

Parish Visitor

Belfield Lutheran Church · Daglum Lutheran Church · Medora Lutheran Church

Rebecca's Sermon—October 26th, 2025

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

At Wednesday School this week — and again next week — we are learning about **Daniel and the Lions' Den**.

To start the lesson, I asked the kids to imagine the *scariest situation* they could think of — something that would make their stomach drop.

They had great answers: a plane crashing, a cruise ship sinking, getting lost in the woods, a bear attack — you name it. We listed twelve on the board and ranked them from least scary to most terrifying.

Then I asked, "Would it be more scary or less scary to face these things **alone**?"

They all said the same thing: "*It's less scary if someone's with you.*"

That led perfectly into Daniel's story. Daniel was thrown into the lions' den for doing what was right — for praying to God even when the king said not to. It was terrifying. But Daniel wasn't alone. God was with him — his refuge and strength, even among lions.

That's exactly what **Psalm 46** proclaims — not a life without fear, but faith that stands with God in the middle of fear:

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved."

And that's why we began worship with *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*. Luther wrote that hymn when his world was shaking. Like Daniel, he trusted that even when everything else gives way, God's Word still holds firm.

God Is Our Refuge

Psalm 46 paints the picture: mountains trembling, oceans roaring, nations raging. Chaos everywhere — and yet the psalmist dares to say, "*We will not fear.*"

We all have our own lions' dens — a diagnosis, a loss, a strained relationship, a season of uncertainty.



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Confirmation 2025
- All Saints Day
- Women's Retreat
- Fall LYO



A Moment of Refuge

Have you ever had one of those nights when you wake up at 3 a.m. and your mind just won't stop? You replay every worry, every what-if. The house is silent, but inside, everything's loud. I've been there. And what finally quiets the noise isn't a perfect plan or a sudden solution – it's remembering that I'm not facing any of it alone. God's there in the dark, steady and calm, holding the world until morning.

That's what Psalm 46 promises. Refuge isn't the absence of trouble; it's the presence of God *in* trouble – the same presence Daniel felt in the lions' den.

And if you stood outside here in Medora last Monday, you know what a windy day feels like. The air howled through the valley, sand whipped across the road, and the cottonwoods bent low. That's what life feels like sometimes – like everything's shifting. But Psalm 46 says, "God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved." Even when the wind picks up, God holds the ground steady beneath us.

*As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.
Proverbs 27:17*



2025 WELCA FALL SUPPER—BLC

Thank you to all who helped make the Fall Supper a huge success this year!
Special thank you to those who helped plan and prepare the meal.
Thank you to all that came to enjoy the good food and fellowship.
Belfield Lutheran Church is grateful for your support.



2025 Women's Retreat



The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts; so I am helped, and my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.

Psalm 28:7

God's Word Sets Us Free

In John's Gospel, Jesus adds to that promise:

"If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

The people listening didn't understand. "Free? We've never been slaves!" But Jesus wasn't talking about physical chains – he meant the things that bind our hearts: guilt, fear, shame, the need to be enough.

That's what Martin Luther discovered. He spent years trying to earn God's favor. The harder he tried, the heavier the burden became. Then one day, reading Scripture, he realized: it's not about what *we* do – it's about what Christ has *already done*.

That truth set him free, and it still frees us today. The truth of God's Word doesn't just forgive us – it releases us. It breaks open every cage that fear and sin try to build around us.

God's Word Still Reforms

Psalm 46 says, "*God speaks, and the earth melts away.*" God's Word doesn't just comfort; it transforms. That's what the Reformation was – God speaking new life into a weary church.

And God hasn't stopped reforming us. The same Word that strength-



Belfield Lutheran Altar Guild

Thank you to Shelly Dukart For Serving in October

Serving in November Paulette Dorval & Marina Pickett

Anyone Can Join the Altar Guild! See Jean Franklin for details.

ened Daniel and Luther still reforms hearts today. Every generation faces the same question: what does it mean to continue in God's Word *now*?

Maybe it means rediscovering kindness in a world that's forgotten how to listen. Maybe it means opening our doors wider – not just saying “all are welcome,” but meaning it. Maybe it means remembering that God's power isn't in noise or control, but in quiet strength. And maybe it means remembering the faith of our children – the kind of faith we heard in Wednesday School and in the children's sermon this morning. The simple truth that “God helps us in trouble” isn't just a message for kids. It's the foundation for every one of us.

Refuge and Freedom Today

Psalm 46 and John 8 belong together. One speaks of refuge; the other, of freedom. Together, they tell us who we are and whose we are.

When everything shakes, God is our stronghold.

When sin binds us, Christ sets us free.

When the world feels uncertain, God's Word endures.

The truth that reformed the church 500 years ago still reforms us today. We live not by fear or performance, but by grace – and that grace gives us both safety and courage, refuge and freedom, to love boldly in a shaking world.



A Mighty Fortress and a Living Faith

Luther's *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* was written under threat, yet he could still sing, “The Word they still shall let remain.” That's the heartbeat of Reformation Sunday – God's Word still remains.

But that truth isn't meant to stay in a hymn or in history books – it's meant to take root in us.

So here's the call:

Stand firm in God's Word when the world feels uncertain.

Be refuge for someone else when life feels like a lions' den.

Live the freedom Christ gives – not by fear, but by grace.

