



# October and November 2026



*Love All, Serve All, Welcome All as Christ*

Dear friends and members of Lord of Life Lutheran Church,

Fall is upon us and the church is filled again with the voices, activities of faith formation and worship. There are many opportunities for each of you to engage and participate in this vibrant community of faith. As you read through this newsletter, I encourage you to join in the work that is ours together, to "Love all, serve all and welcome all as Christ".

We have added a new article for you, our newly elected bishop, the Reverend Lisa Lewton has written an article just for congregational newsletters. Be sure to read it.

Soon we will begin our annual stewardship drive. Our Theme for this year is "Rooted In Grace, Reaching Beyond our Walls, Leading Together". Your leadership has chosen three important ministry incentives to focus our attention on in the coming year.

- **Leading Together: Inspiring and Growing New Leadership**

The body of Christ is made of many gifts. When we lead together, no single person carries the load alone; we bear burdens together and build the church of tomorrow.

- **Reaching: Expanding Our Online Presence**

Hospitality does not stop at the church entrance. We expand our reach to meet people wherever they are. Through worship we extend genuine welcome across North Dakota and beyond.

- **Rooted: Sustaining Our Ministries**

Deep roots weather every storm. Cheerful, sustained giving keeps our core ministries vibrant, healthy, and resilient.

We have much to celebrate. Just think about how our ministry has grown over the past few years: multi-generational worship, robust children and youth programs, pastoral care, and community feeding programs in the Bismarck-Mandan area and our new fully accessible lower level. You will be hearing more about these inspiring ministry incentives in the weeks to come.

***"But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love."***

– Ephesians 4:15-16

God bless you each day to learn, grow and follow the ways of Jesus our Lord.

Peace to you...Pastor John Streccius

**Worship Times: Sunday at 9 am; Wednesday at 6:15 pm**

1143 N. 26<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
701-223-2986

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8 am – 3 pm  
[lordoflife@lordoflifebismarck.org](mailto:lordoflife@lordoflifebismarck.org)  
[www.lordoflifebismarck.org](http://www.lordoflifebismarck.org)

Pastor John Streccius  
Pastor Beth Walch

## October & November at a Glance

- OCT 5 When Science Meets Religion 6 pm  
OCT 7 LOLL Book Club 4:45 pm; "Of Mice and Men" by John Steinbeck  
OCT 11 Clergy Appreciation  
OCT 12 LOLL at Heaven's Helpers  
OCT 12 Young at Hearts 2:30 pm; AARP: *The Six Pillars of Brain Health*; bars will be served  
OCT 12 When Science Meets Religion 6 pm  
OCT 14 Quilts put on pews (*Help Wanted!*)  
OCT 16-17 LYO Middle School  
OCT 17-18 LYO High School  
OCT 18 Quilt Sunday  
OCT 19 Packing of Quilts (*Help Wanted!*)  
OCT 19 When Science Meets Religion 6 pm  
OCT 22 Quilts taken to Midwest Motors  
OCT 26 When Science Meets Religion 6 pm  
OCT 28 Trick or Canning  
NOV 1 Affirmation of Faith 9 am & 11 am  
NOV 4 LOLL Book Club at 4:45 pm; "11/22/63" by Stephen King  
NOV 9 LOLL at Heaven's Helpers  
NOV 9 Young at Hearts 11:30 am; *Innovative Health* with Megan Dooley; Lunch will be served  
NOV 10 Endowment grant deadline  
NOV 15 Stewardship Sunday  
NOV 20 Mock-In at Lord of Life 6 pm  
NOV 21 Lefse making  
NOV 22 Lefse sales  
NOV 24 Community Thanksgiving Service at Legacy United Methodist Church at 7 pm; pie social to follow

## Reoccurring Events

Adult Forums-Sundays at 10:15 am  
Church School-Sundays at 10:15 am  
Y.A. Bible Study-Sundays at 10:15 am  
Planning-Wednesdays at 3:30 pm  
Wednesday Meals-Wednesdays at 5 pm  
Church School-Wednesdays at 7 pm  
Confirmation-Wednesdays at 7 pm  
Youth Group-Wednesdays at 7 pm  
Centering in Prayer-Thursdays at 8:30 am  
Brunch with Beth-Thursdays at 9:30 am  
Book Study-Thursdays at 10:45 am  
Piecemakers - 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 6:30 pm and 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 9:30 am  
Heavens Helpers - 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday  
Cozy Comfort - 1<sup>st</sup> Monday at 2 pm  
Women's Bible Study-2<sup>nd</sup> Tues at 9:30 am

## Pastoral Acts

### **Baptisms**

Del Ethan Lammers, son of Ethan & Amy Lammers

August 9, 2026

### **Weddings**

McKenna Geiger & Hunter Leier

August 15, 2026

### **Funerals**

Beverly Berry

September 18, 2026

Duane Barry

September 24, 2026

## Memorials

### **7 General Memorials**

In memory of Gerald McLachlan, Beverly Berry, Duane Barry

### **2 Care & Share Memorial**

In memory of Wayne Otterness & Beverly Berry

### **1 Great Plains Food Bank Memorial**

In memory of Greg Sanstead

### **1 Elevator Memorial**

In memory of Beverly Berry

**Worship Times: Sunday at 9 am; Wednesday at 6:15 pm**

1143 N. 26<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
701-223-2986

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8 am – 3 pm  
lordoflife@lordoflifebismarck.org  
www.lordoflifebismarck.org

Pastor John Streccius  
Pastor Beth Walch

## Adult Forums

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 - Ethics Commission

October 25 - Vocation and Faith Series.



