



Twenty Second Sunday after Pentecost—Lectionary 30

Sunday, October 25, 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

Temple Talk – Rooted: Sustaining Our Excellent Ministries Chet Karsnia

Moment of Silence

Gathering Song: “Here I Am To Worship”

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. . . . O Lord God, **you are the holy lawgiver, you are the salvation of your people. By your Spirit renew us in your covenant of love, and train us to care tenderly for all our neighbors, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

First Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

¹The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: ²“Speak to all the congregation of the Israelites and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy. ¹⁵“You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. ¹⁶ You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand idly by when the blood of your neighbor is at stake: I am the Lord. ¹⁷ “You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 1

¹ Happy are those

who do not follow the advice of the wicked
or take the path that sinners tread
or sit in the seat of scoffers,

² **but their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law they meditate day and night.**

³ They are like trees

planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.

In all that they do, they prosper.

⁴ **The wicked are not so
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.**

⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous,

**⁶ for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

¹You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, ²but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. ³For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, ⁴but, just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals but to please God, who tests our hearts. ⁵As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed, ⁶nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, ⁷though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. ⁸So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

Alleluia. (1 John 4:11)

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁴When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Message

Sermon: Pastor Beth Walch

Song of the Day: “Goodness Of God”

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

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) (Matthew 6:9-13)

Communion

“Father I Adore You”

“The Table”

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)

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Song: “As For Me & My House”

Dismissal

Go in peace.

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

Worship Participants: Pastors: John Streccius & Beth Walch; **Assisting:** Steve Andrist; **Communion Assistants:** Crystal Engel & Judy Froseth; **Ushers:** Jim & Linda Boyd; **Acolyte:** HELP NEEDED; **Musicians:** Lora Isakson, Karl Carlson, Andrew Carlson, Beth Weiss; **October Altar Guild:** Deb Burke, Alice Westby, Stephanie Swenson; **Power Point/Live Streaming:** Beth Demke

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, Lydia Streccius, Doreen Kadrmars, Bilicki Gall, Cindy Kraft, Kathy Gappert.

Sympathies to the family of Laura (Vander Vorst) Clarey.

Flowers are given today by: LeAna Hug in memory of Tom Hugs birthday today.

Stewardship Info: Attendance – Sun. (10-18): 123 **Wed. (10-21):** 33
Offering: General Plate Giving: \$3,063.00 General Online Giving: \$6,216.99
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.

Thank you to all who helped pack quilts and deliver them. We were able to send 75 quilts to Lutheran World Relief!

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.

Adult Forums Sundays at 10:15 am: October 25 – Vocation and Faith Series.
November 1 – No Adult Forum, Affirmation of Faith Sunday. November 8 – The Book of Mark, Stephanie Hickman

Life is Change Grief Support Group: Join us on the first Sunday 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 Sunday 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! Experience worship, service, learning, community, and fun alongside thousands of youth from across the church. **Registration is due at the end of October.** Contact Michelle for registration information or questions.

Missouri Slope Health Information Fair for older Adults, their Families and Caregivers. Come connect, learn and discover valuable information about services and resources to support you or your loved one if and when they need it. 20+venders will be available to answer your questions. Try our Bistro for Lunch, Tuesday, November 3 – 10:30 am – 2:30 pm. A presentation by the ND Alzheimer's Association will take place at 11:00 in the Missouri Slope Chapel

Endowment Fund Seeks Donations and Grant Applications. We've all heard of the gift that keeps on giving. Whether it's \$50 or \$500 or \$5,000, such gifts help the fund to keep 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.

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 25

9:00 am: Worship
No Church School
10:15 am: Adult Forum
10:15 am: Young Adult Bible Study

Mon., October 26

6:00 pm: Faith & Science

Tue., October 27

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

Wed., October 28

3:30 pm: Planning
5:00 pm: Family Meal
6:15 pm: Worship
7:00 pm: Church School
7:00 pm: Confirmation Trick or Canning

Thurs., October 29

Bulletin Deadline @ 12:00 pm

8:30 am: Centering Prayer
9:30 am: Brunch with Beth
10:45 am: Book Study
3:30 pm: Event in F.H.

Sat., October 31

9:00 am: Evening in F.H.

Sun., November 1

All Saints

9:00 am: Worship & Affirmation of Faith
10:15 am: Church School
No Adult Forum or Young Adult Bible Study
11:00 am: Worship & Affirmation of Faith
5:00 pm: Life is Change Support Group