December 2026
January 2027

Love All, Serve All, Welcome All as Christ

The month of December is upon us. Advent has begun and we are on our way to a new year!

May this newsletter find you wherever you are, as you are. May you know that you are loved by a gracious God, held by a community of faith that welcomes and accepts you, and may you join us in walking in the way of Jesus, born in a humble manger, full of God's power to love and serve all, that all may be loved and served.

Advent announces the coming of God among us. Is it not forever Advent? God is always breaking in and coming among us. It is our eyes that only need to see, our hearts that are to welcome the Christ who comes again and again in "the least of these" as Jesus taught.

We turn our attention to the Gospel of Mark this year, the shortest of the four Gospels and the earliest written. Mark has a deep sense of urgency in the telling of Jesus' way. We will move quickly from town to town as we hear Jesus reveal his power and purpose. There is an urgency in the telling of miracles and healing, and yet Jesus over and over commands the healed to "tell no one". Why the silence? Why the secret? That is our curiosity and wonder as we journey through this Gospel. Come and see, come and hear the wonder of the Gospel of Mark.

Many thanks to all who have completed an intent of giving card for 2027. This act of faith brings our mission and purpose together in planning God's work among us. A reminder of a special incentive gift this year of an additional **$20,000** if we receive 200 intent cards by the end of this year. As I write this article, we are nearly halfway to our goal. Please fill out your intent card today. You can go to our website and complete it in minutes at www.lordoflifebismarck.org or call the church office and Jessica can help you: (701) 223-2986.

As we close out the year of 2026, we have much to be grateful for. God's grace and love is at the top of the list. I am grateful for each of you; guest, friend, or member, you are infinitely precious in God's sight. May that divine love sink deeply into your very being. May you also know that Lord of Life is a blessed community of faith because you are connected. Every day may you experience the presence of the holy, breaking in, healing and renewing you. May Christ's way lead you in peace and renewal, walking in the Jesus way. Amen.

Serving with you… Pastor John Streccius

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

1143 N. 26th 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

December & January at a Glance

DEC 2	LOLL Book Club 4:45 pm; Planning for 2027
DEC 6	Youth Bake Sale Auction 10:15 am
DEC 6	Life is Change Support Group 5:00 pm
DEC 13	Children's Christmas Program
DEC 13	St. Lucia Event in F.H.
DEC 14	LOLL at Heaven's Helpers
DEC 14	Young at Hearts 2:30 pm; Christmas Party
DEC 16	Children's Christmas Program
DEC 18	Council Team Annual Reports Due
DEC 20	Blue Christmas Service 5:00 pm
DEC 23	No Worship
DEC 24	Christmas Eve Worship 9:00 am, 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm
DEC 25	Office Closed
DEC 30	No Worship
DEC 31	New Year's Party – 5:00 pm Potluck and games
JAN 3	Life is Change Support Group 5:00 pm
JAN 11	Young at Hearts 11:30 am
JAN 16	World Religions Potluck 11:00 am Bismarck Veterans Memorial Library
JAN 17	Senior Class Meal at 5:30 pm

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
Plarning–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 – 1st & 3rd Monday at 6:30 pm and 1st & 3rd Tuesday at 9:30 am
Heavens Helpers – 2nd Monday
Cozy Comfort – 1st Monday at 2 pm
Women's Bible Study–2nd Tues at 9:30 am

Pastoral Acts

Baptisms

Elliot John Waldie, son of Trevor and Kenady Waldie
October 11, 2026

Weddings

Sarah Owens & Alex Sauer
October 3, 2026

HEAR YE! HEAR YE!
Worship Announcements will now begin 5 minutes prior to the beginning of the service.