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 on Sunday, October 11 after worship for treats, coffee and card baskets.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL MINISTRY

Please sign up to help prep, cook, serve and clean up a Wednesday Night Meal.



## All Saints Recognition

On November 1 and 4, 2026, we will remember those loved ones who passed away in the last year and those who have been baptized in the last year. We pray that their faith will be an example to us and we look forward to that day when God will bring us together again.

Those who have passed away – *Joan Wagner, Lew Schoeneman, Dale Lein, Kevin Thomte, Ellen Bartz, Ken Lesmann, Elsie Gilbertson, Leland Brand, Susan Francis, Elsie Schwecke, Wayne Hopfinger, Larry Lyson, Arvid Mugaas, Gerald McLachlan, Patricia Jensen, Dorothea Halverson, Ben Thomas, Warren Bien, Ray Riskedahl, Cheri Glatt, Audre Johnson, Duane Barry, Beverly Berry.*

Those who have been baptized – *Ella Zinke, Ryker Chmielewski, Ivy Vinegar, Leeland Norton and Del Lammers*



**Worship Times: Sunday at 9 am; Wednesday at 6:15 pm**

1143 N. 26<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
701-223-2986

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8 am – 3 pm  
[lordoflife@lordoflifebismarck.org](mailto:lordoflife@lordoflifebismarck.org)  
[www.lordoflifebismarck.org](http://www.lordoflifebismarck.org)

Pastor John Streccius  
Pastor Beth Walch

## **Endowment Fund: Give Today, Support Tomorrow**

Gifts to the Lord of Life Endowment Fund help the fund grow and provide ongoing support for ministries and special projects. Gifts of any amount make a difference.

North Dakota taxpayers making qualifying gifts of \$5,000 or more may also be eligible for a 40% state tax credit. Please consult your tax advisor for details. Gifts intended to qualify for 2026 benefits should be made before year-end. 2027 Grant Applications Are Now Open! Grants of up to \$1,000 are available to support projects outside the congregation's normal operating budget in three areas:

Congregational Programs such as education, worship, music, arts, parish life, and staff development; Benevolence supporting needs within the congregation, community, and Western North Dakota Synod; and Capital Projects supporting planned improvements to Lord of Life facilities. Applications must be sponsored by a Lord of Life member and are due November 10, 2026. Forms are available in the church office or at [lordoflifebismarck.org](http://lordoflifebismarck.org) under Serve & Give. Funds will be available beginning January 1, 2027.

Past grants have supported refugee resettlement, Heaven's Helpers, The Banquet, Lord of Life Children's Ministry, the Bismarck Emergency Food Pantry, and youth attending the ELCA Youth Gathering. Questions? Contact the church office or a member of the Endowment Fund Board; President Diane Clinton, Vice President Doug Doolittle, Secretary Dan Wrolstad, and directors Jordan Nygaard and Pastor John Streccius. Noah Knudson is the council liaison.

## **Quilt Sunday will be Sunday, October 18.**

Quilts will be placed on the pews Wednesday, October 14 at 9:30 am and packed up on Monday, October 19 at 9:30 am. Quilts will then be taken to Midwest Motors on Thursday, October 22. Any extra hands to place quilts on pews, pack them up and deliver them to Midwest Motors will be greatly appreciated!

1143 N. 26<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
701-223-2986

**Worship Times: Sunday at 9 am; Wednesday at 6:15 pm**

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8 am – 3 pm  
[lordoflife@lordoflifebismarck.org](mailto:lordoflife@lordoflifebismarck.org)  
[www.lordoflifebismarck.org](http://www.lordoflifebismarck.org)

Pastor John Streccius  
Pastor Beth Walch



COFFEE WITH  
— Clyde —  
FAMILY FILMS

# GRANDPARENT & ME

## MINI FAMILY FILM SESSIONS



Kids ask the questions. We professionally record and edit the conversation into a Family Film.  
A meaningful holiday gift for grandparents—and the whole family.



THURSDAY,  
OCT. 22 • BISMARCK  
No school for BPS



15–20 minutes  
**\$199**



TOUCHMARK  
1000 W. Century Ave.  
9 AM–4 PM  
LIMITED APPOINTMENTS

SCAN TO RESERVE YOUR SESSION 

10% of proceeds benefits the North Dakota Nurse Honor Guard

Presented by Coffee with Clyde Family Films - a Bismarck-based family storytelling business  
Call or text Cherie: 701.319.0086 | [coffeewithclyde.com](http://coffeewithclyde.com)



A STUDY CLUB AT LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

## **When Science Meets Religion: Friend or Foe?**

A FOUR-PART CLASS WITH DR. ERNEST SIMMONS

Professor of Religion emeritus at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota.

This introductory four session class will explore multiple ways in which religion and science can interact from conflict and independence to dialogue and cooperation. Drawing on the book *When Science Meets Religion* by Ian Barbour, areas of interaction such as astronomy and creation, quantum physics, evolution and human nature will be briefly explored.

### **Mondays**

**Oct 5, 12, 19 & 26**  
6:00 – 8:00 PM CT

STUDY CLUB AT  
LORD OF LIFE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HOSTED BY  
BRENNA GERHARDT

### **THREE WAYS TO TAKE THE CLASS**

- 01 In person at Lord of Life**  
Watch the live class with the group at Lord of Life, Monday evenings this fall.
- 02 Live from home**  
Join the live Zoom class from home on Monday evenings, wherever you are.
- 03 Watch the recordings**  
A course page hosts every session to watch anytime.

TO REGISTER  
[Brenna@thestudynd.org](mailto:Brenna@thestudynd.org)

New to Study Clubs? Turn over — no cost,  
no expertise required, just good  
conversation.



