



Lord of Life Lutheran Church

1143 N. 26th Street, Bismarck, ND 58501

Phone (701)223-2986 Fax (701)223-2987

www.lordoflifebismarck.org

LORD OF LIFE

MISSION STATEMENT

KNOW Christ, GROW in Christ, and GO as Christ to the world.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays: 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Wednesdays: 6:15 p.m.

LORD OF LIFE CLERGY:

Pastor Nadine Lehr

(Mondays off)

Pastor Larry Giese

(Fridays off)

STAFF:

Youth & Family Director

- Open Position

Children's & Family Ministry

Coordinator

- Sandi Papke

Office Manager

- Melody Karlberg

Financial Secretary

- Rebecca Verhaeghe

Custodian

- Arthur Remmich

LORD OF LIFE

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

LOL WEBSITE & E-MAIL

www.lordoflifebismarck.org

lordoflife@midconetwork.com

Answering machine is available evenings and weekends when office is not staffed. Office is open during lunch hour most of the time.

January 2012

Annual Meeting Lunch

Sunday, January 22, 2012; Fellowship Hall

12:00 noon

Meal provided by the Youth

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 22, 2012; Sanctuary

Following noon lunch (12:45 p.m.)



Annual Meeting

Upcoming Events in January

- Recognition of 2011 Baptisms
- New Member Sessions
- Annual Meeting Lunch & Annual Meeting

Camp of the Cross Newsletter

Camp of the Cross newsletter can now be read as a link off the Lord of Life website or by going directly to the Camp of the Cross website - www.campofthecross.com

January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 9:30 am Worship No Sunday School No Adult Ed.</p> <p><i>NEW YEAR'S DAY</i></p>	<p>2</p> <p><i>OFFICE CLOSED</i></p>	<p>3 9:00 am Staff Mtg. 9:30 am Piecemakers 2:00 pm Evangelism 6:30-9 pm Newcomer's Club 7:00 pm Team Mtgs.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:15 pm Worship 7:00 pm Church School 7:00 pm Conf. Large Group 7:00 pm Connections Class</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8:30 am Men's Bible Study</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8:30 & 11:00 am Worship (Baptism Recognition) (Youth Caramel Rolls) 9:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Adult Ed. 9:45 am Sr. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:00 pm WELCA Meeting</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:00 am Staff Mtg. 9:45 am Women's Bible Study</p> <p>No Council Meeting</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:15 Worship (Baptism Recognition) 7:00 pm Church School 7:00 pm Conf. Small Group 7:00 pm Connections Class</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:30-8:30 pm Cozy Comfort</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:00 am Women's Bible Study 8:30 am Men's Bible Study</p> <p>9:30 am Baptism Class</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:30 & 11:00 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday School No Adult Ed. 9:45 am New Member Sess. I</p> <p>9th Grade Retreat</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9th Grade Retreat</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:00 am Staff Mtg. 9:30 am Piecemakers</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:15 pm Worship (Koinonia) 7:00 pm Church School 7:00 pm Conf. Large Group 7:00 pm Connections Class (Unit 2 starts)</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p><i>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</i></p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:30 am Men's Bible Study</p>
<p>22 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship (Blended Worship) (Kids Sing in 11:00 Worship) 9:45 am SS / Adult Ed. 9:45 am New Member Sess. II 12:00 nn Annual Mtg. Lunch 12:45 pm Annual Meeting</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:00 am Staff Mtg. NO Young-At-Hearts 7:00 pm Care Ministries</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:15 pm Worship 7:00 pm Church School 7:00 pm Small Group Leaders Night 7:00 pm Connections Class</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:30-8:30 pm Cozy Comfort</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8:30 am Men's Bible Study</p> <p>6:00 pm Theme Table Dinner (Welcome House Fundraiser)</p>
<p>29</p> <p>8:30 & 11:00 am Worship (New Member Recognition) 9:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Adult Ed. 9:45 am Sr. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9:00 am Staff Mtg.</p>				

Dear Friends,

As another new year begins, I am thinking forward about things in my own life and at Lord of Life. It seems to me that this is human nature. Our faces must always be to the future. We have responsibilities, hopes and dreams that are always drawing us out of the past and into the next day, the next project, the next responsibility.

But in a world such as ours, there are fewer people who look at tomorrow with hope. Problems of immense proportions loom before us. We hear daily of a faltering economy, families in distress, and a nation that is ill at ease. It isn't hard to lose our heart and our courage.

In these difficult times, however, it is and has always been the church's ministry to put us on the path of the future with confidence and calm. For generations the church has reminded the world that God is faithful. It says, "Remember the mercies and loving-kindness of your Father and Savior. God has never failed us before; why would we expect anything different now?"