Memorials

1 General Memorial
In memory of Duane Barry

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Adult Forums

December 6 – Youth Bake Auction in F.H.
December 13 –Caroling in the F.H.
December 20 – No Forum
December 27 – No Forum
January 3 – Jossef Feiner – Hebrew Faith
January 10 – Dr. Nadim – Being Muslim in Bismarck
January 17 – TBD
January 24 – TBD
January 31 – Vocation and Faith Series

SUPPORTING THOSE IN NEED TO LOVE ALL, SERVE ALL, WELCOME ALL

On Wednesday afternoons a group of volunteers transform clean plastic bags into plarn mats. These mats are donated to Ministry on the Margins to provide a more comfortable surface for resting or sleeping for those without mattresses.

Our Little Food Pantry provides nutrition for those needing non-perishable food. This includes stocking the pantry with items such as: ready to eat foods, bottled water, protein bars, nuts, dried fruit, canned goods with pull tabs and foods that can be easily prepared if the person has a kitchen. During the winter we also put out hand warmers and new hats and gloves.

Thank you for supporting these ministries.

ORDER YOUR POINSETTIAS!

Poinsettias will adorn our church at Christmas. The cost is $14. Order forms are available at the Information Desk.



Lord of Life will be collecting **$10.00** gift cards for the Angel tree through December 13th for local middle school students. Purchase gift cards from your favorite store, restaurant, or activity. **(Please no checks).** They can be dropped off in the church office Monday through Friday 8:00 am-3:00 pm.

Wednesday Meals During Advent

Join your Lord of Life family for Wednesday evening meals during Advent. Suppers will be provided by our various council teams. Meals will be served from 5:00 pm- 6:00 pm each week before our midweek Advent worship services. December 2nd – Lasagna, Salad, Bread. December 9th – Taco Bar. December 16th – Pizza, followed by the Church School Christmas Program. **Wednesday meals will continue beginning January 6 at 5:00 pm.** Stay tuned for more details.

Christmas Eve Worship December 24; 9:00 am, 3:00 pm & 5:00 pm

Join us for worship on Christmas Eve for candlelit services. **There will be NO Christmas Day services or on Wednesday, December 30.**

Blue Christmas
Blue Christmas/Longest Night
Worship with Those Who Mourn

Blue? Yes, blue as in the blues. Not everyone is cheery for the Christmas holidays. Many are grieving the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other disease that puts a question mark over the future, and a number of other human situations make parties and joviality painful for many people in our congregations and communities. There is a growing attentiveness to the needs of people who are blue at Christmas. As followers of Jesus who had great compassion for hurting people, we offer an opportunity to care for each other. Increasing numbers of churches are creating sacred space for people living through dark times. Such services are reflective, accepting where we really are, and holding out healing and hope. **You are invited to this year's Blue Christmas worship on Sunday, December 20st at 5pm.** Come and gather with us to worship and share our grief and love in this season of hope.

Mark Your Calendars!

- **Church Office Closed:** The church office will be closed Friday, December 25th and Friday, January 1st.
- **Annual Report Deadline:** Annual reports are due by Friday, December 18th. Early submissions will be happily accepted.
- **2026 Contribution Deadline:** This deadline is at 9:00 am on Monday, December 28th.

New Year's Eve Party

On New Year's Eve we will gather for our annual evening of games and shared snacks and desserts. We will have our usual time of games and potluck from 5pm-7pm. At 7 pm we will pause the action to gather in the sanctuary for a simple worship service and share in the gift of Holy Communion together. At the turn of the year, we meditate on endings and beginnings, knowing that all the world's time begins and ends in God. We watch and keep vigil for the coming of God's justice.

After this brief worship service, we will return to the fellowship hall to ring in the New Year! This event is intended to be fun for all ages, so come out, bring a treat to share, your favorite game and celebrate the new year with some of your favorite people!

NOTICE TO THE CONGREGATION OF LORD OF LIFE

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Lord of Life Lutheran Church shall be conducted on: **Sunday, January 31, 2027 at 10:15 a.m.** Your participation is crucial as we will approve the 2027 budget and discuss other topics important to the continued mission of Lord of Life.





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

Bishop Lisa Lewton

Advent: Begin Again

There is a kind of freedom in flipping the calendar to a new month. "Goodbye until next year, November - hello there, December!" A new month is an invitation to *let go*.

