

FEBRUARY & MARCH 2024 NEWS

1143 N. 26th Street, Bismarck, ND 58501 Pastors John Streccius & Beth Walch 701-223-2986 <u>www.lordoflifebismarck.org</u> Follow us on Facebook

"Love all, Serve all, Welcome all as Christ."

<u>Office Hours:</u> Monday-Friday: 8:00 am-3:00 pm <u>Worship</u> Sunday: 8:30 am & 11:00 am Wednesday: 6:15 pm

Lent 2024

Dear friends and members of Lord of Life Lutheran Church,

I invite you to join in the upcoming season of Lent with the encouragement to grow together in Christ's love for you and for the world. Beginning with Ash Wednesday, February 14th, the Wednesday Lenten meals will begin at 5pm followed by Worship with imposition of ashes and Holy Communion. Sunday worship services will be following the Lectionary year B.

During the Lenten season Wednesday evening worship will be different from our Sunday worship. This year our reading and sermons will be focusing on the 6 guiding principles adopted last summer. The dates and themes are as follows.

February 14 Ash Wednesday: Deepening our Faith - Ephesians 4:15

February 21 Loving and Caring - John 13:34

February 28 Welcoming and Listening - Galatians 6:2

March 3 Connecting with our neighbors - Romans 15:2

March 13 Giving generously - 2 Corinthians 9:8 March 20 Sharing Christ's Love - 1 Corinthians 16:14

Wednesday Book study: "Original Blessing by Danielle Shroyer

On Wednesday evenings (beginning Feb. 14) following worship we will be having a book study

using Danielle Shroyer's book "Original Blessing" putting sin in its rightful place. Books are available in the church office. Suggested donation \$20. The author takes readers through an overview of the historical development of the doctrine of original sin, pointing out important blunders and miscalculations, and she provides alternative ways to approach often-used Bible passages. Please join us.

Opportunity for Centering Prayer

On Thursdays at 8:30am a 20 minute session of silent prayer is held. This group began last Lenten season and continues to gather. All are welcome.

Holy Week Schedule:

Sunday March 24 is Palm Sunday there will be TWO services 8:30am and 11am Palm Sunday brunch will be served 9am-11am to support our youth. Thursday March 28 is Maundy Thursday at 6pm we will have "Dinner Church" in the fellowship hall,

retelling the story of Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. We will conclude with the stripping of the altar in the sanctuary.

Good Friday March 29 Worship will be offered at Noon and at 7pm.

Saturday March 30 We are hosting an ecumenical Easter Vigil at 7pm. This is a worship that bridges Good Friday to Easter. It begins with a bonfire outside and is a service of music, readings and holy communion. Several area churches will participate in this event.

Pastoral Acts

Baptisms

✤ Holland Teresa Binegar, daughter of Nash & Amber Binegar on January 28, 2024
 Funerals

✤ Richard Muse, December 11, 2023

Memorials

10 General Memorials – in memory of Richard Muse

1 Quilter Memorial – in memory of Jan Kolding

1 Care & Share Memorial – in memory of Loren Klebe

2 Young at Hearts Memorials – in memory of Richard Muse

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY will meet February 13 and March 12 at 9:30 am. All are welcome to join our group!

Opportunity for Centering Prayer

On Thursdays at 8:30 am a 20-minute session for silent prayer is held. All are welcome. This group began last Lenten season and continues to gather. Please join us.

Piecemakers

The quilters would love to have you come and help sew or tie quilts. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Monday at 6:30 pm and the 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 9:30 am. You are guaranteed to have a good time!

Plarners

The planning group is in need of clean plastic bags with no tears. Those from Menards, Target and grocery stores are preferred as those from Walmart and dollar stores tear too easily. They can be left in the quilting room.

Cozy Comfort

The Cozy Comfort group meets on the first Monday of every month from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. in the church library. For more information, please contact Deb Knudsen at 701-220-8688.

