



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

February 2026

Volume 2026, Issue 1

MISSION STATEMENT

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



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2026

Huff Hills,
5455 County Road 80
Mandan, ND 58554

**A GREAT WAY TO TRY OUT SKIING AND OTHER WINTER ACTIVITIES WITH THE WHOLE FAMILY.
EVERYONE WELCOME! CONTACT KENNY FOR MORE INFORMATION!**

Lent 2026 Schedule



**Starting Ash Wednesday
(February 18th)**

Lent Soup Lunch:

Wednesdays at 11:15am

Midweek Worship:

Wednesdays at 12:05pm and 7pm

Lent Book Study:

The Good and Beautiful God

by James Bryan Smith

Starting Wednesday, February 25th

Wednesdays in Lent

10am and 6pm

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH CLERGY

Pastor Derek Harkins
(Fridays off)

Pastor Sylvia Bull
(Fridays off)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY:

8:30am & 11am

WEDNESDAY:

7pm

LIVESTREAM AT

SUN 8:30am &

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.

FLC Executive Team

Jim Sheldon, Chair

Amy Steiner, Vice-Chair

Lyla Timm, Vice-Chair

Mark Schneider, Secretary

Billie Ann Caya, Treasurer

Pastoral Ministries

Funerals:

Marlys Schneider

DeLores Leno

Elmer Allmendinger

Ralph Spier

Doug Halvorson

Marlene Jolliffe

John Olson

Eugene "Gene" Severson

Virginia Frieson

Clyde Thompson

Weddings:

Taylor Hovland and Trevor

Gust



FINANCIAL UPDATE

December General Fund:

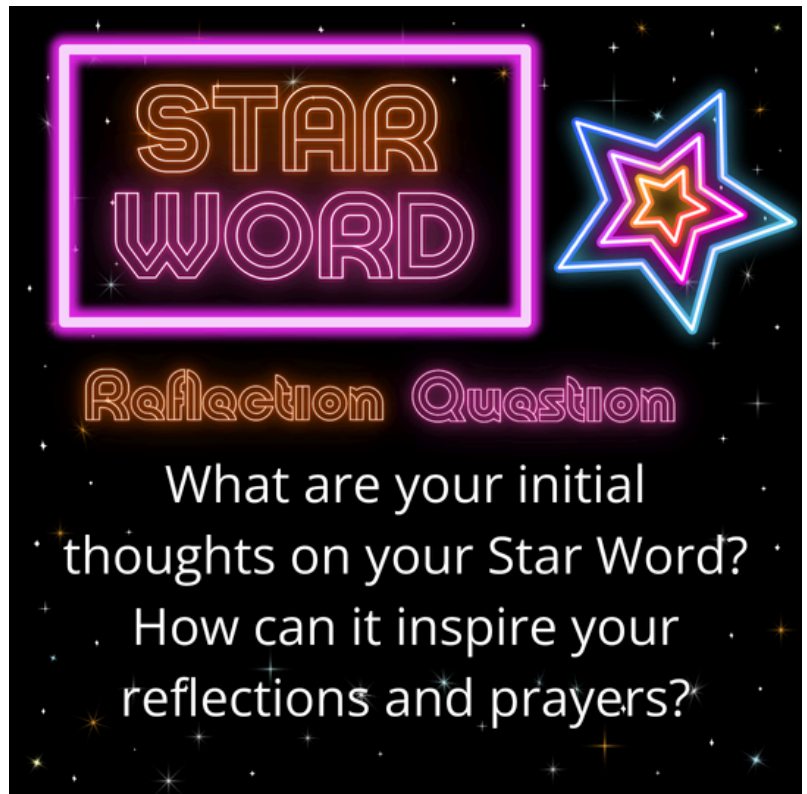
Revenues: \$100,566.24

Expenditures: \$55,935.42

2025 Total:

Revenues: \$639,369.51

Expenditures: \$633,533.02



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

Church Memorials

For **General Fund**, in memory of Delia Madland, John Olson, Eugene "Gene" Severson and Virginia Frieson.

