

Lord of Life
Lutheran Church
5051 Pleasant Valley Road
Brighton, MI 48114



Living in God's amazing grace

"God's Work. Our Hands."

You are invited to worship with us!
9:30 am Sunday Communion Service
10:45 am Sunday School Pre-School to 6th Grade
11:15 am Sunday Adult Bible Study

Rev. Dale E. Hedblad, M.Div., *Board Certified Chaplain*
Sheila Andring – Communications Coordinator
Labor of Love Daycare – Patti Fabisiack, Director

Contact us:

810-227-3113 or mylordoflife@sbcglobal.net

Visit us on the web:

www.LordofLifeELCA.com



Follow us on Face book:

Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Brighton, MI

Lord of Life Lutheran Church



Messages for January 2018:

January 7, 2018 (Mark 1:4-11) Mark's gospel reports the story of Jesus' baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.

January 14, 2018 (John 1:43-51) In John's gospel, Jesus' ministry begins with the call of disciples, who then bring others to Jesus. Philip's friend Nathanael moves from skepticism to faith when he accepts the invitation to "Come and see."

January 21, 2018 (Mark 1:14-20) Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as "the gospel" or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.

January 28, 2018 (Mark 1:21-28) The story has barely begun, and already the battle is joined. Jesus sides with humanity against every force that would bring death and disease. These forces recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. This, however, is only the first fight. The war will go on much longer.

Making Christ Known

JANUARY 2018 LORD OF LIFE SPECIAL EVENTS

Congregational Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 21st immediately following Worship Service. Please plan on attending this informational event.



Communion Worship is every Sunday at 9:30 am, followed by hospitality.

Sunday School for children ages 3 through the 6th grade is each Sunday, 10:45 – 11:30 am.

Confirmation class for students in 7th & 8th grades meet every Sunday from 10:30 am -12:00 pm. Craig Johnson and Pastor Dale will lead this group.



Adult Bible Class meets every Sunday morning at 11:15 am beginning January 14th

Turn your spending into giving. Meijer reloads are accepted every Sunday. Please see Colleen for details.

LOLYO Lock-In begins Friday night, January 12th 8pm until Saturday morning at 8:00 am.

The Board of Ministry meeting is Sunday, January 14th at 11:15 am.



Knots of Love/Shawl Ministry – will meet Tuesday, January 16th, at 7:00 pm.



Costco Day is Sunday, January 28th. A representative will be here during hospitality to offer discounts on memberships, a few other surprises and of course...Cake!



Fish and Loaves will be Sunday, February 11th. Volunteers are always needed and appreciated, please be at the church by 5:30 pm to help.



January Message from the Pastor

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away Behold, all things have become new.” (II Corinthians 5:17)

Have you ever made a new year’s resolution that you were able to keep? I have on a couple occasions, and they both proved to be life changing. In 1987 I vowed to put my divorce (Oct. ’86) behind me and start over, pledging to look forward and not look back.

In 1992 I vowed to pursue my calling to the ministry of Word and Sacrament. Both of these vows or resolutions came true. I believe they worked because I sincerely prayed to God to help me. A life changing vow or pledge on its own has little chance of becoming a reality without the commitment of the individual and the blessing of God.

As we say goodbye to 2017 let us reflect on its many challenges and blessings. Think back to how this year began. What were your hopes and dreams, your worries and your concerns as you rang in the New Year? Chances are the worries and concerns you let rent space in your head at the beginning of the year never came to fruition. Perhaps you can’t even remember them now. Each New Year is a sign post in life. It marks an ending and a new beginning. This is an opportunity to “start over.” The Bible calls this practice repentance.

Since 1890, America has celebrated New Year’s Day with the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, Ca. All of the floats in this parade are covered with flowers and other natural materials, and an average float contains 100,000 blossoms. But life isn’t a “tournament of roses,” each year brings its own share of sorrows and challenges. I believe that God often works in reverse. Remember in Genesis 1:5, we read that God moves from evening to morning. Out of the darkness, the light is born. Out of the night comes the dawning of a new day. As someone once said, “it’s always darkest just before the dawn.” Paul encourages us with these words, “All things work to good for those who love the lord” (Romans 8:28). God works through all of our circumstances to bring about His will for our lives.

