



Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost—Lectionary 26

Sunday, September 27, 2026: 9:00 am

Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Bismarck, ND

Pastors John Streccius and Beth Walch

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

Welcome and Announcements

Moment of Silence

Gathering Song: “Come People of the Risen King”

Confession and Forgiveness (1 John 1:8-9)

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.
Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.
Amen.

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Song of Praise: “Shout to the Lord” (sing twice)

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray. . . . God of love, **giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

¹If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, ¹⁰so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Psalm: Psalm 25:1-9

¹To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

²**O my God, in you I trust;**

do not let me be put to shame;

do not let my enemies exult over me.

³Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;

let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴**Make me to know your ways, O Lord;**

teach me your paths.

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation;

for you I wait all day long.

⁶**Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,**

for they have been from of old.

⁷Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

according to your steadfast love remember me,

for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!

⁸**Good and upright is the Lord;**

therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

⁹ He leads the humble in what is right
and teaches the humble his way.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; I know them and they follow me. *Alleluia. (John 10:27)*

Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the 21st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²³ When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’ ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Message

Sermon: Pastor Beth Walch

Song of the Day: ELW #712, “Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”

Apostles’ Creed

Prayers of Intercession

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

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

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

Offering

Special Music: “Light of a Clear Blue Morning”, by Dolly Parton

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. God of creation, **you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.**

All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

Amen.

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

Lord's Prayer (It's Yours) (*Matthew 6:9-13*)

Communion

“Seek Ye First”

“Remembrance (The Communion Song)”

Communion Blessing

Let us pray. Sustaining God, **with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.**

By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

Benediction (*Numbers 6:23-26*)

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

Amen.

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

Amen.

The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Recessional to the Elevator: ELW #641, “All Are Welcome”

Dismissal

Go in peace.

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

Worship Participants: Pastors: John Streccius & Beth Walch; **Assisting:** Roxanne Gardner;

Communion Assistants: Lynelle Lepp; **Ushers:** HELP NEEDED; **Acolyte:** HELP NEEDED;

Musicians: Levi, Bethany, Teddy, Arthur & Gwendolyn Andrist, Andrew Cooper; **September Altar**

Guild: Deb Burke, Nancy Kleingartner, Barb Koch, Tondi McGuire; **Power Point/Live Streaming:**

Reid Halvorson

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

Flowers are given today by: Arlin & Roxanne Gardner in celebration of their daughter's birthday.

Stewardship Info: Attendance – Sun. (9-20): 111 Wed. (9-23): 57

Offering: General Plate Giving: \$9,350.50 General Online Giving: \$6,953.50

August Ministry Spending: \$60,167.50 **August Giving:** \$70,252.70

Annual Ministry Spending through August: \$563,722.85

Annual Giving through August: \$518,533.10

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 20. Cost is \$25.00/bouquet. The sign-up sheet is located at the Information Desk. **Please note Altar Flowers on check memo line.

Blessing of the Elevator: The elevator has been installed at Lord of Life and we want to thank everyone who helped make this possible! Today, Sunday, September 27th we will have an elevator blessing and ribbon cutting followed by treats and fellowship.

September is the Lutheran World Relief Drive and there's still time to donate items for the Health Kits! Health Kits will be assembled on October 13 at 1:00 pm, any extra hands will be greatly appreciated! Questions regarding Health Kits, please talk to Peggy Christman at 471-7877 and layettes direct questions to Barb Wrolstad at 391-8640.

LOL Memory Caregivers support group is specifically for caregivers who have loved ones with dementia. We meet the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month at 9:30 in the library. Please join us.

Join us for YAHs Monday, October 12th at 2:30 pm AARP will present a program, The Six Pillars of Brain Health. Coffee and donuts will be served.

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.

LORD OF LIFE BOOK CLUB: October 7th at 4:45 pm, we will discuss “Of Mice and Men”, by John Steinbeck. Two poor migrant ranch workers during the Great Depression who share a dream about owning their own farm face tragic obstacles, culminating in a heartbreaking mercy killing, shattering their dream and highlighting themes of loneliness, friendship and the elusive American Dream.

Piecemakers: Quilting is back in full swing—we are adding a couple extra sessions this month, Monday, September 28th at 6:30 pm and Tuesday, September 29th at 9:30 am. Come join us!

October Study Club at Lord of Life: Join us every Monday in October from 6pm-8pm for a four-part class on “When Science Meets Religion: Friend or Foe?”, with Dr. Ernest Simmons (Professor of Religion emeritus at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN). All materials will be provided at no cost to you. **Please register by email:** brenna@thestudynd.org

Adult Forums Sundays at 10:15 am: 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 – Rebecca Binstock/Pam Sharp. October 25 – Vocation and Faith Series.

Endowment Fund Seeks Donations and Grant Applications. We've all heard of the gift that keeps on giving. Gifts to the Lord of Life Endowment Fund do just that. Whether it's \$50 or \$500 or \$5,000, such gifts help the fund keep growing and growing, each year generating income that can be used to further the mission of Lord of Life. Grants from the fund are awarded each year. Grants do not have to be used at Lord of Life, but applications must be sponsored by Lord of Life members. Applications for grants to be used in 2027 are now being accepted. Application forms are available in the church office and are also available on the Lord of Life web site -<https://www.lordoflifebismarck.org/> under the Serve & Give tab. Grant applications will be accepted at the church office through November 10, 2026.

Lord of Life at Heaven's Helpers Soup Café: Lord of Life is scheduled to help Heaven's Helpers Soup Café on the second Monday each month. Log 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.

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 27

9:00 am: Worship
10:00 am: Elevator Blessing & Fellowship
10:15 am: Church School
10:15 am: Adult Forum
10:15 am: Young Adult Bible Study
2:00 pm: LYO Meeting at LOL
4:30 pm: Girl Scouts Bridging Ceremony in F.H.

Mon., September 28

6:30 pm: Piecemakers

Tues., September 29

9:30 am: Piecemakers
10:00 am: Staff Meeting
7:00 pm: Boy Scouts

Wed., September 30

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

Thurs., October 1

Bulletin Deadline @ 12:00 pm

8:30 am: Centering Prayer
9:30 am: Brunch with Beth
10:45 am: Book Study
7:00 pm: Nominations & Placements Team Meeting

Fri., October 2

5:00 pm: Owens/Sauer Wedding Rehearsal

Sat., October 3

3:00 pm: Owens/Sauer Wedding

Sun., October 4

9:00 am: Worship
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