Remember how God led the children out of their slavery in Egypt. Remember how he gave them water in wilderness places and food from heaven. Remember how he delivered them from the hands of their enemies and returned them home from exile. Remember how he gave us his Son to die and rise again for our sake. Remember how his band of followers – a motley crew of fisherfolk and tax collectors – became missionaries and preachers all around the world until eventually hundreds of millions of people embraced the Gospel and changed the course of history.

As we remember these mighty works of God, the future doesn't look so dark. There is hope because God is faithful.

Maybe within the boundaries of our own private lives we too can remember how the Lord has blessed us, spared us, and helped us face obstacles with a strength not our own. Can you remember a time when you were terrified with the possibility of harm? You lost sleep. Your courage and hope were failing. But somehow God put people in front of you to help. Or you found an inner peace that gave you strength. This was God's doing, wasn't it? God's mercy and kindness saw you through. God was faithful to his promise to be your helper. Why wouldn't we expect God to do it again?

As we look to the future that will evolve into 2012, I think we would be wise to remember the past mercies of God. Just as we have been carried on the shoulders of One far stronger than ourselves in the past, we can count on that strength again for whatever challenges face us in the coming year. Let us count our blessings and rest back in those arms that have cradled and carried us all along. Our future is bright. God is on our side.

Blessings in 2012!

Pastor Nadine

Pastoral Acts

Baptisms

- ✝ Kiya Marie Melberg, daughter of Adam & Tiffany Melberg, on December 18, 2011.
- ✝ Sullivan Marie Steinle, daughter of Justin & Jill Steinle, on December 25, 2011.



Memorials

General Memorial – in memory of Virginia Schielke
Care & Share – in memory of Liam Siemieniewski

Baptism Class

Are you planning a baptism in January or February? A baptism class for parents will be held on Saturday, January 14, at 9:30 a.m., in the conference room. This class is strongly recommended for anyone preparing to baptize a child. Sign up in the church office.

Bible Study Opportunities

(Guests and new members always welcome!)



Saturday Morning Men's Bible Study will meet Saturday mornings, at 8:30 a.m., at the church. The New Year is a good time to start if you haven't been involved in Bible Study before.

Women's Morning Bible Studies:

Tuesday Morning Bible Study will meet on Saturday, January 10th, at 9:45 a.m., with the theme verse from Mark 9:24: "I believe; Lord help my unbelief." We are all believers, yet sometimes doubts creep in. Ellen Bartz and Karen Lyson will serve.

Saturday Morning Women's Bible Study will meet on Saturday, January 14, at 8:00 a.m., to study the Same lesson from the new "Gather" magazine.

Adult Education

Adult Ed. – Sunday mornings, at 9:45 a.m., in the conference room. "The Greatest Story Jesus," is a 16-week series which depicts Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. The story has changed the people who knew him and changed the world through them. Unique to this series is a presentation by a sand artist, Joe Castillo, who depicts the scenes of the story. This class is for young adults and adults new to Bible study and all interested in encountering Jesus through the greatest story. See you there.

Getting Back to Basics: An Invitation for all Adults

From Pastor Lehr

Whenever I teach the new member class, I review the “basics” about Lutheranism: how our church got started, what the fundamental beliefs of our confession are, and how we are different from other faith traditions. I basically do a whirlwind, one-hour review of Lutheran confirmation. And inevitably, after the class, several people will express amazement at what our Lutheran tradition teaches. They tell me that if they ever learned these things in confirmation, they don’t remember them. And they often express regret that they didn’t pay better attention the first time around.

I suspect that most of us are like our new members. If we went through confirmation as youth, we only remember a portion of what we were taught. And of the little bit that we do remember, much of it has never been discussed or challenged again since we left the classroom. Unfortunately, when this happens we neglect some of the most exciting ideas and forego some of the most interesting discussions imaginable. Our Lutheran faith has great depth and contains many unique and challenging ideas about how God relates to us and how we are to relate to God.

I would therefore like to invite all adults at Lord of Life to repeat their confirmation instruction! Yes, I ask you to review “the basics” again and talk about them with your adult experiences in mind. Beginning in November, Pastor Larry and I will be teaching a class in the basics of our Lutheran faith called “**Connections.**” We will meet for 60-75 minutes in the Conference Room. The course will focus on the Ten Commandments, the Apostles’ Creed, the Lord’s Prayer and the Sacraments. Each unit will include some colorful excerpts from Martin Luther’s writing, brief scriptural study, interactive learning exercises, and a chance to discuss how you connect your faith to daily practice. A student manual will be available to each participant for a nominal fee (\$10).

The Connections course will proceed as follows:

1. Unit One: Living Faithfully - the Ten Commandments

Wednesdays, (began Nov. 30 and runs through January 11)

We are looking at identity, Sabbath rest, relationships, death and life, disgrace and grace, and greed and justice. Taught by Pastor Lehr.

