



Third Week in Lent—"For the Least of These—the Stranger"

Sunday, March 24, 2019: 8:30 am & 11:00 am

Wednesday, March 27, 2019: 6:15 pm

Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Bismarck, ND

Pastor Nadine Lehr and Pastor Beth Walch

In today's worship we remember the words of Jesus from the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats: "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Jesus tells us that when we perform these acts of love "for the least of these," we perform them for him. Today we focus on the Stranger that God calls us to help. Our worship service has been written by our pastors and uses materials from various sources.

*Please note that **Bold Type** = Congregation; Light Type = Worship Leader.*

Call to Worship

We come, for God gathers us here,

With that community called faith:

Where the hungry are served first,

Where the thirsty drink life's water

We come, for God welcomes us here

Into that home called grace:

Where the naked are clothed in robes of hope;

Where the stranger is embraced as the long-lost prodigal.

We come, for God reunites us here,

Sisters and brothers in that family called love;

Where the imprisoned model justice,

Where the sick are cradled in God's peace.

From Liturgies Alive, Models of Celebration <http://www.bibleclaret.org/liturgy/CycleA/>

Opening Hymn: ELW #641, "All Are Welcome"

Words of Confession and Forgiveness

God calls us to care for those in need: the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick, the prisoner. He, who is compassionate and gracious, calls us to share his compassion. Trusting in God's faithfulness and compassion, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Across the barriers that divide race from race:

Reconcile us, O Christ, by your cross.

Across the barriers that divide rich from poor:

Reconcile us, O Christ, by your cross.

Across the barriers that divide people of different cultures:

Reconcile us, O Christ, by your cross.

Across the barriers that divide men and women, young and old:

Reconcile us, O Christ, by your cross.

Confront us, O Christ, with the hidden prejudices and fears that deny and betray our prayers.

Enable us to see the causes of strife, and remove from us all sense of superiority.

Teach us to grow in unity with all of God's children. Amen.

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. The Lord will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever.

The Lord does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.

(<https://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/restorative-justice-weekday-worship>)

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. . . Lord, let our hearts not be far from you. Help us to reach out to our neighbor, even when we are busy or tired. Let us tear down walls when we'd rather let them stand. Stretch us please. Whether we are visiting a prisoner, offering a smile, feeding the hungry, be within us so that whatever we do, we do with your love. Let the world know we are your disciples, not because our hands are clean, but because they are soiled with the marks of your people. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Written by Anne Osdieck, and posted on Saint Louis University's The Center for Liturgy web site. <https://foodgrainsbank.ca/product/lord-let-our-hearts-not-be-far-from-you/>

Welcome and Announcements

First Reading: Leviticus 19:33-34, 24:22

³³When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. ³⁴The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the

alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

²²You shall have one law for the alien and for the citizen: for I am the LORD your God.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: I Corinthians 12:12-26

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot were to say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body’, that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear were to say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body’, that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you’, nor again the head to the feet, ‘I have no need of you.’ ²²On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Thanks be to God.

Children’s Sermon

Gospel: Luke 14:12-24

¹²He said also to the one who had invited him, ‘When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.’ ¹⁵One of the dinner guests, on hearing this, said to him, ‘Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!’ ¹⁶Then Jesus said to him, ‘Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. ¹⁷At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, “Come; for everything is ready now.” ¹⁸But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, “I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my apologies.” ¹⁹Another said, “I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my apologies.” ²⁰Another said, “I have just been

married, and therefore I cannot come.” ²¹So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, “Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.” ²²And the slave said, “Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.” ²³Then the master said to the slave, “Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. ²⁴For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.” ’

Sermon: Pastor Nadine Lehr

Hymn of the Day: “Come, Now, You Blessed” (See back page)

(The text of the following hymn represents a dialogue between Christ and the faithful. Verses 1 and 3 will be sung by the north half of the sanctuary while Verses 2 and 4 will be sung by the south half of the sanctuary).

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(11:00) Aiden James Rohrich, son of Corey Rohrich & Dakota Price. Baptismal sponsors are Steve & Brianna Rohrich, Owen Price Jr. & Tatyanna Price, and Maddie & Jenna Bosch.

At the conclusion of the baptism, the pastor and congregation will say:

Through baptism God has made this new brother a member of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear God’s creative and redeeming Word to all the world.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God’s creative and redeeming word to all the world.

