

Sunday, March 30, 2025
4th Sunday in Lent
The Need for Change

Fourth Sunday in Lent

the need

**for
change**

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 WORDS

OPENING HYMN: Hymn of Promise (In the Bulb There Is a Flower)

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

KYRIE (ELW Setting 10, pg. 203) *

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

READINGS: see next page

LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW Setting 10, pg. 205) *

GOSPEL READING: see next page

CHILDREN'S SERMON & SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 606 "Our Father, We Have Wandered" *

APOSTLE'S CREED

SHARING OF THE PEACE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING MOMENT

OFFERING PRAYER

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

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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

LAMB OF GOD (ELW Setting 10, pg. 208) *

COMMUNION HYMNS:

ELW 801 "Change My Heart, O God" x3 *

ELW 182 "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful" *

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

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN: ELW 608 "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling" *

DISMISSAL

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

READING(S)

First Reading: *Joshua 5:9-12*

Second Reading: *2 Corinthians 5:16-21*

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

Gospel Reading: *Luke 13:1-9*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 13th 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: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this

son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

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

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Monday - Prayer of the Day

Renewing Christ, in you, everything old has passed away, and new things come into being! Ease our suspicion of change and our growing pains; teach us to embrace the transitions that help us and this world reveal you more fully.

Tuesday - Connections with the Liturgy

The rite of "Welcome to Baptism" (Evangelical Lutheran Worship pp. 232–33) provides a way for the full assembly to celebrate a baptism which is scheduled for the future. As with a pregnant mother, as with the watchful father in the parable, we wait expectantly for each one's arrival. In the name of Christ, we welcome those who are preparing for baptism. We give them, not a literal robe, ring, and sandals, but the sign of the cross and our communal support, for we are ambassadors of Christ's reconciliation to the whole world.

Wednesday - Let the Children Come

Kids will find the story of the prodigal son to be a tough one, but only if they think they're expected to feel a certain kind of way about it. Even if they're an only child, they know what it is to feel jealous or to wonder from time to time if a beloved

grown-up in their life even sees them. Likewise, they (hopefully!) know what it feels like to be celebrated in an overly extravagant manner. What a great story to invite kids to “try on” different perspectives—what was it like to be the father? The younger son? The older son? The party guests? The pigs? This story can help them understand that it’s okay to wonder about—to interrogate, even—other stories in the Bible too.

Thursday - Connections with Creation

Paul’s vision of salvation is expansive. Paul tells us that “in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself” (2 Cor. 5:19). Here, “world” is not the word for humanity or earth—but the word cosmos. The salvation given to us in Christ is not merely for humanity, but for all creation. Airways, waterways, animals, plants, and even far-off galaxies are made new in the resurrection.

Friday - Reflection on the Gospel Reading

The two sons are each of us: we are all the foolish runaway who wastes what God has provided, and we are all the smug good guy who condemns the outsider. So it is that Augustine, and Luther after him, taught that all humans are sinful, all need the forgiveness that God offers. The description of a celebrative feast symbolizes the communal nature of the individual’s forgiven life. Christians have interpreted this feast as a picture of holy communion.

Saturday - A Hymn for the Day

In the hymn “Our Father, we have wandered” (ELW 606), Kevin Nichols applied the parable of the prodigal son to each of us. Nichols was a Roman Catholic priest who served in England and was at one point in his schooling tutored by C.S. Lewis. In the first stanza, we recall our baptism, when God called us by name.



CHURCH
Announcements

Thank you for your offering of **\$10,822.89** for the week of March 23!

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by Kevin and Myre Kosse, in memory of Gwen Egly. **Thank you!**

Lent is here! Join us for a **12:05pm service** along with our 7pm service, as well as a **Soup Lunch at 11:15am, each Wednesday of Lent.** Look on the back counter for **sign-ups to bring bread and bars** for our soup lunches!

Church Announcements Continued

Easter is almost here! Please join us for **Maundy Thursday, April 17**, at 7pm, **Good Friday, April 18** at 12pm or 7pm, the **Community Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 19th** at 7pm (hosted at Faith Lutheran!) and **Easter Sunday, April 20th** at 7am, 9am, or 11am. Don't forget our **Easter Sunday Continental Breakfast** from 7:30am-11am to support our youth with your free will offering!