Sit together at the table.  
Be fed at the table.  
Make more room at the table.

*Bishop Lisa Lewton*

---

## When the Tables Turn

After she received the bread and the wine in her living room room, where Ruth spent most of her time, we sat in silence for a moment. As usual when I visit homebound folks, I said a post-communion prayer. I thanked God for the simple meal, for Ruth, and for the love of God in Christ. "Amen," I concluded, ready to get up and say goodbye to Ruth. But then, unexpectedly, she began her own prayer. She also thanked God for the meal and for Jesus, and then she prayed for *me*. This one whom I had gone to visit to bring her hope and peace had given me just as much. The tables had turned!

Ruth reminded me that ministry in a congregation is not the work of a pastor alone. Ministry is shared, it is mutual, it is a swelling up of promises we make to one another as the body of Christ in the world. Her prayer relieved some pressure. I noticed my shoulders loosen up. Through her words, the Holy Spirit whispered in my ear, "See what I can do? I can turn tables so that the *giver* of prayer becomes the *recipient* of prayer. Cool, huh!"

As I visit congregations that are in-between pastors, I hear the longing for God to hurry up already and bring a pastor. I hear the layers of grief. We miss the season in the church not so long ago when there were more pastors and perhaps the call process was not as lengthy.

And then I look around the room and remember the Holy Spirit's whispering in my ear. I look at the Congregation Council, the Call Committee, and members of congregations drinking coffee together at round tables in Fellowship Rooms. "See what I can do?" I hear the Spirit remind me, "I can turn tables, so that the *recipients* of a pastors ministry become the *ministers*."

The priesthood of all believers is abundant and alive in the Western North Dakota Synod! God has scattered just the right gifts in just the right corners of the church. God is shaping our synod into the vision of a lay-led, clergy supported church. Can you see it?

- Who might you tap on the shoulder to invite them to consider sharing their gifts to lead a Bible study, to visit the homebound, or to serve as an adult advisor for LYO, coming up soon, Oct. 16-18!
- Have you sat still long enough lately for the Spirit to get a word in edgewise? What gifts might *you* share, *you* who are equipped to be a minister through baptism?
- How might imagining the Christian church today as lay-led and clergy-supported, instead of clergy-led and lay-supported, turn the tables and reshape your prayer for the church?

**Worship Times: Sunday at 9 am; Wednesday at 6:15 pm**

1143 N. 26<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
701-223-2986

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8 am – 3 pm  
[lordoflife@lordoflifebismarck.org](mailto:lordoflife@lordoflifebismarck.org)  
[www.lordoflifebismarck.org](http://www.lordoflifebismarck.org)

Pastor John Streccius  
Pastor Beth Walch

### October Service Group List

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

Dave & Dawn Hintz  
Mariah Hintz  
Seth & Natasha Hoff  
Tana Hoffman  
James & Patsy Holland  
Russ & Deb Honeyman  
Perry & Cammy Hornbacher  
Marion Houn & Rodney Warner  
LeAna Hug  
Ted & Lila Humann  
Corey & Paula Hunt  
Patrick & Lora Isakson

James & Sandra Jacobson  
Alayna & Jeff Jirava  
Marian Johnson  
Rosemary Johnson  
Greg & Lisa Johnson  
James & Erica Johnson  
Tim & Taya Johnson  
Sandra Johnson  
Scott & Kristin Johnson  
Harley & Mavis Jundt  
Gary & Helen Just

### November Service Group List

**November Leaders: Dennis & Betty Steele (471-6606)  
Jim & Linda Boyd (220-0737)**

Troy & Melody Karlberg  
Chet & Kalli Karsnia  
Scott & Alison Kaubisch  
Lisa Kemmet  
Joshua & Rebecca Kern  
Marilyn Kesterke  
Adam & Jaycie Klabunde  
Aldeen Klain  
Allan & Shirley Klein  
Larry & Nancy Kleingartner  
Adam & Elizabeth Klindworth  
Larry & Pat Klundt  
Dean & Deb Knudsen  
Noah Knudson

Ron & Barb Koch  
Dave Kolding  
Vic & Peggy Kopp  
Doreen Koppang  
Dave & Margo Krabbenhoft  
Keith Kramer  
Brian Krause  
Mark Kress  
Lisa Kringlie  
Rod & Judy Kudrna  
Burnette Kunz  
Lynnette (Lynn) Kurtz



**Thank you to all who helped serve in August & September!**

**Worship Times: Sunday at 9 am; Wednesday at 6:15 pm**

1143 N. 26<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
701-223-2986

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8 am – 3 pm  
[lordoflife@lordoflifebismarck.org](mailto:lordoflife@lordoflifebismarck.org)  
[www.lordoflifebismarck.org](http://www.lordoflifebismarck.org)

Pastor John Streccius  
Pastor Beth Walch

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

OCT - NOV 2026



## Beautiful Girls Camp

Girls are invited to join me as we will travel to experience a ministry aimed to help girls realize they have been created by a loving God who wants them to walk in freedom, discover their beauty and live a life of Purpose, with special guest 2026 Miss ND, Emma Tong.

