

Sunday, September 13, 2026
Sixteenth 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

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Every Member

Derek Harkins

Sylvia Bull

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN: ELW 532 "Gather Us In" *

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

GREETING

KYRIE - ELW Setting 4 (pp. 147-148)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

TEACHER INSTALLATION

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 - Church School Theme Verse: John 1:4-5

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 815 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" *

FAREWELL & GODSPEED for Dmytro Somkin, Music Coordinator

SHARING OF THE PEACE

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING with Special Music by FLC Choir:

"When in Our Music God Is Glorified" arr. Harriet Ziegenhals

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 (Sung by Dmytro Somkin)

COMMUNION HYMNS:

ELW 793 "Be Thou My Vision" *

ELW 768 "Let Us Break Bread Together" *

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN: ELW 677 "This Little Light of Mine" *

DISMISSAL

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

READING(S)

First Reading: *Genesis 50:15-21*

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

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

Second Reading: *Psalms 103:[1-7] 8-13*

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 18:21-35*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 18th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place.

Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Monday - Prayer of the Day

The prayer of the day, composed for Evangelical Lutheran Worship, is based on a prayer by Ambrose, the fourth-century bishop of Milan. We praise God as the source of both judgment and forgiveness, and like Paul, we ask to live in the spirit of Christ’s mercy.

Tuesday - Connections with the Liturgy

The Lord’s Prayer includes a petition that summarizes today’s allegory: “Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.” Matthew’s version of this prayer uses the word “debt,” and Luke’s both “debt” and “sin.” The 1988 international English translation of the prayer uses “sin,” since “debt” now usually connotes finances, and “trespass,” begun in the third century, now usually refers to walking on another’s private property.

“First be reconciled with your brother or sister,” says Matthew 5:24. One of the meanings of the liturgy’s greeting of peace enacts Joseph’s forgiveness of his brothers: we are reconciled with one another before we join together at the table of the risen Christ. Not merely a morning greeting, the passing of the peace is a sign of forgiveness within the community.

Wednesday - Let the Children Come

Preschool and elementary-age children spend a lot of time learning numbers and math. The contrast between 7 and 77 (or 70×7) in today’s gospel (Matt. 18:22) will be relatable for most of them. To help children register this contrast and get to know your worship space better, create a scavenger hunt. List in one column

things there are seven—but not seventy—of (candles, banners, windows, etc.), and in another column, things there are seventy or more of (hymnals, Bibles, people, etc.). You may need to use pictures rather than words for the youngest children. For older children, you might also include a series of multiplication and subtraction equations related to the gospel ($70 - 7 = 63$; $70 \times 7 = 490$; $490 - 7 = 483$; $7 + 7 + 7 + 7 + 7 + 7 + 7 + 7 + 7 + 7 + 7 + 7 = 70$, etc.). In the absolution on this day, emphasize these numbers as you give thanks for how big God's forgiveness is.

Thursday - Reflection on Genesis Reading

In this denouement of the Joseph legends, Joseph forgives his brothers for their having sold him into his exile. Taking its final form in the book of Genesis after the Babylonian exile, the story models for the Jews the forgiveness within the community necessary for their continuing existence. The community is to be merciful to one another, as God is merciful to them.

Friday - Reflection on the Gospel

Matthew has added this passage about the necessity of communal forgiveness to the material available in the gospel of Mark. Despite Matthew's insistence on the Christian life of perfection, this allegory, answering the concern of Peter, the leader of the community, admits the need for the continuing mercy of God and forgiveness amongst Christians. "Seven" symbolized completeness; a talent was worth fifteen years of a laborer's wage; a denarius was one day's wage.

Saturday - A Hymn for the Day

A hymn appropriate for the day is "Where charity and love prevail" (ELW 359). Especially stanzas 4-5 fit well with the day's emphasis on communal forgiveness. The hymn derives from the ninth-century chant "Ubi caritas," and many Christians sing it during the footwashing on Maundy Thursday (see ELW p. 260). This translation of the classic text was crafted by Omer Westendorf, a Roman Catholic musician.



CHURCH
Announcements

Thank you for your offering of **\$13,663.87** for the week of **September 13th!**

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by Mary and Paul Verlinde for their 35th Anniversary. **Thank you!**

Today is our Music Coordinator Dmytro “Dima” Somkin’s last Sunday with us for a while. Due to challenges and limitations within the US immigration system, in order to maintain legal status and the ability to work, Dmytro and his family must leave the US this month and attempt to re-apply for residency under a different visa type. Our hope is that this time of separation will only be for a few months while his new application is processed and approved, at which point they would be able to return to Bismarck and Faith Lutheran. Your prayers and support during this challenging time mean the world. **Make sure to thank Dima today and send him with your well-wishes.**

Don't forget to **sign-up** to cook Rice Pudding, drive batches or work our booth during **this year's Street Fair from Friday, September 18th-Saturday, September 19th.** Sign-ups can be found in the Gathering Place, next to the Coffee Hour table. Check out the September newsletter for a brief history of this fun tradition!

Faith Lutheran will be putting together **Baby Kits and School Kits** on **Monday, September 21st at 6:30pm!** We are especially in need of donations for our Baby Kits, including **shirts and T-shirts, jackets, and sweatshirts in sizes 6 to 24 months.** Thank you for your generosity and support!

Church School and Confirmation Registration is now available! Go to our Forms page at faithbismarck.com/forms to fill out our Google Forms for your Church School Age (3 Year Old-5th Grade) and Confirmation Age (6th Grade - 9th Grade) children! **We appreciate parents filling these out each year to help keep our records up to date.** If you have any questions about our programs, you can always talk to Kenny or one of the pastors!

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.

September 17 - Voicing Your Values in an Age of Partisanship

Pastor Sylvia leads this session on the challenges of speaking about your values in a partisan environment and shares practical tips for engaging about the things that are important to you in a positive way.

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: Pastor Derek Harkins

Liturgy: Pastor Sylvia Bull

Music: Judy Kubischta, FLC Choir, Dmytro Somkin

Worship Assistants:

8:30 -Team H: John Power, Jill Power, Larry Hill, Shelley Hill, Dwight Barden, Connie Barden, Doug Johnson, and Betty Johnson

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

CALENDAR

Monday, September 14

7:00 AA

Tuesday, September 15

9:00 Quilting

2:00 Crafts

5:00 HR Committee

7:00 Scouts

Wednesday, September 16

3rd Grade Acolyte Training

Giving of Bibles

10:00 Bible Study

5:30 Handbells

6:00 Church School &
Confirmation

7:00 Worship

Thursday, September 17

Friday, September 18

Downtowner's Street Fair

8:00 NA

Saturday, September 19

Downtowner's Street Fair

Sunday, September 20

3rd Grade Acolyte Training

Giving of Bibles

8:30 Worship

9:45 Church School

11:00 Worship

MISSION
Focus



SEPTEMBER: LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF KITS

Throughout the year, our Quilters collect items to put in Personal Care, School, and Baby Kits, sent to people in need around the world through Lutheran World Relief. Full lists are available on the Concierge Table and under our Serve tab on our website, but they are currently in need of shirts and T-shirts (sizes 6 to 24 months), jackets, and hooded sweatshirts for their baby kits. For their personal care kits, they are looking for towels (no larger than 27" x 52") and metal nail clippers. Thank you for your generosity!

If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the Lord your God is giving you... you should open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be. Deut. 15:7-8