We are excited to announce we have a **new music coordinator, Kalen Hill!** Kalen is originally from Minot, where he worshipped at Pastor Derek's former church, Christ Lutheran Church, and is currently studying Music Education at University of Mary. You can **read more about him and see his picture in our upcoming April newsletter.**

Come to our next **All Comers' Choir Rehearsals on Sunday, April 6.** All singers (any skill level!) are invited to come to one rehearsal at 7:30am, and then perform during the Offertory at the 8:30am service and the prelude at the 11am service that day. **Save the Date** to sing on Maundy Thursday, April 17th (rehearsal at 6pm, worship at 7pm), Good Friday, April 18th (rehearsal at 6pm, worship at 7pm) and Easter Sunday, April 20 (rehearsal at 8:15am, worship at 9am and 11am)

The Faith Crafters have created **handmade Easter cards, table favors and Easter basket stuffers** that they will be selling between services on **April 6 and April 13 (if items remain).**

Join other members for the **2025 Race for Parkinson's, held on Saturday, April 26 at Sertoma Park.** For more information, look for the Bismarck Parkinson's Support Group on Facebook, visit <https://bismarckparkinsons.wordpress.com/>, or reference the poster on the counter beside the sanctuary

Save the Date for our upcoming **Confirmation Luncheon on Sunday, April 30 at 12:15pm in the Fellowship Hall.** Everyone is invited to join us as we celebrate our ninth graders taking the next step in their faith journey! **Confirmation services** will be Wednesday, May 1st at 7pm and Sunday, May 4 at 11am.

Thank you to all who attended the most recent **Potato/Chili Feed**. We served 130 plates / 35 bowls and from your generous giving, **raised \$2206.00 for Camp of the Cross**. Along with this, we want to send a thank you to those who provided the chili and bar's.....our taste buds are still smiling.

We are **accepting sponsorships for our NC Trip** this summer! We appreciate any donations to help fund this multi-generational trip to help recovery efforts from Hurricane Helene. Sponsors will also receive updates, and an invitation to a “thank you” dinner after the trip. You can **make a donation to Faith Lutheran with “NC trip sponsor” in the memo line or on a note, or use our Give page on our website**. More information on the different costs for the trip can be found on the bulletin board near our Coffee Hour area.

Don't forget to **direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars!** Individuals with certain types of accounts can direct money, donated by Thrivent, to specific non-profits in the area. The **deadline to direct your Dollars is Monday, March 31st**. Make sure to log-in to the online portal, or talk to your Thrivent representative, to select any non-profits you would like to support. In the past, we have used Thrivent Choice Dollars to fund devotionals and Bible Study materials, speakers and special events at Faith Lutheran. Thank you for supporting non-profits!

Message: Pastor Derek Harkins

Liturgy: Pastor Sylvia Bull

Music: Colleen Reinhardt

Worship Assistants:

8:30 - Team E: Joe Grotsun, Hannah Grotsun, Brooke Sundvor, Steve Sundvor, Allison Germolus, Ben Kubischta, Judy Kubischta, Mercy Carkuff

11:00 - Team 3: Aaron Franklund, Jack Skaley, Gail Skaley, Jan Franklund, Les Franklund, Glenn Anderson, Tina Anderson, Carolee Hoffman, LeRoy Anderson, Janice Anderson

CALENDAR

Monday, March 31

5:00 Altar Guild
7:00 AA

Tuesday, April 1

9:00 Quilting
2:00 Crafts
5:15 BIO Girls
6:00 Compass Group
7:00 Executive Committee
7:00 Scouts

Wednesday, April 2

10:00 Book Study
11:15 Soup Lunch
12:05 Worship
4:30 8th/9th Confirmation
5:30 BLAST Meal
5:30 Handbells
6:00 Church School
6:00 Book Study
7:00 Worship

Thursday, April 3

9:00 Esther Circle

Friday, April 4

8:00 NA

Saturday, April 5

Sunday, April 6

7:30 All Comers' Choir Rehearsal
8:30 Worship
9:45 Church School
9:45 Book Study
11:00 Worship
4:00 Cub Scouts

MISSION Focus



MARCH: SCOUTING FOR FOOD

This month, we will be partnering with the Scouts in their Scouting for Food Project! Bring in any non-perishable food items throughout the month of March, and the scouts will bring them to food banks throughout the community. The Northern Lights Council is looking to keep growing this event, and reach their goal of 50,000 pounds of food collected, and your contributions can help!

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