Lord of Life at Heaven's Helpers Soup Café

Please note we have changed to the fourth Monday of each month!! Lord of Life is scheduled to help Heaven's Helpers Soup Café on February 26 and March 25. You can sign up for a shift, or if this day's schedule is inconvenient or already filled, feel free to choose another day, the cafe will always find a job for you. Shifts are two hours in length from 8 AM through 5:30 PM. Just log in to <u>https://www.soupcafe.org/volunteer/</u> or, if you need assistance signing up, please contact Shirley Klein at <u>Shirley.klein7166@gmail.com</u> or call her at 701-391-7166. Please remember to wear closed toe shoes and a Lord of Life shirt if you have one.



We would love to see you at the following Young at Hearts functions as we meet for fun, food, and fellowship. February 12 at 2:30 pm (Coffee and dessert) Mike Bolme, Bismarck Police Department presenting on rising crime in Bismarck, fentanyl, the effect of the Defund the Police movement in large cities on morale and recruitment locally. March 11 at 11:30 am (Lunch) KFYR's Jody Kerzman, on her GOOD NEWS program with uplifting, heartwarming human-interest stories. April 8 at 2:30 pm (Coffee and dessert) Program pending. May 13, at 11:30 am (Lunch) Musical program by Becky Salveson. We will gather in the choir room for the program and then enjoy lunch in fellowship hall. We begin our summer schedule for June 10, July 8, and August 12, all at 2:30 pm for coffee and dessert. There will be no programs in the summer.

Coffee with Memory Caregivers



Coffee with Memory Caregivers meet twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Fridays in the church conference room at 10:00 am. Anyone caring for or relating to someone with memory issues is encouraged to attend to share experiences, ideas and information.

FAITH & FOOD: CONVERSATIONS IN PUBLIC PLACES (Formerly Pub Theology)

Welcoming and listening by creating respectful space for diverse people to explore faith together. Join us on the fourth Tuesday of every month at Lucky's 13 Pub (915 S. 3rd St in Bismarck) at 5:30 pm.

BRUNCH WITH BETH

Join us for Brunch with Beth every Thursday at 9:30 am.



Adult Forums

Join our pastors and friends between services during February and March for some really great conversations. We meet in the conference room 9:45-10:45 most Sundays. In the weeks ahead, we will tackle some tough issues with kindness and compassion.

February 4 – The Lutheran Creeds – What are they and why do they matter?
February 11 - Christian Nationalism - Overview, video, and case study
February 18 - Christian Nationalism - How do we respond as Christians?
February 25 - Christian Nationalism - What is our ELCA teaching, how does our Lutheran Theology inform us?

March 3 - Middle Eastern Conflict - what is that all about? How did it start? What is the history behind the conflict? March 10 - What is it like to live in Gaza? Speaker TBA. March 17 - Spirituality and the 12 Steps - Pastor Beth March 24 - NO Class - Palm Sunday March 31 - NO Class – Easter

Join us for any or all these conversations!



WEDNESDAY BOOK STUDY

Beginning Feb. 14 on Wednesday evenings following worship, we will be having a book study using Danielle Shroyer's book "Original Blessing, Putting Sin in Its Rightful Place." The author takes readers through an overview of the historical development of the doctrine of original sin, pointing out important blunders and miscalculations, and she provides alternative ways to approach often-used Bible passages. The story of the origin of humankind is not about original sin, it turns out, but original blessing. Please join us. Books are available in the church office. Suggested donation \$20.

MEALS ON WHEELS

March is Lord of Life's month to deliver Meals on Wheels! Two drivers are needed each weekday from March 1-31. A sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex, please sign up by February 16. Jerry Delzer, the Meals on Wheels coordinator, will contact you as to the route to be delivered and all the specifics. You can sign up as often as you wish. Thank you! Congregational Care and Outreach

VOLUNTEER AT UNITED WAY SHELTER

We are cooking and serving supper for up to 140 people at the United Way Shelter (1140 S 12th St., Bismarck) on Saturday, March 2. Chefs will be needed earlier in the day and servers needed that evening. Look for signup information in February. Thank you! This is a wonderful opportunity for our hands to do God's work. Congregational Care and Outreach

LORD OF LIFE BOOK CLUB

Wednesday, February 7th at 4:45 pm: "The Farmer's Lawyer" by Sarah Vogel. In the early 1980s, farmers were suffering through the worst economic crisis to hit rural America since the Great Depression. Desperate, they called Sarah Vogel in North Dakota. Sarah, a young lawyer and single mother, listened to farmers who were on the verge of losing everything and, inspired by the politicians who had helped farmers in the '30s, she naively built a solo practice of clients who couldn't afford to pay her. Sarah began drowning in debt and soon her own home was facing foreclosure.

