



1402 East Avenue C, Bismarck, ND 58501

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After Hours Emergency Line: 701-595-0223

www.faithbismarck.com

News and Views

July 2024

Volume 2024, Issue 6

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Summer Worship Hours

As a reminder,

From Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend, we will have one 9:30 am Sunday service along with our usual 7:00 pm service Wednesday!

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH CLERGY

Pastor Derek Harkins
(Fridays off)

Pastor Sylvia Bull
(Fridays off)

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY: 9:30am

WED: 7:00pm

LIVESTREAM AT SUN 9:30 & WED 7:00

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.

AARDAHL POTLUCK & SOCIAL

John and Jill Power's House (2417 Harding Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58501)

Sunday, July 21st, 4:30-7pm

Remember Wes and Rebecca Aardahl? Our former pastor and his wife will be in Bismarck this coming July, and we will be hosting a social! We have a sign-up sheet available on the Concierge Table so we know how many to prepare for! This will also be a potluck, so please bring a side-dish (meat will be provided). Come on out to catch up with the Aardahls!



FLC Executive Team

Jim Sheldon, Chair

Amy Steiner, Vice-Chair

Lyla Timm, Vice-Chair

Mark Schneider, Secretary

Matthew Nygard, Treasurer

Pastoral Ministries

Funerals:

Ronald Monson

James "Jim" Bakko

Baptisms:

Raymond James Sherwin

Bryer Wayne Elhard



FINANCIAL UPDATE

May General Fund:

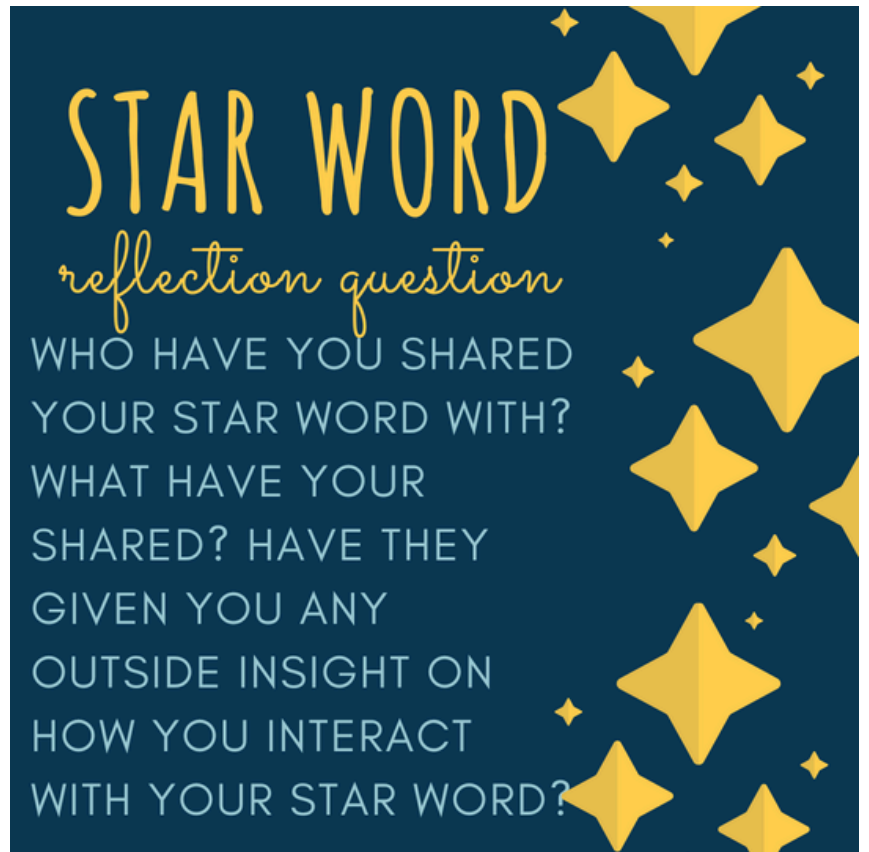
Revenues: \$37,706.38

Expenditures: \$52,970.62

2024 Total:

Revenues: \$256,777.74

Expenditures: \$261,964.18



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 Dorothy Ottmar.

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

The Old Bench

She was quite old when my Judy met her at a rummage sale. She told Judy that I am old and wearing out, but I can still serve you. Judy brought her home, cleaned her and repaired her nicks and bruises. Then we introduced her to my mother. She lived with Fern for several years.

And when Fern was not able to care for her, she came back to be with Judy and me. This old and worn out soul became a holder of beauty which transformed her to the beauty of her youth. A bench. She was a simple wooden bench that during the growing season held potted flowers and made beautiful the east side of our garage. In the spring of 2022, she said that it is time for me to leave. I cannot serve you anymore. Go find someone who can. We did what she said. In New Salem, during the 2022 Red Trail Rummage Sale we found her replacement.