As we enter the New Year 2018, pray about your life and your direction. If you see some things you would like to change ask God to help you do so. I pray that 2018 will be a blessed year of growth for us all- growing in faith toward God and in love toward one another. Happy New Year!

In Christ,
Pastor Dale+



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

All troops serving worldwide, Brett Bartrum, Linda Smith, Dee White, Kevin Brown, Dave Micula, Austin Reid, Kyle Simone, Heidi Rock, Joel Disbro, Ann Marie Kargel, Marge Kelly, Desmond Mikula, John Freeman, Erick Foster, Marion Goliszewski, Brison Ricker, Annie Sembor, Robert Dowling, Bonnie, Rachelle, Rachel Postma, Sally Fetter, Kellen Weakley, Sara Dykhuis, Maxwell Fallstich, Tony Renger, Marissa Monte, Matthew Johnson, Helga Jensen, Enga Higgins, Bill Anderson, Joan and Joyce, the Daniel Jones Family, Tom Zahm, Kimberly McCarthy, Therma Curtis, Tommy Settles, Ray Clarke, Dan Rochowiak, Tim McHugh, Dick Newburg, Dennis McComb, Lisa and Sarah, and Jerry Daniels.

In sympathy for the families of Dale Johnstone & Marilyn Burroughs.



Adult Bible Class

Adult Bible Study resumes January 14th with a new study entitled "God's Urgent Call." Anyone is welcome to join us at 11:15 on Sunday mornings. See Gloria McCracken if you have questions.

THANK YOU

Dear Congregation,

Thank you for your thoughtfulness in remembering Colleen and me this Christmas. Your kindness and generosity are only surpassed by the love you show us each day. We both feel truly blessed to worship God with you, to serve with you, and to call you friends.

Pastor Dale and Colleen

About Lord of Life Lutheran Church

"God's work. Our Hands."

Welcome to Lord of Life – Pastor Dale Hedblad leads our worship each Sunday. Our worship is hands-free (no book). Just follow the Power Point liturgy on the big screen.

Our Church – Lord of Life Lutheran Church is a member of the Southeast Michigan Synod branch of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The ELCA is the largest Lutheran Church body, consisting of 4.6 million members worldwide. Lord of Life was established as a mission development on May 21, 1972. Our current pastor, Dale Hedblad, has a Master of Divinity Degree from Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Oh. He is one of two specialized ministers in the Southeast Michigan Synod. Pastor Hedblad is also a Board Certified Chaplain and is on-call at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor. If you would like to learn more about Pastor Hedblad, there is a brief biography under the picture of Pastor Dale and his wife, Colleen, as you exit the sanctuary. Currently, Lord of Life consists of 578 members. Lord of Life is active in the Brighton Community with several ministries including: Vacation Bible School, Love INC., Gleaners Food Bank, Crop Walk, Habitat for Humanity, Juvenile Diabetes Research, Fish & Loaves, Red Cross Blood Drives, Kids Against Hunger, Bountiful Harvest Food Pantry and our annual Christmas "Adopt-A-Family" giving tree.

Lord of Life is always open to joining or initiating new ministries that are consistent with our mission statement and our core values:

"Gods Work. Our Hands."

- Compassion
- Discipleship
- Hospitality
- Commitment to excellence

A New Year – New Opportunities

Each new day brings promise of a new start. For many, the start of a new week is the time to begin that diet, get serious about exercising, or forego TV viewing. For a vast majority, though, there's something especially motivating and invigorating about seeing the JANUARY calendar on the wall. This is the year we'll accomplish great things.

God doesn't necessarily call us to do great things, however. He asks that we be trustworthy in small things (Luke 16:10-11). To that end He gives us gifts to use to build up the Body of Christ and to reach out to the lost.

Some of us have many gifts. People like Michelangelo – painter, sculptor, and poet – and Thomas Jefferson – architect, statesman, and scientific farmer – come to mind. God, the Giver of gifts, knows that the number of gifts each of us has varies. Jesus told the Parable of the Talents pointing up this fact and teaching us that success lies in using what we've been given, not in having the greatest amount.