- **What might you *let go* from the month in the rearview mirror? What didn't work? What will only get in the way if you keep holding on?**

A new month is also an invitation to *begin again*.

- **What lessons have you learned so far in life (about faith, your *self*, or relationships) that are valuable enough lessons to keep? What do you know about God that may lighten whatever feels heavy as you *begin again* this Advent?**

As silly as it may sound, I feel a renewed sense of hope when I flip the calendar to *begin again* a new month - as though a new month can possibly make a difference! As though I'm not the same broken, imperfect person I was last month. I sure am! From one month to the next, I remain the same sinner and saint, both at the same time, too often holding onto what I may need to let go...

Which is why there is **Advent**, a time we are given to reflect on the birth of Christ. From month to month, we are the same broken and imperfect people, *and so* God slipped into the world. In the manager in Bethlehem, there was God, a Savior wrapped in bands of cloth, to *begin again* with us, even *as us*. God did not wait for humans to stop being so broken and imperfect. Instead, God *let go* of any expectation that we would learn our lesson for good, and arrived on this very earth as a human, just like us.

Each time I visit a congregation, I am listening for Jesus. With congregation councils, call committees, and people around the coffee table, I am listening to hear how Jesus is showing up among them and through them. I wonder,

- How is this body of Christ *being* the body of Christ in their own neighborhood? Do the people around the church building know that the church's mission is to be a factory of hope?
- How is Christ's mercy re-shaping the thoughts and imaginations of the people? Do I hear bitterness and angry bits from social media, or do I hear mercy-making in Jesus' name?
- What might need *letting go* so that Jesus is the main character in the story we tell as the WND Synod?

Advent is an invitation to let go and begin again. In fact, through the waters of your baptism, each day is a starting point. Each day, we begin again, broken and imperfect. And Jesus is there.



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Pastor Beth Walch

December Service Group List

December Leaders: Steve & Barbara Andrist (240-4724)
Donna Lee (406-263-4943)

Scott & Diana Laib
Brian & Connie Larson
Gary & Lori Ledahl
Peggy Ledahl-Schmidt
Donna Lee
Dave Leer
Chad & Dara Lein
Lynn & Stacy Lelm
Myron & Lynelle Lepp
Amber Lovdal
Karen Lyson
Denise MacDonald
Michael & Arlyce Malarkey
Minnie Malkmus
Tyler & Lyndsay Marchand
Tom & Amy Marchant
Mark & Larissa Martin
Cathy Mastrud
Dave & Dawn Mayer

January Service Group List

January Leaders: Judy Froseth (471-5388)
Crystal Engel (741-7346)

Bob & Melissa McConnell
Amber McGuire
Don & Tondi McGuire
Rod & Teresa McLachlan
Yves & Nerva Merger
Lori Meza
Michelle & Richard Mielke
Amanda Miller
Brett & Amy Miller
Curtis & Judy Miller
Sharon Miller
Marlin & Judy Mjelstad
Shelly Morast
Mark Mueller
Shiela Mugaas
Wayne & Melissa Munson
Steve & Sherrie Muse
Richard Nathan
Craig & Denise Nelson
Brian Neuhardt
Jordan & Anna Nieuwsma
Rod & Maxine Nibbe



Thank you to all who helped serve in October & November!

CHILDRENS MINISTRY

December 2026 / January 2027

Christmas Program

Sunday Dec 13th at 9am

Wednesday Dec 16th 6:15pm

Join us to celebrate the advent season and the upcoming birth of Jesus Christ.

New Year Eve Party

JOIN US!!!!

Join us for games, appetizers, desserts, and fun.
***Dec 31st from 5-7pm followed with Service at 7pm.**
Bring a favorite dessert or appetizer to share and a favorite game. Dont have a game? No worries we will have plenty for adults AND kids.
Service will end with a count downto the new year.

Help Needed....