2. Unit Two: Living Confidently - The Apostles’ Creed

Wednesdays, January 18, 25, Feb. 1, 8, 15 and 29

We will consider how God presents himself to us as Creator and Preserver, Protector and Defender, and Savior and Sanctifier. Taught by Pastor Giese.

3. Unit Three: Living Spiritually – The Lord’s Prayer and Sacraments

Wednesdays, March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 11, April 18

We will reflect on prayer, forgiveness, and dealing with evil. Teacher TBA.

Please consider joining us for this exciting course! Please register in the church office; deadline for registering for the second unit is December 25th.

Worship Schedule Changes

At its December meeting the Team of Worship and Music reviewed and evaluated our blended worship service. This worship service has been held on an occasional basis. It began in 2008 with quarterly services. Then it was suspended for about a year. And eventually, it started again. In 2010 the service was offered in fellowship hall every other month.

We have received very positive feedback on the blended service. We have also managed to build a team of musicians and leaders who are willing to sustain the efforts required to put this service together. As a result the Worship and Music Team has decided to make every effort to offer the service once every month on the fourth Sunday of the month.

Please note this change. Blended services will continue in Fellowship Hall at 8:30 and 11:00 am. The next few services are scheduled Feb. 26, March 25, April 22, and May 27. Please plan to attend and invite your friends and neighbors.

Blended Worship Service

The Blended Service will be on the fourth Sunday of every month starting in January. This Service is held in the Fellowship Hall and is a blend of traditional and contemporary music. The other services will continue as previously. First Sunday – ELW Setting 3; Second Sunday – With One Voice; Third Sunday – Let Us Enter In; and Fifth Sunday – ELW Setting 3.



Baptism Anniversary Recognition

The baptism anniversary recognition event will be held during worship on Sunday, January 8 (both services) and Wednesday, January 11, at the 6:15 p.m. Letters have been sent out to those baptized in 2011. We will recognize each child and present them with a pewter baptism medallion and a book about baptism.



Annual Meeting Notice

The Annual Meeting will be held in the sanctuary on Sunday, January 22, at approximately 12:45 p.m. (following the annual meeting lunch at noon).

The Annual Meeting lunch will be provided by the youth planning to attend the National Youth Gathering Summer of 2012.

Ring in the New Year with the Lord of Life Hand Bell Choir!

Come and learn a new talent or rekindle an old hobby. Rehearsals will begin in January under the direction of Jennifer Unke. The rehearsal day and time will be announced at a later date. If you are interested in joining, pick up a contact form in the church office. Forms may be returned to the church office.

Piecemakers

January 3 and 17 will find some of quilters hard at work again after the December break. They will welcome anyone who has a few hours to spare between 9:30 and 3:00 p.m. Don't forget a sack lunch. There have been quite a few donations of fabric, bedspreads, etc. Many thanks for the donations, most of which are anonymous, as they seem to magically appear.



Because no one signed up to host the January meeting, there will not be a pot luck this month. Remember that it really is super-easy to be a host/hostess. All you have to do is come early to make a pot of coffee and set the tables. A program is optional, but if you wish to have one, there are all sorts of ideas. Those who have already hosted this fall are: Erlys Fardal, Louise Heupel, Ken and Gloria Snyder, Duane & Nordeen Frank, Pete & Dee Peterson, and Helen Swenson. Dave and Marion Ellefson have signed up for March. If anyone is willing to do the honors for February, please let Melody know in the office. That pot luck would take place on Tuesday, February 28th.

Prayer Shawls

Prayer shawls are a wonderful way to share love and care while making new friends. The Cozy Comfort group will continue to be meeting to make prayer shawls during the winter months. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. on the following dates: January 12 & 26, February 9 & 23 and March 8 & 22. We are a group who likes to knit or crochet – beginners are welcome – we will help you get started! If you have questions or would like to know more about us, please call Deb Knudsen at 224-9150.

Please contact Pastor Nadine, Pastor Larry or Coralyn Hoovestol with any prayer shawl requests.

"Stamp Saving"

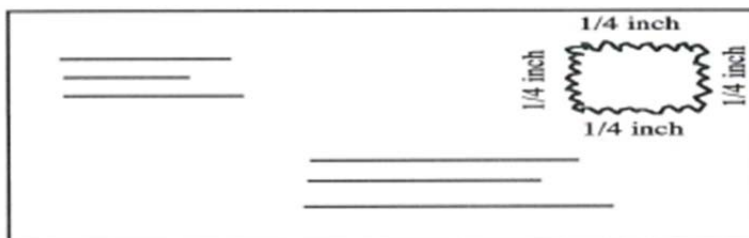
The Lord of Life Women of the ELCA are asking for your help to raise funds to support Lutheran World Relief's Quilt/Kit Shipping Fund. The money raised from collecting stamps is totally used for shipping.

Please follow the instructions to make sure the stamps are not damage and can be used.

