

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



Living in God's amazing grace

"God's Work. Our Hands."

Weekly Sermon on Facebook and YouTube – Join Us!

You are invited to worship with us!

9:30 am "In Person" worship with Holy Communion

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 lordoflifeelca@gmail.com

Visit us on the web:

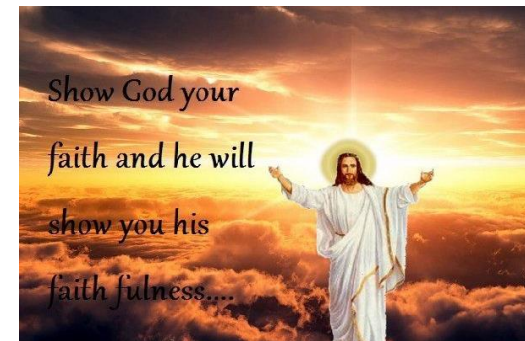
www.LordofLifeELCA.com



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Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Brighton, MI



Lord of Life Lutheran Church



Messages for October 2021:

October 3, 2021 (Mark 10:2-16) Jesus announced and enacted in history the new reality of God's surprising activity

October 10, 2021 (Mark 10:17-31) Jesus has been teaching his disciples about what is most valued in God's eyes.

October 17, 2021 (Mark 10:35-45) On the way to Jerusalem the disciples ask Jesus to grant them seats of honor.

October 24, 2021 (Mark 10:46-52) Bartimaeus comes to Jesus with faith, asking that he might see again.

October 31, 2021 (John 8:31-36) Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word.

Making Christ Known

OCTOBER 2021 LORD OF LIFE SPECIAL EVENTS



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.

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



Adult Bible Class meets every Sunday morning at 10:45 am, beginning Sunday, October 3rd



Fish and Loaves will be Sunday, October 10th. Food donations will be needed. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Lord of Life Fish & Loaves will continue to distribute food via drive thru process. Please note the new start time is **5:00 pm**, this new start time is in effect for all churches that distribute food.



Knots of Love/Shawl Ministry meets Tuesday, October 19th



American Red Cross

Blood Drive is Monday, October 25th

Reformation Sunday is Sunday, October 31st, Wear **Red**



October Message from the Pastor

“O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are the work of your hands” (Isaiah 64:8)

Autumn is a season of change. It is a season marked with vivid color and beauty. God speaks to us daily through his Holy Words of Scripture, through our prayers, through the actions with others, and even through His marvelous creation. Autumn seemed to creep up on us this year, appearing suddenly on a bright sunny Wednesday afternoon with temperatures in the mid 60's. This pleasant, warm and sunny weather is what we enjoy most about Autumn.

In a sermon in September I shared with you a prayer that I came upon that is simple, yet profound. I have found it inspirational and life changing. **“God help me to see myself the way you see me. Help me to see others the way you see others. Help me to love myself the way you love me.” Amen.**

Recently, I had an opportunity to attend a seminar on ways to deal with stress in our lives. The seminar introduced me to a technique called the **“Three Good Things Exercise.”** This approach is evidence based and has shown to increase lasting happiness. It does this by a simple method of redirecting attention towards positive thoughts and away from negative thoughts. We tend to spend more time thinking about negative experiences than positive ones. We spend ample time, maybe too much time, thinking about what went wrong and how to fix it, or how to do things differently the next time around. This negative bias is the source of a lot of anxiety, depression, and general lack of well being.

Psychologist Marti Seligman says, “Memories are tricky: good ones are like Teflon, they slip away, while the bad ones stick like Velcro” (especially when we are tired). The “Three Good Things” approach retrains are brains so that we can remember the good things, and the role we played in bringing them about.

Here’s how it works. Each night before you go to sleep think of three good things that happened today. Reflect on why they happened. Focus on the positive rather than the negative. For example, you may have been late for an appointment today (negative), but you may also have had a good conversation with a co-worker, visited a friend in the hospital, and met a deadline for an important work project. Don’t let one negative experience cloud your mind and color your whole day in a negative light.

Our Gospel lessons in October come from Mark. This Gospel is filled with practical advice. God is the source of all good things. The readings in Mark remind us of what is really important in life- growing in faith toward God and love toward each other. May this season of autumn bring a change of heart and a renewal of our commitment to “let go, and let God.”

Growing with you,

Pastor Dale+

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 615 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:

“God’s Work. Our Hands.”

- Compassion
- Discipleship
- Hospitality
- Commitment to excellence

OCTOBER BIRTHDAY’S

- 02 – Adrian Stitt
05 – Shari Madison
06 – Chuck McCracken & Sydney Unruh
09 – Ariania Hawley
11 – Penny Monacelli
14 – Cara Decker
15 – Nancy Rice
16 – Bob Koss
19 – Deanna Lamoreaux
23 – Karin Hellmuth
26 – Matt Hartman
31 – John Hartman



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Have a wonderful anniversary!

- 6 - Glenn & Shirley Kelly
11 – Eric & Dana Hahne
15 – Greg & Linda Everson
16 – Jim & Linda Rowell
27 – Rob & Danielle Losert
28 – William & Amy Restrepo



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Comfort our world in this time of fear and uncertainty, as we pray for those suffering with the COVID19 virus and those working on the front lines.