Volunteers Needed

January Rotation - 4 weeks

Lent Rotation - 4 weeks

April Rotation - 4 weeks

Dates to know

- Sun Program - Dec 13th 9am
- Wed Program - Dec 16th 6:15pm
- New Years Eve Party
- Church School resumes on Wed Jan 6th & Sun Jan 10th

Contact Info

Lora Isakson

Email:
childrenministry@lordoflifebismarck.org
Phone: (701) 223-2986

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Youth & Family MINISTRIES

DECEMBER/JANUARY

CONFIRMATION CORNER

GRADES 6-8

SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAYS | 7:00-8:00 PM

- Bring your Orange Folders
- Bring your Bibles
- 7th/8th 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!

DEC/JAN AT A GLANCE

DEC 2	Confirmation & YG
DEC 6	Bake Auction
DEC 9	Confirmation & YG
DEC 13	Christmas Program
DEC 16	Christmas Program Caroling
DEC 23	OFF
DEC 30	OFF
JAN 6	Confirmation & YG
JAN 13	Parent Meeting Small Group & YG
JAN 17	2027 Senior Meal
JAN 20	Confirmation & YG
JAN 27	Confirmation & YG

2027 SENIOR DINNER

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STUDENTS!



FAMILY IS WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR A CELEBRATORY DINNER

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2027 AT 5:30 PM AT LORD OF LIFE

BACON RANCH CHICKEN WITH ROASTED POTATOES AND SALAD WILL BE SERVED.

PLEASE RSUP TO MICHELLE YES OR NO USING THE QR CODE.

Fizzily Fridays!

Join Michelle at the South Fizzily every 3rd Friday of the month from 3:30-5:00 pm, her treat!

December 18
January 15
February 19
March 19
April 16
May 21

COMING SOON!

ASH WEDNESDAY
February 10

BIS-MAN MOCK-IN
TBD

Youth Bake Auction

Proceeds go to help fund the ELCA Youth Gathering trip in summer 2027.
Please bring goodies to be auctioned off and stay to bid on some others!

Confirmation parent check-in meeting - January 13 at 7 pm.

Parents - please plan to attend. Michelle would like any feedback you have for this year!

STAY CONNECTED!

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

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ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO GIVE

Qualified Charitable Distribution - Required Minimum Distribution

A tax-advantaged direct transfer of funds from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to an eligible charity for individuals aged 70 ½ or older. Once you turn 70 ½, each person can transfer up to $111k/person from their IRA to a non-profit and avoid paying taxes on those funds. This can count towards your RMD.

Financial Stewardship News

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

Description	October 2026	2026 Year-To-Date Totals
Income	$ 50,065.57	$ 621,067.23
Expenses	$ 63,561.97	$ 692,479.97
Income over (under) expenses	$ (13,496.4)	$ (71,412.74)
Projected Income ending October 31, 2026 based on our approved budget is: *Does not include transfer from reserves	$ * 71,471.58	$ 714,715.80
Actual income over (under) budgeted income	$ (21,003.02)	$ (93,648.57)
General Envelope giving	$ 46,877.61	$ 594.562.38

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 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.

MINUTES
Lord of Life Lutheran Church Council
October 20, 2026 Meeting

Attendees Present

Pastor -
Pastor - Beth Walch
President – Tammie Sauer
Vice President – Noah Knudsen
Secretary – Beth Demke
At Large – Amy Miller
Cong. Care & Outreach – Peggy Christman
Faith Formation – Susan Epps
Financial Stewardship – Lauren Sauer
Nominations and Placement Team – Linda Simmons
Property Team – Rod Kudrna
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 Linda Simmons, based on John, Chapter 6.

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

Financial Report was presented by Lauren Sauer, who noted that expenses to date are exceeding revenue by $50,000. This is not yet a concern because increased giving is typically realized in the last part of the year. The stewardship campaign has begun with a letter mailed to all members. There is a challenge gift of $20,000 that will be received if we increase the number of pledges received to 200 total pledges (137 pledges were received in 2025). There was some concern that the challenge gift may need to be clarified in future letters. A motion was made by Rod Kudrna and seconded by Noah Knudson to approve the financial report. Hearing no further discussion, a vote was taken with all voting to affirm. Motion passed.

