



Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost—Lectionary 29

Sunday, October 18, 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.”

Welcome and Announcements

Moment of Silence

Blessing of the Quilts

Gathering Song: “This is Amazing Grace”

Confession and Forgiveness (1 John 1:8-9)

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✠ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Song of Praise: “You Are My All in All”

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray. . . . Sovereign God, **raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**
Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

¹Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed: ²I will go before you and level the mountains; I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron; ³I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. ⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name; I give you a title, though you do not know me. ⁵I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, ⁶so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. ⁷I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the Lord do all these things.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 96:1-13

- ¹ O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- ² **Sing to the Lord; bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.**
- ³ Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples.
- ⁴ **For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;
he is to be revered above all gods.**
- ⁵ For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.
- ⁶ **Honor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**
- ⁷ Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- ⁸ **Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts.**
- ⁹ Worship the Lord in holy splendor;
tremble before him, all the earth.

¹⁰ Say among the nations, “The Lord is king!

The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.

He will judge the peoples with equity.”

**¹¹ Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar and all that fills it;**

¹² let the field exult and everything in it.

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

**¹³ before the Lord, for he is coming,
for he is coming to judge the earth.**

**He will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with his truth.**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. ²We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Shine like stars in the world, holding fast to the word of life. *Alleluia.*

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the 22nd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ¹⁶So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius.

²⁰Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and whose title?” ²¹They answered, “Caesar’s.”

Then he said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Message

Sermon: Pastor John Streccius

Song of the Day: ELW #841 “Lift Every Voice and Sing”

Apostles’ Creed

Prayers of Intercession

*At the end of each petition, assisting minister and congregation will say: “Gracious God, in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**”*

Sharing of the Peace, p. 143 (John 20:19)

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

Offering

Special Music: “Do Something” by Matthew West

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. God of creation, **you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.**

Words of Institution (Matthew 26:26-28)

Lord's Prayer (It's Yours)

Communion

“The Table”

“As The Deer”

Communion Blessing

Let us pray. **Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Benediction (*Numbers 6:23-26*)

Sending Song: “Lord Reign In Me”

Dismissal

Go in peace.

To love all, serve all and welcome all as Christ.

Worship Participants: Pastors: John Streccius & Beth Walch; **Assisting:** Stephanie Hickman; **Communion Assistants:** Judy Kudrna & Lynelle Lepp; **Ushers:** HELP NEEDED; **Acolyte:** HELP NEEDED; **Musicians:** Levi, Bethany, Teddy, Arthur & Gwendolyn Andrist; **October Altar Guild:** Deb Burke, Alice Westby, Stephanie Swenson; **Power Point/Live Streaming:** HELP NEEDED

Prayers at Lord of Life: Shirley O’Brien, Coralyn Hoovestol, Scott Berry, Nathan Berndt, Brad Kjos, Judy Sickler, Arlyn Price, Linda Buller, Vicky Baukol, Paula Brosseau, Michelle Ellefson, Ken Snyder, Jonathan Blazek, Cathy Bryant, Mason Chepulis, Dorothy Nielsen, Lydia Streccius, Jackie Gill, Chad Nelson, Doreen Kadrmas, Bilicki Gall.

Flowers are given today by: Bob & Melissa McConnell in memory of Annie May Johnson.
Linda Simmons in memory of her parents 78th wedding anniversary.

Stewardship Info: Attendance – Sun. (10-11): 124 Wed. (10-14): 79

Offering: General Plate Giving: \$5,421.75 General Online Giving: \$4,949.91

September Ministry Spending: \$65,195.15 **September Giving:** \$52,468.56

Annual Ministry Spending through September: \$628,918.00

Annual Giving through September: \$571,001.66

October Service Group Leaders: Rod & Teresa McLachlan (333-8963)

Volunteers: Members with last names starting with “Hin” through “Jus”

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 2026 sign up is full. Please watch for 2027 soon. Cost is \$25.00/bouquet. The sign-up sheet is located at the Information Desk. ****Please note Altar Flowers on check memo line.**

October is Clergy Appreciation month – Lord of Life would like to thank Pastor John and Pastor Beth for their spiritual gifts and faithful service to God and to our church. Join us in celebrating our pastors today, Sunday, October 18th with coffee, fruit, and kuchen.

Today is Quilt Sunday! The average cost to mail a quilt overseas is around \$5.00. Your help is needed to cover these mailing costs. Please remove an envelope if you can help with this mission. Thank you for your support. These quilts are for sale for \$50.00 if you find one you like. There will be a quilter in the narthex to accept funds. On October 19 at 9:30 am we will remove quilts and pack them up. Any extra hands will be greatly appreciated. Then on October 22, if we can have some men with pickups volunteer to help deliver the boxes to Midwest Motors. Let Barb Wrolstad know if you are able to help.

Thank you to all who helped sort, assemble and pack baby care kits. We will be able to send 51 kits to Lutheran World Relief.

Thank you to all who donated, helped assemble and pack Health Care Kits. The goal was 100 kits and we were able to make 123 kits to send to Lutheran World Relief!

We want to say goodbye, thank you, and God bless you to all of the congregational members, pastors and staff with whom we have worshiped for the last 41 years. You are all truly family. We have moved to Minnesota to be closer to two of our kids and their families. Even though we are a state away, Lord of Life Lutheran Church will always hold a big place in our hearts. We will miss you.

Bob and Becky Salvesson

Join us for YAHs on Monday, November 9th, at 11:30 am for a program by Megan Dooley, Innovative Health, on the services to accommodate one's ability to maintain independence in your own home as long as possible. Lunch of scalloped potatoes and ham, coleslaw and bars.

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).

Adult Forums Sundays at 10:15 am: October 18 – Ethics Commission – Rebecca Binstock/Pam Sharp. October 25 – Vocation and Faith Series. November 1 – No Adult Forum, Affirmation of Faith Sunday.

Life is Change Grief Support Group: Join us on the first Monday of each month at 5:00 pm. These monthly gatherings are open to anyone navigating grief or significant life changes. **Please note we will no longer be meeting on the third Monday of each month.**

2027 ELCA Youth Gathering: Imagine More! Youth currently in 8-12 grade are invited to join us **June 28–July 2, 2027, in Minneapolis** for the ELCA Youth Gathering! Contact Michelle for registration information or questions.

Endowment Fund Seeks Donations and Grant Applications. Gifts to the Lord of Life Endowment Fund, whether it's \$50 or \$500 or \$5,000, help the fund grow 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.

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., October 18

Clergy Appreciation

Quilt Sunday

9:00 am: Worship

10:15 am: Church School

10:15 am: Adult Forum

10:15 am: Young Adult Bible Study

2:00 pm: Girl Scouts

Mon., October 19

9:30 am: Pack Quilts

5:00 pm: ABC Training

6:00 pm: Faith & Science

6:30 pm: Piecemakers

Tue., October 20

9:30 am: Piecemakers

10:00 am: Staff Meeting

6:00 pm: Financial Stewardship Team Meeting

7:00 pm: Council Meeting

7:00 pm: Boy Scouts

Wed., October 21

3:30 pm: Planning

NO Family Meal, Church School/Confirmation

6:15 pm: Worship

Thurs., October 22

8:30 am: Centering Prayer

9:30 am: Brunch with Beth

10:45 am: Book Study

Fri., October 23

9:30 am: Coffee with Caregivers

Sun., October 25

9:00 am: Worship

No Church School

10:15 am: Adult Forum

10:15 am: Young Adult Bible Study