The old bench lived with us for another winter and then in the Spring of 2023 she went to her final resting place at the landfill. This old bench, who came to us as a tired and worn out soul, reminded me that there is beauty and friendship in all of us.

Do not look straight ahead or the other way. Look at their faces. Smile and say hello. You too will find that there is warmth, beauty, and friendship in all you meet. God will be pleased.

Bennett R. Kubischta
5 June 2024, 9:01 am

Summer Kids' Bible Study

Kids entering 3rd-6th grades are invited to join Pastor Sylvia on Wednesdays from 3-5pm this summer (June 5-Aug 7) for a kids Bible study. We will have snacks, do fun activities, and read and talk about Bible stories! This is a great chance to make new friends and connect with God together.

To register, visit faithbismarck.com/forms.
Registration is limited to 12 participants.
Sign up today!





Library Link

by [LeAnn Severson](#)

You don't have to be a cat lover to find merit in reading three books in our church library based on true experiences with cats.

DEWEY, written by Vicki Myron, tells the true story of an abandoned kitten that was stuffed into the return book slot of a public library in Spencer, Iowa. Dewey becomes a permanent resident of the library, and this book tells his story of how he transformed a library, inspired a town and touched the hearts of many.

MAKING THE ROUNDS WITH OSCAR by David Dosa, M.D. is the true story of Oscar, the cat, and his mysterious and peculiar ability to hold vigils at the bedside of dementia patients at their end-of-life stage.

In her book, THE CAT WHO CAME BACK FOR CHRISTMAS, Julia Romp tells the true story of the bond between her son, George, who has autism, and the family cat. The connection between the cat and George helps him to make remarkable progress until the day the cat goes missing.

Children will enjoy reading PRINCESS GRACE AND THE LITTLE LOST KITTEN, based on the parable of the lost sheep. Troon Harrison's book, A CAT IN THE STABLE, tells the story of Sophie who, when her beloved cat dies, asks God to bring Muffin back to her. God answers her prayer in a surprising and wonderful way!

These books are on display in the library.

Worship and Music Task Force

WORSHIP TEAMS

For many of us, Faith Lutheran Church and the people in it provide the anchor that keeps us upright as we go about our daily lives. We are incredibly blessed to have a couple of awesome pastors who work hard to teach, preach, counsel, pray with/for us and support us in a thousand other ways every single week. We enjoy weekly worship in this beautiful worship space with modern amenities and comfortable pews. We belong to committees and special groups who serve this church family in countless ways. Without volunteers, there is very little that could be accomplished here at Faith. We literally run on volunteers. Worship Teams are one way that we have been able to streamline the recruitment of volunteers for participation in the worship service. This will be our 3rd year, and it has been an incredibly positive experience for those who have participated. We are so thankful for the 125 faithful volunteers who make up 15 worship teams for 2 services every Sunday

morning. This is what each team is responsible for:

- Two ushers, who greet you as you enter the Sanctuary for Worship, take offering and let you know when it's your turn for communion.
- A tech person, who sits in the booth in the back of the sanctuary and advances the power point slides for our liturgy and hymns.
- A reader, who reads the scripture during the service.
- Several assistants to serve Communion alongside our Pastors.

Each team is, typically, assigned 5 or 6 Sundays during the school year and another 1 during the summer. Please take a few minutes to consider joining one of the teams. The teams are doing well, but a few more on each team would help to cover absences that are bound to happen. We are preparing the fall schedule, and there is a place for you on one of the teams!

MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

I think we would all agree that music plays a very important part of each worship service. I believe that the gift of music is something that we all possess in one form or another. Most of us enjoy singing the hymns at worship or listening as those around us sing. We enjoy the piano or organ music and special music provided by individuals or groups, including Sounds of Faith. If you play the keyboard or piano at home and are ready to play for us, there's a place for you here. If you have been given a gift of music, play an instrument or have the desire to sing and share your gift with others, you can do that here. You may choose to play or sing a solo selection, or join the choir or Sounds of Faith, or sing in a small group or ensemble. When you are ready, all you have to do is talk to one of the pastors, to Cheryl or Caitlin in the office, or myself. Just let us know what you need in the form of accompaniment and when you would like to share your gifts.

ARTISTS

If you are an artist or a person who loves to design, decorate, embroider, paint or sew, we would love for you to help us add to a Visual Arts team to assist the Altar Guild and Visual Arts person in creating meaningful visual experiences for our worship space, and providing additional backgrounds, and items for seasonal decoration.