Team Concerns:

CCO – No response has been received from Camp of the Cross to the letter and invitation sent by Pastor John for them to attend a Council meeting.

Youth Ministry – behavioral issues were noted during confirmation. Michelle managed the problem by direct communication with the families and with the full group. Pastors held private consultations with students involved and their parents. Large groups during Wednesday evening confirmation and church school would benefit from additional adult presence.

Worship – The Thanksgiving Ecumenical service will be held at Legacy United Methodist on November 24 at 7:00PM. Our congregation's participation at these types of events tends to be sparse unless we are the hosts, so we should all try to attend and support this event.

Old Business

Teams should be working on their budgets and get them to Jessica when completed. The Council will vote on the budget in December.

New Business

a) Advent Meals will be served on 12/2, 12/9, and 12/16, only three Wednesdays. No confirmation student helpers are scheduled to help, but students planning to attend the National Youth Gathering may work the event as a fundraiser toward that trip.

Youth & Family and Faith Formation Teams combining – Stephanie Hickman moved that the item be removed from the table for discussion. Linda Simmons seconded. Motion carried. The two teams in question are in favor of this combination. However, Nominations has concerns that Linda brought forward. There are currently two council representatives, one with a term that will expire at the end of 2027. Both team lead positions will also expire at the end of 2027. Therefore, it is recommended that the teams continue to meet together through the end of 2027. At that time, only one position would need to be replaced. The second concern of Nominations is that reducing Council by one member will result in an even-numbered body. A possible resolution would be to remove the member-at-large at the conclusion of that member's current term. Pastor Beth noted that our Code of Conduct should lead us to consensus, rather than a split vote. After discussion, Susan Epps moved that the teams be allowed to combine immediately with current council members and team leads complete their current terms. Further, an amendment to the continuing resolution will be adopted as outlined by Beth Anderson (below; strikethrough indicates current wording to be removed or replaced, highlighted indicates proposed changes). Stephanie Hickman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

C13.04.C23 Duties of the ~~Education Team~~ Faith Formation Team

1. *Organization and Composition:*
    a. *The Team shall be composed of the one elected Chairperson, at least one elected Council member, Church School Superintendent(s), plus the number of lay persons sufficient to perform the duties of the Team such as library, and chairpersons of other educational groups, including youth and adult representatives.*
2. *Duties are:*
    a. *Build relationships with children, youth and parents to draw them closer to Christ and the church through personal relationships, activities, youth gatherings and events.*
    b. *Provide for, maintain, promote and coordinate all of the ~~educational~~ faith formation ministries of the congregation, such as Church School, Vacation Bible, School, Children's Christmas program, Confirmation, Youth Group and Adult Education.*
    c. *~~Seek the assistance of the Worship and Music Team in working out a music program for Church School~~.*
    ~~d. Recruit Church School Superintendent(s) annually. They shall receive duties from, and be responsible to, the Education Team.~~
    e. *Develop a team of adults and youth who will work together to achieve the Faith Formation Team goals.*
    f. *Recruit all Church School and Vacation Bible School teachers, teacher helpers, and Confirmation leaders. Select ~~educational materials~~. curriculums and instructional resources. Develop and manage a Christ-centered Confirmation and youth ministry in coordination with and responsive to the direction of the congregation, pastors and ministry staff.*
    g. *Provide a teacher and adult leader orientation program, including review of the safe haven policy.*
    h. *Provide opportunities for youth to develop relationships with other Christian youth through youth gatherings and events.*

i. *Disciple children, youth and adults to witness to the love of Christ and provide opportunities for children and youth to grow as servants and to be of service to their peers, church and community.*
j. *Be responsible for obtaining with the Property Maintenance Team, the necessary classrooms for all programs under the team's jurisdiction and the necessary instruction equipment.*
k. *Be responsible for the operation and function of the library.*
l. *Be responsible for the proper expenditure of funds allocated to this Team.*
m. *When requested, identify next year's proposed activities and propose annual budget for this Team and submit as directed by the Executive Team.*