To Participate:

- Buy and use commemorative stamps instead of common ones.
- Place your stamps on the envelope allowing edges for opening without damage to the stamps.
- Save all cancelled postage stamps.
- Ask friends, family, neighbors, schools, businesses, etc. to save envelopes with cancelled stamps for you.
- Trim, allowing 1/4 inch from each edge of the stamp. The perforation is the most important aspect of the stamp and should not be cut or torn. If you leave more than 1/4 inch, this creates too much weight which is the method of calculating the funds received.
- Do not soak stamps.
- Please bring them to the church and drop them into the stamp collection box.

Remember, just save stamps and use commemorative stamps!!! Your biggest contribution is to save and ask others to save.



Thank-You

Thank you to all the faithful potato donors, peelers, mashers, mixers and lefse makers and buyers who came together for the 2011 Lefse Days in November. WELCA raised \$662 from the sales, distributed to local, state and international needs.

Please join us in November 2012 for cooking, conversation and camaraderie as the Lord of Life kitchen becomes “Lefse Central.”

2011 Bismarck-Mandan CROPWALK for Hunger

The 2011 Bismarck-Mandan CROPWALK for Hunger raised \$12,117.75. 25% of the gifts will benefit local agencies: the Abused Adult Resource Center, Aid Inc., Bismarck Emergency Food Pantry, and Ruth Meiers Hospitality House. Another 25% is designated to aid Midwest Flood Relief.

Thank you to all who walked and sponsored walkers! Walking together reminds us that many people must walk daily to seek food, shelter, and safe water.

We invite everyone to joins us next October for the 2012 Bismarck-Mandan CROPWALK for Hunger. We hope to see you there!

Thank-You

We wish to thank everyone who help with the prayer blanket, fruit basket and the wonderful tin of cookies. They were all appreciated so very much. Thank you – John Connin & family.

Thank-You

The family of Florence Jose would like to thank you for all the visits, prayers, cards, and caring support given. A special thank you to Pastor Larry for his visits to Ervin & Florence Jose. Florence died November 23rd, after a long illness. Ervin Jose, Tom & LeAna Hug

Attention Women of Lord of Life!

Do you enjoy getting little notes of encouragement throughout the year? Do you like encouraging others through small gestures of kindness? We are starting up a “Secret Sisters” group and would love for you to join! Our goal is for each member who joins to get another member’s name and info. You would then leave “Thinking of you” notes, Birthday cards, maybe even cookies; to let your “sister” know you’re thinking about her and to put a smile on her face. At the end of the year-long group, we’ll meet up for cookies and coffee and reveal who our “Secret Sister” was, and if you enjoyed this group, we’ll pick new names. It’s much like the “Secret Santa” activity from grade school. This group will be open to any confirmed woman who attends Lord of Life church. If you are interested, please submit the following form to the drop box at the church no later than February 26th, so we can assign names and you can pick up your envelope to start this fun event on March 4, 2012. A full list of “instructions” will be available at the drop box. If you are interested, please contact Tammie Sauer for details. Her number is 595-2305 or e-mail her at tammiejo27@yahoo.com

Secret Sisters

Name: _____

Birthdate: _____

(You don't have to put the year if you don't want)

Anniversary Date: _____

Other dates throughout the year that are significant, good or bad (eg "Cancer Free" date, passing of a loved one etc) please explain:

Favorite Color: _____

Hobbies: _____

Any food allergies? _____

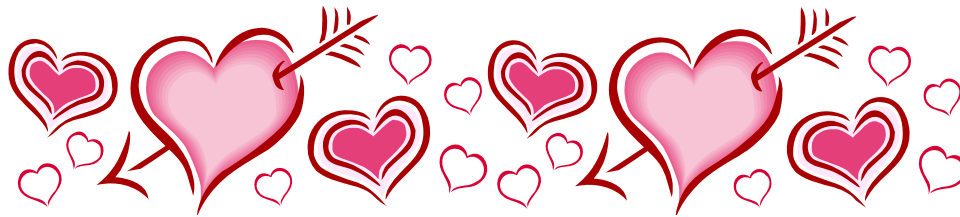
Do you have any dislikes? _____

What is your favorite food? _____

Favorite Bible Passage, if any: _____

Any other information you'd like your Secret Sister to know:

Remember to keep this name a secret! It only adds to the fun!



Candy Making – Join Us!

Lord of Life women, men and youth are invited to gather on Saturday, February 11, at 9:00 a.m., to make candy for our annual “Sweetheart’s Candy Sale” on Sunday, February 12th. Join us in the kitchen for fun and fellowship. You do not need to know how, we’ll teach you and we always need help packaging. Lunch will be furnished.