For **Endowment Fund**, in memory of Elmer Allmendinger, John Olson, and Eugene "Gene" Severson.

For **Capital Improvement Fund**, in memory of Elmer Allmendinger.

For **Music Fund**, in memory of Elmer Allmendinger and Virginia Frieson.

For **Scholarship Fund**, in memory of John Olson.

Details can be found in the Memorial Book in the Gathering Place.



Servant Leadership

In 2025 my randomly assigned Star Word was Service. After receiving it on a Sunday at Faith, I took it home and placed it in the cupboard where I keep my billfold. Then it was forgotten. Every month or so I would find my Star Word and spend a little time thinking about my life's service.

My service began at St. Agatha's Catholic Church in Hope, North Dakota when I became an altar server. I was about as old as Bryce Johnson, who was our acolyte at Faith Lutheran yesterday. Like Bryce, I lit candles and helped serve Holy Communion.

Funeral Masses were probably the most important service I did as an altar server. I have never forgotten my first funeral. It was for Ida Gunkel. Ida was a good friend of my parents and died suddenly at age 48.

After college, I began serving the people of North Dakota through the ND Department of Transportation. My most rewarding time with the NDDOT was when I served the people in our small towns. They would have an idea and dream for a project to make their town better. I was able to fund their projects and help them be in compliance with federal aid requirements. And spending time with them reinforced my belief that, while the big cities are our economic engines, small towns are the heart and soul of North Dakota.

Once again, I am serving my church during worship. Serving with Joe, Hannah, Brooke, Steve, Allison, Mercy, Emily, David, and my Judy on Worship Team E, I am again doing what I did as an altar server at St. Agatha's. They are wonderful people who are enjoyable to work with.

At the University of Mary, service is the heart of their mission. On their "Christian Life and Service" webpage they state "... A life of service is transformative and encourages us to see beyond ourselves. It fosters empathy, develops us into stronger leaders, students, peers, and family members. But most of all, service teaches us to place the needs of others ahead of our own in all situations..."

One of my roles with Worship Team E has been reading the Readings. While I stand at the altar and look out at those in attendance and across all of Faith Lutheran I see the faces of servants. I see people who see beyond themselves. I see people who are strong leaders working to make life better for all by placing the needs of others ahead of their own. Goodbye for now, and remember to always take time to talk to the cows.

Bennett R. Kubischta,
January 11, 2026, 10:58 am



Library Link

by LeAnn Severson

Having taken several months off from accessioning new materials for the church library, I will start anew this month. The shelves will be filled in with new additions ready for checkout. Many of these books will be featured in future articles to pique your interest. I always appreciate the notes left in the returned books that state your opinion of the book you just read. This helps me to recommend choices to others.

Although there isn't a set amount of time for books to be returned to the library, I have noticed that several books have been checked out for a year or longer. Returning those books to the church library soon will help me determine if the material needs replacing or to be considered lost.

A higher amount of books was checked out last year than in several previous years. I am looking forward to that trend continuing in 2026.

See you in the library!

Thank You!

Thank you for your generosity! We received thank you calls and notes from several members who **appreciated the Sunshine Baskets**, assembled by the crafters, and flowers paid for through the Sunshine Fund! We are glad to provide some cheer to our members who may be going through a difficult holiday season, and appreciate your donations that make it happen.

The staff would also like to express their gratitude for the **various gifts and treats we received during the holiday season**. Having those extra bits of cheer help us enjoy a very busy season in the church year. Thank you!

We also received thank you notes from the **Heart River Correctional Center** (see page after the Pastor's Parable), and the **Abused Adult Resource Center** (see the board in the Gathering Place near the Coffee Fellowship table) for Christmas gifts provided by the Endowment Committee and other members. Thank you!

BISMARCK INTERFAITH



POTLUCK

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

1143 N 26th St, Bismarck, ND 58501

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2026

11:30am - 1:00pm



Come together with friends and neighbors for an unforgettable potluck filled with laughter, connection, and mouthwatering dishes!