~~*C13.04.C23 Duties of the Team of Youth and Family Ministry*~~ *(entire section is removed)*

b) Pastor Beth presented a list of 28 students who are prepared to be confirmed on November 1. The 10th graders will be confirmed at the 9:00AM service; 9th graders will be confirmed at the 11:00AM service. Fellowship will be held between services. A Council member is requested to read the names at each service – Noah at 9:00, Beth at 11:00. Confirmands are: Theodore Andrist, Karver Atkinson, Harper Braaflat, Kinsley Bubach, Coy Dockter, Devin Dukart, Kaiya Erp, Ava Francis, Rilan Isakson, Avrey Karsnia, Jasten Klabunde, Benjamin Klindworth, Brayden Ledahl, Easton Lein, Olivia Meduna, Soren Ostendorf, Grace Renner, Kinzy Roeder, Adison Ronning, Kyan Roth, Levi Schmidt, Alivia Stein, Sullivan Steinle, Nevaya Tooke, Josie Twete, Vincent Wagner, Serenity Willer, and Abigail Windsor. Noah Knudson moved that the confirmands be approved. Craig Nelson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Next Council meeting is planned for November 17. Dallas Anderson will lead with devotions. Meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Demke
Lord of Life Church Council Secretary

MEETING MINUTES
Lord of Life Lutheran Church Council
November 17, 2026

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 – Bob McConnell
Nominations and Placement Team – Roxanne Gardner
Property Team – Rod Kudrna
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 Bob McConnell from Psalms 9.

A motion was made by Stephanie and seconded by Rod Kudrna to approve the October 20 Council meeting minutes. Hearing no discussion, vote was taken with all voting to affirm. Motion passed.

Financial Report was presented by Bob McConnell. There is a deficit of $71,412.74 through October. However, November and December are traditionally much higher income months. After the first Sunday, 57 pledge cards have been received to date. A motion was made by Rod Kudrna and seconded by Amy Miller to approve the financial report. Hearing no discussion, a vote was taken with all voting to affirm. Motion passed.

Team Concerns

Faith Formation: Items that were removed from the storage room that is now the elevator mechanical room are currently in classrooms. Property will establish a plan for rearranging classrooms and storage, including potential shelving if funding is approved by the Endowment Fund.

Affirmation of Baptism Sunday – lots happening on that day, and the pastors are to be commended for managing all of the moving parts!

Springbrook Camp retreat was an amazing experience for the girls who participated. We need to continue to support this ministry.

Worship: A suggestion has been made to change our bulletins to reduce the amount of paper being used. An example was shared that used a single page, front and back. Announcements would need to be edited to fit information into the space available. In addition to saving the cost of paper, toner, and staples, this move will also reduce waste. Commercial recycling is not available in Bismarck, so staff take the recycling home with them. Printed PowerPoint slides will be available for assisting ministers.

Old Business

Reminder that Advent meals are coming up. Each team has an assigned date. All meals have been decided.

Budget vote will occur at the December Council meeting. All Team

New Business

Camp of the Cross Letter Responses: Pastor John summarized the situation that included an invitation sent in August for reps to attend a Council meeting. We had clarified the request with two specific questions. No response was received. After the November Executive meeting, Pastor John sent an additional email to ask if COTC should be included on our November Council agenda. An auto reply stated that Janie is out of the office until early January and Missy Kopp, COTC Board President, should be contacted. Missy replied that she was unable to attend in November but could possibly come in December. There was much discussion about our concern that we haven't received any response from the camp to our questions about the safety of our children.

Noah moved that we invite COTC representatives, Missy and/or Janie, to attend the December 15 Council meeting, utilizing the previous letter and questions, and including a time expectation, seconded by Amy Miller. Discussion included what will happen if they don't attend, but we can't make any decisions until we know how they will respond. Motion passed.

