



Fourth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, April 21, 2024; 8:30 am & 11:00 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.”

The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd’s willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.

Welcome and Announcements

Moment of Silence

Gathering Song: “Come People Of The Risen King”

(11:00) Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Rayah Hazel Johnson, daughter of Brent and Mandy Johnson. Baptismal sponsors are Cory Peerboom, Mariah Nitz, Brian Johnson, Brady & Abby Johnson, Nate & Alison Weaver.

Coby Allen Peerboom, son of Cory Peerboom and Mariah Nitz. Baptismal sponsors are Evan and Bridget Nitz.

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

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.

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.**

Prayer of the Day

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

Let us pray. . . . O Lord Christ, **good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Song of Praise: “Lord I Need You”

First Reading: Jonah 3

¹The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²‘Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.’ ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, ‘Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!’ ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. ⁶When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. ⁷Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: ‘By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. ⁸Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. ⁹Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish.’ ¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: 1 John 3:16-24

¹⁶We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? ¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Jesus says, I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me. Alleluia.

Gospel: John 10:11-18

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 10th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹¹‘I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.’

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Message

Sermon: Pastor Beth Walch

Song of the Day: “In Christ Alone”

(8:30) 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

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. Risen One, **you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.**

Words of Institution (Matthew 26:26-28)

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

Communion

“The Table”

Communion Blessing

Let us pray. Shepherding God, **you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. Amen.**

Benediction (Numbers 6:23-26)

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✠ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

Sabbatical Sending

Sending Song: “House Of The Lord”

Dismissal

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Worship Participants: Pastors: John Streccius & Beth Walch; **Assisting:** (8:30) Peggy Christman (11:00) Linda Simmons; **Communion Assistants:** (8:30) Beverly Berry & Judy Kudrna (11:00) HELP NEEDED; **Ushers:** (8:30) LeAna Hug & Bob Salveson (11:00) Bob Salveson; **Acolyte:** (8:30) (11:00) ; **Musicians:** Kyle Debertin, Mark Herold, Levi & Bethany Andrist; **April Altar Guild:** Diane Chepulis, Alice Westby, Arlyce Malarkey.

Prayers at Lord of Life: Shirley O’Brien, Coralyn Hoovestol, Kelli Mahlum, Grant Geffre, Ruth Ann Rexine, Sharon Fisher, Edna Mae Erickson, Ellen Bartz, Pat Hellman, Susan Francis, Mavis Jundt, Betty Dendinger, Todd Asendorf, Kylah Anderson, Matt Olson, Jerry McLachlan, Scott Berry, Nathan Berndt, Aldeen Klain, Emmett Pratt, Emma Seibel, Marlene Muse, Duane Barry, Troy Steele, Barry Kirsch.

Sympathies to Courtney Crane and family on the death of Courtney’s sister, Lisa LaFave.

Flowers are given today by: Harley & Mavis Jundt in gratitude for family and friends who share our joy in the good times and pray and support us through the rough times.

Stewardship Info: Attendance –Sun. (4-14): 160 Wed. (4-17): 50

Offering: General Plate Offering: \$8,765.00 General Online Giving: \$4,050.41

March expenses: \$51,157.23 **March income:** \$74,122.85

Annual expenses through March: \$192,167.88

Annual income through March: \$180,486.60

April Service Group Leaders: Ward & Franky Enger (934-3122)

Volunteers: Members with last names starting with “Alb” through “Bin”

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.

Ushers/Greeters and Communion Assistants are always needed. Please check the sign up sheets for openings at the Information Desk.

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.



Altar Bouquet Donations: Thank you for your donations to date, the next available Sundays are May 12, May 19 and May 26. Cost is \$25.00/bouquet. The sign-up sheet can be located at the Information Desk. **Please note Altar Flowers on check memo line.

The Women of the ELCA will no longer be collecting stamps to support Lutheran World Relief projects. There is no longer a way to sell them. Thank you to all in the congregation for helping with this project by bringing in stamps.

Adult Forum: Today, April 21, we'll talk about the Vital Voices survey which AARP conducted with a population of North Dakotans age 50+. The survey covers issues such as healthcare, caregiving, retirement, livable communities, housing, and volunteerism. Presenters will be Nancy Guy, State Volunteer AARP President and Josh Askvig, State Director of ND AARP. On April 28, learn about the Central Dakota Forensic Nurse Examiners with Kristi Wolf presenting. This nonprofit organization's primary focus is on providing forensic medical services to survivors of sexual violence in Western ND and partnering with many other nonprofit organizations serving women of in the area.