Ingredient donations are needed to help make the candy making process a success. The items that are needed are:



Almond bark
Semi-sweet or milk chocolate chips
Peanut butter chips
Pink and Red M&M’s
Sweetened condensed milk
Marshmallows
Quart zipper resealable plastic bags
Candy wafers for molds (may be purchased at Wal-Mart, Hobby Lobby, MagiCandle, etc.)
Valentine Themed or Colored Petit Four or Mini Paper Cups

Coconut
Any kind of nuts
Pretzel rods
Pretzel rounds
Hershey kisses



Please drop off all donations, molds or square pans to make the fudge that we can borrow from you in the old kitchen. There is an area set up in the old kitchen for you to drop off your donations anytime you are at the church before Friday, February 10th or bring with you when you come. **Any homemade candy creations of your own making are also welcome.**

Please join in on the fun! Hope to see you there!

If you have any questions, please call Janell Quinlan at 224-8244, evenings/weekends.



January Workgroup List

Thank You

January Leaders: Janell Quinlan (224-8244)
Garry & Linda Wagner (663-2177)

Arlyne Price
Shelly Puklich
Janell Quinlan
Steve Rahrich
Aaron & Missy Reich
Dan & Lori Reis
Roland & Patricia Reule
Mike & Helen Risan
Patricia Rogalla
Alfred & Myrna Ryberg
Keith & Mary Jane Sailer
Ken & Jacque Salwey
Lauren & Tammie Sauer

David & Diane Price
Steve & Collette Pusc
Bob & Lori Quintus
Jeff & Pan Rangen
Ross & Angie Reinbold
Lindsey Reisenauer
Tim & Brenda Rhone
Roger & Eldie Riskedahl
Daryl & Eileen Rosenau
Randy & Valerie Ryberg
Bob & Rebecca Salveson
John Sandbakken

Marjorie Prussing
Jim Quarnstrom
Michael Quintus
Gil & Lula Rauschenberger
Bud & Arlys Reiner
Art & Mary Ann Remmich
Peter Riepl
Colleen Roberts
Shawn & Jennifer Roth
Dean & Jessica Sabot
Nora Salveson
Wilhelm Sandberg

January Birthdays

1 Bethany Kramer
1 Sean Winsdor
2 Linda Wagner
5 Philip Wiseman
7 Austen Beck
9 Sean Striefel
10 Victor Meza, III
11 Sarah Boe
11 Landen Veil
13 James Boyd
14 Levi Andrist
15 Mary Mantz
16 Larry Miller
17 Adam Melberg
17 Francis (Frank) Waldner
19 Ian Turnbow
20 Darlene Morast
21 Kennedy Johnson
23 Branden Byrum
24 Renae Gall
26 James Pape
27 Aleah Braaflat
28 Lucas Ryberg
29 Russ Honeyman
30 Riley Gabbert

1 Gil Rauschenberger
2 Katherine Mernitz
3 Sara Wiese
6 Noah Johnson
7 Tyler Wescom
10 Ryan Hatch
10 Maxine Nibbe
11 Justin Connell
12 Mallory Krabbenhoft
13 Merrill Krueger
15 Berrett Gall
15 Chad Oban
16 Tammie Sauer
17 Jessica Odegard
19 Joshua Dietrich
19 Gene Wiese
20 Robert Offerdahl
22 Ross Reinbold
23 Daniel Jensen
25 Brenda Peterson
26 Ruth Stotz
27 Susan Sundlie
28 Rebecca Salveson
29 Brent Neuhardt
31 Erin Dukart



1 Kaylee Riepl
2 Sherry Norbeck
5 Delores Peterson
6 Peter Kopp
9 Jim Quarnstrom
10 Easton Lein
10 Norman Weigel
11 Tricia Opp
12 Sandra McLachlan
13 Corey Weippert
15 Jason Francis
15 Jennifer Risan
17 Alex Houim
17 Mary Ann Remmich
19 Eldie Riskedahl
20 Peggy Kopp
21 Alan Jechort
22 Scott Wiseman
23 Ramona Sorneson
25 Dennis Peterson
27 Aaron Axvig
28 Bradley Block
29 Kelly Haugom
29 Cynthia Solberg
31 David Price

We are sorry if we have missed anyone this month. If your name has been missed, kindly report it to the church office so we can get your birth date for our records. Likewise, if we have printed your birthday and you do not wish to have it published in the newsletter, please let Melody, the church office manager, know. We will remove it for next year. Thank you! Evangelism Team

