



Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, April 28, 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.”

This Sunday’s image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ’s living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ’s life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

*Today’s order of service is taken from the booklet, Now the Feast and Celebration (NFC). The hymns are found in the hymnal, Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW).
Light type = Presiding and Assisting Ministers; **bold type** = Congregation.*

Welcome and Announcements

Moment of Silence

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Entrance Hymn: ELW #723, “Canticle of the Turning”

Greeting, NFC, p. 2

Kyrie, NFC, p. 3 (*Psalms 4:1 6:2, 9:13, 25:16, 27:7, 30:10, 31:9, 51:1, 86:16, 123:3*)

Song of Praise, “Now the Feast,” NFC, pp. 4-5 (*Revelation 5:12-13*)

Salutation and Prayer of the Day, NFC, p. 7

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Let us pray . . . O God, **you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live.**

Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: Jonah 4

¹But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, ‘O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.’ ⁴And the LORD said, ‘Is it right for you to be angry?’ ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the

city. ⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, ‘It is better for me to die than to live.’ ⁹But God said to Jonah, ‘Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?’ And he said, ‘Yes, angry enough to die.’ ¹⁰Then the LORD said, ‘You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?’

Psalm: Psalm 22:25-31

²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

²⁶ **The poor shall eat and be satisfied;**
those who seek him shall praise the LORD.
May your hearts live for ever!

²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD;
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before him.

²⁸ **For dominion belongs to the LORD,**
and he rules over the nations.

²⁹ To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
and I shall live for him.

³⁰ **Posterity will serve him;**
future generations will be told about the Lord,

³¹ and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that he has done it.

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in

this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, ‘I love God’, and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Gospel Verse, “Alleluia, Alleluia,” NFC, p. 8 (*John 6:68*)

GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Thanks be to God.

Children’s Message

Sermon: Pastor John Streccius

Hymn of the Day: ELW #651, “Oh, Praise the Gracious Power” (vv. 1-5)

Apostles’ Creed, NFC, p. 9

Prayers, NFC, p. 10

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

Sharing of the Peace, NFC, p. 10 (*John 20:19*)

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

Volunteer Recognition

Offering, NFC, p. 10

Offertory, “As the Grains of Wheat,” NFC, p. 10

Offertory Prayer, p. 11

Great Thanksgiving, NFC, pp. 11-13

Dialogue, NFC, p. 11

Preface, NFC, p. 11

Holy, NFC, p. 11

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

Lord’s Prayer, NFC, p. 13 (*Matthew 6:9-13*)

Distribution

“Lamb of God”, NFC, p. 14 (*John 1:29*)

ELW #605, “Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive”

ELW #492, “Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup”

Blessing, NFC, p. 14

Canticle, “Thanks be to You,” NFC, p. 15 (*Psalms 9*)

Closing Prayer, NFC, p. 16

We give you thanks, O God, for the blessings of this table. May our lives be made new by these gifts of grace and may your love be made known through us. **Amen.**

Benediction, NFC, p. 16 (*Numbers 6:23-26*)

Sending Hymn: ELW #720, “We Are Called”

Dismissal, NFC, p. 16

Worship Participants: Pastors: John Streccius & Beth Walch; **Assisting:** (8:30) Steve Andrist (11:00) Linda Simmons; **Communion Assistants:** (8:30) Peggy Christman & Karla Kilen (11:00) Sandi Papke; **Ushers:** (8:30) Gary & Diane Chepulis (11:00) Doug & Bev Doolittle; **Acolyte:** (8:30) HELP NEEDED (11:00) HELP NEEDED; **Song Leaders:** Ruby Altringer; **Pianist:** Becky Salveson; **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, Edna Mae Erickson, Ellen Bartz, Pat Hellman, Susan Francis, Mavis Jundt, Betty Dendinger, Todd Asendorf, Kyla Anderson, Matt Olson, Jerry McLachlan, Scott Berry, Nathan Berndt, Aldeen Klain, Emmett Pratt, Emma Seibel, Duane Barry, Troy Steele, Barry Kirsch.

Sympathies to Pam Passariello, Randy Binegar and family on the death of Pam’s brother, David Stefonowicz.

Flowers are given today by: Erllys Fardal in honor of my granddaughters graduation.

Stewardship Info: Attendance—Sun. (4-21): 199 **Wed.** (4-24): 59
Offering: General Plate Offering: \$2,808.00 General Online Giving: \$6,512.04

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, June 30, July 7 and July 14. Cost is \$25.00/bouquet. The sign-up sheet can be located at the Information Desk. ****Please note Altar Flowers on check memo line.**

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

Health Kits: Thank you to all who donated items for the health kits. We will be packing kits Thursday, May 9 at 1:00 pm. Any extra hands would be greatly appreciated!

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 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. **This is our last adult forum for spring and summer, adult forums will resume in September.**

Pastor Beth Walch is gone on sabbatical 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.

Lord of Life is scheduled to help Heaven’s Helpers Soup Café on May 27. 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.

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.

Spring Clean up at Lord of Life will be on Tuesday, May 14th at 6:30 pm. We will gather to clean up the church grounds by raking, trimming trees and filling a dumpster with all the debris winter brings. Any extra help will be greatly appreciated as many hands make lighter work for all!! Please bring gloves, rakes etc.

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.

Quilt Sunday will be held on Sunday, May 12th. Volunteers will be needed to place quilts on the pews Wednesday, May 8th at 9:30 am and again on Monday, May 13th at 9:30 am to help pack quilts for shipping.

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.

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 28

Volunteer Appreciation

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

Mon., April 29

1:30 pm: CPR/AED Lesson

Tues., April 30

10:00 am: Staff Meeting

Wed., May 1

3:30 pm: Planning
4:45 pm: Book Club
6:15 pm: Worship
7:00 pm: Church School Party
7:00 pm: 6th-12th Grade End of Year Party

Thurs., May 2

Bulletin Deadline @ 12:00 pm

8:30 am: Centering Prayer
9:30 am: Java with John

Sat., May 4

LOL at United Way

Sun., May 5

8:30 am: Worship—Guest Preacher—Vince McCloud with Welcome House
9:45 am: Church School Party
11:00 am: Worship—Guest Preacher—Vince McCloud with Welcome House

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.