(Sunday Only) Prayers of the People

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

Offering (All offerings received in the plates today will go to the General Budget at Lord of Life. In addition, you may contribute to the offering for Toiletries by giving a gift in the baskets at the door.)

**(Sunday Only) Special Music: (8:30) Lord of Life Choir, “Set Me As a Seal”
Offertory: ELW #686, “We Give Thee but Thine Own”**

(Sunday Only) Offertory Prayer

Gracious God, in this offering we return to you a portion of the blessings you have showered upon us. Bless these gifts, that they might bring comfort, food, and shelter to those who need it. Bless those who receive these gifts. Let them know your love through full bellies, warm clothing, and safe places to sleep. Amen.

(Sunday Only) Invitation to Communion

“We know love by this, that Christ laid down his life for us.”

We come to this table to celebrate and experience that life-giving love.

We come to this table to break bread together. Some come to this table hungry, struggling to find the bread they need for each day. Some come to this table with access to plenty of food, but starving for God’s nourishing love.

What we see in this feast of love, a table where all are fed, can also make us hungry for a world that is more like this table. This bread and cup can sustain us and give us the strength to lay down our lives for one another.

Taken From: Week of Compassion. Leader’s Guide <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/52d3d84ae4b03c7eaedecdb/t/5a3915c171c10b6d1374b5a3/1513690665436/Leaders+Guide+2017>

Words of Institution

Lord’s Prayer

Distribution

ELW #461, “All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”

ELW #650, “In Christ, There is No East or West”

ELW #716, “Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace”

Post-Communion Blessing

Closing Prayer

Gracious God, we praise You for this heavenly banquet that You have so freely given us. Thank you that we carry in our hearts the riches of your grace. May we pour it out wherever we go, lighting up the darkness with truth, speaking out hope where there is despair, and weaving Your unconditional love into all we do. Send us now in the power and strength of the Holy Spirit. May we live to be all that You have called us to be. In the name of Jesus we pray. **Amen.**

(<https://www.prayerscapes.com/prayers/occasions/>)

[communion_prayers.html#ixzz5exX6eHCW](#)

Benediction and Dismissal

“Christ has no body now on earth but yours; no hands but yours; no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ must look out on the world. Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which He is to bless His people.” Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

(“Christ Has No Body” by Teresa of Avila)

Closing Hymn: ELW #326, “Bless Now, O God, the Journey”

Worship Participants: Preaching: Nadine Lehr; **Presiding:** Beth Walch; **Assisting:** (8:30) Alex Sauer (11:00) Roxanne Gardner; **Communion Assistants:** (8:30) Gloria Snyder & Melody Karlberg; **Ushers:** (8:30) Crystal Engel (11:00) Sheryl & Perry Hardy; **Acolyte:** (8:30) Cade Pittenger (11:00) Avery Brousseau; **Song Leader:** Ruby Altringer; **Pianist:** Becky Salveson; **March Altar Guild:** Barb Koch, Diane Clinton, Stephanie Swenson and Bob Salveson; **Powerpoint:** Reid Halvorson

Prayers at Lord of Life: Layne Billings, Judy Swenson, Levi Gartner, Tim Johnson, John O’Brien, Andre Stephenson, Rev. Richard Beckmen, Tyler Ellefson, Hugh Gustafson, Brad Kjos, Diane Chepulis, Steve Schmidt, Shae (Hug) Byrum, Lester Toman, Darrell Christianson, Elsie Gilbertson, Marcy Hopfauf.

Flowers are given today by: Jim & Linda Boyd.

Stewardship Info:

Attendance – Sun.(3-17): 188 **Wed.**(3-20): 94 **Offering:** General \$10,241.35

February expenses: \$58,777.22

February income: \$44,637.20

Annual expenses through February: \$95,346.87

Annual income through February: \$86,621.04

March Service Group Leaders: Byron & Justine Bennes (222-8853)

Mike & Arlyce Malarkey (426-5236)

Volunteers: Members with last names starting with “Sch” through “Ste”

Worship Helps: Nursery is open, but not regularly staffed. Parents may use it as needed. An Infant care room is on the south side of the sanctuary. **Large print bulletins, a wheelchair and a walker,** and personal **p.a. devices** are available from the ushers' station. **Activity bags** for children are available on the tree rack in the narthex. **Children's bulletins** are available by the Activity Bags. **"I Give Electronically" cards** are available in the lobby near the children's bulletins.

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!

