



1402 East Avenue C, Bismarck, ND 58501

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After Hours Emergency Line: 701-595-0223

www.faithbismarck.com

News and Views

November 2024

Volume 2024, Issue 10

MISSION STATEMENT

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

YOU ARE INVITED TO A

Thanksgiving

COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICE

Join us for a community Thanksgiving Worship Service hosted by Bismarck UCC, Faith Lutheran, Lord of Life Lutheran, McCabe United Methodist, Legacy UMC, Lutheran Church of the Cross, & St. George's Episcopal.

Darla Schafer from the Northern Plains Conference UCC Disaster Ministries will speak about disaster response. In kind donations of granola bars and sports drinks are encouraged, and monetary offerings will support disaster response. Pie social to follow the service. All are welcome!

November 26th, 2024	St. George's Episcopal Church
7:00PM	601 N 4th St, Bismarck, ND 58501

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH CLERGY

Pastor Derek Harkins
(Fridays off)

Pastor Sylvia Bull
(Fridays off)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY: 8:30am & 11am
WED: 7:00pm

LIVESTREAM AT SUN 8:30
& 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.

ALL SAINTS' DAY

LUMINARIA WALK

SUNDAY, NOV. 3, 6PM-7PM

Join us in the Sanctuary for a brief candlelight prayer service, as we remember those who have died in the past year. Prayer service will begin at 6pm. Luminaria walk will be open for personal prayer until 7pm.



FLC Executive Team

Jim Sheldon, Chair

Amy Steiner, Vice-Chair

Lyla Timm, Vice-Chair

Mark Schneider, Secretary

Matthew Nygard, Treasurer

Pastoral Ministries

Funerals:

Eileen Graff

Iris Stenerson

Eileen Schnaidt

Gracie Larson

Weddings:

Madison Brown & Alexander Hoff

New Members:

Vincent & Dalene Berger

Jill & Lloyd Haagenon

Jerry & Betty Kelly

Troy Schulz

Sara, Mark & Blake Fisher

Tom Llewyn

Larry & Caren Barnett

Emily Grote & David Ruiz



FINANCIAL UPDATE

September General Fund:

Revenues: \$46,756.20

Expenditures: \$47,143.61

2024 Total:

Revenues: \$435,477.77

Expenditures: \$457,793.60



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 Harry Darling.

For **Endowment**, in memory of Harry Darling and Jerry & Bev Zins.

For **Sunday School**, in memory of Harry Darling.

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



If One Kind Word Was Given

On March 9, 1960 Agnes Gardner pleaded guilty to taking a check made out to her employer which she deposited into her account at a local Bismarck bank.

Agnes Auger was born in Neche in 1909. She graduated from Bathgate High School and attended Aakers Business College in Fargo. She moved to Bismarck and began work in the accounting department of the North Dakota State Highway Department in 1935. Agnes married Vernon Gardner of Bismarck in 1946.

A faithful and respected employee of the Highway Department, her husband died in 1954 and then in 1955 Agnes had two serious medical operations. Following these traumatic experiences her emotional health declined. If anyone at her work place or church noticed these changes it appears that no one reached out to help.

Her attorney Richard Rausch said Agnes, who was alone, started frequenting bars and tried to "buy friendship." She then became acquainted with a "certain man" who began demanding more money from her.

Burleigh County District Judge George Thom sentenced Agnes to three years' probation. He said "The thing that has bothered this court is that it certainly was not a rational act" and that "her act was just something that happens sometimes."

She moved to California and worked in the accounting department of an engineering firm in Los Angeles. Agnes died in 1963 at the age of 54. Her funeral was held in Bismarck and she is buried in the Mandan Union Cemetery.

The story of Agnes Gardner is a mental health story. Be cognizant of your work mates, friends, and family. Be aware of sudden changes in behavior or physical appearance. That person may need someone to listen to them. If someone had given Agnes just one word of comfort, she may not have taken the money.

Bennett R. Kubischta

9 October 2024, 8:38 am



Library Link

by LeAnn Severson

While attending a convention recently, I was able to hear Jody Kerzman share stories from her Good News series on KFVR TV. Even though I had seen many of the stories, it was good to see these segments again which restores your faith in the goodness of people. I purchased her book and found it heartwarming to read the stories and enjoy the accompanying photos. I have placed this book in the church library for you to check out and enjoy.

For those of you who have read the first three books of Lauraine Snelling's latest series entitled Leah's Garden, the fourth book, Season of Harvest, is now available for checkout in the library. You'll find it, in addition to several other new books, on display in the library.