January Volunteers (Sundays)						2012
	January 1 9:30 a.m.	January 8 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	January 15 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	January 22 3:30, 5:00 & 10:00	January 29 9:30 a.m.	
Assisting Ministers 8:30	(9:30) Linda Simmons	Sandi Papke	Susan Axvig	Roxanne Gardner	Linda Boyd	
11:00		Doug VerDouw	Dave Clinton	Larry Kleingartner	Helen Risan	
Communion Assistants 8:30	(9:30) Bob/Lori Quintus	Sandi Papke & Pat Goodin	Larry/Brenda Jechort	Dan/Barb Wrolstad	Jim/Linda Boyd	
11:00		Steve/Sherrie Muse	Keith/Beth Demke	Dave/Diane Clinton	Mike/Helen Risan	
Ushers 8:30	(9:30)					
11:00		Keith/Beth Demke	Dwite/Kathy Gorder	Dan/Peggy Schmidt	Steve Morell & Mike Beck	
Nursery Coordinators/Workers						
Coordinators 8:30	(9:30) Zoya Baker	Nichole Streyle	Maren Carlson	Jaegar Marchant	Alyssa Reich	
11:00		Emily Anderson	Noah Johnson	Mikayla Newbraugh	Skylar Simes	
Organists 8:30	(9:30) Deb Selland	Nick Hornbacher	Nick Hornbacher	Angie Koppang	TBA	
11:00		Nick Hornbacher	Nick Hornbacher	Angie Koppang	TBA	
Acolytes 8:30	(9:30) Heidi Mastrud	Hunter Hoffman	Taylor Wescom	Christian Ryberg	Claire Wiseman	
11:00		Cole Honeyman	Peyton Kringlie	Joey Crane	Allison Schroeder	
January Volunteers (Wednesdays)						
	January 4 6:15 p.m.	January 11 6:15 p.m.	January 18 6:15 p.m.	January 25 6:15 p.m.		
Ushers						
Acolytes	Elijah Gray	Ben Suess	Brent Neuhardt	Sara Bolme		
Pianist/Organist Songleaders	Tondi McGuire Lora Isakson	Eve Axvig Janell Quinlan	Koinonia	Eve Axvig Janell Quinlan		

CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY MINISTRY

SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY SCHOOL NEWS

January is here - and we can all rest, just a bit! The Christmas program was a success, as always, even with concerns about costuming, songs, timing, etc. Thank you to all of you who helped to make this a success. There were a lot of people involved in putting the program together -- Mary Ann, teachers and helpers, parents, students, musicians, volunteers -- your help is always greatly appreciated. The soup supper after the program is always a nice finish to the evening. Mary Ann has shouldered the responsibility of being the director for the last two years, and she does a wonderful job! When you see her, give her your thanks and let her know how much you appreciate her.

Here are dates and events for January:

Sunday January 1, 2012	No Sunday School
Wednesday January 4	Wednesday school 7 p.m.
Sunday January 8	Sunday school 9:45 a.m.
Wednesday January 11	Wednesday school 7 p.m.
Sunday January 15	Sunday school 9:45 a.m. 4 th - 6 th grade youth group
Wednesday January 18	Wednesday school 7 p.m.
Sunday January 22	Blended worship kids sing 11 a.m. Sunday school 9:45 a.m.
Wednesday January 25	Wednesday school 7 p.m.
Sunday January 29	Sunday school 9:45 a.m.

As you can see, January will be a very quiet and relaxing month for us all, and well deserved after our hard work on the Christmas program.

4TH THROUGH 6TH GRADE YOUTH

On Sunday, January 15, we do have a time slot set for a meeting or an event. As of the writing of this newsletter, the activity has not been set. Our gathering in January usually depends on the weather, so we will keep a watch on that. As the time draws near, you will be notified what we are doing.