For Communion: Grape juice is always available. Simply indicate "grape juice, please" when you get to the server. "Gluten free" communion wafers and wine are available. Simply indicate "gluten free" to the server when you come to the communion station." If you need separate wine or grape juice please request that also.

The **2019 Flower Chart** is up in the gathering area. You are welcome to take the flowers after the last service. Flowers not picked up by Monday morning will be taken to shut-ins. If your message does not fit on the line, please contact the church office with that information.

FLOWER CHART OPENINGS



May 5	2 bouquets	June 9	1 bouquet
June 16	2 bouquets	June 30	2 bouquets



COMMUNION ASSISTANT OPENINGS

March 31	8:30 & 11:00	April 7	8:30 & 11:00
April 21 (Easter)	9:30 & 11:00	April 28	8:30 & 11:00

USHER OPENINGS

March 31	8:30	April 7	8:30 & 11:00
April 14	9:30	April 18 (Maundy Thurs)	7:00 pm

Lent 2019: For the Least of These

Wednesday (6:15 pm) and Sunday (8:30 am and 11:00 am) Lenten Worship

In this year's worship series, we will remember Jesus words in the parable of the Sheep and the Goats: *"Come, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me"* (Matt. 25:34-36). Each week's worship will focus on one of the groups mentioned by Christ in the parable. Special offerings will also be taken.

Week Three- March 24-30 – The Stranger

We will consider God's instructions of how faithful people are to care for resident aliens. We will also remember the parable of the Great Dinner where the host of a wedding invites outsiders to a great feast. To demonstrate our concern for the stranger, we will collect toiletries for refugee families through Lutheran Social Services.

Week Four – March 31-April 6 – The Sick

We will review Christ's healing of a demoniac and a group of lepers. We will also collect flat white twin sheets (please no other colors or sizes) to be sent to Global Health Ministries where they will be used for bedding or for bandages in hospitals around the world.

Week Five – April 7-13 – The Imprisoned

We will remember the promise that the Messiah will proclaim liberty to the captives and we will review the story of Paul and Silas singing their way out of prison. As an offering this week, we will provide assistance to Ministry on the Margins by providing a hot breakfast to their clients on Tuesday, April 9 and by working in the Ministry on the Margins food pantry on Thursday, April 11. Lord of Life members will also have the opportunity to donate food items to the pantry. Watch for volunteer sign up sheets and pantry food lists in the narthex.

Wednesday Luncheons and Discussion – March 27, April 3, & 10 at 12 noon

In addition to weekly worship, we will reflect on the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats with roundtable Bible study and discussion every Wednesday at noon. The pastors will lead the studies, which will be aimed at discovering how each of us experiences hunger, thirst, loneliness, sickness and prison in our own spiritual lives. Please bring your own brown bag lunch.

Holy Week Worship

Palm Sunday Cantata: Sunday, April 14, 9:30 am

Living Last Supper with First Communion: Thursday, April 18, 7:00 pm

Good Friday Echoes of the Passion: Friday, April 19, 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday Festival Worship: April 21, 8:00 am, 9:30 am, and 11:00 am

Join us Wednesday evenings at 5:00 pm for Lenten meals prepped and cooked by various church committees and assisted by our confirmation small groups. The menus are as follows: March 20th - "Breakfast for Dinner". March 27th - Sloppy Joes, Macaroni & Jello salads, Chips and Brownies. April 3rd - Soup, Bread and Salad. April 10th - Swedish Meatballs and all the fixings.

Volunteers for Lent: During our final week of Lent (April 7-13), Lord of Life will reach out to the incarcerated by sending volunteers to Ministry on the Margins. We will cook and serve a hot breakfast on Tuesday, April 9 at 9:30 am and we will need 8 volunteers to work in their Food Pantry on Thursday, April 11 from 4:30-7:00 pm. Please sign up at the Information Desk if you can help out!

Palm Sunday Cantata. In preparation for your Easter Celebration, please join us on Palm Sunday for a musical Interpretation of Jesus' journey to the cross. Lord of Life Choir will present "Lift High the Cross" by Lloyd Larson. Featured within the cantata will be Mozart's Ave Verum Corpus (Hail, True Body) performed by a local string quartet. All children are welcome to join in a palm processional to recall Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. **The Cantata will be at 9:30am on Palm Sunday, April 14.** Please plan to attend – and perhaps invite guests to – this meaningful performance. This Cantata will be in place of regular Sunday Services.