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



Knit/Crochet Group Update



Our **Knit/Crochet group** appreciates your donations of worsted weight yarn! Our group is able to provide yarn for participants, and both knit and crochet patterns to use. If you would like more information, 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 November will be Thursday, November 14th at 2pm, and Thursday, November 21st at 6pm.**

December Traditions

Hat & Mitten Tree

Starting in December, help us decorate our hat and mitten tree! At the end of the season, we will donate hats and mittens to local non-profits. Look out for it at the beginning of December!



Congregational Meeting

Join us on Sunday, December 8th at 9:45am to hear how the past year has gone and our plans for the future!

Poinsettias



Each year, Altar Guild sells Poinsettias that decorate the church during the Christmas season, and are available for pick-up in January. Poinsettias can be purchased in honor or memory of a loved one. This year, they will be \$15 each.

Advent Midweek Service & Soup Lunch

During the Advent season, we will be hosting a Soup Lunch each Wednesday, followed by a 12pm service.



Handcrafted Christmas Ornaments

The Faith Lutheran Crafters have created the annual Christmas tree ornament that can be purchased to memorialize a loved one or to honor a family member or someone special to you. The ornaments will hang on the church tree during the Christmas season. When the ornaments are removed from the tree in January, they will be returned to the purchaser as a keepsake. These ornaments will be available for purchase at \$5 each between services on November 17, 24, and December 1. You can also call the church office to reserve them. The proceeds from the sale of the ornaments will be given to a mission or need within the church and/or community yet to be determined.

Pastor Sylvia's Parables



"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:36-39

With the election coming up, I've been spending time reading posts in online forums and social media as people argue for and against the different ballot measures. It was truly disheartening (although sadly not surprising) to see the amount of name-calling, put-downs, offensive language, and bullying behavior that pervade the comments. It was especially sad to see this on posts where people were trying to engage in good faith conversation or were asking questions so that they could vote for the first time.

This week, the Bismarck Tribune reported that the sole Black member of the Crosby City Council received death threats by text because of a unionization vote happening at his place of work.¹ Time Magazine reported in January of this year about the increase of threats, harassment, and intimidation against local and state officials around the country. More than 40% of state legislators reported being threatened or attacked and 90% said they were harassed, intimidated, or stalked.²

It can be easy to think this is problem with other people, but I wonder... if we took a look at our own language and practices toward people we disagree with, what would we find? Do we constantly use language of fighting, battling, or war when we talk politics? Do we talk about "them" (whoever they may be) as if "they" are stupid, misled, or evil? Do we tell jokes about other people's appearance or background? Do we assume the worst automatically about people who seem to disagree with us? If the answer is yes, we are part of the problem and we need to repent and change.

If the answer is no, are we willing to engage in tough conversations with those around us who do? Are we willing to show love for God and neighbor by asking people to be more respectful and by modeling that difficult conversations can happen without devolving into name-calling? Are we willing to say, "hey, I know you're upset, and I hear how passionate you are about this, but that language isn't called for"? Are we willing to say, "we may disagree, but we are all trying to do the best for our community. How can we work together?"

(continued on next page)

1. Jody Michael and Jordan Rusche, "Law enforcement investigating anonymous threats sent to Black member of Crosby City Council," October 16, 2024.

2. Vera Bergengruen, "Public Officials Face Surge of Threats Ahead of 2024 Election," January 25, 2024.

This fall, several groups in our synod are reading Embracing Diversity: Faith, Vocation, and the Promise of America by Darrell Jodock and William Nelsen. I was struck by this passage: "Clearly at this time, when our nation is again deeply divided and filled with the fear, anger, and uncertainty that comes with social and economic change, the church...must be more active than ever in bringing the message of God's love and our call to treat others with love and respect to a divided land" (pg. 39).

We have the opportunity and the responsibility as God's people to be leaders in this area. We can be vocal about reminding people that we are all on the same team and that it is possible to work together through disagreement toward goals that benefit our community. We can be people who model love and respect in all our dealings, including our political ones. As we move toward the November 5th election, I invite you to commit with me to changing how we speak with each other in the public sphere and to holding one another to a higher standard. When you go to the polls (which I hope you do!), remember that every single person you see there is a beloved child of God. Love them as you love yourself. And may they love you in return.

In Christ,
Pastor Sylvia



Newsletter Update!



This year, to help with the Christmas rush, the December and January Newsletter will be combined and sent out around the end of November. **If you would like anything in the December/January newsletter, please submit by November 10th!** We will have the February Newsletter out at the end of January.

Lefse & Knoephla Making Day 2024

For Pie and Coffee Day every year, a group of volunteers gets together on Thursday morning before the event, and handmakes the knoephla and lefse we sell. Thank you to our volunteers and to Myre Kosse for providing pictures!





