



Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost—Lectionary 25

Sunday, September 20, 2026: 9:00 am

Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Bismarck, ND

Pastors John Streccius and Beth Walch

Our Purpose Statement: “Love All, Serve All, Welcome All as Christ.”

Today’s worship service is taken from All Creation Sings, Setting 12, pp. 29-41, at the front of the hymnal. The hymns are found at the back of All Creation Sings (ACS).

Light type = Presiding and Assisting Ministers; **Bold type** = Congregation

Welcome and Announcements

Moment of Silence

Confession and Forgiveness, p. 29-30

Gathering Hymn: ACS #1004, “Faith Begins by Letting Go”

Kyrie, p. 31

Hymn of Praise, “Glory to You”

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray... Almighty and eternal God, **you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

First Reading: Jonah 3:10-4:11

¹⁰ When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

⁴ But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The Lord God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” ⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰ Then the Lord said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 145:1-8

- ¹ I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.
- ² **Every day I will bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**
- ³ Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;
his greatness is unsearchable.
- ⁴ **One generation shall extol your works to another
and shall declare your mighty acts.**
- ⁵ They will recount the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works I will meditate.
- ⁶ **They will proclaim the might of your awesome deeds,
and I will declare your greatness.**
- ⁷ They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.
- ⁸ **The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Second Reading: Philippians 1:21-30

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me. ²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the

faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation, "Alleluia," p. 33

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the 20th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Message

Sermon: Pastor John Streccius

Hymn of the Day: ELW #678, “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

Apostles' Creed, p. 17

Prayers of Intercession, p. 34

*At the conclusion of each petition, the minister and **the congregation** will say: “God of grace: hear our prayer.”*

Sharing of the Peace, p. 35

We greet one another with the words, “Peace be with you.”

Offering

Offertory ELW #182, “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”

Offertory Prayer

Communion

Dialogue, p. 36

Preface, p. 36

Sanctus, “Holy, Holy, Holy,” p. 36

Words of Institution

Lord’s Prayer (*contemporary version, left side*), p. 39

Distribution

Time for Reflection

“Be Known To Us, Lord Jesus,” p. 40

ELW #659, “Will You Let Me Be Your Servant”

ACS #966, “Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken”

Post-Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Canticle, ACS #1000, “God’s Work, Our Hands” (v.4)

Post-Communion Prayer

Blessing, p. 41

Sending Hymn: ACS #988, “The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve”

Dismissal, p. 41

Worship Participants: Pastors: John Streccius & Beth Walch; **Assisting:** Kylah Aull;

Communion Assistants: Gloria Snyder; **Greeter:** Deb Burke; **Ushers:** Crystal Engel;

Acolyte: Lettie Sedevie; **Song Leader:** Taylor Heinzen; **Pianist:** Marilyn Kesterke;

September Altar Guild: Deb Burke, Nancy Kleingartner, Barb Koch, Tondi McGuire; **Power**

Point/Live Streaming: Stephanie Hickman

Prayers at Lord of Life: Shirley O’Brien, Coralyn Hoovestol, Scott Berry, Nathan Berndt, Brad Kjos, Judy Sickler, Arlyn Price, Linda Buller, Vicky Baukol, Marla Leno, Paula Brosseau, Michelle Ellefson, Ken Snyder, Sean Janoscrat, Lavina Benkendorf, Arnie Ellefson, Jonathan Blazek, Cathy Bryant, Barb Niemeyer, Mason Chepulis, Dorothy Nielsen, Lydia Streccius, Jackie Gill.

Flowers are given today by: Steve and Jolene Ellefson in celebration of their 25th wedding anniversary.

Stephanie Hickman in honor of her family.

Stewardship Info: Attendance – Sun. (9-13): 114 Wed. (9-16): 129

Offering: General Plate Giving: \$5,709.00 General Online Giving: \$4,705.91

August Ministry Spending: \$60,167.50 August Giving: \$70,252.70

Annual Ministry Spending through August: \$563,722.85

Annual Giving through August: \$518,533.10

September Service Group Leaders: Gary & Diane Chepulis (214-8118)

Larry & Pat Klundt (391-1414)

Volunteers: Members with last names starting with “Fro” through “Hic”

Worship Helps: Large print bulletins, a wheelchair and a walker, and personal p.a. devices are available from the ushers’. **Activity bags and bulletins** for children are available in the narthex.



Sign up to assist with worship! We invite you to prayerfully consider serving in one of the following roles: acolyte, communion assistant, greeter, usher, live stream, or PowerPoint. Visit the QR code or the computer in the Narthex to sign up.

Today we will serve Holy Communion in worship. Those who come to receive the gifts of Christ’s body and blood for the strengthening of their faith and the forgiveness of their sins are welcome to eat and drink. Children are welcome to receive Holy Communion at any age. Please have them extend their hand to receive the elements, if not we will offer a blessing. Taste and see that the Lord is good!

For Communion: Grape juice is always available. Simply select the light colored liquid. Gluten free communion wafers are available, indicate gluten free to the server when you come to the communion station.