Sometimes we need to be reminded that our creative gifts are God Given. By God's design, we don't all have the same gifts. But we can all do something. Our intent is not to create pretty banners or art exhibits to look at for our own sake, but as a way to offer to God our praise and gratitude. Our aim is not to "Provide Musical Entertainment" for our own sake, but to share our gifts in Praise to our God. Our goal here is not to "rope you into something just to get the job done," but to invite you and encourage you to help shape the worship experience. Please watch for sign up opportunities, now and throughout the church year.

Thank you - from Judy Kubischta, the Worship and Music Task Force, and the Pastors.

Pastor Sylvia's Parables



"Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."
Ephesians 5:19-20

Shirley, my sister's godmother, has been on my mind a lot lately. Since my sister and I grew up away from our extended family, Shirley and her husband Sonny were surrogate grandparents for us. If my parents had to go out of town or work when we had a day off from school, we stayed at their house. It was a second home to my sister and me. There are a lot of things I remember from Shirley and Sonny's house: the giant bean bag chair in their living room, the collection of angel figurines on the buffet, the homemade sourdough biscuits we stuffed ourselves with if we happened to be lucky enough to be there on a Saturday morning.

But one of the things I remember most is the singing. Shirley was always involved with music at our church, and for many years she led a Cherub Choir for the small group of kids we had. She loved teaching us all kinds of different songs, which we often practiced if we were at their house. Some of our favorites were "The Circuit Riding Preacher" and "Jesus Makes House Calls" (if you don't know those ones, I highly recommend looking them up on Youtube!). We learned "Do Lord" and "Good Morning, Lord" and "This Is the Day" and "I Am a Promise" - all by heart, because Shirley didn't let us use song sheets! If you couldn't remember the words, you were just supposed to mouth the word "watermelon" over and over.

Many of those songs are still the heart songs of my faith, and in my memory I can hear all of them in Shirley's Tennessee drawl. When I sing those songs today, I feel a tangible and powerful connection to God, to Shirley and Sonny, and to so many others who are part of the communion of saints.

Many of you have already shared with us a couple of your favorite hymns - your heart songs of faith - when we asked you to in worship a couple of weeks ago. Thank you! It has been so fun to see which songs are your favorites and read your words about why these



Shirley (L) leads the kids in singing (probably "The Circuit Riding Preacher" since they are wearing cowboy hats). Pastor Sylvia is second from the right in the checked shirt.

songs are meaningful to you. If you haven't had a chance to do this yet, it is not too late! Call or email the church office and tell us about one or two of your favorite hymns. We will be incorporating these songs into worship in July and August as we do a summer worship series called Faces of our Faith, which focuses on lesser-known Bible stories that shape our faith. Alongside those stories, we will sing these songs that have shaped and carried our faith. They connect us to so many saints, often the ones who taught us the songs to begin with.

I am so looking forward to singing your heart songs with you - maybe I will even learn a new one or two! I hope you'll join us this summer as we sing hymns and spiritual songs together, making melody to the Lord Jesus, who does indeed make house calls.

In Christ,
Pastor Sylvia

WND Synod Assembly Reflections

Below are reflections from our members who attended the WND Synod Assembly, held this year in Waford City, the weekend of June 2nd.

The Synod Assembly teaches me more about my church, myself, and the mission we share. I enjoy it and anyone that gets a chance should go. I believe any of us would benefit from it and be glad they went.

This year in our church, the theme has been witnessing Jesus, and that same theme was carried over to the Synod meeting. In John 17:18, the Bible tells us: just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world. Telling people about Jesus and how he has transformed you, saved you, and renewed your life is witnessing, and is obedience to him.

So in the beautiful area of Watford City, I had to evaluate why I haven't been witnessing the way Jesus wants me to. As Lutherans, we are not really brought up to witness about Jesus, and, let's face it, have not used our opportunities as well. But this is something we all must work at, we are not to make excuses. After all, what if our story or stories helped someone else come closer to Jesus? We have all been called, now Jesus sends us. - [Lyla](#)

[Timm](#)

WND Synod Assembly Reflections Continued

This year I had the opportunity to attend Synod Assembly for Western ND. I didn't grow up Lutheran - instead, I was shaped by a variety of different Christian traditions - and while my husband and I have been attending Faith Lutheran for five years, this was a fantastic way to learn more about this place we call home, and I was struck by the consistent Lutheran emphasis on grace and faith. The assembly's theme, "Witnessing Jesus" highlighted stories from around the synod about the tangible ways Jesus is seen as we take care of one another. The educator group "JUSTmove" challenged us to become aware of the disparate levels of power we might have as we go through life and to use that to create spaces where all are included. We also voted on a number of resolutions, including staying connected to other synods by sending greetings, considering how to step back into the civic space with collective engagement after the loss of LSSND, and committing to educating ourselves about the false doctrine of Christian nationalism that creates a false equivalency of the church with the US, privileges certain kinds of faith expression, and provides political cover for anti-democratic actions. I left feeling closer to the broader Church family, refreshed in my spirit, and encouraged that the good work we do each and every day is the work of the gospel - helping those around us witness Jesus and his love for all of us. - [Karen Michalka](#)