Church School News



Our theme for this year is Hooked on Jesus! We are collecting this quarter for Soul 57. Reminder that our annual Church School Christmas Programs are coming up! Rehearsals are during the usual Church School time starting Nov 24 for Sunday Church School and Dec 4 for Wednesday Church School, with the Church School Christmas Program happening on December 15th for Sunday Church School and December 18th for Wednesday Church School. A letter with more details will be sent out using the BLAST system in mid-November.

Confirmation News

We have now added 6th grade to the Confirmation line up. So, Confirmation is now Grades 6-9.

Youth News

There will be a Middle School youth event on Nov. 15th at McCabe. Contact Kenny for more details and to sign up!

Church School Families! Please join us on the first Wednesday of the month at 5:30 for a free-will offering meal! This is a great opportunity to grab dinner before Church School and Worship, and a good way to meet other young families in the congregation!

November Acolyting Schedule

Sundays

8:30- Open

11:00- Trevor Hein / Bryce Johnson

Wednesdays

7:00 - Kayla Nowatzki / Susie Hargrove Nov. 6 / 13
Riley Hoff / Easton Schriock Nov 20

Tech Assistant - Kate Nowatzki

Rice Pudding Booth

Thanks to Myre Kosse for providing pictures of our volunteers hard at work at our Rice Pudding Booth! Make sure to look for sign-ups in mid August next year, and visit our booth at the Annual Downtowners Street Fair!



MISSION Focus



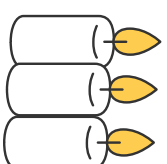
NOVEMBER: RUNNERS AGAINST DESTRUCTIVE DECISIONS (RADD)

RADD provides an opportunity for individuals in recovery from addiction to participate in a healthy activity in a positive and supportive environment. Participants are encouraged to train for a 5k race on their own, or with the RADD group runs, providing a healthy outlet and opportunity to build friendships! They are currently looking for: new or gently used running shoes of any size (in particular need of women's 6, 6 and a half and 7), winter running socks, large disposable insulated coffee cups, and non-perishable snacks for fueling up during and after a run, such as granola bars or protein bars.

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." - Galatians 6:2



November 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Daylight Savings Time Ends 8:30 Worship 9:45 Church School 9:45 Money Class 11:00 Worship 4:00 Cub Scouts 6:00 Luminaria	4 7:00 AA	5 9:00 Quilting 2:00 Crafts 7:00 Scouts	6 4:30 8th/9th Conf 5:30 Handbells 5:30 BLAST Meal 6:00 Church School 7:00 Worship	7 9:00 Esther Circle 9:00 Men of Faith 1:30 Mary Martha Circle	8 8:00 NA	9
10 Newsletter Deadline 8:30 Worship 9:45 Church School 9:45 Money Class 11:00 Worship 4:00 Cub Scouts	11 Veterans Day Church Office Closed 7:00 AA	12 9:00 Quilting 2:00 Crafts 6:00 Executive Comm. 6:00 Elementary Comm. 7:00 Scouts	13 10:00 Bible Study 5:30 Handbells 6:00 Church School 7:00 Worship	14 2:00 Knit & Crochet Group 7:00 Ruth Circle	15 8:00 NA	16
17 8:30 Worship 9:45 Church School 9:45 Money Class 11:00 Worship 4:00 Cub Scouts	18 5:00 Worship and Music 7:00 AA	19 9:00 Quilting 2:00 Crafts 5:15 HR Committee 6:00 Stewardship Comm 7:00 Scouts	20 10:00 Bible Study 5:30 Handbells 6:00 Church School 7:00 Worship	21 6:00 Knit & Crochet Group	22 8:00 NA	23
24 8:30 Worship 9:45 Christmas Program Practice 11:00 Worship 4:00 Cub Scouts	25 5:00 Altar Guild 7:00 AA	26 9:00 Quilting 2:00 Crafts 7:00 Community Thanksgiving Eve Service	27 NO CHURCH SCHOOL NO EVENING SERVICE	28 Thanksgiving Day Church Office Closed	29 Church Office Closed 8:00 NA	30

Faith Lutheran Church
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Bismarck, ND 58501-4398
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(701)223-2236

Faith Lutheran Church November 2024 News and Views



It's that time again!
Faith Lutheran Church's
Annual

Cookie Walk

Save the Date!
More info coming soon!



Saturday, December 14th
@ 9am

MEN OF FAITH
**CHRISTMAS
DINNER**

**Thursday, December 5th at
6pm**

Tickets on Sale in late
November