Wednesday, March 6th at 4:45 pm: "The Measure" by Nikki Erlick. A debut novel in which the world awakes to a box at the doorstep of every adult. Inside the box is a string that correlates to the length of your life. The story follows eight ordinary people who must make the choice whether to open the box and live with the consequences.



WEDNESDAY LENTEN SCHEDULE BEGINS February 14, ASH WEDNESDAY

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14 for a 5:00 pm Supper and a 6:15 pm Worship service (No Church School or Confirmation on Ash Wednesday). Continue to join us Wednesday evenings during Lent for 5:00 pm Supper, 6:15 pm Worship, 7:00 pm Church School and 7:00 pm Bible Study.



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

In preparation for your Easter Celebration, please join us on Palm Sunday. Everyone is welcome to join in a palm processional to recall Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Brunch will be served from 9:00-11:00 am. Proceeds will go to support the Youth.

No Worship, Church School or Confirmation on Wednesday, March 27

Maundy Thursday Meal & Worship, March 28, 6:00 pm

We will have "Dinner Church" in the fellowship hall, retelling the story of Jesus' last supper with his disciples. We will conclude with the stripping of the altar in the sanctuary.

Good Friday Service "The Way of the Cross", Friday, March 29, 12:00 pm

The Way of the Cross is a traditional devotion remembering the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Join us as we go through the events that covered the final hours of Jesus' life on earth.

Good Friday Service, March 29, 7:00 pm

A service of Silence & Sorrow

Easter Vigil Saturday March 30 at 7:00 pm

We are hosting an ecumenical Easter Vigil. It begins with a bonfire outside and is a service of music, readings, and holy communion. Several area churches will participate in this event.

Easter Sunday Festival Worship, March 31, 8:30 am and 11:00 am

Join us to celebrate Jesus' resurrection with beautiful, spirited hymns, an uplifting message and holy communion.

CHILDREN MINISTRY February & March 2024

Rotation Schedule

We are finishing up our Rotation on The Disciples on Jan 31st and Feb 11th. *Join us on Wed Feb 7th at 6:15pm and Sun Feb. 11th at 11am for our Kids Sabbath. Kids will sing during the service.

We welcome all kids 3 years old – 5th grade to join us for the start of our Palm Sunday/Easter Rotation starting Sun Feb 25th, and Wed Feb 21st.

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Contact Info:

Lora Isakson 701-223-2986 childrenministry@lord oflifebismarck.org

Upcoming Events

*Feb 7th - EVERYONE is asked to join us at 7pm for Mardi Gras & Lent; how do they go together? Gain Knowledge, crafts, trivia, games, and Cake!!

***Feb 7 th & 11 th -**Kids Sabbath at Sun 11 am & Wed 6:15pm

*Mar 24th -Easter Egg hunt and Brunch starting at 9:45am

*Apr 5-7 - Camp of the Cross Mega Bash 4th-12th Grade.

Communication

Please join our Remind app to get information/reminders about Church School. Class Codes: Sunday - elol-sun Wednesday - elol-wed

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Pastor John Streccius Pastor Beth Walch



Young Adult Gathering

resurrection, what did He ask them to bring at the Sea of Tiberias?

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Financial Stewardship News

Description	December 2023	2023 Year to Date Totals
Income	\$ 73,709.98	\$ 648,489.12
Expenses	\$ 53,504.26	\$ 685,376.68
Income over (under) Expenses	\$ 20,205.72	\$ (36,887.56)
Projected Income ending December 31st, <u>2023</u> based on our approved budget is: *Does not include transfer from reserves	* \$ 56,417	* \$ 677,000
Actual income over (under) budgeted income	\$ 17,292.98	\$ (28,510.88)
General Envelope Giving	\$ 64,684.12	\$ 604,514.86

Lord of Life's income and expense summary ending December 31, 2023 is as follows:

The Financial Stewardship Team is not meeting in January.