**When:** Nov 14th-15th

**Who:** 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls

Cost: \$60

**Where:** Springbrook Bible Camp



**REGISTER NOW**



## Upcoming Events

- **Oct 11 & 14:** Start of New Rotation (4 WK) - Four Friends
- **Oct. 21 & 25:** NO CHURCH SCHOOL
- **Nov. 1:** SHORT Church School - 10:15-10:45 am. Due to Affirmation of Baptism
- **Nov 25 & 29:** NO CHURCH SCHOOL

## Help Needed

- Four Friends is a 4 week rotation starting on Oct 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Advent/Christmas Program is a 4 week rotation starting Nov 15th

\*Please let me know if you are available to help us out during these rotations

**Worship Times: Sunday at 9 am; Wednesday at 6:15 pm**

1143 N. 26<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
701-223-2986

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8 am – 3 pm  
lordoflife@lordoflifebismarck.org  
www.lordoflifebismarck.org

Pastor John Streccius  
Pastor Beth Walch

# Youth & Family MINISTRIES

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER



## CONFIRMATION CORNER GRADES 6-8

### SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAYS | 7:00-8:00 PM

- ✓ Bring your Orange Folders
- ✓ Bring your Bibles
- ✓ 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Bring your Quest Books
- ✓ Be ready to learn and have fun!

*Questions? Contact Michelle!*



## HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP GRADES 9-12

### SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAYS | 7:00-8:00 PM

- ✓ Play games
- ✓ Dive into Scripture
- ✓ Eat snacks
- ✓ Grow together

*Bring friends!*



## OCT/NOV AT A GLANCE

- OCT 7** Confirmation & YG
- OCT 14** Confirmation & YG
- OCT 16-17** LYO - Middle School
- OCT 17-18** LYO - High School
- OCT 21** OFF
- OCT 28** Trick or Canning
- NOV 1** Affirmation of Baptism
- NOV 4** Confirmation & YG
- NOV 11** Confirmation & YG
- NOV 15** Youth-Led Worship
- NOV 18** Youth-Led Worship Confirmation & YG
- NOV 20** Mock-In @ LoLL
- NOV 25** OFF

## Affirmation of Baptism

NOV | **SUN 1** | 2026  
9:00 AM Service - 10<sup>th</sup> Grade  
11:00 AM Service - 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Confirmands

THEODORE ANDRIST  
KINSLEY BUBACH  
COY DOCKTER  
AVA FRANCIS  
JASTEN KLABUNDE  
BRAYDEN LEDAHL  
EASTON LEIN  
OLIVIA MEDUNA  
GRACE RENNER  
NEVAYA TOOKE  
VINCENT WAGNER  
SERENITY WILLER

KARVER ATKINSON  
HARPER BRAAFLAT  
DEVIN DUKART  
KAIYA ERP  
RILAN TSAKSON  
AVREY KARSNIA  
BENJAMIN KLINDWORTH  
SOREN OSTENDORF  
KINZY ROEDER  
ADISON RONNING  
KYAN ROTH  
LEVI SCHMIDT  
ALIVIA STEIN  
SULLY STEINLE  
JOSIE TWETE  
ABIGAIL WINDSOR

Sign up for  
Youth-Led  
Worship!



STAY  
CONNECTED!



Ask Michelle  
how to make  
this an app on  
your phone!

## COMING SOON!

### CAROLING

December 16 | 7 pm



### CONFIRMATION PARENT CHECK-IN

January 13 | 7 PM



### YOUTH-LED WORSHIP

Sun, January 31 | 9 AM  
Wed, February 3 | 6:15 PM

Worship Times: Sunday at 9 am; Wednesday at 6:15 pm

1143 N. 26<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
701-223-2986

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8 am – 3 pm  
lordoflife@lordoflifebismarck.org  
www.lordoflifebismarck.org

Pastor John Streccius  
Pastor Beth Walch

## **Financial Stewardship News**

Lord of Life's income and expense summary ending August 31, 2026 is as follows:

| <b><u>Description</u></b>                                                                                               | <b><u>August 2026</u></b> | <b><u>2026 Year-To-Date Totals</u></b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                         |                           |                                        |
| Income                                                                                                                  | \$ 70,252.70              | \$ 518,533.10                          |
| Expenses                                                                                                                | \$ 60,167.50              | \$ 563,659.00                          |
|                                                                                                                         |                           |                                        |
| Income over (under) expenses                                                                                            | \$ 10,085.20              | \$ (45,125.90)                         |
|                                                                                                                         |                           |                                        |
| Projected Income ending August 31, 2026<br>based on our approved budget is:<br>*Does not include transfer from reserves | \$ *<br>71,471.58         | \$ 571,772.64                          |
|                                                                                                                         |                           |                                        |
| Actual income over (under) budgeted income                                                                              | \$ (1,218.88)             | \$ (53,239.54)                         |
|                                                                                                                         |                           |                                        |
| General Envelope giving                                                                                                 | \$ 67,799.88              | \$ 497,683.14                          |

Please consider automatic giving options such as Simply Giving or using your bank's online bill pay features to set up recurring offerings. Using your credit card is another method. Simply Giving is an excellent way our members can help assure that our giving is more equally distributed throughout the year. If you'd like to sign up for this feature, go to our web site at [www.lordoflifebismarck.org](http://www.lordoflifebismarck.org) and click on "online donations" or visit your bank's online application.

We have been blessed with generous support for God's mission at Lord of Life and look forward to continuing and expanding this work throughout 2026. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact any of the team members. They are Lauren Sauer, Dallas Anderson, Keith Demke, Judy Kudrna, and Bob McConell.

