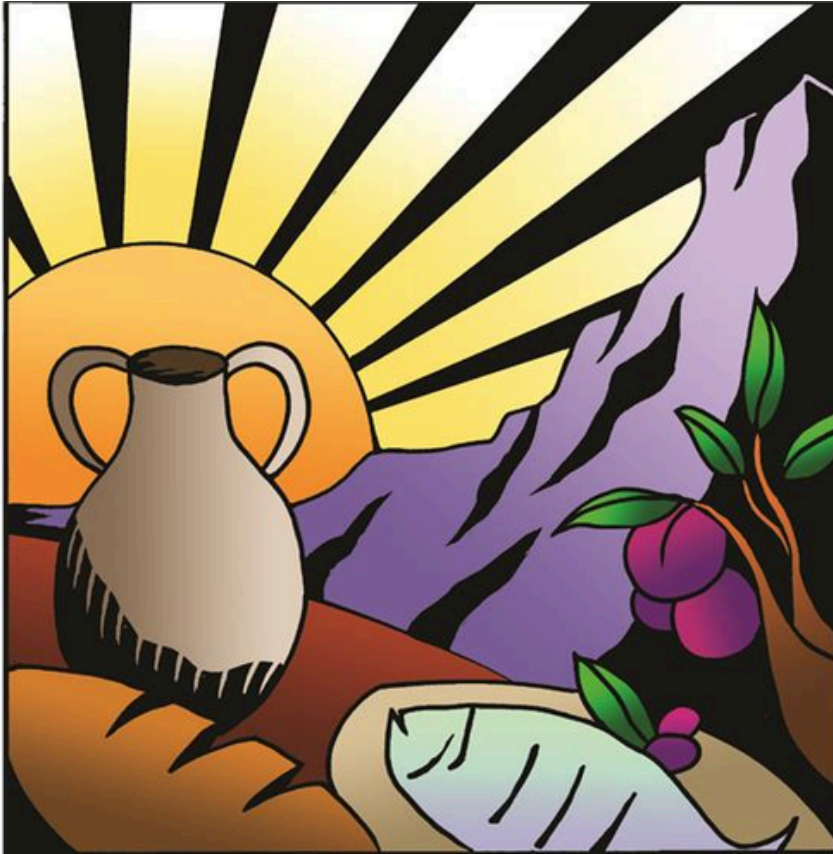


Sunday, October 11, 2026
20th Sunday after Pentecost



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

1402 E Ave C Bismarck, ND 58501
Pastoral Care Emergency Number: 701-595-0223

faithbismarck.com
701-223-2236

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN: ELW 826 "Thine the Amen" *

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 523 "Let Us Go Now to the Banquet" *

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 491 "Come, Let Us Eat" *

ELW 486 "God Extends an Invitation" *

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

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN: ELW 547 "Sent Forth by God's Blessing" *

DISMISSAL

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

READING(S)

First Reading: *Isaiah 25:1-9*

Second Reading: *Philippians 4:1-9*

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia, and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

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

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 22:1-14*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 22nd Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy.

Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Monday - Prayer of the Day

The prayer of the day, based on one in the 2002 *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers* (p. 198), likens the gifts of God to a lavish wedding feast and prays that, receiving this life, we be transformed into people of peace.

Tuesday - Connections with the Liturgy

Recalling Paul's message to the Philippians, one option in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* for the final blessing calls on God to grant us "to live in harmony with one another" and to fill us "with all joy and peace in believing."

Again in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, one possible invitation to the table is "Come to the banquet." The thanksgivings at the table IV, VI, and VII refer to the feast. In Thanksgiving at the Table X, recalling Isaiah 25:6, we praise God as wine, who will "warm our hearts and make us one."

Wednesday - Let the Children Come

Children may have a difficult time seeing communion as a "banquet" (Matt. 22:1-10) or the altar as a banquet table (Ps. 23:5). This is especially the case if your altar does not look very table-like or your communion elements are tiny cups and wafers. On this Sunday, in which the readings celebrate the lavish banquet God prepares for all, set your altar table so it evokes more clearly this great feast.

Consider using a real table, fresh-baked bread, the common cup or larger individual glasses, and/ or adding other cultural elements that evoke feasts for your community. Invite children to help you “set the table” with all these elements or even to add their own special touches at the time you normally prepare the altar. Then, for the communion invitation, invite everyone to “God’s party.”