Please consider automatic giving options such as Simply Giving or using your bank's online bill pay features to set up recurring offerings. Using your credit card is another method. Simply Giving is an excellent way our members can help assure that our giving is more equally distributed throughout the year. If you'd like to sign up for this feature go to our web site at www.lordoflifebismarck.org and click on "online donations" or visit your banks online application.

We have been blessed with generous support for God's mission at Lord of Life and look forward to continuing and expanding this work throughout 2023. If you have any questions or suggestions please feel free to contact any of the team members. They are Keith Demke, Jordan Nygaard and Judy Kudrna.

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.





Lord of Life Lutheran Church Council December 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Council Members Present: President Cindy Anderson; Vice-President Bob McConnell; Secretary Randy Binegar; Team of Education-Michelle Mielke; Team of Congregational Care & Outreach-Denise MacDonald; Team of Property and Maintenance-Rod Kudrna; Team of Worship and Music-Kylah Aull; Team of Nominations and Placement-Erin Dukart, At-Large Council Member-Tammie Sauer; Pastor John Streccius, and Pastor Beth Walch

Also Present: Jordan Nygaard from the Team of Financial Stewardship

Members Absent: Amanda Gill

- 1) President Cindy Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
- 2) Devotions were led by Rod Kudrna
- 3) Rod Kudrna moved, and Erin Dukart second, a motion to approve the November 21, 2023 minutes. Motion passed.
- 4) The financial report was provided by Jordan Nygaard. The projected income for 2024 is \$668,000. Tammie Sauer moved, and Denise MacDonald second, a motion to approve the financial report. Motion passed. Erin Dukart moved, and Michele Mielke second, a motion to move \$40,000 from a money market account at the Capital Credit Union to a money market account at Edward Jones to take advantage of a higher interest rate. Motion passed.
- 5) Team concerns
- a) The Property Team reported an issue with mice in the church. Successful measures are being implemented.
- 6) Old Business
 - a) Stewardship for All Seasons update
 - i) Forty new pledges were received this year.
 - b) Adopt 2024 Budget
 - i) Pastor John and Bob McConnell presented a proposed 2024 budget.
 - ii) After discussion, it was moved by Dennis MacDonald, and second by Bob McConnell, to adopt the proposed 2024 budget for the Annual Congregational Meeting. Moton passed.
- 7) New Business
 - a) Annual meeting preparation
 - i) The deadline has passed to get the annual board summaries into Jessica for the annual report.
 - b) There will be no January Council meeting. A meet-and-greet for all team members will be held at 5:30 pm on Feb. 6 at the church.

Next Council meeting: February 20, 2024 Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully Submitted, Randy Binegar