***Thank you for your financial offerings to the ministry of Lord of Life Lutheran Church. If you would like to give now using your smartphone, just take a picture of the QR code and you will be taken to the secure church website for giving.***



**Worship Times: Sunday at 9 am; Wednesday at 6:15 pm**

1143 N. 26<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
701-223-2986

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8 am – 3 pm  
[lordoflife@lordoflifebismarck.org](mailto:lordoflife@lordoflifebismarck.org)  
[www.lordoflifebismarck.org](http://www.lordoflifebismarck.org)

Pastor John Streccius  
Pastor Beth Walch



## MINUTES Lord of Life Lutheran Church Council August 18, 2026 Meeting

### Attendees Present

Pastor - John Streccius  
Pastor - Beth Walch  
President - Tammie Sauer  
Vice President - Noah Knudson  
Secretary - Beth Demke  
At Large - Amy Miller  
Cong. Care & Outreach - Peggy Christman  
Faith Formation - Susan Epps  
Financial Stewardship - Dallas Anderson  
Nominations and Placement Team - Linda Simmons  
Property Team - Patrick Isaakson  
Worship and Music Team - Stephanie Hickman  
Youth Team - Craig Nelson

Council President Tammie Sauer called the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Devotions were led by Amy Miller, who shared that her favorite thing about LOL is Sunday School. Mark 10:14 reminds us to create a place where children can feel welcome and important.

A motion was made by Noah Knudson and seconded by Stephanie Hickman to approve the June Council meeting minutes. Hearing no discussion, vote was taken with all voting to affirm. Motion passed.

Financial Report was presented by Dallas Anderson. Otis Elevator has been paid except for a small amount. Stewardship Sunday is set for November 15. Staying on track with budget. A motion was made by Craig Nelson and seconded by Linda Simmons to approve the financial report. Hearing no discussion, a vote was taken with all voting to affirm. Motion passed.

### Team Concerns:

Nominations & Placement - Four positions to fill, two are filled with one considering. Executive Secretary has yet to fill. Teams need to build their own numbers to create a pool of potential leaders who are able to fill the council positions and/or team leads. Amy suggested providing information in temple talks for members to learn about what each team does and what it would mean to serve. A team fair was held last year with little interest. Perhaps printed information would be also be helpful. Every member of LOL is considered part of some team!

Property - Didn't meet in July. New projectors are needed and have been approved for purchase based on funding already in budget. Additional funding requests include tables for church school that will be put on hold until elevator has been completely paid off. Additional gravel added to parking lot; restriping will be tabled until next year. Rally Day responsibilities were also discussed, and they will bring extra chairs for anyone who forgets.

Children's sermons - during live streams, the children are facing away from the camera for online safety.

**Worship Times: Sunday at 9 am; Wednesday at 6:15 pm**

1143 N. 26<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
701-223-2986

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8 am – 3 pm  
[lordoflife@lordoflifebismarck.org](mailto:lordoflife@lordoflifebismarck.org)  
[www.lordoflifebismarck.org](http://www.lordoflifebismarck.org)

Pastor John Streccius  
Pastor Beth Walch

## Old Business

Elevator celebration date - September 27. Dedicated phone line is required and has been installed. Ribbon cutting, blessing, refreshments served.

Rally Day - all is set, with tasks assigned to each team.

Out of the Darkness Walk - one LOL team. Pastor Beth and Michelle are co-captains. T-shirts must be ordered by 8/20. Sign-ups are required if you plan to raise funds.

## New Business

Projector replacements - Dallas provided information about new projectors to replace the 10+ year old equipment with brighter and longer-lasting options. Quotes are being prepared after confirming that the recommended options will work with our system. 1-2 weeks for equipment shipping and installation.

Code of Conduct document - Pastor John presented a recommended statement that was received at Synod assembly. The code of conduct for leaders can be adopted by council to set standards for how we will treat each other. The document states intentionality and is based on Matthew 18. Council will review and revisit at next meeting.

Ministry Incentive for Stewardship Campaign - Initiatives were discussed. In addition to the initiative outlined below, improvements to lighting in Fellowship Hall were also discussed, but are lower priority.

- Improving online presence - website is already being updated to be easier to navigate. Picture in picture display for live streaming would be helpful for those who are watching from home. Additional training for AV operators is needed. Lighting is poor for live stream as well as in person. Three AV operators may be needed in order to effectively operate the live stream, cameras, and audio. This could require a larger tech booth. Stehanie Hickman moved recommending an improvement to our online presence to Financial Stewardship. Linda Simmons seconded. The motion was amended to include the following two initiatives:
  - Inspiring new leadership/volunteerism
  - Sustaining excellent ministries

The amendment passed. The amended motion to include all three initiatives also passed.

Camp of the Cross Letter - Pastor John has invited the COTC Board President and Executive Director to meet with LOL Church Council to discuss our concerns regarding their hiring process. A draft email was distributed, and edits were suggested. A second draft will be sent via email for council members to review before it is sent by Pastor John.

Next Council meeting is planned for September 15. Noah Knudson will lead devotions. Meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Demke

Lord of Life Church Council Secretary

**Worship Times: Sunday at 9 am; Wednesday at 6:15 pm**

1143 N. 26<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
701-223-2986

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8 am – 3 pm  
lordoflife@lordoflifebismarck.org  
www.lordoflifebismarck.org

Pastor John Streccius  
Pastor Beth Walch



## MINUTES Lord of Life Lutheran Church Council September 15, 2026 Meeting

### Attendees Present

Pastor - John Streccius  
Pastor - Beth Walch  
President - Tammie Sauer  
Vice President - Noah Knudson  
Secretary - Beth Demke (via Zoom)  
At Large - Amy Miller  
Cong. Care & Outreach - Peggy Christman  
Faith Formation - Susan Epps  
Financial Stewardship - Dallas Anderson  
Nominations and Placement Team - Linda Simmons  
Property Team - Rod Kudrna  
Worship and Music Team - Stephanie Hickman  
Youth Team -

Council President Tammie Sauer called the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

Devotions were led by Noah Knudson. Psalm 119 and 1<sup>st</sup> Article of Catechism.

