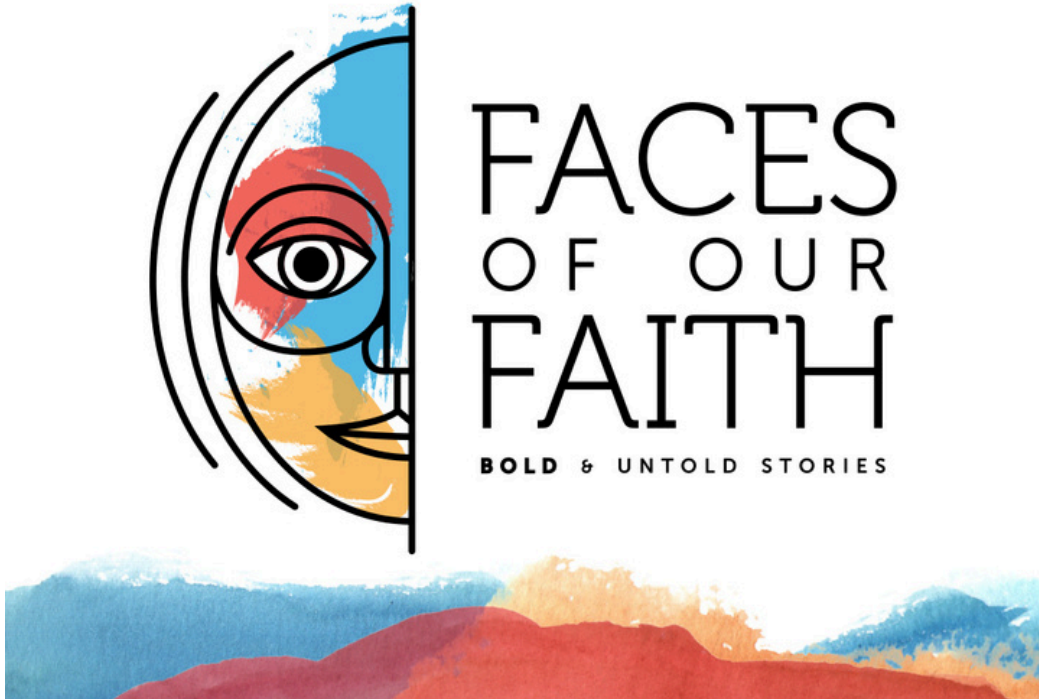


**Wednesday, July 23, 2025**  
**7th Week after Pentecost**  
**Faces of our Faith:**  
**The Penitent Thief on The Cross**



**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**

## **PRELUDE**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME**

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

## **GATHERING HYMN: ELW 583 "Take My Life, That I May Be" \***

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

## **READING** (see next page)

## **SERMON**

## **HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 616 "Jesus, Remember Me" (5x)**

## **OFFERING**

During the offering moment, we invite you to reflect on one of your Faces of Faith. This week, bring to mind someone who has shown you how to tell the truth about your own brokenness or ask for forgiveness. Write their name on the piece of paper provided. During the prayers, you will be invited to bring forward this paper and offer it as a prayer of gratitude for this person who has been a Face of Faith to you.

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

## **BLESSING**

## **SENDING HYMN: ACS 950 "Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In" \***

## **DISMISSAL**

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

## READING

**Reading:** *Luke 23:32-43*

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

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

## BRINGING IT HOME

This section provides guidance on how to discuss a passage from the Revised Common Lectionary for the week as a family! The devotions for this week are for Colossians 2: 6-19

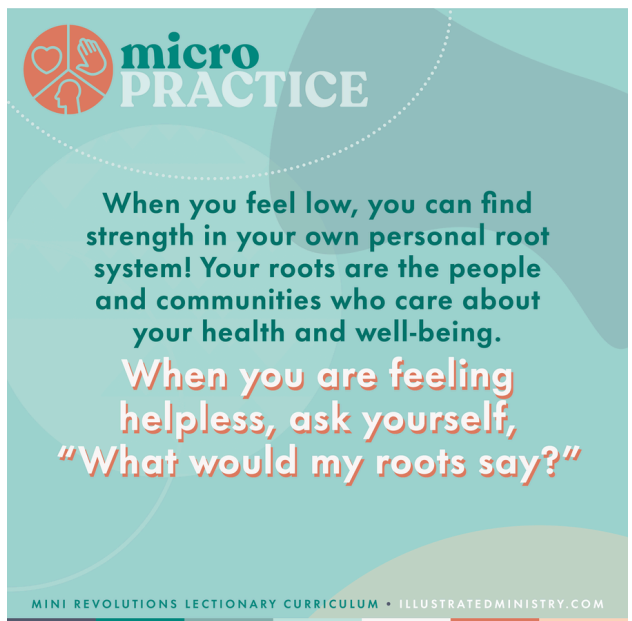
### Reflection Questions

- This Season after Pentecost helps us grow in God's love. In our story, Paul tells the Colossians to stay strong, or "rooted," in their faith. What other kind and helpful words did Paul share?
- Some people believe we must follow certain rules to be close to God. Paul says that's not what matters most. What rules or messages might make someone feel left out?
- When have you felt loved, safe, or close to God? What helped you feel that way?
- What are some rules or traditions that help people feel close to God? What rules make people feel confused or left out? How can we tell which ones help and which ones don't?
- Sometimes people say we're not good enough. Paul reminds us we belong to Jesus. How does remembering help us when we don't feel good enough or like we don't belong?