Michelle's seminary journey: She has been accepted to Luther Seminary, pursuing her Masters of Divinity. A budget line item has been added for seminary support. Michelle has been awarded a Jubilee Scholarship with full tuition. A ministry support team will be established to assist Michelle along her journey. Kylah Aull has also been accepted at Luther, and will begin next fall. Lord of Life is proud to support our seminarians.

Kitchen Management: Judy Kudrna has resigned from serving as the kitchen manager, and we greatly appreciate her service. Pastor John shared a recommendation from Executive that a committee of two or three be established to manage the kitchen. Staff will fill in for a while, and Pastor Beth will develop guidelines. Raising fees is recommended, based on length and type of use.

Voicing Our Values – Steve Andrist teaching about writing letters to the editor and to legislators on Thursday, November 19.

Next Council meeting is planned for December 15. Susan Epps will lead with devotions.

Meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Demke
Lord of Life Church Council Secretary

December 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 *9:30 am: Piecemakers* *10:00 am: Staff Meeting* *5:00 pm: Worship & Music Team Meeting* *5:00 pm: Property Team Meeting* *6:00 pm: CCO Team Meeting* *6:30 pm: Faith Formation Team Meeting* *7:00 pm: Boy Scouts*	*2* *3:30 pm: Plarning* *4:45 pm: Book Club* *5:00 pm: Advent Meal* *6:15 pm: Worship* *7:00 pm: Church School* *7:00 pm: Confirmation*	*3* *8:30 am: Centering Prayer in Sanctuary* *9:30 am: Brunch with Beth* *10:45 am: Book Study* *7:00 pm: Nominations & Placements Team Meeting*	*4*	*5* *9:00 am: District AA Workshop in F.H.*
6 *9:00 am: Worship* *10:15 am: Church School* *10:15 am: Youth Bake Auction* *10:15 am: Quilt Drawing* *10:15 am: Young Adult Bible Study* *2:00 pm: Girl Scouts* *5:00 pm: Life is Change Support Group*	*7* *2:00 pm: Cozy Comfort*	*8* *9:30 am: Women's Bible Study* *10:30 am: Staff Meeting* *4:00 pm: Executive Team Meeting* *7:00 pm: Boy Scouts*	*9* *3:30 pm: Plarning* *5:00 pm: Advent Meal* *6:15 pm: Worship* *7:00 pm: Church School* *7:00 pm: Confirmation*	*10* *8:30 am: Centering Prayer in Sanctuary* *9:30 am: Brunch with Beth* *10:45 am: Book Study*	*11* *9:30 am: Coffee with Memory Caregivers*	*12*
13 *9:00 am: Children's Christmas Program* *10:15 am: Caroling in F.H.* *10:15 am: Young Adult Bible Study* *2:00 pm: St. Lucia Event*	*14* *LOL @ Heaven's Helpers* *2:30 pm: YAH's* *6:30 pm: Piecemakers*	*15* *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*	*16* *3:30 pm: Plarning* *5:00 pm: Advent Meal* *6:15 pm: Children's Christmas Program* *7:00 pm: Youth Caroling*	*17* *8:30 am: Centering Prayer in Sanctuary* *9:30 am: Brunch with Beth* *10:45 am: Book Study* *6:00 pm: Palm Sun. Path Training*	*18* *Council Team Annual Reports Due*	*19*
20 *9:00 am: Worship* *10:15 am: Adult Forum* *10:15 am: Young Adult Bible Study* *12:00 F. H. Reserved* *2:00 pm: Girl Scouts* *5:00 pm: Blue Christmas Service*	*21* *11:30 am: PEO Meeting* *5:00 pm: ABC Training*	*22* *10:00 am: Staff Meeting* *7:00 pm: Boy Scouts*	*23* *NO Church Events*	*24* *9:00 am: Christmas Eve Worship* *3:00 pm: Christmas Eve Worship* *5:00 pm: Christmas Eve Worship*	*25* *Office Closed*	*26*
27 *9:00 am: Worship*	*28*	*29* *10:00 am: Staff Meeting*	*30* *3:30 pm: Plarning* *No Church Events*	*31* *8:30 am: Centering Prayer in Sanctuary* *9:30 am: Brunch with Beth* *10:45 am: Book Study* *5:00 pm: New Year's Eve Party at LOL*		