A motion was made by Dallas Anderson and seconded by Rod Kudrna to approve the August 18 Council meeting minutes. Clarification of discussion related to the sound system. Hearing no further discussion, vote was taken with all voting to affirm. Motion passed.

Changes to the agenda: Request to add code of conduct to meeting agenda under Old Business. Consensus expressed for this agenda change.

Financial Report was presented by Dallas Anderson. Executive Team should be aware that the CD will expire in October and automatically roll to a money market. No action is needed. Faith Formation Team is requested to consider rolling line 965 Confirmation Offering into 951 Sunday School offering (a clerical correction) because offering isn't collected during Confirmation. A motion was made by Rod Kudrna and seconded by Stephanie Hickman to approve the financial report. Hearing no discussion, a vote was taken with all voting to affirm. Motion passed.

### Team Concerns

**Property** - Rod reported that the committee is looking ahead to snow removal for the season. We expect slightly higher contract amount due to fuel prices. Lighting improvements are being considered for lower level to address the darkness when coming off the elevator and an outside light that is often burning out - two quotes have been received. Waiting for the final invoice for the elevator project. Executive Committee also suggested converting light switches to motion-activated for additional spaces, including bathrooms and the narthex. Rod noted that they are getting bids for various spaces.

**Worship Times: Sunday at 9 am; Wednesday at 6:15 pm**

1143 N. 26<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
701-223-2986

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8 am – 3 pm  
[lordoflife@lordoflifebismarck.org](mailto:lordoflife@lordoflifebismarck.org)  
[www.lordoflifebismarck.org](http://www.lordoflifebismarck.org)

Pastor John Streccius  
Pastor Beth Walch

**Faith Formation** (Birth-5<sup>th</sup> grade) and **Youth & Family Ministry** (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades) Teams met together and were pleased with the cohesive approach for the teams to be combined, establishing a whole life faith formation strategy. This would require a constitutional update. Constitution designates "not more than 8 elected council members..." but doesn't specify a minimum number. Current council members and chairs could serve out their terms before transitioning to a single chair and one council representative for this combined team. Would this result in an even number of council members? There are rare incidents when a council vote is split, and in such a case it would be an opportunity for additional discussion and consensus building. Beth Anderson has been working with the teams for several months and developed draft language for updating the responsibilities. The timing to officially combine the two teams would be in relation to the annual meeting. Stephanie Hickman moved that we table any action until the next meeting or two. Amy Miller seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Old Business**

- a. **God's work Our Hands** - Michelle attended and reported that there was an LOL team as well as other members on other teams. It was an inspirational and positive experience.
- b. **Rally Day Recap** - Prizes were a bit confusing and may need to be reevaluated. 154 people attended, but there weren't as many kids. Was this because it was before Labor Day, cooler weather, some other reason? Should the date be moved back into September? Clearly Sunday kids attended, but maybe not Wednesday kids. There was another event on Wednesday. Golf cart and extra chairs were appreciated. Coffee should have been set up at the top where people were arriving.
- c. **Camp of the Cross Letter** - Response to Pastor John's email was received just before this meeting. Janie's reply noted that she will get back to Pastor John regarding the meeting date that will work best - October or November.
- d. **Elevator Celebration** - September 27 - Invitation to Past President Randy Binegar.
- e. **Audio/Vido Update Discussion** - We are currently using a borrowed unit for the conference room to provide virtual meeting options. Broader scope would include upgraded chancel lighting, lighting musicians, banners, liturgical accents, dual cameras, picture-in-a-picture system, livestream capture, improvements to computer hardware, presentation software, and improvements to control desk.
- f. **Code of Conduct** - Pastor John shared the document again that was discussed at the August meeting. This concept came from the Synod Assembly and has been adopted by many congregations and councils to define how we treat one another. Discussion around whether this would be for leaders or for all congregation members, including youth. Pastor John suggested that the intent is for leadership and the format would be revisited with each new group of leaders in February. Dallas Anderson moved that the CoC be adopted with the new leaders in February. Linda Simmons seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## **New Business**

- a. Team Budgets timeline - each team should review expenditure reports and make projections for next year. This should be done no later than November, so discussion and approval can be accomplished at the December council meeting.
- b. Advent assignments and names of confirmands will be presented at the October meeting.

**Worship Times: Sunday at 9 am; Wednesday at 6:15 pm**

1143 N. 26<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
701-223-2986

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8 am – 3 pm  
[lordoflife@lordoflifebismarck.org](mailto:lordoflife@lordoflifebismarck.org)  
[www.lordoflifebismarck.org](http://www.lordoflifebismarck.org)

Pastor John Streccius  
Pastor Beth Walch

c. Annual appeal - Stewardship Sunday is November 15, 2016

- a. Improving online presence
- b. Sustaining our excellent ministries
- c. Inspiring new leadership

d. Our Ukrainian family left today. Please keep them in your prayers.