### Look it Up!

Have you heard of "Kindness Rocks?"

**Look up the Kindness Rocks Project, an organization that hosts events for people to paint rocks with positive messages and place them in public spaces to remind others they are loved.**



## **Activity**

Create a tree trunk and roots using brown paper on a wall or large surface. Make sure the roots are large and easily visible. Then, cut out a large number of green paper leaves, and set them aside.

Begin by reminding the kids in your life that when we are rooted in God's love, that love helps us grow strong and kind. Our roots remind us who we are and how much we are loved. Ask, "What helps you remember God loves you?" Share your own example first. Then, invite responses. Write each response on a paper root, or invite the children to write it themselves.

Once the roots are filled, turn attention to the top of the empty tree. Trees with strong roots produce healthy leaves. When we remember we are loved by God, we grow, too. Ask, "What grows in us when we are rooted in God's love?" Use the root words to help guide responses. Write each response on a leaf, and tape it to the tree's branches. Offer quiet reflection time for the children to write their own leaves, which they can then place on the tree.

Together, look at the tree to show how being rooted in God's love helps us grow. It reminds us that we belong to God—not because of rules, but because of truth and love. When we are rooted in God's love, it shapes the way we treat others and ourselves, how we trust God, and how we live every day.

Leave the tree up as a visual reminder. Let it continue to grow each week as a symbol of belonging, love, and faith.

## **Prayer**

Loving God, you made us for community, knowing life is much more vibrant together than apart. When we feel lonely, bring us together. When we get distracted, remind us who we are. Together, may we stay rooted in your love. Amen.



## CHURCH Announcements

**Thank you** for your offering of **\$12,565.29** for the week of **July 13** and **\$9,340.20** for the week of **July 20!**

**Altar Flowers** for the week are provided by Jenell Loftesnes, in memory of Howard Loftesnes **Thank you!**

Please join us **on Thursday, August 14<sup>th</sup> for a Scripture Circle led by U.S. Jones, III!** This powerful method of studying scripture focuses on details and connections across Scripture. The event, **hosted at Missouri Slope's North Campus (4916 N Washington 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 September 11<sup>th</sup> (at Lord of Life, 1143 N 26<sup>th</sup> Street, Bismarck) and October 9<sup>th</sup> (at Trinity Lutheran, 502 N 4<sup>th</sup> St, Bismarck)!

Looking to boost your communication skills and stretch your improvisational muscles? Join us on **Friday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, from 5:45 to 7:15 PM** in the East Room at Faith Lutheran Church for a playful, hands-on **workshop in improv comedy and drama.** We'll cover the basics of good improv and create space for laughter, creativity, and connection with others from the church and local community. **No experience needed** — just a willingness to say “yes, and!” Teenagers are welcome with adult supervision. No RSVP required, but feel free to reach out with questions at [\*\*joseph.michalka@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:joseph.michalka@gmail.com)

Interested in **serving the community with other women from the East Missouri WELCA Cluster?** There are opportunities to assist residents at Missouri Slope to play Bingo **any Tuesday in July from 1:45pm-3pm!** If you are interested, please sign up using the sheet on the back counter, or contact Connie Isaak at (701) 258-2025 (home) or (701) 391-2825 (cell).

Men of Faith and WELCA **invite everyone to attend a presentation about Livestrong**, a training program for Cancer Survivors, led by Jennifer Bandy, on **Monday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall**. Following the presentation, Men of Faith and WELCA will meet separately to discuss business and plan events for the future. Hope to see you there!

Mark your calendars for the **next Interfaith Potluck!** Join other community members on **Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup> from 11:30am to 1pm at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints** (1500 Country West Road, Bismarck) for a time of great food, fellowship, and friendly conversations. Please bring a dish to share if you are able. We will also be **collecting school supplies for area non-profits**, and there will be an opportunity to learn more about family history and genealogy. Hope to see you there!

Please join us in the sanctuary on **Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at 2pm for the Ordination of Adam Barden!** There will be a time of fellowship immediately following the service. Help us celebrate Adam and his call to serve at First Lutheran Church in Mandan!

Please be in prayer for our **NC Disaster Response Trip group** as they travel to Western NC and serve those impacted by Hurricane Helene **from Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup> to Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup>**.

**Message and Liturgy: Pastor Derek Harkins**  
**Music: Colleen Reinhardt**

## CALENDAR

### Thursday, July 24

6:00 Knit & Crochet Night

### Friday, July 25

5:45 Improv Workshop

8:00 NA

### Saturday, July 26

### Sunday, July 27

NC Trip

9:30 Worship

### Monday, July 28

NC Trip

7:00 AA

### Tuesday, July 29

NC Trip

9:00 Quilting

2:00 Crafts

### Wednesday, July 30

NC Trip

10:00 Bible Study

7:00 Worship

# MISSION Focus



## JUNE & JULY: COMMUNITY ACTION FOOD PANTRY

The Community Action Food Pantry provide food baskets, usually filled with enough food to last approximately 4-7 days, to income qualified clients and families in need. They are currently in need of canned soups, pasta and pasta sauce, canned chicken and tuna, pancake mixes, rice, and other non-perishable food items. Thank you for your generosity!

*"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat." - Matthew 25:35*