Getting to attend Synod was very special. I was inspired seeing how the Lord is at work throughout Western North Dakota. It was also a great learning experience to see in a practical way how the Church is organized and handles the challenges of being a disparate body of believers. In some ways the voting and discussions were fairly pedestrian, but there was also something special about members from many congregations coming together and deciding as a body where our time and resources should be directed for this upcoming year. And who can say no to getting to spend time with Pastors' Derek and Sylvia for the weekend? - [Joe Michalka](#)

Paul and I enjoyed attending the 2024 Western North Dakota Synod Assembly held in Watford City June 1 & 2.

As individuals new to the Lutheran faith, we felt so welcome and part of a special church that is open and caring about each member. We were honored to be a part of the process of voting and also inspired by the messages of faith and witnessing Jesus. Thank you for allowing us to be a part of this opportunity. - [Mary Verlinde](#)

Memorials

Thanks to recent Memorials, in memory of Judy Kocis and others, we were able to put up a third screen in our sanctuary to enhance the worship experience and make participation more accessible. Thank you for your generosity!

2024 Faith Lutheran Confirmands

Congratulations to our Faith Lutheran Confirmands this year! We are excited to see where your faith journey takes you, and look forward to supporting you as you keep growing and exploring!



Front Row (L to R): Pastor Sylvia, Megan Zins, Sydney Lacher, Cash Klein
Middle Row (L to R): Kaiana Zins, Sara Schmidt, Brianna Dykema, Reed Romsaas, Pastor Derek
Last Row (L to R): June Robinson, Ethan Keller, Ryan Schmidt, Noah Bucholz

Have Some Extra Yarn?

Our **new Knit/Crochet group** is looking for donations of worsted weight yarn to use to make hats for area non-profits! If you would like to donate, please contact Caitlin McCleary by calling the office at (701) 223-2236, emailing communications.bisfaith@gmail.com, or stopping by! If you would like to join our group, **our meetings for the month of July will be Thursday, July 11 at 2pm, and Thursday, July 28th at 6pm.**

WELCA GATHERING

Monday, August 19th

7pm

Join us for Food and Fellowship, as we hear from speaker Jasmine Tosseth-Smith, Co-Director of Global Neighbors, and discuss future plans for WELCA. All women of the church are welcome to attend!



WELCA East Missouri Fall Cluster Meeting

SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 28TH
9:30AM-1PM

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
1402 E AVE C
BISMARCK, ND 58503

MISSION Focus



JULY: 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, but they are currently running low on spiral notebooks, rulers, unsharpened pencils, pens (not gel, with blue or black ink), crayons, nail clippers, boys and girls t-shirts (6m to 24m), girls pants (18m to 24m), and receiving blankets (between 36" and 52"). 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



July 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7:00 AA	2 2:00 Crafts	3 10:00 Bible Study 3:00 Kid's Bible Study 7:00 Worship	4 Independence Day Church Office Closed	5 8:00 NA	6
7 9:30 Worship	8 7:00 AA	9 2:00 Crafts	10 Newsletter Deadline 10:00 Bible Study 3:00 Kid's Bible Study 7:00 Worship	11 2:00 Knit/Crochet Group	12 8:00 NA	13
14 NYG Trip (New Orleans) 9:30 Worship	15 NYG Trip 5:00 Worship and Music 7:00 AA	16 NYG Trip 2:00 Crafts	17 NYG Trip 10:00 Bible Study 3:00 Kid's Bible Study 7:00 Worship	18 NYG Trip	19 NYG Trip 8:00 NA	20 NYG Trip
21 9:30 Worship	22 7:00 AA	23 2:00 Crafts	24 10:00 Bible Study 3:00 Kid's Bible Study 7:00 Worship	25 6:00 Knit/Crochet Group	26 8:00 NA	27
28 9:30 Worship	29 7:00 AA	30 2:00 Crafts	31 10:00 Bible Study 3:00 Kid's Bible Study 7:00 Worship			

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1402 E Avenue C
Bismarck, ND 58501-4398
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(701)223-2236

Faith Lutheran Church July 2024 News and Views

***SAVE THE DATE
SECOND ANNUAL
END OF SUMMER
FELLOWSHIP & WORSHIP EVENT***

Wednesday, August 28, 2024
Food, Activities and Music starting at 5:30
Outdoor Worship at 7:00
West Lawn, Faith Lutheran Church