Bettina and Ralf Zaar, The McCurdy and McCurran families, Matthew Johnson, Brenda Pautsch, Bill Maitland, Ella Wallace and Edna.

GIVE PLUS+

An Alternative Way of Giving

Many of you have expressed preferences for giving electronically, using a smartphone app, a computer or tablet. Lord of Life offers this option, now we want to reintroduce this giving option to everyone.

Here are a few benefits for GIVE PLUS+:

- eGiving is convenient and helps support your church
- eGiving allows you to keep intentions to give even when not at church.
- eGiving helps Lord of Life receive consistent income

It's Easy.....download the GivePlus app through the Apple's app store and Goolge's play store. ...yes, it's free to download and you are not charged a fee to make donations using this app.

When you download the GivePlus app for the first time, you will be prompted to enter the name of your church. Type in Lord of Life and select it when it appears. Or, use the Find Churches Near me feature. After you select Lord of Life, it automatically becomes your "home" church. The next time you open the app, Lord of Life will already be displayed.

GivePlus donations can be made with all major credit and debit cards.

When completing a donation, you will receive a receipt via email.

If you have any questions, please contact Glenn Kelly or Colleen Hedblad.

The Importance of Trust

Trust is an important part of a relationship between spouses, between parents and children, between employers and employees, and between friends. To illustrate the importance of trust, I will share a story from former President Eisenhower who described an event from his earlier days on a Kansas farm.

"An older farmer had a cow we wanted to buy," the President said. "We went over to visit him and asked about the cow's pedigree."

"Don't know," replied the farmer.

"Well, how's her butterfat production?" we asked.

"Don't know."

"Let's see," my dad finally said. "How many pounds of milk does she give each year?"

"Don't know that either," said the farmer shaking his head. "But I do know she's an honest cow and she'll give you all the milk she has!"

"Well," Ike concluded. "I'm kinda like that old cow. You can always trust me to give you everything I have."

Life would be so much easier if we could take people at their word. It doesn't take long to discover that talk is cheap, so we are forced to decide whom or what we will trust. Where do we place our faith and confidence? Do we trust God as our source of life and things? Trusting is not an easy thing to do. We may trust God in some things but not all things. By nature, we are self-reliant, and we live in a society that admires self-reliance and discourages trust in anyone other than oneself.

Trust knows that God loves us and wants the best for us. Complete trust in God is seeking God Himself, rather than His gifts. Knowing God, through Christ, brings about a self-surrender and total trust in Him. Then our trust is not dependent on what He gives, but Who He is.

In the same manner that God proves He is trustworthy, God wants us to prove our trustworthiness. The apostle Paul wrote, "*Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful*" (1 Corinthians 4:2). How blessed we are that our God can be trusted totally and that He loves and trusts us enough to be His ambassadors and representatives here on earth. Through the working of the Holy Spirit, we can be faithful to His trust.

Ronald J. Chewning

12 Months of Congregational Stewardship

Lord of Life Worship Assistants

Each month we will explain the duties involved with the worship assistants at Lord of Life. This is an attempt to attract and train new people to the following duties at the church:

Greeters / Ushers / Communion Assistants / Altar Guild
Hospitality / Hospitality Set up

This month we will highlight the duties of the Greeter. Every church member and guest who arrive at church likes to see a friendly face. A smile goes a long way towards a warm welcome. Welcome them to the church, tell them we are glad they are here to worship today! Show the guests where to take their young children (nursery is located down the hallway in the day care room). Inform the guests that there are no bulletins-just follow along on the screen for the worship service.

The greeter should arrive approximately 20 minutes before worship begins.

Please consider becoming a greeter, see the bulletin board for sign up dates in October. Sign up as often as you like.....



LOLYO

It's that time of year again where LOLYO activities are starting back up. Unfortunately, we seem to be in the same situation as last year where we just don't know what they year will bring. I plan to take this year a couple months at a time realizing that things might have to quickly change. Our first event was Rally Day which was a lot of fun. It was nice to see everyone again, play some games and enjoy some Kona Ice.

Mark your calendars for our next event which will be helping with Fish and Loaves on Sunday October 10th from 3:30 to 5:30.

While the National Gathering will be taking place in the summer of 2022 and registration has begun, there was not enough interest for LOLYO to participate. We will work on trying to find something on a smaller scale that LOLYO can participate in.

HARD WORK AND AMBITION ARE COMMENDABLE CHRISTIAN VIRTUES, BUT WE MUST CAREFUL NOT TO ALLOW THEM TO BECOME SINFUL OBSESSIONS.

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men” (Colossians 3:23).





Adult Bible Study Resumes

After a year of remote learning, the Adult Bible Study will resume in-person sessions. We will be starting a new study entitled “Celebrating God”. This study will focus on the role that prayer and praise plays in our faith life and will have lessons featuring both Old and New Testament scriptures.

This class is open to anyone high school and older and does not require any previous Bible study experience. Classes will meet on Sunday mornings at 10:45 at the church, beginning October 3rd. See Gloria McCracken for a study book if you are interested or have questions.