*Thank you for your financial offerings to the ministry of Lord of Life.
Electronic giving is quick and easy, just scan the QR code and you will
be taken to the secure church website for giving.*





Altar Bouquet Donations: Thank you for your donations to date. The next available Sundays are October 18 & December 20. Cost is \$25.00/bouquet. The sign-up sheet is located at the Information Desk.
**Please note Altar Flowers on check memo line.

Blessing of the Elevator: The elevator has been installed at Lord of Life and we want to thank everyone who helped make this possible! On Sunday, September 27th we will have an elevator blessing and ribbon cutting followed by treats and fellowship.

September is Lutheran World Relief Drive: We will be collecting items for Health Kits, direct questions to Peggy Christman at 471-7877 and layettes direct questions to Barb Wrolstad at 391-8640.

LOL Memory Caregivers support group is specifically for caregivers who have loved ones with dementia. We meet the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month at 9:30 in the library. Please join us.

Would you consider sponsoring a confirmation student this year? For approximately **\$50 per student**, we are able to provide engaging curriculum, snacks, special activities, and fun events that help our young people grow in faith and build meaningful relationships. Your gift, in any amount, is an investment in the faith formation of the next generation at Lord of Life. To support our Confirmation Ministry, write “**Confirmation**” in the memo line of your check or give online through **Vanco** by selecting the **Confirmation** square.

LORD OF LIFE BOOK CLUB: October 7th at 4:45 pm, we will discuss “Of Mice and Men”, by John Steinbeck. Two poor migrant ranch workers during the Great Depression who share a dream about owning their own farm face tragic obstacles, culminating in a heartbreaking mercy killing, shattering their dream and highlighting themes of loneliness, friendship and the elusive American Dream.

Join us for YAHs Monday, October 12th at 2:30 pm AARP will present a program, The Six Pillars of Brain Health. Coffee and donuts will be served.

Exciting news! Thanks to your generosity, the Great Plains Monetary Drive reached **\$837**, generating **\$3,348 in food and assistance**. What an amazing impact this makes for our communities and those in need.

Piecemakers: Quilting is back in full swing—we are adding a couple extra sessions this month, Monday, September 28th at 6:30 pm and Tuesday, September 29th at 9:30 am. Come join us!

October Study Club at Lord of Life: Join us every Monday in October from 6pm-8pm for a four-part class on “When Science Meets Religion: Friend or Foe?”, with Dr. Ernest Simmons (Professor of Religion emeritus at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN). All materials will be provided at no cost to you. **Please register by email:** brenna@thestudynd.org

Endowment Fund Seeks Donations and Grant Applications. We've all heard of the gift that keeps on giving. Gifts to the Lord of Life Endowment Fund do just that. Whether it's \$50 or \$500 or \$5,000, such gifts help the fund keep growing and growing, each year generating income that can be used to further the mission of Lord of Life. Grants from the fund are awarded each year. Grants do not have to be used at Lord of Life, but applications must be sponsored by Lord of Life members. Applications for grants to be used in 2027 are now being accepted. Application forms are available in the church office and are also available on the Lord of Life web site -<https://www.lordoflifebismarck.org/> under the Serve & Give tab. Grant applications will be accepted at the church office through November 10, 2026.

Adult Forums Sundays at 10:15 am: September 20 – Parts of Worship, Why do we do what we do? September 27 – Vocation and Faith Series led by Larry & Nancy Kleingartner. October 4 – Prepare for the Election, Ballot Measures led by Levi Andrist. October 11 – Adult Learning Center led by Ashley Coles. October 18 – TBD. October 25 – Vocation and Faith Series.

Lord of Life at Heaven's Helpers Soup Café: Lord of Life is scheduled to help Heaven's Helpers Soup Café on the second Monday each month. Log in to <https://www.soupcafe.org/volunteer/> or, if you need assistance signing up, please contact Shirley Klein at Shirley.klein7166@gmail.com or call her at 701-391-7166. Please remember to wear closed toe shoes.

Happening this week at Lord of Life
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 am-3:00 pm
Church Office: 701-223-2986
www.lordoflifebismarck.org

Sun., September 20

October/November Newsletter Deadline
Rostered Leaders Fall Retreat at Metigoshe

9:00 am: Worship
10:15 am: Church School
10:15 am: Adult Forum
10:15 am: Young Adult Bible Study
5:00 pm: Life is Change Support Group

Mon., September 21

11:30 am: PEO Meeting
5:00 pm: ABC Training

Tue., September 22

10:00 am: Staff Meeting
6:00 pm: Snacks & Scripture
7:00 pm: Boy Scouts

Wed., September 23

3:30 pm: Plarning
4:30 pm: Endowment Team Meeting
5:00 pm: Family Meal
6:15 pm: Worship
7:00 pm: Church School/Confirmation

Thurs., September 24

Bulletin Deadline @ 12:00 pm

10:00 am: Duane Barry Funeral

Fri., September 25

9:30 am: Coffee with Memory Caregivers

Sat., September 26

10:00 am: District AA Workshop in F.H.

Sun., September 27

9:00 am: Worship
10:15 am: Church School
10:15 am: Adult Forum
10:15 am: Young Adult Bible Study
4:30 pm: Girl Scouts Bridging Ceremony in F.H.