



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost—Lectionary 23

Sunday, September 6, 2026: 9:00 am

Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Bismarck, ND

Pastors John Streccius and Beth Walch

Our Purpose Statement: “Love All, Serve All, Welcome All as Christ.”

Today’s worship service is taken from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) service book and hymnal. Please turn to Setting III, pp. 138-146, for the order of the service and to the back of the book for the hymns.

Welcome and Announcements

Moment of Silence

Confession and Forgiveness, p. 94

Gathering Hymn: ELW #522, “As We Gather at Your Table”

Greeting and Kyrie, pp. 138-139

Hymn of Praise, “This is the Feast,” pp. 140-141

Prayer of the Day

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

Let us pray... O Lord God, **enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Reading: Romans 13:8-14

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 119:33-40

³³ Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,
and I will observe it to the end.

³⁴ **Give me understanding, that I may keep your law
and observe it with my whole heart.**

³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for I delight in it.

³⁶ **Turn my heart to your decrees
and not to selfish gain.**

³⁷ Turn my eyes from looking at vanities;
be gracious to me according to your word.

³⁸ **Confirm to your servant your promise,
which is for those who fear you.**

³⁹ Turn away the disgrace that I dread,
for your ordinances are good.

⁴⁰ **See, I have longed for your precepts;
in your righteousness be gracious to me.**

Gospel Acclamation, “Alleluia,” p. 142 (*John 6:68*)

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the 15th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Message

Sermon: Pastor Beth Walch

Hymn of the Day: ELW #603, “God, When Human Bonds Are Broken”

Apostles' Creed, p. 105

Prayers of Intercession, p. 143

*At the conclusion of each petition, the minister and **the congregation** will say: "Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**"*

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

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

Offering

Offertory ELW #182, "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"

Offertory Prayer

Communion

Dialogue, p. 144

Preface, p. 144

Sanctus, "Holy, Holy, Holy," p. 144

Words of Institution (*Matthew 26:26-28*)

Lord's Prayer (*contemporary version, left side*), **p. 145** (*Matthew 6:9-13*)

Distribution

Time for Reflection

"Lamb of God", p. 146 (*John 1:29*)

ELW #472, "Eat This Bread" (3 times)

ELW #471, "Let Us Break Bread Together"

Post-Communion Blessing

Blessing of Home Communion Kits

Post-Communion Canticle, ELW #204, "Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise" (*Psalm 9*)

Post-Communion Prayer

Blessing, p. 146

Sending Hymn: ELW #836, "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

Dismissal, p. 146

Worship Participants: Pastors: John Streccius & Beth Walch; **Assisting:** Bruce Boe;
Communion Assistants: Judy Kudrna; **Ushers:** HELP NEEDED; **Acolyte:** HELP NEEDED;
Song Leader: McKaela Halvorson; **Pianist:** David Larson; **September Altar Guild:** Deb
Burke, Nancy Kleingartner, Barb Koch, Tondi McGuire; **Power Point/Live Streaming:** HELP
NEEDED

Prayers at Lord of Life: Shirley O'Brien, Coralyn Hoovestol, Scott Berry, Nathan Berndt,
Brad Kjos, Judy Sickler, Arlyn Price, Linda Buller, Vicky Baukol, Marla Leno, Paula Brosseau,
Michelle Ellefson, Ken Snyder, Sean Janoscrat, Lavina Benkendorf, Arnie Ellefson, Jonathan
Blazek, Cathy Bryant, Barb Niemeyer, Scott Simmons, Mason Chepulis, Dorothy Nielsen,
Lydia Streccius, Jackie Gill.

Sympathies to the family of Beverly Berry.

Flowers are given today by: The Epps Family in loving memory of "Papa" Thomas Murphy.

Stewardship Info: Attendance – Sun. (8-30): 150 Wed. (9-2): 58
Offering: General Plate Giving: \$7,288.00 General Online Giving: \$2,942.91
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

September Service Group Leaders: Gary & Diane Chepulis (214-8118)
Larry & Pat Klundt (391-1414)

Volunteers: Members with last names starting with "Fro" through "Hic"

Worship Helps: Large print bulletins, a wheelchair and a walker, and personal p.a. devices
are available from the ushers'. **Activity bags and bulletins** for children are available in the
narthex.



Sign up to assist with worship! We invite you to prayerfully consider serving in one
of the following roles: acolyte, communion assistant, greeter, usher, live stream, or
PowerPoint. Visit the QR code or the computer in the Narthex to sign up.

Today we will serve Holy Communion in worship. Those who come to receive the gifts of
Christ's body and blood for the strengthening of their faith and the forgiveness of their sins are
welcome to eat and drink. Children are welcome to receive Holy Communion at any age.
Please have them extend their hand to receive the elements, if not we will offer a blessing.
Taste and see that the Lord is good!

For Communion: Grape juice is always available. Simply select the light colored liquid. Gluten free communion wafers are available, indicate gluten free to the server when you come to the communion station.

Thank you for your financial offerings to the ministry of Lord of Life. Electronic giving is quick and easy, just scan the QR code and you will be taken to the secure church website for giving.



Altar Bouquet Donations: Thank you for your donations to date. The 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.**

Sympathies to the family of Duane Barry who passed away August 18, 2026. Services are scheduled for September 24, 2026 at 10:00 am at Lord of Life Lutheran Church. Burial to follow at the ND Veterans Cemetery in Mandan.

Would you consider sponsoring a confirmation student this year? For approximately **\$50 per student**, we are able to provide engaging curriculum, snacks, special activities, and fun events that help our young people grow in faith and build meaningful relationships. Your gift, in any amount, is an investment in the faith formation of the next generation at Lord of Life. To support our Confirmation Ministry, write **“Confirmation”** in the memo line of your check or give online through **Vanco** by selecting the **Confirmation** square.

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.

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 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!!!

Piecemakers: Come join the quilters! If you can't join us, you can still contribute by making quilt tops at home. They need to be 60 x 80 and made with cotton fabric. **Quilting will be back in full swing**—the next sessions will be Monday, September 14th at 6:30 pm and Tuesday, September 15th at 9:30 am.

Happening this week at Lord of Life
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 am-3:00 pm
Church Office: 701-223-2986
www.lordoflifebismarck.org

Sun., September 6

9:00 am: Worship

5:00 pm: Life is Change Support Group

Mon., September 7

Labor Day—Office Closed

Tue., September 8

9:30 am: Women's Bible Study

10:30 am: Staff Meeting

4:00 pm: Executive Team Meeting

5:00 pm: Property Team Meeting

6:00 pm: Snacks & Scripture

7:00 pm: Boy Scouts

Wed., September 9

3:30 pm: Planning

5:00 pm: Family Meal

6:15 pm: Worship

7:00 pm: Confirmation

7:00 pm: Church School Volunteer Training

Thurs., September 10

Bulletin Deadline @ 12:00 pm

8:00 am: Lion's Lefse Making

8:30 am: Centering Prayer

9:30 am: Brunch with Beth

10:45 am: Book Study

Fri., September 11

9:30 am: Coffee with Caregivers

Sun., September 13

9:00 am: Youth led Worship

10:15 am: Church School

10:15 am: Adult Forum

10:15 am: Young Adult Bible Study