Next Council meeting is planned for October 20. Linda Simmons will lead with devotions.  
Meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Demke

Lord of Life Church Council Secretary

**Worship Times: Sunday at 9 am; Wednesday at 6:15 pm**

1143 N. 26<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
701-223-2986

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8 am – 3 pm  
[lordoflife@lordoflifebismarck.org](mailto:lordoflife@lordoflifebismarck.org)  
[www.lordoflifebismarck.org](http://www.lordoflifebismarck.org)

Pastor John Streccius  
Pastor Beth Walch

# October 2026

| <i>Sunday</i>                                                                                                                                                                     | <i>Monday</i>                                                                                           | <i>Tuesday</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <i>Wednesday</i>                                                                                                                                                                        | <i>Thursday</i>                                                                                                                                                | <i>Friday</i>                                   | <i>Saturday</i>                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                         | 1<br>8:30 am: Centering<br>Prayer in Sanctuary<br>9:30 am: Brunch with<br>Beth<br>10:45 am: Book Study<br>7:00 pm: Nominations &<br>Placements Team<br>Meeting | 2<br>5:00 pm: Sauer/Owens<br>Wedding Rehearsal  | 3<br>3:00 pm:<br>Sauer/Owens<br>Wedding |
| 4<br>9:00 am: Worship<br>10:15 am: Church<br>School<br>10:15 am: Adult Forum<br>10:15 am: Young Adult<br>Bible Study<br>5:00 pm: Life is Change<br>Support Group                  | 5<br>2:00 pm: Cozy Comfort<br>6:00 pm: Faith & Science<br>6:30 pm: Piecemakers                          | 6<br>9:30 am: Piecemakers<br>10:00 am: Staff Meeting<br>5:00 pm: Worship & Music Team<br>Meeting<br>5:00 pm: Property Team Meeting<br>6:00 pm: CCO Team Meeting<br>6:30 pm: Faith Formation Team<br>Meeting<br>7:00 pm: Boy Scouts | 7<br>10:00 am: Welcome House<br>in Conf. Room<br>3:30 pm: Plarning<br>4:45 pm: Book Club<br>5:00 pm: Family Meal<br>6:15 pm: Worship<br>7:00 pm: Church School<br>7:00 pm: Confirmation | 8<br>8:30 am: Centering<br>Prayer in Sanctuary<br>9:30 am: Brunch with<br>Beth<br>10:45 am: Book Study                                                         | 9<br>9:30 am: Coffee with<br>Memory Caregivers  | 10                                      |
| 11<br>Clergy Appreciation<br>9:00 am: Worship &<br>Baptism<br>10:15 am: Church<br>School<br>10:15 am: Adult Forum<br>10:15 am: Young Adult<br>Bible Study                         | 12<br>LOL @ Heaven's Helpers<br>2:30 pm: YAH's<br>6:00 pm: Faith & Science                              | 13<br>9:30 am: Women's Bible Study<br>10:30 am: Staff Meeting<br>4:00 pm: Executive Team Meeting<br>6:00 pm: Snacks & Scripture<br>7:00 pm: Boy Scouts                                                                             | 14<br>9:30 am: Quilts on pews<br>3:30 pm: Plarning<br>5:00 pm: Family Meal<br>6:15 pm: Worship<br>7:00 pm: Church School<br>7:00 pm: Confirmation                                       | 15<br>8:30 am: Centering<br>Prayer in Sanctuary<br>9:30 am: Brunch with<br>Beth<br>10:45 am: Book Study<br>6:00 pm: Palm Sun. Path<br>Training                 | 16<br>6:00 pm: LYO – Jr. High                   | 17<br>2:00 pm: LYO – Sr.<br>High        |
| 18<br>Quilt Sunday<br>9:00 am: Worship<br>10:15 am: Church<br>School<br>10:15 am: Adult Forum<br>10:15 am: Young Adult<br>Bible Study<br>5:00 pm: Life is Change<br>Support Group | 19<br>9:30 am: Pack Quilts<br>5:00 pm: ABC Training<br>6:00 pm: Faith & Science<br>6:30 pm: Piecemakers | 20<br>9:30 am: Piecemakers<br>10:00 am: Staff Meeting<br>6:00 pm: Financial Stewardship<br>Team Meeting<br>7:00 pm: Council Meeting<br>7:00 pm: Boy Scouts                                                                         | 21<br>10:00 am: Welcome House<br>in Conf. Room<br>3:30 pm: Plarning<br>5:00 pm: Family Meal<br>6:15 pm: Worship<br>No Church School or<br>Confirmation                                  | 22<br>8:30 am: Centering<br>Prayer in Sanctuary<br>9:30 am: Brunch with<br>Beth<br>10:45 am: Book Study                                                        | 23<br>9:30 am: Coffee with<br>Memory Caregivers | 24<br>8am: Kitchen in use               |
| 25<br>9:00 am: Worship<br>No Church School<br>10:15 am: Adult Forum<br>10:15 am: Young Adult<br>Bible Study                                                                       | 26<br>6:00 pm: Faith & Science                                                                          | 27<br>10:00 am: Staff Meeting<br>6:00 pm: Snacks & Scripture<br>7:00 pm: Boy Scouts                                                                                                                                                | 28<br>3:30 pm: Plarning<br>5:00 pm: Family Meal<br>6:15 pm: Worship<br>7:00 pm: Church School<br>7:00 pm: Youth Trick or<br>Canning                                                     | 29<br>8:30 am: Centering<br>Prayer in Sanctuary<br>9:30 am: Brunch with<br>Beth<br>10:45 am: Book Study<br>Wedding in F.H.                                     | 30                                              | 31<br>Wedding in F.H.                   |

**Worship Times: Sunday at 9 am; Wednesday at 6:15 pm**

1143 N. 26<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
701-223-2986

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8 am – 3 pm  
lordoflife@lordoflifebismarck.org  
www.lordoflifebismarck.org

