

Wednesday, February 19, 2025
Seventh Week After Epiphany
Baptism into the Death and
Resurrection of the Lord



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING SONG: ACS 1037 "Christ, Our Peace" x3 *

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

NICENE CREED (Part 6)

We confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

READING (see next page)

SERMON

SONG: "The Kingdom of God" x3

**The kingdom of God is justice and peace
and joy in the Holy Spirit
Come, Lord, and open in us
the gates of your Kingdom.**

INSTALLATION & BLESSING OF CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: ELW 538 "The Lord Now Sends Us Forth" x2 *

DISMISSAL

READING

Gospel Reading: *Luke 6:27-38*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 6th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

[Jesus said:] "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

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

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 Genesis 45: 3-11, 15

Prayer

God of reconciliation, when our words or actions cause hurt, forgive us. May we be quick to repair and restore. When someone else's words or actions hurt us, comfort us. Amen.

Reflection Questions

- We are near the end of Epiphany, where we seek to notice God’s love for the world. How do you see God’s love present in forgiveness?
- Based on what you have heard and read about Joseph and his brothers, what was the true reason behind the brothers’ secret plan to betray him?
- Do you think Joseph’s decision whether to forgive his brothers was easy or hard? Why? What decision would you have made in the same situation?
- Joseph had become an important person in Egypt after his brothers betrayed and abandoned him. Was it necessary for him to forgive his brothers?
- In order to forgive, we need to first truthfully admit what has happened. Second, take action. And then, finally, forgive. If you have ever had to forgive someone, which part was the hardest for you? Have you ever gotten ‘stuck’ on one step?

Did you know?

Did you know this story has been turned into a musical?

Look up videos or music clips from Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, such as “Joseph All the Time” or “Any Dream Will Do.”



**micro
PRACTICE**

It is difficult to love enemies or even to tolerate them in our presence. Jesus gave us a way to handle feelings of hate.

When we pray for our enemies, our hearts begin to grow compassion and empathy. Give it a try!

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Guiding Activity

A great way to reflect on today's story with the children in your life is to play the "forgive-o-meter" game.

Before the game, generate a list of big or small things requiring forgiveness. To play, have players stand in the center of a room, identifying one side of the room as "hard to forgive" and the opposite side of the room as "easy to forgive." As you read each situation, players should choose a spot along the imaginary line between the sides to represent how hard forgiveness would be for that specific scenario. Move through several scenarios.

When finished, reflect on the game and remind players how, at the beginning of the story, when Joseph's brothers treated him so terribly, it would've been hard to imagine them reconciling. Yet, they do—by taking three important steps (truth-telling, action, and offering forgiveness)!

Apply these same steps to situations from the game, asking:

- What truth needs to be told to make room for forgiveness?
- What actions need to be taken?
- What words of forgiveness need to be spoken?



CHURCH
Announcements

Thank you for your offering of **\$7,056.05** for the week of **February 16!**

Altar Flowers for the week are provided by Gene and LeAnn Severson, in memory of Judy Kocis. **Thank you!**

Come to our next **All Comers' Choir Rehearsals on Sunday, February 23rd and Sunday, March 2.** 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.

Middle and High School Youth, please join us for a **Mock-In, hosted at Trinity Lutheran Church** with other churches in the Bismarck-Mandan area, on **Friday, February 21 from 6pm-10pm!** Call the office at (701) 223-2236 and ask for Kenny for more details! Registration link: <https://form.jotform.com/250085703330144>

K-5 Students: join Camp of the Cross for a **Camp Fun Day at Trinity Lutheran Church on Saturday, March 1 from 10am-2pm.**
Registration Link: <https://form.jotform.com/250085955740158>

Join us for the 29th Annual **Camp of the Cross Potato/Chili Feed Fundraiser**, hosted by Men of Faith, on **Wednesday, March 5 at 5pm.** Faith Lutheran has long been involved with Camp of the Cross, whether financially, through volunteer work, or our average of 6-7 yearly attendees and members working as counselors. This fundraiser is a great opportunity to support an important ministry partner of Faith Lutheran with your **free-will offering**, while enjoying fellowship and a meal together. Speaking of opportunities, please check the **two sign-up sheets in the Gathering area (to provide bars and chili)** as another method to help out.

Lent is almost here! Join us **starting March 5**, Ash Wednesday, 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!

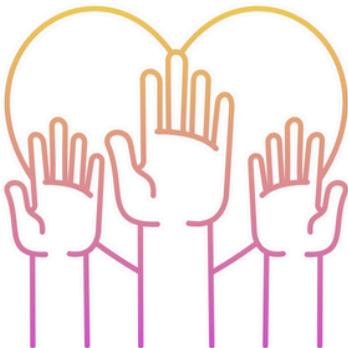
Join us **starting Sunday March 9th (Sundays at 9:45am)** or **starting Wednesday, March 19th (Wednesdays at 10am and 6pm)** for our **Lent book study.** We will read and discuss Rev. Danielle Shroyer's book *Original Blessing*, which invites us to consider the possibility that we are more precious to God than we ever imagined. The study will run for 8 weeks, skipping Holy Week and Easter Sunday. **Books are available** in Caitlin McCleary's office.

Our **Lent devotional** from our theme this year, "All We Need," is now available! Look on the (deciding on location) to pick up your free copy!

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!

For the month of February, we are **honoring our Quilting group at Faith Lutheran!** Each year, our quilters make and send 130 quilts to Lutheran World Relief, as well as 30-40 quilts for local causes, such as members in need, recognizing staff, and donations to local non-profits. The group meets every Tuesday morning at 9am if you are interested in joining. **Thank you** for all you do for our community and the world!

MISSION Focus



FEBRUARY: BIO GIRLS

BIO Girls aims to improve the self-esteem of adolescent girls through service to others and self-empowerment, using a life-skills curriculum and small-group mentoring. The BIO Girls program at FLC also helps girls train for a 5k in May. They are currently seeking monetary donations to help with scholarships, supplies for classes, and items for their finale event! Checks can be made out to BIO GIRLS, with Bismarck FLC BIO Girls in the memo line, and mailed to BIO Girls, 4225 38th St S, Suite 202, Fargo, ND, 58104. Thank you for your generosity!

Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. - 1 Timothy 4:12

CALENDAR

Thursday, February 20

Friday, February 21

6:00 Youth Mock-In (Trinity
Lutheran Church)
8:00 NA

Saturday, February 22

11:30 Interfaith Potluck (UCC
Bismarck)

Sunday, February 23

7:30 All Comers' Choir Rehearsal
8:30 Worship
9:45 Church School
11:00 Worship
2:00 Camp of the Cross Annual
Meeting (Garrison & Zoom)

Monday, February 24

5:00 Altar Guild
7:00 AA

Tuesday, February 25

9:00 Quilters
2:00 Crafts
7:00 Scouts

Wednesday, February 26

10:00 Bible Study
5:30 Handbells
6:00 6th/7th Grade PS
6:00 Church School
7:00 Worship

Message: Pastor Sylvia Bull
Liturgy: Pastor Derek Harkins
Music: Judy Kubischta