Baby Blanket Drive – 2021

Once again, let's turn our blankets into an armor of love, comfort and healing for the huggable, loveable, sick children in the hospital. Please consider donating a new or hand-made, washable blanket of any size. Blankets, hats and booties for babies and children will be distributed to the patients of Children's Hospital of Michigan, DMC. Last year, over 700 blankets were given to the patients at DMC.

Please drop off your blankets, hats or booties at Lord of Life by October 24th.

Are you a crafter? Knots of Love/Shawl Ministry could use your help

Shawl Ministry makes prayer shawls and blankets for members and friends of the congregation who may be experiencing sickness or are otherwise in need of prayer. The gift of a handmade item to people in distress, dedicated with prayer, is meant to be a source of comfort and healing to all who need it. Our supply has dwindled, and we can use contributions of handmade machine washable knitted, crocheted or sewn blankets in lap robe or afghan sizes. We also provide hand knitted or crocheted Baptism blankets to newly baptized infants and small children. Right now, we have a good supply of those.

Knots of Love provides hats and scarves for homeless adults, teens and children. We work through an Episcopal church in Detroit which supports the homeless in many ways. These items should also be machine washable. Warmth is stressed over fashion.

We meet once a month during the Sunday School year, usually on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. This year the meetings will be in the afternoon at 1 p.m. The place will be published each month in the newsletter. In October, we will meet at Karen Dei's house.

At our meetings, we dedicate any blankets that we have finished or received and spend time talking and working on our projects. Anyone who wishes to join us is welcome. You can also get help with your project if you need it. If you don't want to attend the meetings, we are happy to have your handmade blankets, hats and scarves anyway. We have a continuing need for all these items and are happy to have them to distribute as the need arises, even if you don't come to any of the meetings.

Any questions may be addressed to Gloria McCracken or Karen Dei.

God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good!



Our year of the Bible is well underway at our LOL confirmation class. I want to share our instructor prep sheet for the Genesis creation lesson.

The Genesis story takes two forms: first, the creation of the heavens and earth in a series of six days followed by a day of rest; and second, the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. These two stories contradict one another at times, and if Genesis were submitted for publication today as a brand-new manuscript, it would probably go through much revision.

The first creation story (Genesis 1:1–2:4) is a methodical story beginning with the chaos of a dark, formless void that in six days becomes a flourishing, diverse earth with living creatures of all kinds. This creation account moves from confusion to order in a logical sequence by the command of the all-powerful God. The source of this writing is generally attributed to the **Priestly** writer, or "P."

The second creation story (Genesis 2:4–25) begins with the creation of a human from the dust of the ground. Here, too, God is the creator. But God is personified-planting a garden, breathing into the nostrils of the human being-which playfully allows for errors in creation. The source of this creation story is ascribed to the **Yahwist** writer, or "J."

Despite their literary differences, both creation stories point to one thing: God is the creator, and we are part of God's good creation. Boundaries between creator and creation have been set; there is order in the world between God and humans, humans and animals, and in the interrelationships within humanity.

The creation stories of Genesis tell us who we are and where we came from while still acknowledging the deep mystery of God. Some things just can't be explained, even with a really good story. What we do know is that we, male and female, were created in God's own image (**1:27**) and that "God saw everything that [God] had made, and indeed, it was very good" (**1:31**). Although God created us for good, it did not take long for humanity to push the boundaries. Genesis reveals a world where humans' less-than-perfect

decisions have consequences. God does not control us, nor can we control God. Rather, we are called to live faithfully and responsibly within our relationship with God the creator.

Human beings have been given a special place in God's creation, but it comes with a burden: Men and women share the task of being conscientious stewards of the earth and all creation. Humans need one another and should not take the gifts of creation for granted. We also need boundaries! The stories of the people in Genesis read like stories about small children testing the boundaries set by parents. **There are consequences for going beyond, but there is also grace in forgiveness.**

Many teenagers can relate to the story of Adam and Eve pushing the boundaries that God gave them. Like a good parent's discipline, boundaries are set out of love to protect and preserve. For teenage students struggling with normal adolescent anxieties like acne and awkwardness, it is very helpful to truly know that we are created in God's own image, created to be good. Our lives are to be lived as a reflection of the image of God.

The Bible is a story of a living people that is passed on through the ages largely by oral tradition. Most cultures throughout human history have had some sort of creation story; Judeo-Christians are no different. In fact, our creation stories share similar themes. Universal foundation stories help us understand what it means to be human and where we came from in a divine sense. Genesis reads like a family history of the people who will be the nation, Israel. The central points are that God loves us, God alone created us, and chaos will not win.

The two versions of the creation story show us that the Bible should not be read as a science or history book. The issue of creationism has been distorted in contemporary thought, polarizing hard science against religious meaning. The writers of these biblical words lived in different worldly understandings and could not have foreseen the unfortunate modern battle that has pitted faith against fact. The earth is undoubtedly billions of years old; our religious ancestors could not have known such geological and anthropological facts, nor could they have particularly cared as it relates to our relationship with God the creator.

Lord's Loving Peace, Craig