We will also learn how to plarn (weaving with plastic yarn) mats for unhoused neighbors in our area.

Bring your used plastic grocery bags (no Walmart or Dollar store bags) to contribute.

Hymn Sing

featuring Sounds of Faith
and Colleen Reinhardt



Wednesday, February 4th
starting at 6:30pm

Join us for a Hymn Sing! Come enjoy some of your favorite hymns, and sing along with Sounds of Faith.

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

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 Derek's Parables



Grace and peace to you, sisters and brothers in Christ!

One of my favorite times of the church year is almost upon us. In just a couple weeks we will be in the season of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 18th and journeying all the way through Good Friday on April 3rd — 40 days not including Sundays.

For me, Lent is such a spiritual time of the year. It always has been. I remember growing up, I would beg my parents to go to church for the Midweek Lenten Service, yes for the soup suppers and potlucks, but more so for the worship service itself. I'm not kidding either. I found them so moving and meaningful. The meals were a great additional benefit though, I won't lie!

Lent is a time that we set aside to journey towards the cross with Jesus. The time we reflect on our lives and where God is at and where God is working in our lives. Lent is a time where we really take time to consider what God did and continues to do for us.

This year's Lenten Theme will be "Tell Me Something Good: Grounding Ourselves in the Good News this Lent." This is a theme and series that we are very excited about. We are bombarded daily with what most of us would call "bad news." We think this year it will be beneficial for us all to hear some good news, to hear *THE* Good News. We will ground ourselves this Lenten season in the Good News of God's grace and love that has been revealed to us in the incarnation, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Each week we will focus on a different aspect of God's Good News and how it impacts our lives and calls us to a new way of life.

There will be several ways to participate in our Lenten Journey together this year. We have our **Sunday worship services at 8:30am and 11am.** We will have a **Midweek Lenten Worship service on Wednesdays at 12:05 and 7pm.** There will be a Lenten devotional that will be available for each household and we encourage you to utilize this resource, making the devotional a daily spiritual practice for your individual Lenten journey.

Journey with us this Lenten season. Let us tell you something good. Let's be grounded together in Good News this year. And if you come to our Midweek Lenten services, of course there will also be food available, soup at 11:15am and pizza at 5:30pm!

In Christ,
Pastor Derek

Each year, the Faith Lutheran Endowment helps provide Christmas gifts for the cottages at Heart River Correctional Center. This year, at our midweek Advent worship services we prepared Christmas cards to go with these gifts. We received many thank-you notes from residents of HRCC - their messages of gratitude are shared below:

Faith Lutheran Church - I am currently residing at the Maple Cottage at HRCC. I was grateful and appreciated the cards and gifts for the cottage. Made the day enjoyable. Thank you so much, never expected for it to happen being locked up and away from family. Changed the day around for sure. God bless you for taking the time out to shine your love on us. Thank you so much. Happy New Years! - Justine

From: Maple Cottage
Happy New Year! I just wanted to say thank you for ALL of the wonderful gifts that we received over Christmas. It was a blessing that I was not expecting. I appreciate you thinking of us on this special time. This means a lot to us. Thank you, so much.

Thank you!!! Faith Lutheran Church. We really appreciate the gifts. Thank you for thinking about all of us. xoxo
Michelle

Thank you so much for the diamond art. I loved them. You let me know that I was thought of. - Valinda

Faith Lutheran Church, Thank you so much for all you have given! We really enjoyed getting new arts supplies and new volleyballs.

Thank you! Faith Lutheran Church I or we appreciate all the gifts we were to get this Christmas. GOD BLESS YOU!

I am very thankful for you. Mary, Val, Ash, and Patricia A.

Thank you so much Faith Lutheran Church for the wonderful gifts, the thought, the kindness, the books, the markers, the pens, the diamond-dot art, the coloring books, the volleyball, and the generosity for thinking of us.
- Kaitlyn, HRCC

Thank you guys at Faith Lutheran Church for the presents for our cottage. It was fun opening them up. I love to color and the coloring books and markers come in handy. - Lakyia

I want to say thank you! to Faith Lutheran Church! You are very blessed! Keep up the good Lord's work! Happy Holidays and Happy New Years. Love - Patricia A.