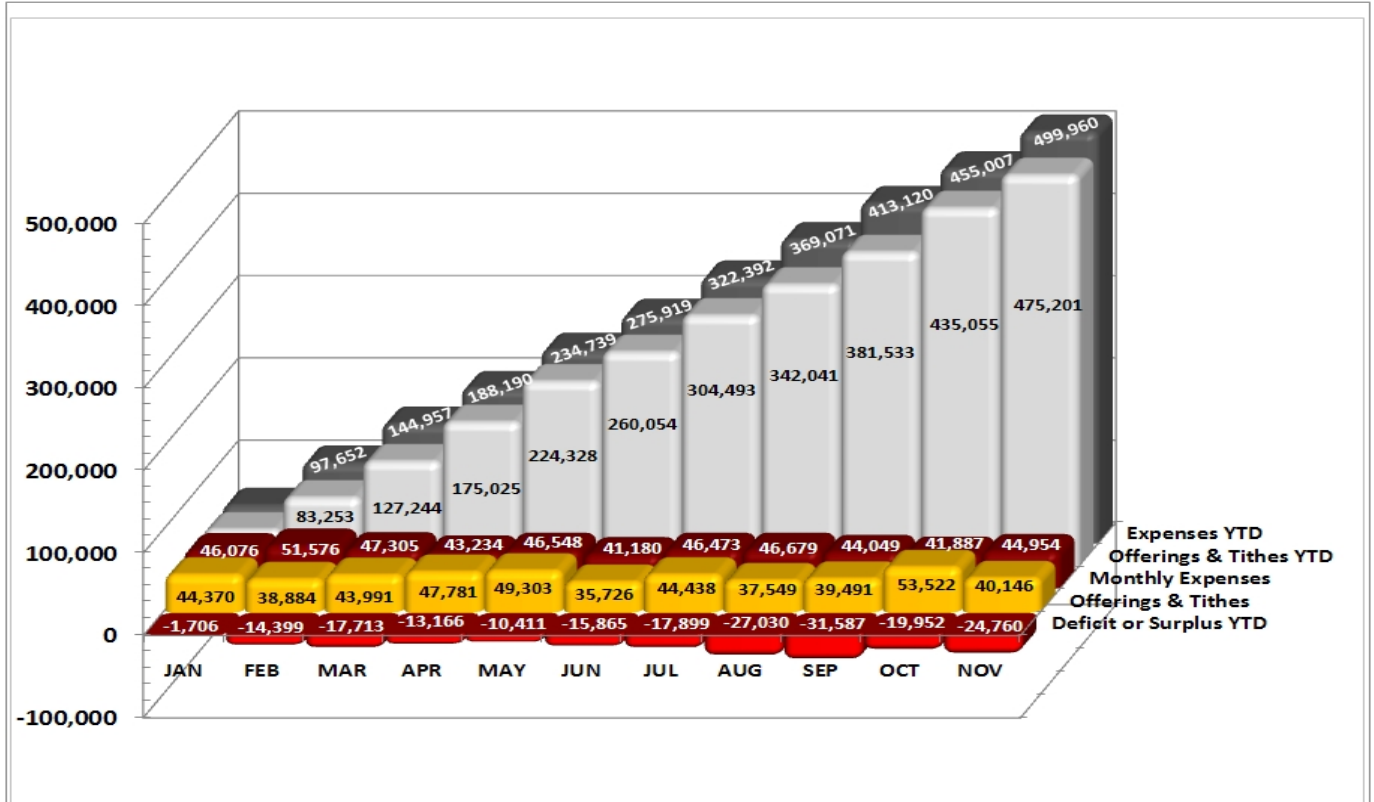
FAMILY MINISTRY

No activity has been set yet for families for the month of January. Take this quiet time of year and spend time with your family!

A **HUGE** thank you to Bob and Lori Quintus for purchasing additional SPARK NRSV Bibles for our classrooms. Thank you thank you thank you for your generosity.

Stewardship Update

Here is an update of Lord of Life’s financial position through the end of November 2011. The graph shows information in a 3-dimensional bar chart display. The “front” bars show the year-to-date difference between income and expenses for each month. The next bars are the monthly income and the monthly expenses. The bars at the rear of the graph show the cumulative year-to-date income and expenses. The difference between the back two bars is shown at the front of the graph.



The graph through November shows that our year-to-date expenses have exceeded our income by \$24,760. This is a shortfall of only 4.9 percent. Because giving normally increases in December we expect that by the end of the year we will have erased this deficit. Giving through November is \$17,459 ahead of the same time in 2010. In May we introduced some special brightly colored envelopes to be used for “extra mile” gifts to help meet our cash flow needs. To date we have received over \$9,000 in these envelopes. **Thanks to the support and generosity of the congregation we did not have to transfer any money from our savings in 2011.**

The 2012 Estimates of Giving that we received in response to this year’s Stewardship Campaign showed an overwhelming commitment to increased giving in the coming year. The total estimate of giving has increased nearly 18%. Members who provided an estimate of giving for both 2011 and 2012 had an overall increase of nearly 23%. This has allowed the team to propose a balanced budget to the Church Council for the first time in many years. **Thank you for your generous response to help meet our budgetary needs!**

If you have any questions or suggestions please feel free to contact any of the team members. They are Keith Demke, Ward Enger, Bruce Boe, and Jon Tonneson.

Minutes
Lord of Life Church Council Meeting
December 13, 2011

CALL TO ORDER AND DEVOTIONS: President Jim Quarnstrom called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and Clarissa Wald lead devotions.

COUNCIL AND TEAM MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Quarnstrom, Diane Clinton, Larry Klundt, , Reed Dukart, Clarissa Sailer Wald, Barbara Hoggarth, Judy Froseth, Ward Enger, Randy Binegar, Derek Solberg, and Keith Demke.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Pastor Nadine Lehr, Sandi Papke, and Becky Verhaeghe.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Reed Dukart, seconded by Derek Solberg, to approve the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Becky reviewed the financial reports for November, 2011. She pointed out that the current checkbook balance is \$27, 670.77 and that the expenses exceeded income by \$4,807.70. The total cash assets, checking account and savings accounts total \$135,030.72. She also reported that envelop giving for December exceeded the rate of giving in December of 2010 by \$2,277.17. In addition she pointed out that the dedicated accounts have a total balance of \$30,274.05. Pastor Lehr suggested that the Teams review their programs and use some of the dedicated account balances on programs and projects that are necessary to help meet the needs of the congregation. Barbara Hoggarth moved and Reed Dukart seconded a motion to accept the financial report. The motion carried unanimously.