Because when the wind picks up, when fear creeps in, and when everything seems to shift – the world needs to see the church standing on something solid.

And that solid ground is Christ – our refuge, our strength, our freedom.

Amen.



2025 LYO : Wanted

Dickinson, ND—October 16th-18th

Our middle school and high school kids got to gather in Dickinson for the 2025 LYO Conference this year. There were 3 high school students and 5 middle school students participating in worship, breakout sessions, night life, games and of course gaga ball! The high school students even got to do a community service project and helped out at Park Villa. They got to help residents move into apartments, cleaning and most importantly, visiting! What a way to learn about community and giving! When you see some of the youth in these pictures, please be sure to ask them about their experience at LYO.



L to R: Youth leader; Carmen Waldo, Bailee Ross, Rex Hugelen and Mason Schmidt



L to R: Kaleb Romanyshyn, Ivan Froehlich, Lillian Beck, Irelynn Ross, Abby Rear, Youth leader; Dana Wanner



A Special “Thank You” to Rudy Syminow for graciously giving the middle school kids/leader to and from the gathering. Rudy—your kindness is greatly appreciated!

He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time.

— 2 Timothy 1:9



NOVEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2Worship 8:30 am - Medora 10:00 am - Belfield 11:45 am - Daglum 2:00 pm - Bible Study @ Dwelle's	3	4 8:00 pm - AA Meeting @ Belfield Lutheran	5 3:30 pm Wednesday School @ Medora Lutheran 5:30 pm - Confirmation @ Belfield Lutheran 6:00 pm - AA Meeting @ Medora Lutheran 7:15 pm—Choir Practice @ Belfield Lutheran	6 7:00 pm - Bible Study @ Belfield Lutheran	7	8
9Worship 8:30 am - Medora 10:00 am - Belfield 2:00 pm - Bible Study @ Dwelle's	10	11 8:00 pm - AA Meeting @ Belfield Lutheran	12 3:30 pm Wednesday School @ Medora Lutheran 5:30 pm - Confirmation @ Belfield Lutheran 6:00 pm - AA Meeting @ Medora Lutheran 7:15 pm—Choir Practice @ Belfield Lutheran	13 7:00 pm - Bible Study @ Belfield Lutheran	14	15
16Worship 8:30 am - Medora 10:00 am - Belfield 11:45 am - Daglum 2:00 pm - Bible Study @ Dwelle's	17 6:30 pm - Belfield Council Meeting @ Belfield Lutheran	18 8:00 pm - AA Meeting @ Belfield Lutheran	19 3:30 pm Wednesday School @ Medora Lutheran 5:30 pm - Confirmation @ Belfield Lutheran 6:00 pm - AA Meeting @ Medora Lutheran 7:15 pm—Choir Practice @ Belfield Lutheran	20 7:00 pm - Bible Study @ Belfield Lutheran	21	22
23Worship 8:30 am - Medora 10:00 am - Belfield 2:00 pm - Bible Study @ Dwelle's	24	25 8:00 pm - AA Meeting @ Belfield Lutheran	26 6:00 pm - AA Meeting @ Medora Lutheran	27 Happy Thanksgiving	28	29
30Worship 8:30 am - Medora 10:00 am - Belfield 2:00 pm - Bible Study @ Dwelle's						



ALL SAINTS' DAY

May the Saints in heaven pray for us
and help us grow in holiness.

Betty Erickson
Bert Salo Malkowski Aunt
Elliot Lindbo
Myron Romanyshyn
Roger Kiwimagi
Johnny Syminow
Mark Trechock
Kenny Adams
George Wolf
Jere Freiboth

*Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for believers in speech, conduct, in love, faith and purity.
1 Timothy 4:12*

In our ongoing prayers...

Remembering those in our prayers:

Remembering those in our prayers: Donald Suomala, Joey Berger, Kevin Kuntz, Diedra Hlibichuk, Sherri O'Brien, Rick Baxter, Kris Hastings, Bonnie Streitz, Debbie Baca, Robin Sandaker, Barb Newton, Sandy Simnioniw, Tom Adams, Rick Wolfgram, Randy Wolfgram, Emma Hlibichuk, Denise Tibbs, Christine Perrin, Duane Tessier, Shirley Olson, Gerry Suomala, JoAnne Suomala, Mary Knotts, Dolores Roy, Cord Kessel, Halle Blain, Marilyn Oyhus, Craig McLaughlin, Lincoln Lee Johnson, Mindy O'Brien, Josephine Shypkoski-Thompson,

Please continue to pray those who have lost jobs, those seeking Sobriety, those struggling with infertility, all troops, their families, and those working for peace in our world.

Please help us keep this prayer list active.

To add a loved one to the prayer list for next month's issue, please fill out a prayer request slip during worship, making sure to indicate your desire to have the request published in the newsletter, and place it in the offering basket or email us at newsletter@belfieldlutheran.org



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Parish Visitor
November 2025

TO:

Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways.—Proverbs 20:30

November 2025 Worship Schedule

2	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:45 a.m.	Medora Worship Belfield Worship Daglum Worship
9	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Medora Worship Belfield Worship
16	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:45 a.m.	Medora Worship Belfield Worship Daglum Worship
23	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Medora Worship Belfield Worship
30	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Medora Worship Belfield Worship

Happy Thanksgiving!

Sponsorship Matters

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Thank you for your generosity!