Thank you for the presents. The volleyball and words searches and diamond art and the canvas and paints. Truly made our Christmas. Thank you again. We appreciate you very much. It means so much to us. God bless you! - HRCC Women
Thank you, much love and respect - Autumn, Lakyla, Simone, Kodi, Kaitlyn, Kinna

Big Thanks! (Especially to Harper!)
The cards really brightened my day. Just being thought of felt so special. So thanks for being great. Harper - best xmas card ever! - Ash, Kaitlyn, Val
P.S. Harper is awesome.

Thank you for all the gifts that we got to open on Christmas. That made my day. All of the stuff was really needed. I am so excited to use on the art canvas we got and I love word find books so I can't wait to do one of those! Thanks again! Love always, Maple Cottage

Faith Lutheran Church, we gratefully appreciate all you have done. We loved opening all the Christmas gifts including new art supplies, crossword puzzles and volleyballs.

Thank you for thinking of us all at HRCC this Christmas, it really meant a lot!
- Mary





Poinsettias



Thank you to the following for providing our Christmas Poinsettias!

Purchased by:

Dolores Camp
Robin & Allen Schumacher
Dalene & Vince Berger and Carol Subbert
Jenell Loftesnes
Bert & Sharon Mayer
Allison Germolus
Dave & Roswitha Watson
Joe & Linda Dietrich
Sylvia Brown
Ray Utter
Ron and Mary Schneider
Alexus Townsend
Heather Schmidt
KennaDee Carlson and Family
Cole & Nikki Johnson
Eileen Fallgatter
Pat & Gary Ritter
Kevin & Myra Kosse
Orlin & Deb Bensen
Sue & Dave Anderson
Mary & Paul Verlinde
Allen & Diane Dockter
Cindy & Duane Sandvick
Jason & Brenda Dockter
Sandra, Leah and Donovan Darling
Roberta Modin
Kayla Mahowald
Barb Fischer
Barb Fischer, Pat & Kent French, Darcy
& Clyde Thompson
Hertha Adolf
Bob & Judy Hertz
Sheila Just
Marge Loritz
Florence Baesler
Sharon German

In Honor/Memory of:

Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Howard
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Family
George
Bernice Utter
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Jan Hugh
Keith Hanson
Dennis Fallgatter
Dennis Fallgatter
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Harry Darling
Neil Modin
Darlene Kaul
Floyd Fischer
Lu Miller

Ray Adolf
Heather Ryberg and Delia Madland
Leo & Violet Just
Family
Gordon Baesler
Louis German, Eleanor German, Harold
Uttke, Charlotte Uttke



Church School News



Thanks everyone for the excellent Christmas program in December!!!!

Youth News

First, Pastor Sylvia and I have met and scheduled the **2026 summer trip**. It will be available for **all youth going into 9th grade and above**. Please contact Kenny or Sylvia right away if you are interested in going. Second, we have a **ski day planned at Huff Hills on February 14**. Contact Kenny if you are interested in attending. Lastly, we have a **murder mystery dinner planned March 7 at 6:30 PM**. Contact Kenny if you are interested. I would also like to **plan a fishing/camping trip for this summer**. More info to come at a later date.

February Acolyte Schedule

Sundays

8:30 - Open

11:00 - Willow Hain/Evelyn Rauser

Wednesdays

7:00 - Brooklyn, Mallory, Mariah Nelson

Tech Assistant - Brennan Nelson

Confirmation News

There are NO Parent Student sessions in February. Remember **9th Grade Retreat** is around the corner, **April 17 from 5-9 PM**. **Confirmation Luncheon is April 26 12:15-1:00 PM**. 8th graders will need to serve and 9th graders get to be recognized to the congregation. SO we ask both groups to plan on being there. Also, a big welcome to Olivia German for jumping on board to help us this second half of the year in confirmation.