Our gifts also differ in degree. There are many sculptors but few, if any, compare to Michelangelo. Yet their art can bring satisfaction and inspiration to others. You may not be able to sing opera, but you can sing God's praises. You may not be a great orator, but you can witness to the love and grace of God in Christ. You may not be a mechanic, but you can provide transportation for someone needing to get to an appointment or to church.

That's why God gives us gifts and abilities – that we may be equipped to serve others. The start of a new year offers us an opportune time to assess those gifts and see how we can use them for God's glory and the good of His people. The motivation to do this comes from the same One Who gave the gifts! Just as He was motivated by love for us to give us, not just our gifts, but His greatest gift, His Son, so we are motivated by love for Him to serve those He calls us to serve.

Ronald J. Chewning
12 Months of Congregational Stewardship

Confirmation News You Can Use



We are having an exciting year in Confirmation class as we proceed through the scriptures. We've covered many interesting subjects while studying the Bible. This confirmation year of the Bible we have covered the first 14 lessons out of 30. We are working hard to understand our Lutheran theology that stresses all of us are both 'saints' and 'sinners' at the same time. We sure saw a huge bunch of saint/sinners examples in the Old Testament.

When we return to class on **January 7th** we will begin the New Testament with the birth of Christ in a very turbulent time for non-Roman citizens. Did you know that Old Testament Abraham is referenced in twenty-two relevant verses? David is mentioned even more. (*talk about a Saint and Sinner*) We will learn how important the Old Testament is to our Christian faith foundation, after all Jesus was a Rabbi. So for our new year we will thoroughly study the New Testament from Mathew to Revelation. The Lord's Prayer and the two Lutheran sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion as well as some juicy church history will be emphasized. We will also work hard to figure out how teenagers and even me can live our faith in our daily lives.

Mark your calendars: Second-year students will be confirmed on **Pentecost Sunday, May 20, 2018**. They then move on to become voting members of our congregation. First-year students will return the following year, along with new students, to study our Lutheran Church and Luther's Catechism, a super great year of confirmation study. Our **entire class** will participate in the Confirmation Service on **May 20th**.

Together in Christ's Loving Peace,
Craig

In the Cross

Christmas is behind us and New Year's Eve is fast approaching, as I write this article from Destin, FL.

December was a meaningful month, beginning with our annual Christmas Program, which was well attended, and featured a wonderful Play; great prizes; and great food. The evening was a huge success, our best ever, thanks to all of you and to Linda Rowell and her crew of helpers!

The traditions of the season-Christmas Carols; visits from friends and family; exchanging gifts; beautiful Christmas Cantata from the Praise Band; and re-reading the "Greatest Story Ever Told"- all brought great joy to each of us.

Now it is time to turn our attention to the New Year and how we can serve the Lord; our families; our friends; and strangers, better than ever before, through : Genuine Humility, Divine Anticipation, Fearless Conversation, and Radical Hospitality. These will be our areas of focus in 2018.

I have three items to report at this time:

1) The underground construction for our new Internet, Wireless, and TV cable was last expected to be complete, by Comcast, during the first week of the New Year, with indoor wiring to follow. I expect the timing may have slowed a little this week due to the snow and cold that has been going on in SE Michigan.

2) The Board has begun work on the 2018 Lord of Life Budget and will be reviewing it with you during the Annual Congregation Meeting in late January.

3) Barb Billing has agreed to work with all of us to find a way to streamline our Sunday Hospitality efforts, in the hopes of making it easier for everyone to contribute without incurring excessive time and

money burdens. I know you will work with Barb, in the usual Lord of Life best effort, to accomplish this goal.

Shirley and I send our best wishes, to each of you, for a Happy, Prosperous, and Blessed 2018!

Glenn Kelly

JANUARY BIRTHDAY'S

01 – Nancy Wedell & Deanna Garcia

4 – Gavin & Ronan Elarton

8 – Kay Stone

09 – Rylan McCurdy

11 – Eric Newburg & Robert McCurdy

12 – Jessi Shigley

13 – Howard Renton

14 – Dylan Hedblad

21 – Miranda Verbison

22 – Theresa Olechiw

23 – Kim Dei

25 – Ryan Elarton

26 – Jason Verbison

27 – Ralf Zaar



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Have a wonderful anniversary!

23 – Kenneth & Deborah Winslow

31 – Steve & Barb Billings