

Sunday, September 14, 2025
14th 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

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN: ELW 785 "When Peace Like a River" *

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

GREETING

KYRIE & HYMN OF PRAISE: ELW Setting 10, pg 203-204 *

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

READINGS: see next page

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW Setting 10, pg. 205 *

GOSPEL READING: see next page

CHILDREN'S SERMON & SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 502 "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" *

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

SHARING OF THE PEACE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING MOMENT

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

GREAT THANKSGIVING & HOLY, HOLY, HOLY: ELW Setting 10, pg. 207 *

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMNS:

LAMB OF GOD: ELW Setting 10, pg. 208 *

ELW 471 "Let Us Break Bread Together" *

ELW 752 "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" *

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN: ELW 536 "God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again" *

DISMISSAL

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

GOING DEEPER

- What is on your heart as you come to worship today?
- What connected with you in the sermon today?
- What challenged you?
- What prayers are on your heart today?
- What nourishment do you need from Jesus for the days ahead?
- What will you carry with you from worship this week?

READING(S)

First Reading: *Exodus 32:7-14*

Second Reading: *1 Timothy 1:12-17*

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

Gospel Reading: *Luke 15:1-10*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 15th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable: “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents

than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

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

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Monday - Prayer of the Day

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Tuesday - Connections with the Liturgy

Each Sunday's worship can replicate today's parables from Luke: we begin by acknowledging that we are lost, and we conclude with the entire community rejoicing over God's forgiveness.

Wednesday - Especially for Children

My grandmother swept—even carpets. My mother swept the floors and vacuumed the carpets. I almost exclusively vacuum—even the floors. My children will empty a Roomba. Even amid such rapid cultural and technological change, the parable reveals the ageless fear of losing something valuable, and joy when it is found. Jesus knows the value of a lost sheep, lost coin, or lost child, and would dig through the dust to find it. And we, too, are drawn to finding the lost thing, almost like a game of divine hide-and-seek, where we take turns with God as to who is seeking the other. As a part of your own play, hide coins in your home for children to find.

Thursday - Life on the Earth

The author of 1 Timothy writes “that Christ Jesus came into the world.” It is this world that is in the first place the site of our forgiveness and our communal joy. We also can take Luke’s shepherd as a literal model, as we search for the creatures of the earth that require our care and concern and as we rejoice when God’s intent for creation is restored.

Friday - Reflection on the Gospel Reading

We grumble at God’s welcome to the outsider, we are the flock who miss the one who is lost, we are the lost sheep, we are the woman searching for each other, we are the coin for which God searches, we are the rejoicing community. All are true

Saturday - Hymn of the Day

“Come, thou Fount of every blessing” (ELW 807) was written by Robert Robinson, a self-taught and yet widely-published pastor who served a British Baptist congregation from 1761 to 1790. We might think of baptism with the words “streams of mercy,” which “overflowed for me” (1 Tim. 1:14), and the imagery of our wandering from the flock in stanzas 2 and 3 fits with today’s gospel. The word Ebenezer means “stone of the helper,” and in 1 Sam. 7:12 names a marker erected by Samuel in gratitude to God for protection from the Philistines.



CHURCH
Announcements

Thank you for your offering of **\$13,172.18** for the week of **September 7th**!

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by Robert and Judy Hertz, in honor of their 50th Wedding Anniversary.
Congratulations and thank you!

Interested in learning about our **new Assisted Listening Device System**? We recently upgraded our system so you can connect your Bluetooth enabled hearing aid directly to our system, as well as use our Assisted Listening Devices here at church. Join us for a **brief training on Sunday, September 28th at 9:45am and 10:45am** to learn more. Please **bring your smartphone with you if you have one!**

Recent deportations, arrests and detainments have had a significant impact on our community in the past week, with many local families separated from parents or spouses unexpectedly. **Bismarck Global Neighbors has started a Heart Fund, dedicated to supporting families in crisis with essentials like food, rent, utilities and childcare.** All funds will be held and distributed locally, with accountability and transparency, with Global Neighbors working directly with local families. If you are **interested in contributing, you can send a check to Bismarck Global Neighbors with “Heart Fund” in the memo line, or give directly on their website.** Please also be in prayer for these families, and that our community will embody Christ’s love in this moment. The pastors will also be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Please join us **on Thursday, October 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 at Trinity Lutheran (502 N 4th 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 November 11th (at McCabe United Methodist, 1030 N 6th Street, Bismarck), and December 11th (Location TBD), with more opportunities coming soon!

All ages and skill levels invited to **join us for Worship-Palooza! Join us on Sunday, September 28th from 5:30-7pm for a light supper and evening of planning for our Advent and Christmas season.** We will have a time of devotion on our Advent theme, then split into Visual Arts, Music and Liturgy groups to brainstorm on how to convey our theme in worship. Talk to Pastor Sylvia or Judy Kubischta if you would like more information!

Sign-ups available now for **Serving the Banquet on Thursday, September 18th!** We need volunteers to serve from 4pm to 8pm, and to bake and bring bars. Look for sign-ups next to the Coffee Fellowship table.

It's pumpkin patch time! **October 4th is Faith Family Day at Papa's Pumpkin Patch.** We have a shelter reserved from 3p-6pm. **Free Admission passes** will be available to pick up at the church office after September 15th. Once you sign up, you will receive your passes! **Food and beverages will be provided at the shelter.** We will also have the church bus available for those that cannot drive. Hope to see you all there!

Join the Alzheimer's Association on **Saturday, October 11th at the Capitol for the Walk to End Alzheimer's.** Money raised will go to the care, support and research efforts of the Alzheimer's Association. Talk to Lisa Bennett for more information, and register today at alz.org/walks.

Message: Pastor Sylvia Bull
Liturgy: Pastor Derek Harkins
Music: Dmytro Somkin

Worship Assistants:

8:30 - Team B: Karen Michalka, Joe Michalka, Jim Isaak, Connie Isaak, Dave Anderson, Sue Anderson, Jason Dockter, Brenda Dockter

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

CALENDAR

Monday, September 15

7:00 AA

Tuesday, September 16

9:00 Quilting

2:00 Crafts

Wednesday, September 17

1:30 Edgewood Service

4:00 Worship and Music

6:00 3rd Grade P/S

6:00 Church School and
Confirmation

7:00 Worship

Thursday, September 18

6:00 Serving the Banquet

Friday, September 19

8:00 NA

Saturday, September 20

Sunday, September 21

8:30 Worship

9:45 3rd Grade P/S

9:45 Church School

11:00 Worship

4:00 Cub Scouts

MISSION Focus



SEPTEMBER: FRESH START KITS

We are looking to donate to the Fresh Start Kit Ministry! These kits allow individuals transitioning from incarceration to experience the love and care of the community and God while navigating their new lives. Please bring donations of travel size toothbrush and toothpaste, deodorant, socks, hats, gloves and \$25 Target or Walmart gift cards. A link to a full list is also available on our website and Facebook page. There is also a poster on the back counter in the Gathering Place

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your well-being and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."

- Jeremiah 29:11