Men of Faith Christmas Supper

Number 38 annual Men's Christmas Supper is in the books and proved to be another successful event. We **served 87 meals and raised \$1363.00** in free will offering, that will be distributed to various local food pantries.

We would like to extend our thanks to the following... Connie Isaak for providing food preparation... Miranda Bergquist from Cloverdale for providing the hams... Mercy Carkuff's granddaughters (Isabella and Lillian) for table setting... Mary Schneider for providing the music... Thrivent for providing an Action Team gift card... the Men of Faith for serving and clean-up and, as always, the "bar" people, but most importantly, to those that attended and gave generously. We are truly a blessed community.

Save the Date for the **Annual Men of Faith Potato/Chili Feed on Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 5pm.** More information to come in the March newsletter!

MISSION
Focus

**FEBRUARY:
HEART RIVER
CORRECTIONAL
CENTER**



HRCC are looking for donations to help support pregnant and new mothers housed at the facility and their families with baby items. We would like to collect packs of newborn diapers (smaller packs are best), baby wipes, bibs/burp cloths, baby socks and Newborn or 0-3 month clothing (especially neutral or for girls).

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



February 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30 Worship 9:45 Church School 10:00 Choir Practice 11:00 Worship 12:15 NC Trip Interest Meeting 4:00 Cub Scouts	2 7:00 AA	3 9:00 Quilting 2:00 Crafts 7:00 Scouts	4 10:00 Bible Study 5:30 Handbells 5:30 BLAST Meal 6:00 Church School & Confirmation 6:30 Hymn Sing 7:00 Worship	5 9:00 Esther Circle 9:00 Men of Faith	6 8:00 NA	7 11:30 Interfaith Potluck (Lord of Life)
8 8:30 Worship 9:45 Church School 10:00 Choir Practice 11:00 Worship 4:00 Cub Scouts	9 3:00 Worship & Music 7:00 AA	10 Newsletter Deadline 9:00 Quilting 2:00 Crafts 6:00 Elementary Committee 7:00 Scouts	11 No Church School 10:00 Bible Study 5:30 Handbells 7:00 Worship	12 2:00 Knit & Crochet Group 5:00 Scripture Circle (Lord of Life) 7:00 Ruth Circle	13 8:00 NA	14 10:00 Huff Hills Ski Day
15 No Church School 8:30 Worship 10:00 Choir Practice 11:00 Worship 4:00 Cub Scouts	16 7:00 AA	17 9:00 Quilting 2:00 Crafts 5:15 BLO Girls 5:15 HR Committee 6:00 Stewardship Comm 7:00 Scouts	18 Ash Wednesdays 10:00 Bible Study 11:15 Lent Soup Lunch 12:05 Worship 5:30 Handbells 6:00 Church School & Confirmation 7:00 Worship	19	20 8:00 NA	21
22 8:30 Worship 9:45 Church School 10:00 Choir Practice 11:00 Worship 4:00 Cub Scouts	23 5:00 Altar Guild 7:00 AA	24 9:00 Quilting 2:00 Crafts 5:15 BLO Girls 6:00 Compass Group 7:00 Executive Comm 7:00 Scouts	25 10:00 Bible Study 11:15 Lent Soup Lunch 12:05 Worship 5:30 Handbells 6:00 Church School & Confirmation 7:00 Worship	26 6:00 Knit & Crochet Group	27 8:00 NA	28

Faith Lutheran Church
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Faith Lutheran Church February 2026 News and Views



SCRIPTURE CIRCLES

Come share in a transformative method of studying the Bible that is accessible to all! No prior experience or knowledge needed; led by scripture teacher U.S. Jones, II.

Light supper will be served starting at 5:00 pm, study begins at 5:45pm. A free will offering will be collected, but the events are FREE.

THURSDAYS FROM 5:00-8:00PM ON:

FEBRUARY 12@ Lord of Life Lutheran Church
(1143 N. 26th St, Bismarck)

MARCH 12 @ McCabe United Methodist
(1030 N 6th St, Bismarck)

APRIL 9

MAY 14



Questions? Call 701-223-2236
for more information