

**Rally Day Worship at Sleepy Hollow
Sunday, August 30, 2026; 9:00 a.m.
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 to Sleepy Hollow as we rally for the beginning of another year in church school and worship. As we gather today, we remember that Christ received people from all walks of life into his loving care and mercy. We hope that our worship will make you feel welcomed in the same way. Please stay for lunch and games for the kids following our worship service.

Light type = Pastor; **Bold type** = Congregation

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Listen! God is welcoming us to this time of worship.

Young and old, rich and poor, all are welcomed.

This is a place where all belong.

This is a time when all are accountable to God.

The Maker of all seeks our common good.

The God of Mercy calls on us to be merciful.

We are not judges over our sisters and brothers.

We are called to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Come to sing praises and put your trust in God.

Come to prepare yourself to serve in Christ’s name.

We bring all our needs to God, our hope.

We want to share faith and hope with others.

Opening Song: “Hey, Everybody!”

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who looks upon us in compassion, forgives our sin, and heals our lives. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Have mercy, O God, **against you, you alone, we have sinned. In your compassion, cleanse us from our sin and take away our guilt. Create in us a new heart and give us a steadfast spirit. Do not cast us away, but fill us with your Holy Spirit and restore your joy within us. Amen.**

As tender as parent to child, so deep is God’s compassion for you. As high as heaven is above earth, so vast is God’s love for you. As far as east is from west, so far God removes your sin from you, renewing your life through Jesus Christ. Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love. **Blessed be God forever.**

Prayer of the Day

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

Gracious God, **throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life.**

Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

Amen.

Song of Praise: “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Verse 1

Come Thou fount of ev'ry blessing

Tune my heart to sing Thy grace

Streams of mercy never ceasing

Call for songs of loudest praise

Teach me some melodious sonnet

Sung by flaming tongues above

Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it

Mount of Thy redeeming love

Verse 2

Here I raise mine Ebenezer

Hither by Thy help I'm come

And I hope by Thy good pleasure

Safely to arrive at home

Jesus sought me when a stranger

Wand'ring from the fold of God

He to rescue me from danger

Interposed His precious blood

Verse 3

O to grace how great a debtor

Daily I'm constrained to be

Let Thy grace Lord like a fetter

Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee

Prone to wander Lord I feel it

Prone to leave the God I love

Here's my heart Lord take and seal it

Seal it for Thy courts above

Psalm: Psalm 146

¹ Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord, O my soul!
² **I will praise the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**
³ Do not put your trust in princes,
in mortals, in whom there is no help.
⁴ **When their breath departs, they return to the earth;
on that very day their plans perish.**
⁵ Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God,
⁶ **who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith for ever;**
⁷ who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.
The Lord sets the prisoners free;
⁸ **the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.**
**The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.**
⁹ The Lord watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
¹⁰ **The Lord will reign for ever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.**
Praise the Lord!

Reading: Romans 12:9-21

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰ Instead, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-26

²¹ From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God

forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” ²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

Children’s Message

Message: Pastor John Streccius

**Hymn of the Day: “Let Us Be The Church”
Verse 1**

Father in our hearts You've placed a prayer
For the mission of Your kingdom everywhere
To be doers of the word
To be a people of good works
That You've prepared

Verse 2
The fruits of faith are pure and unstained
To serve orphans and widows in their pain
To keep ourselves from pride
And in trial and temptation to remain
Let Your kingdom come
Let Your will be done
Let us be Your hands and feet Lord
Let us serve as one

Chorus
Let us be the church
Let us take courage
Let us see Christ in His people
Let us bring Your hope
By the power of His Spirit
For the love of Jesus Christ
Let us be the church

Verse 3
Teach us how to love and how to live
Teach us to show up when no one will
As children of Your mercy
May the love of Christ in us be evident
Oh may the love of Christ in us be evident

Chorus

Bridge

Set us apart to be Your servants in the world
Set us apart O Lord
For we can see You in the faces that we serve
Oh we can see You Lord
Oh we can see You Lord

Chorus 2 (sing twice)

Let us be Your church
Let us take courage
May the world see Christ in His people
Let us bring Your peace
By the power of His Spirit
For the love of Jesus Christ

Ending

Let us be the church
Let us be the church

Prayers of the People

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

Offering

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us thank the Lord, our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

Lord’s Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed by your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Distribution of Holy Communion

“Sanctuary”

“Amazing Grace” (My Chains Are Gone)

Blessing
Benediction

Closing Hymn: “Give Me Oil In My Lamp”

Give me oil in my lamp, keep it burning
Give me oil in my lamp I pray
Give me oil in my lamp, keep it burning
Keep it burning till the light of day

Sing "Hosanna", sing "Hosanna"
Sing "Hosanna to the King of Kings!"
Sing "Hosanna", sing "Hosanna"
Sing "Hosanna to the King!"

Dismissal

Worship Participants: Pastors: John Streccius & Beth Walch; **Communion Assistant:** Arlin & Roxanne Gardner; **Ushers:** HELP NEEDED; **Musicians:** Lora Isakson, Kyle Debertin, Hailey Wanner, Beth Weiss, Andrew Carlson, Andrew Cooper; **Sound:** Dallas Anderson; **August Altar Guild:** Barb Koch, Betty Steele and Nancy Kleingartner

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, Beverly Berry, Jonathan Blazek, Cathy Bryant, Barb Niemeyer, Scott Simmons, Mason Chepulis.

Flowers are given today by: Stephanie Hickman in honor of her brother, David Hickman’s, birthday.

Stewardship Info: Attendance – Sun. (8-23): 103 **Wed.** (8-26): 20
Offering: General Plate Giving: \$18,595.10 General Online Giving: \$6,043.50
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

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. Taste and see that the Lord is good!

*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.*



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.

The CCO Team sends a huge thank-you to everyone who donated bars for the Community BBQ Fundraiser to benefit Ministry on the Margins. Your kindness overflowed—20 pans of delicious bars from Lord of Life. They were thrilled and deeply touched by your generosity. What a wonderful way to bless our community!

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

Women’s Bible Study - It's time for our September bible study, join us on Tuesday, the 8th at 9:30 am.

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 starting August 31st 6:30 pm and September 1st at 9:30 am.** 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-12:00 pm
Church Office: 701-223-2986
www.lordoflifebismarck.org

Sun., August 30
Rally Day!!!
9:00 am: Worship at Sleepy Hollow Park
Mon., August 31
6:30 pm: Piecemakers
Tue., September 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
7:00 pm: Faith Formation Team Meeting
7:00 pm: Boy Scouts
Wed., September 2
10:00 am: Welcome House in Conf. Room
3:30 pm: Plarning
4:45 pm: Book Club
5:00 pm: Family Meal
6:15 pm: Worship
7:00 pm: Confirmation Orientation
Thurs., September 3
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
Sun., September 6
9:00 am: Worship
5:00 pm: Life is Change Support Group

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