February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 8:30 am: Centering Prayer in Sanctuary 9:30 am: Brunch with Beth	2 6-10 pm: 6 th -8 th grade Fun Night	3
4 8:30 am: Worship 9:45 am: Church School 9:45 am: Adult Forum 11:00 am: Worship	5 2:00 pm: Cozy Comfort 5:30 pm: Youth Team Meeting 6:30 pm: Piecemakers	6 9:30 am: Piecemakers 10:00 am: Staff Meeting 5:30 pm: Council Welcome Meal 5:00 pm: Worship Team Meeting 5:00 pm: Nominations Meeting 5:30 pm: Property Team Meeting 6:00 pm: CCO Team Meeting 7:00 pm: Education Team Meeting 7:00 pm: Boy Scouts	7 3:30 pm: Plarning 4:45 pm: Book Club 6:15 pm: Worship/Kids Sing 7:00 pm: Mardi Gras Event 8:00 pm: Ukulele Class	8 8:30 am: Centering Prayer in Sanctuary 9:30 am: Brunch with Beth	9 10:00 am: Coffee with Memory Caregivers	10
11 8:30 am: Worship 9:45 am: Church School 9:45 am: Adult Forum 11:00 am: Worship/Kids Sing	12 2:30 pm: YAH's 6:30 pm: PEO	13 9:30 am: Women's Bible Study 10:00 am: Staff Meeting 7:00 pm: Boy Scouts	14 Ash Wednesday 3:30 pm: Plarning 5:00 pm: Meal 6:15 pm: Worship 7:00 pm: Book Study 8:00 pm: Ukulele Class	158:30 am: Centering Prayerin Sanctuary9:30 am: Brunch with Beth	16	17
18 8:30 am: Worship 9:45 am: Adult Forum 11:00 am: Worship	19 11:30 am: PEO 5:00 pm: ABC Meeting 6:30 pm: Piecemakers	20 9:30 am: Piecemakers 10:00 am: Staff Meeting 6:00 pm: Stewardship Team Meeting 7:00 pm: Council Meeting 7:00 Boy Scouts	21 3:30 pm: Plarning 5:00 pm: Lenten Meal Confirmation Small Group 6:15 pm: Worship 7:00 pm: Church School Book Study 8:00 pm: Ukulele Class	22 8:30 am: Centering Prayer in Sanctuary 9:30 am: Brunch with Beth	23 10:00 am: Coffee with Memory Caregivers	24 9th-12 th Grade Lock- in 6:00 pm – Sunday am
25 8:30 am: Worship 9:45 am: Church School 9:45 am. Adult Forum 11:00 am: Worship	26 LOL @ Heaven's Helpers	27 10:00 am: Staff Meeting 5:30 pm: Food, Faith & Conversation at Lucky's 13 Pub 7:00 pm: Boy Scouts	28 3:30 pm: Plarning 5:00 pm: Lenten Meal Confirmation Small Group 6:15 pm: Worship 7:00 pm: Church School Book Study 8:00 pm: Ukulele Class	29 8:30 am: Centering Prayer in Sanctuary 9:30 am: Brunch with Beth		

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 LOL Serves at United Way Shelter
3 8:30 am: Worship 9:45 am: Church School 9:45 am: Adult Forum 11:00 am: Worship	4 11:30 am: PEO 2:00 pm: Cozy Comfort 5:30 pm: Youth Team Meeting 6:30 pm: Piecemakers	5 9:30 am: Piecemakers 10:00 am: Staff Meeting 5:00 pm: Worship Team Meeting 5:00 pm: Nominations Meeting 5:30 pm: Property Team Meeting 6:00 pm: CCO Team Meeting 7:00 pm: Education Team Meeting 7:00 pm: Boy Scouts	6 3:30 pm: Plarning 4:45 pm: Book Club 5:00 pm: Lenten Meal Confirmation Small Group 6:15 pm: Worship 7:00 pm: Church School 7:00 pm: Book Study	7 8:30 am: Centering Prayer in Sanctuary 9:30 am: Brunch with Beth	8 10:00 am: Coffee with Memory Caregivers	9
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17 8:30 am: Worship 9:45 am: Church School 9:45 am: Adult Forum 11:00 am: Worship	18 5:00 pm: ABC Meeting 6:30 pm: Piecemakers	19 9:30 am: Piecemakers 10:00 am: Staff Meeting 6:00 pm: Stewardship Meeting 7:00 pm: Council Meeting 7:00 pm: Boy Scouts	20 Newsletter Deadline 3:30 pm: Plarning 5:00 pm: Lenten Meal Group 6:15 pm: Worship 7:00 pm: Church School 7:00 pm: Book Study	21 8:30 am: Centering Prayer in Sanctuary 9:30 am: Brunch with Beth	22 10:00 am: Coffee with Memory Caregivers	23
24 8:30 am: Worship 9:00-11:00 am: Brunch & Easter Egg Hunt 11:00 am: Worship	25 LOL @ Heaven's Helpers	26 10:00 am: Staff Meeting 5:30 pm: Food, Faith & Conversation at Lucky's 13 Pub 7:00 pm: Boy Scouts	27 3:30 pm: Plarning NO Worship, Church School or Confirmation	28 Maundy Thursday 6:00 pm: Meal/Worship	29 Good Friday 12 Noon: Worship 7:00: Worship	30 7:00 pm: Ecumenical Easter Vigil
31 Easter 8:30 am: Worship 11:00 am: Worship						