Chocolate and Change Needed! Our Palm Sunday Easter egg hunt needs your help! Can you purchase a bag of Easter candy the next time you are shopping? There will be a box at the information desk to drop your donation. Also, there will be a canister for any spare change you can share. We will put the change in some of the Easter eggs. Kids who find these eggs will get to choose from a few charities to donate the money they find.

Young at Hearts will meet Tuesday, March 26th at 11:30 am. The program will be a speaker from the Senior Center informing us about all the services and activities available. A potato bar will be served for lunch (free of charge) with rhubarb and pineapple upside down cakes for dessert! All seniors welcome!

Get your pictures in now! We are on the tail end of collecting information needed for our directory! Either turn in pictures to the office or email one in to lordoflife@midconetwork.com, be sure to include the names in order of the pose, address, phone numbers and email! We will have a few more sessions Sunday mornings between services and Wednesday evening before the service. Thank you! Its so important we can put a name to a face!

Adult Education: Please note there will be NO adult education today, March 24th. Coming on March 31, is Jane Sportiello, Staff Attorney for Legal Services of North Dakota speaking about changes to, and common misconceptions about our immigration system. For example, what it was like for our great-grandparents to come over from Europe or elsewhere compared to the situation that Central Americans are in now. Bring your coffee and treat to join us at 9:45am.

A Memorial Service for Merrill Krueger, husband of Linda Krueger, will be held at Lord of Life on Friday, May 24th at 11:00 am.

Baby Care Kits: If you need a winter project, we need help with hemming or serging baby receiving blankets. Feel free to take some home with you and return them by June 1st. Last year, we were able to send 67 baby care kits and would like to make it 100 for 2019. With your help, we can make this happen.

Come sing with the choir for the Palm Sunday Cantata! We would love to have you join us for a few rehearsals and our performance. We have rehearsals Thursday April 4th from 7 – 9 PM, Thursday April 11th from 7 – 9 PM, and Friday April 12th from 7 – 9 PM. The performance is Palm Sunday (April 14th) at 9:30. Please contact Nora Salveson if you are interested or have questions - 471.1092.

LOL BOOK CLUB: March's book is "A Mother's Reckoning: Living In the Aftermath of Tragedy" by Sue Klebold. On April 20, 1999, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold walked into Columbine High School in Littleton, CO, where they killed 12 students and a teacher, and wounded 24 others before taking their own lives. The book deals with Sue, and how she has lived with the shame and grief of that day. Books are available at Barnes and Noble or on Amazon. **Plan to join us March 27th at 4:45 pm for discussion!**

Happening this week at Lord of Life

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:00 am-4:00 pm

Friday 8:00 am-3:00 pm

Lunch Hour: 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Church Office: 701-223-2986

www.lordoflifebismarck.org

Sun., March 24

8:30 am: Worship

9:45 am: Choir Rehearsal

No Sunday School

No Adult Education

11:00 am: Worship & Baptism

Tues., March 26

9:00 am: Staff Meeting

11:30 am: YAH's

7:00 pm: Boy Scouts

Wed., March 27

12:00 pm: Brown Bag Luncheon & Discussion

4:45 pm: Book Club

5:00 pm: Lenten Meal

6:15 pm: Worship

7:00 pm: Church School & 1st Communion Classes

7:00 pm: Confirmation Large Group

Thurs., March 28

Bulletin Deadline @ 12:00 pm

Sat., March 30

8:30 am: Men's Bible Study

Sun., March 31

8:30 am: Worship

9:45 am: Adult Education

9:45 am: Choir Rehearsal

9:45 am: Sunday School

11:00 am: Worship

6:00 pm: Boy Scouts event in F. H.

"Come, Now, You Blessed"

1. "Come, now, you bless - ed, eat at my ta - ble,"
2. "When did we see you hun - gry or thirst - y?"
3. "When you gave bread to earth's hun - gry chil - dren,
4. Christ, when we meet you out on life's road - ways,

said the great judge to the right - eous a - bove.
When were you home - less, a strang - er a - lone?
when you gave wel - come to war's ref - u - gees,
look - ing to us in the fa - ces of need,

"When I was hun - gry, thirst - y, and home - less,
When did we see you sick or in pris - on?
when you re - mem - bered those most for - got - ten,
then may we know you, wel - come, and show you

sick and in pris - on, you showed me your love."
What have we done that you call us your own?"
you cared for me in the small - est of these."
love that is faith - ful in word and in deed.