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

1143 N. 26th 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

January 2027

Sunday	*Monday*	*Tuesday*	*Wednesday*	*Thursday*	*Friday*	*Saturday*
					1 *Office Closed*	*2*
3 *9:00 am: Worship & Baptism* *10:15 am: Church School* *10:15 am: Adult Forum* *10:15 am: Young Adult Bible Study* *5:00 pm: Life is Change Support Group*	*4* *12:30 pm: Staff Meeting* *2:00 pm: Cozy Comfort* *6:30 pm: Piecemakers*	*5* *9:30 am: Piecemakers* *5:00 pm: Worship & Music Team Meeting* *5:00 pm: Property Team Meeting* *6:00 pm: CCO Team Meeting* *6:30 pm: Faith Formation/Youth Team Meeting* *7:00 pm: Boy Scouts*	*6* *3:30 pm: Plarning* *4:45pm: Book Club* *5:00 pm: Family Meal* *6:15 pm: Worship* *7:00 pm: Church School* *7:00 pm: Confirmation*	*7* *8:30 am: Centering Prayer in Sanctuary* *9:30 am: Brunch with Beth* *10:45 am: Book Study* *7:00 pm: Nominations & Placements Meeting*	*8* *9:30 am: Coffee with Memory Caregivers*	*9*
10 *9:00 am: Worship* *10:15 am: Church School* *10:15 am: Adult Forum* *10:15 am: Young Adult Bible Study*	*11* *LOL @ Heaven's Helpers* *11:30 am: YAH's*	*12* *9:30 am: Women's Bible Study* *10:30 am: Staff Meeting* *7:00 pm: Boy Scouts* *4:00 pm: Executive Team Meeting* *7:00 pm: Boy Scouts*	*13* *3:30 pm: Plarning* *5:00 pm: Family Meal* *6:15 pm: Worship* *7:00 pm: Church School* *7:00 pm: Confirmation*	*14* *8:30 am: Centering Prayer in Sanctuary* *9:30 am: Brunch with Beth* *10:45 am: Book Study*	*15*	*16* *11:30 am: World Religions Potluck – Bismarck Public Library*
17 *9:00 am: Worship* *10:15 am: Church School* *10:15 am: Adult Forum* *10:15 am: Young Adult Bible Study* *5:30 pm: Senior Class Meal*	*18* *11:30 am: PEO* *12:30 pm: Staff Meeting* *5:00 pm: ABC Meeting* *6:30 pm: Piecemakers*	*19* *9:30 am: Piecemakers* *6:00 pm: Financial Stewardship Team Meeting* *7:00 pm: Council Team Meeting* *7:00 pm: Boy Scouts*	*20* *3:30 pm: Plarning* *5:00 pm: Family Meal* *6:15 pm: Worship* *7:00 pm: Church School* *7:00 pm: Confirmation*	*21* *8:30 am: Centering Prayer in Sanctuary* *9:30 am: Brunch with Beth* *10:45 am: Book Study*	*22* *9:30 am: Coffee with Memory Caregivers*	*23*
24 *9:00 am: Worship* *No Church School* *10:15 am: Adult Forum* *10:15 am: Young Adult Bible Study*	*25*	*26* *10:00 am: Staff Meeting* *7:00 pm: Boy Scouts*	*27* *3:30 pm: Plarning* *5:00 pm: Family Meal* *6:15 pm: Worship* *7:00 pm: Church School* *7:00 pm: Confirmation*	*28* *8:30 am: Centering Prayer in Sanctuary* *9:30 am: Brunch with Beth* *10:45 am: Book Study*	*29*	*30*
31 *9:00 am: Worship* *10:15 am: Annual Meeting* *10:15 am: Church School*						

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

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