Thursday - Reflection on Philippians Reading

Paul once again provides a balance for Matthew: even though there is controversy within the Philippian community, Paul still praises it as his joy and his crown. “The Lord is near”: the church recognizes the risen Lord here, in word, sacrament, and assembly.

Friday - Reflection on the Gospel

God calls us to life together, described here as a wedding banquet for the prince. Christians have likened the love of Christ for the church as a marriage and holy communion as the banquet that God provides: recall the wedding imagery in the hymn “Soul, adorn yourself with gladness.” Some interpreters have likened the “wedding robe” to a white garment of baptism, and some Christians have literalized the eschatological metaphors and specify heaven as an everlasting joyous banquet and hell as perpetual weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Saturday - A Hymn for the Day

A hymn most appropriate for the day is “Let us go now to the banquet” (ELW 523). Both the Spanish and the English are provided for this simple song—but the story of this hymn is not so simple. Guillermo Cuéllar composed it around 1980 at the request of Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero. Romero, renowned as a champion of the poor who were suffering under a military dictatorship, was assassinated during the elevation of the chalice while presiding at the eucharist. Since the words of the hymn were recognized as honoring the poor who were awaiting justice in their land, the composer himself had to go into hiding after receiving death threats. The ELCA commissioned Cuéllar to compose a musical setting of the liturgy, which is included in *Libro de Liturgia y Cántico*.



CHURCH Announcements

Thank you for your offering of **\$13,199.82** for the week of **October 4th!**

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by Patty Maier, in memory of Bonnie. **Thank you!**

Please be advised that the church office will be **closed in the afternoon next week, October 12-16.**

The **October newsletter is now available** online, and is in the mail! If you would like to pick up a printed copy, you can find some on the table across from the Avenue C entrance.

October brings our annual **Pie & Coffee event on Saturday, October 24th.** It will be a fun day to enjoy a piece of pie with our community. There will be **baked items, knoephla, and Rice Pudding** to purchase, **soup and sandwiches provided by the youth,** and of course, treasures to be found in **the White Elephant rooms.** We are adding something **NEW – kuchen for sale.** So, we need your help: dates for making knoephla are **Monday, October 12th at 6:30 pm** and **Thursday, October 15th at 9:00 am. On Friday, October 23rd at 5:30 pm,** we will be making kuchen. This is a good time to learn from our experts. Come join us! **White Elephant items** can be brought to the church beginning on **Thursday, October 22nd.**

New to our community? We would love to officially welcome you! **Please join us on Wednesday, October 14th at 6pm or Sunday, October 18th at 9:45am for a New Member Orientation and Wednesday October 21st or Sunday October 25th during service for our New Member Installation.** Call the front office at (701) 223-2236 to let us know you are interested!

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 Oct-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!

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: Mercy Carkuff (8:30); Wayne Granfor (11:00)

Musician: Vicki Martel

Worship Assistants:

8:30 - Team D: DaLana Mayer, Todd Erickson, Phyllis Larson, Larry Larson, Loren Larson, Melissa Lien, Jeff Lien, Sara Fisher, Blake Fisher, and Mark Fisher

11:00 - Team 2: John Wittenberg, Nikki Wittenberg, Shelby VonWahlde, Joe VonWahlde, Hope Schreiner, Shannon Schreiner, Billie Ann Caya, Sara Caya Giltner, Joyce Hellman, and Gage Wittenberg

CALENDAR

Monday, October 12

6:30 Making Knoephla
7:00 AA

Tuesday, October 13

9:00 Quilting
2:00 Crafts
6:00 Elementary Comm
7:00 Scouts

Wednesday, October 14

5:30 Handbells
6:00 New Member Orientation
6:00 4th Grade P/S
6:00 Church School &
Confirmation
7:00 Worship

Thursday, October 15

9:00 Making Knoephla
6:00 Voicing Your Values
(Lord of Life)

Friday, October 16

LYO - Middle School

8:00 NA

Saturday, October 17

LYO - High School

Sunday, October 18

LYO - High School

8:30 Worship
9:45 New Member Orientation
9:45 4th Grade P/S
9:45 Church School
11:00 Worship

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