



Dancing at the Harvest
Sunday, August 23, 2026; 9:00 AM
Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Bismarck, ND
Pastors John Streccius and Beth Walch

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering Hymn: “Come, Let Us Worship God”

Confession/Absolution
“Be Merciful, O God”

Greeting

Prayer of the Day

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

Let us pray... O God, **with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**
Amen.

Reading: Romans 12:1-8

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God’s mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ²Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Psalm: Psalm 138

¹I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;
²**I bow down toward your holy temple**
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness,
for you have exalted your name and your word
above everything.
³On the day I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength of soul.
⁴**All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord,**
for they have heard the words of your mouth.
⁵They shall sing of the ways of the Lord,
for great is the glory of the Lord.
⁶**For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly,**
but the haughty he perceives from far away.
⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;
you stretch out your hand,
and your right hand delivers me.
⁸**The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me;**
your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.

Word: “From the Fullness of God”

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13-20

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴And they said, “Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Word: “From the Fullness of God”

Children’s Message

Message: Pastor Beth Walch

Hymn of the Day: ACS #979, “Making Their Way”

Apostles’ Creed

Prayers of Intercession

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

Sharing of the Peace

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

Offering
“What Have We to Offer”

Offering Prayer
Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.

“Come, Bring Them to the Table”
The Great Thanksgiving
“Holy, Holy”
“Come and Dine at the Table” (*Words of Institution*)

Lord’s Prayer

Distribution:
“Christ Have Mercy On Us All”
“Lamb of God, Come Take Away”

Post-Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer
Let us pray. Compassionate God, **through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.**

Benediction
The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: “Let Us Enter In”

Dismissal
Go in peace.
To love all, serve all and welcome all as Christ.

Worship Participants: Pastors: John Streccius & Beth Walch; **Assisting:** Bruce Boe; **Communion Assistants:** Crystal Engel & Peggy Christman; **Greeter:** Deb Burke; **Ushers:** Gary & Diane Chepulis; **Acolyte:** Arthur & Teddy Andrist; **Song Leader:** McKaela Halvorson; **Pianist:** David Larson; **August Altar Guild:** Barb Koch, Betty Steele and Nancy Kleingartner; **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, Krista Burkhardt, Marla Leno, Paula Brosseau, Pam Lang, Michelle Ellefson, Jack Lostlen, Ken Snyder, Sean Janoscrat, Lavina Benkendorf, Arnie Ellefson, Beverly Berry, Jonathan Blazek, Cathy Bryant, Barb Niemeyer, Scott Simmons, Mason Chepulis.

Sympathies to the family of Duane Barry.

Flowers are given today by: Dean & Deb Knudsen in celebration of their 45th wedding anniversary.

Stewardship Info: Attendance – Sun. (8-16): 105 Wed. (8-19): 17
Offering: General Plate Giving: \$12,584.00 General Online Giving: \$2,729.81
July Ministry Spending: \$69,791.38 **July Giving:** \$50,152.96
Annual Ministry Spending through July: \$503,555.35
Annual Giving through July: \$448,280.40

August Service Group Leaders: Dave & Pat Goodin (220-1315)

Volunteers: Members with last names starting with “Cra” through “Fra”

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! Volunteers are an important part of our services, and we invite you to prayerfully consider serving in one of the following roles: acolyte, communion assistant, greeter, usher, live stream, or PowerPoint. Signing up is easy—just visit the QR code or the computer in the Narthex to view available dates and choose what works best for you.

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 13 & December 27. 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 attended the Blessing Concert for the Somkin family! We are so grateful for your willingness to bring and serve desserts and the generous donations. Your support made this a successful evening!

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.

LORD OF LIFE BOOK CLUB: September 2nd at 4:45 pm, we will discuss “My Sisters Keeper”, by Jody Piccolt. A story of girl conceived as a “savior sibling” to provide genetic matches for her older sister who suffers from leukemia. Later in life she sues her parents for medical emancipation to prevent the donation of a kidney.

Mark your calendars for Rally Sunday & Welcome Wednesday! Rally Sunday will take place on Sunday August 30 at 9:00am at Sleepy Hollow Park with lunch and games to follow,(bring a chair or blanket to sit on). Welcome Wednesday will be held Wednesday, September 2 at the church with dinner at 5:00 pm, worship at 6:15 pm and games to follow.

Great Plains Food Bank Monetary Drive: Through the month of August we will be collecting monetary donations for the Great Plains Food Bank. Every \$1.00 donated provides the equivalent of \$4.00 worth of groceries to individuals and families facing hunger. Place your cash or checks in the collection basket in the narthex, checks can be written to Lord of Life (please note Food Drive on the memo line).

Out of the Darkness Walk: Join Lord of Life as we live out our faith through service by participating in the Bismarck/Mandan Out of the Darkness Walk on Sunday, September 13. This community event raises awareness and funds to support mental health and suicide prevention. Check-in begins at 12:00 p.m. with the walk starting at 2:00 p.m. To register for the walk and reserve your God's Work. Our Hands. T-shirt, scan both QR codes on the posters around the church or talk to Michelle.

Lord of Life is scheduled to help Heaven’s Helpers Soup Café on the second Monday of each month. Sign up by logging 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.

Thursday Book Study: Thursday morning book study will kick off on September 3rd at 10:45 am. We will be reading “Accidental Saints—Finding God in all the Wrong People” by Nadia Bolz-Weber. Books can be picked up in the church office. There is a suggested donation of \$10/book to help cover cost.

YAHs fall kickoff will be Monday, September 14th at 11:30 am. Kyle Debertin will entertain us with a musical program that will, no doubt, be fun and lively. An Italian lunch will be served...lasagna, chicken alfredo, Caesar salad and tuxedo cake. A \$5 donation is suggested. Monday, October 12th at 2:30 pm AARP will present a program, The Six Pillars of Brain Health. Coffee and donuts will be served. Monday, November 9th, at 11:30 am 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. Monday, December 14th at 2:30 pm for a Christmas party featuring a local singing group. Coffee and holiday baking treats. Monday, January 11th at 11:30 am for our ANNUAL POTLUCK and a program by the pastors and staff. Hope to see you every month!!!

Happening this week at Lord of Life
Summer Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 am-12:00 pm
Church Office: 701-223-2986
www.lordoflifebismarck.org

Sun., August 23
9:00 am: Worship
Mon., August 24
10:00 am: Staff Day—Office Closed
Tue., August 25
10:00 am: Staff Meeting
6:00 pm: Snacks & Scripture
7:00 pm: Boy Scouts
Wed., August 26
3:30 pm: Plarning
6:15 pm: Worship
7:00 pm: Mentor/Mentee Meeting
Thurs., August 27
Bulletin Deadline @ 12:00 pm
8:30 am: Centering Prayer
9:30 am: Brunch with Beth
12:00 pm: Lion’s Lefse Making
Fri., August 28
9:30 am: Coffee with Caregivers
Sun., August 30
Rally Day!!!
9:00 am: Worship at Sleepy Hollow Park

Service and Hymns printed in this bulletin—unless in the public domain—are covered by One License #729673-A and CCLI License 3163838. All rights reserved. Permission to reprint, podcast, and/or stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-729673. All rights reserved. Portions of the Liturgy are reprinted from Sundays and Seasons, copyright 2026. Right under the copyright law of the USA to publicly perform certain lawfully obtained motion pictures from CVLI license #505541194.