Pastor John Streccius  
Pastor Beth Walch

# November 2026

| <i>Sunday</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <i>Monday</i>                                                                      | <i>Tuesday</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <i>Wednesday</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <i>Thursday</i>                                                                                                                                                                                  | <i>Friday</i>                                                                                                | <i>Saturday</i>                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b><br><i>All Saints Sunday</i><br>9:00 am: Worship<br>9:00 am: 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade<br><i>Affirmation of Faith</i><br>10:15 am: Church School<br>10:15 am: Adult Forum<br>10:15 am: Young Adult<br><i>Bible Study</i><br>11:00 am: 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade<br><i>Affirmation of Faith</i><br>5:00 pm: Life is Change<br><i>Support Group</i> | <b>2</b><br><i>Election Setup</i><br>2:00 pm: Cozy Comfort<br>6:30 pm: Piecemakers | <b>3</b><br><i>Election Day</i><br>9:30 am: Piecemakers<br>10:00 am: Staff Meeting<br>5:00 pm: Worship & Music Team<br><i>Meeting</i><br>5:00 pm: Property Team Meeting<br>6:00 pm: CCO Team Meeting<br>6:30 pm: Faith Formation/Youth<br><i>Team Meeting</i><br>7:00 pm: Boy Scouts | <b>4</b><br><i>All Saints</i><br>10:00 am: Welcome House<br><i>in Conf. Room</i><br>3:30 pm: Plarning<br>4:45pm: Book Club<br>5:00 pm: Family Meal<br>6:15 pm: Worship<br>7:00 pm: Church School<br>7:00 pm: Confirmation | <b>5</b><br>8:30 am: Centering Prayer in<br><i>Sanctuary</i><br>9:30 am: Brunch with Beth<br>10:45 am: Book Study<br>7:00 pm: Nominations &<br><i>Placements Meeting</i>                         | <b>6</b>                                                                                                     | <b>7</b>                                         |
| <b>8</b><br>9:00 am: Worship<br>10:15 am: Church School<br>10:15 am: Adult Forum<br>10:15 am: Young Adult<br><i>Bible Study</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>9</b><br><i>LOL @ Heaven's Helpers</i><br>11:30 am: YAH's                       | <b>10</b><br>9:30 am: Women's Bible Study<br>10:00 am: Staff Meeting<br>7:00 pm: Boy Scouts<br>4:00 pm: Executive Team Meeting<br>6:00 pm: Snacks & Scripture<br>7:00 pm: Boy Scouts                                                                                                 | <b>11</b><br>3:30 pm: Plarning<br>5:00 pm: Family Meal<br>6:15 pm: Worship<br>7:00 pm: Church School<br>7:00 pm: Confirmation                                                                                             | <b>12</b><br>8:00 am: Lion's Lefse Making<br>8:30 am: Centering Prayer in<br><i>Sanctuary</i><br>9:30 am: Brunch with Beth<br>10:45 am: Book Study                                               | <b>13</b><br>9:30 am: Coffee<br><i>with Memory</i><br><i>Caregivers</i><br>6:00 pm: Mock-In<br><i>at LOL</i> | <b>14</b>                                        |
| <b>15</b><br>9:00 am: Worship<br>10:15 am: Church School<br>10:15 am: Adult Forum<br>10:15 am: Young Adult<br><i>Bible Study</i><br>5:00 pm: Life is Change<br><i>Support Group</i>                                                                                                                                                               | <b>16</b><br>11:30 am: PEO<br>5:00 pm: ABC Meeting<br>6:30 pm: Piecemakers         | <b>17</b><br>9:30 am: Piecemakers<br>10:00 am: Staff Meeting<br>6:00 pm: Financial Stewardship<br><i>Team Meeting</i><br>7:00 pm: Council Team Meeting<br>7:00 pm: Boy Scouts                                                                                                        | <b>18</b><br>3:30 pm: Plarning<br>5:00 pm: Family Meal<br>6:15 pm: Worship<br>7:00 pm: Church School<br>7:00 pm: Confirmation                                                                                             | <b>19</b><br>8:00 am: Lion's Lefse Making<br>8:30 am: Centering Prayer in<br><i>Sanctuary</i><br>9:30 am: Brunch with Beth<br>10:45 am: Book Study<br>6:00 pm: Palm Sun. Path<br><i>Training</i> | <b>20</b><br><i>Dec./Jan. 2027</i><br><i>Newsletter</i><br><i>Deadline</i>                                   | <b>21</b><br>9:00 am: LOL<br><i>Lefse Making</i> |
| <b>22</b><br><i>Lefse Sales</i><br>9:00 am: Worship<br>10:15 am: Church School<br>10:15 am: Adult Forum<br>10:15 am: Young Adult<br><i>Bible Study</i>                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>23</b>                                                                          | <b>24</b><br>10:00 am: Staff Meeting<br>7:00 pm: Community<br><i>Thanksgiving at Legacy Methodist</i><br><i>Church</i><br>7:00 pm: Boy Scouts                                                                                                                                        | <b>25</b><br>3:30 pm: Plarning<br><i>No Worship, Church School</i><br><i>or Confirmation</i>                                                                                                                              | <b>26</b><br><i>Happy Thanksgiving</i><br><i>Office Closed</i>                                                                                                                                   | <b>27</b><br><i>Office Closed</i><br>9:30 am: Coffee<br><i>with Memory</i><br><i>Caregivers</i>              | <b>28</b>                                        |
| <b>29</b><br>9:00 am: Worship<br><i>No Church School</i><br>10:15 am: Adult Forum<br>10:15 am: Young Adult<br><i>Bible Study</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>30</b>                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                              |                                                  |

**Worship Times: Sunday at 9 am; Wednesday at 6:15 pm**

1143 N. 26<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Bismarck, ND 58501  
 701-223-2986

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8 am – 3 pm  
[lordoflife@lordoflifebismarck.org](mailto:lordoflife@lordoflifebismarck.org)  
[www.lordoflifebismarck.org](http://www.lordoflifebismarck.org)

Pastor John Streccius  
 Pastor Beth Walch