CONGREGATIONAL STATISTICS: The statistics continue to show a positive trend as indicated by the following:

Comparing Membership 2010 to 2011

2010 Confirmed:	1018	2011 Confirmed:	1051
2010 Baptized:	1341	2011 Baptized:	1362

Comparing Worship Attendance 2010 to 2011

Monthly Average Per Week	2010: 340	2011: 439
Year to Date Average Per Week	2010: 357	2011: 392

TEAM REPORTS

Youth Ministry: Derek Solberg reported that they will be meeting next week and did not have a report for this meeting.

Evangelism and Social Concerns: Barbara Hoggarth submitted a written report and stated that they have been busy revising their budget, working on Cozy Comfort sessions, bread deliveries, and completed an outreach mailing of a Christmas Postcard.

Property and Maintenance: Reed Dukart reported that they are working on lighting for the stage in the Fellowship Hall and should be finalized soon; that Cory is getting quotes on property insurance; and that they are looking at purchasing an ice machine for the kitchen. He also reported that the deposit slot in Becky's office door will be complete very soon.

Education: Clarissa Wald reported a survey of members was completed by Sunday School teachers/parents and the results were clear that they should continue what they are doing with Sunday School. The survey also indicated that music was desired at Wednesday school. They have been busy with practice for the Christmas Program and have 110 children participating this year. The rehearsal will be on December 17 and the program on December 18.

Worship and Music: Lauren Sauer was not able to be present for a report; however Pastor Nadine pointed out that the written report that he submitted included information that should be shared. This information included that the bell choir now has 9 members, and that the blended service will be conducted monthly on the 4th Sunday of the month in the Fellowship Hall.

Nominations and Placement: Randy Binegar reported that they are busy making contacts to fill vacant positions on the various Teams and will continue so that we have a complete slate of candidates for the Annual Meeting.

Financial Stewardship: Ward Enger reported that they have completed work on the "on-line" giving systems for members who would like to make their donations electronically. He also reported that work on the 2012 Budget was complete and that it would be discussed under Old Business.

Volunteerism and Special Events: Judy Froseth reported that the Angel Tree cards were all taken and gifts should be brought to the Church by December 18. She also reported that they have coordinators who are working on Core Ministries, the 2012 Church Directory, and the Nursery.

Pastoral and Staff Reports:

Pastor Nadine reported that the flu has been rampaging the office and hopefully it would subside without her getting ill. They have been very busy preparing for Christmas and making visitations.

Sandi Papke reported that they have all the treats for the children packaged and that the practices for the December 18th Christmas Program have been going well.

Old Business:

1. **2012 Budget:** Keith Demke presented the proposed budget to the Council for consideration. He stated that the estimate of giving (pledges) came from fewer people this year, but resulted in a 17 percent increase with a total of \$451,000. In addition to the estimated giving and offering envelop income; other sources of income include such things as loose offering and special income for Teams, resulting in a proposed total income of \$596,764. The expenditures proposed for 2012, as a result of the Team budget proposals, total \$594,101, which will allow a transfer to savings of \$2,664. Derek Solberg moved and Judy Froseth seconded a motion to submit the 2012 proposed budget to the Congregation for approval at the Annual Meeting on January 22, 2012. The motion carried unanimously. Following the acceptance of the proposed budget, there was some concern expressed about a \$150 cut in the Milestone line item. It was agreed that the Executive Committee would give consideration to restoring that item to \$500.00

2. **Youth Director Update:** Pastor Nadine informed the Council that one of the original 5 candidates has reapplied and that there are 2 more candidates that have expressed interest. The committee will meet and continue the search in January.

3. **Outreach "Dream Team:"** President Jim informed the Council that only 2 names have been brought forward so far, so the naming of the team members will be postponed until February. He encouraged the Council members to suggest people for this important project.

4. **Annual Meeting:** President Jim reminded everyone that the Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held in the Sanctuary on January 22, 2012 at 12:30 pm.

New Business:

1. **Boy Scout Liaison:** President Jim reported that Mike Schroeder resigned as Boy Scout Liaison and that Scot Streyle was interested in the position. A motion was made by Ward Enger, seconded by Reed Dukart to nominate Scot Streyle for the position of Boy Scout Liaison. The motion carried.

2. **Newsletter Deadline:** President Jim reminded everyone that the deadline for articles in the Newsletter is December 20.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Following the adjournment, the Council was invited to stay and share coffee and cheese cake that had been prepared and brought by Pastor Nadine and Diane Clinton. The social's purpose was to show our appreciation and give our thanks to those who would be leaving the Council in January.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Klundt, Secretary