Join our Confirmation 9th Grade Students on Wednesday, April 24th at 7 pm. On this evening, they will present the service projects they did this year and how it has impacted their faith. This is a great way to honor our baptismal promises as a congregation and support the kids in our faith community.

Pastor Beth Walch will be on sabbatical April 25 through June 24. If you have an emergency or need pastoral assistance during this time, please contact Pastor John Streccius or the church office. Prayers to Pastor Beth as she takes this time for spiritual, physical, emotional, and relational renewal.

Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits: During the month of April, we will be collecting items for personal care kits! Items needed are bath towels (dark light weight towels preferred, these may also be gently used), bar soap (4oz), heavy duty combs, and nail clippers with file. Please bring your items by May 1st and place them in the display area that will be set up in the narthex. Thank you!

Lord of Life is scheduled to help Heaven’s Helpers Soup Café on April 22. Shifts are two hours in length from 8 AM through 5:30 PM. Just 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 and a Lord of Life shirt if you have one.

Guest Preachers for the month of May: Each Sunday & Wednesday of May we will have guest preachers from our ministry partners here in Bismarck. Please come and worship with us. May 5 & 8 - Vince McCloud, Executive Director of the Welcome House, May 12 & 15 - Deacon Janie Hague, Executive Director of Camp of the Cross, May 19 & 22 - Sister Kathleen Atkinson, Executive Director of Ministry on the Margins.

Volunteer Recognition will be held on Sunday, April 28, we will recognize all volunteers at Lord of Life, without you the church could never be what it is today!

Lord of Life Book Club: Wednesday, May 1st at 4:45 pm: “The Things They Carried” by Tim O’Brien. This book is a collection of interrelated stories providing detailed accounts of the struggles faced by American soldiers on the ground during the Vietnam War. Tim’s narrative tells the stories of his many comrades during the war.

SAVE THE DATE! May 30 will be our Lord of Life outing with the Larks baseball team. Look for more information and sign up in May. The Larks will be playing at 6:30 pm against the Duluth Huskies. A Larks hat, food for the first three innings and a game are all included. Join the fun!

United Way Shelter: Lord of Life will be serving supper at the United Way Shelter on Saturday, May 4. We need servers, a sign up sheet will be at the Information Desk. Serving begins between 6:00 pm and 6:30 pm.

The Senior Class of 2024 will be recognized during worship on Sunday, May 19 at 8:30 am. Congratulations to Kirna Anderson, Avery Brousseau, Kendra Dockter, Taylor Gabbert, Kaylee Johnson, James Melberg, Cade Pittenger, Maren Swenson, Jenica Twete, and Ava Vetter. Best wishes to all!

CPR/AED Lesson on Monday April 29th at 1:30 pm at Lord of Life. Shyla Suchy, an RN with Bismarck Public Schools, is willing to give a CPR/AED lesson to those interested. This is NOT a certification course, it will be a hands-on lesson to help us to be comfortable and aware of what we need to do should we ever need to assist someone until more help arrives. She will bring Manikins to allow us to practice what we are learning. The lesson should last 30min-1hr, depending on attendance. Please RSVP to Tammie Sauer (701)595-2305 We are hoping to have her back later this fall/winter for another lesson for those who can't make this first one.

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.



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., April 21

8:30 am: Worship
9:45 am: Church School
9:45 am: Adult Forum
11:00 am: Worship & Baptisms

Mon., April 22

LOL at Heaven’s Helpers

Tues., April 23

10:00 am: Staff Meeting
5:30 pm: Faith, Food & Conversation at Lucky’s 13
7:00 pm: Boy Scouts

Wed., April 24

3:30 pm: Planning
6:15 pm: Worship
7:00 pm: Church School
7:00 pm: Confirmation—Service Project Presentation
8:00 pm: Ukulele Class

Thurs., April 25

Bulletin Deadline @ 12:00 pm

8:30 am: Centering Prayer
9:30 am: Brunch with Beth
5:00 pm: Boy Scout District Recognition Dinner in F.H.

Fri., April 26

10:00 am: Coffee with Memory Caregivers

Sun., April 28

Volunteer Appreciation

8:30 am: Worship
9:45 am: Church School
9:45 am: Adult Forum
11:00 am: Worship