

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

10:30 am Confirmation Class

10:30 am Sunday School Pre-School to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

10:45 am Sunday Adult Bible Study

Rev. Dale E. Hedblad, M.Div., *Board Certified Chaplain*

Sheila Andring – Communications Coordinator

Labor of Love Daycare – Kat Hancock, Director

Contact us:

810-227-3113 or lordoflifeelca@gmail.com

Visit us on the web:

[www.LordofLifeELCA.com](http://www.LordofLifeELCA.com)



Follow us on Facebook:

**Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Brighton, MI**



## *Lord of Life Lutheran Church*



### *Messages for January 2023:*

**January 8, 2023** (Matthew 2:1-12) God's promise shines in the night leading the Wisemen to the new born King.

**January 15, 2023** (Matthew 3:1-12) In the waters of baptism we are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and names God's beloved children.

**January 22, 2023** (Matthew 4:12-23) In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near.

**January 29, 2023** (Matthew 5:1-12) In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling.

*Making Christ Known*

## JANUARY 2023 LORD OF LIFE SPECIAL EVENTS

**Congregational Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> grade is each Sunday, 10:45 – 11:30 am.

**Confirmation class** for students in 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> 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 at 10:45.



**Fish and Loaves** will be Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. 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 **4:00 pm** for the packing of food. Distribution of food begins at 5:00 pm.



## January Message from the Pastor

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the power to become children of God.”  
(John 1:12)

Dear Congregation, Happy New Year! On January 6, we celebrate Epiphany. This church season is known as the season of light. Jesus’ birth is revealed as the light of the world by John’s Gospel. Epiphany means: manifestation, appearance or making something known. It is sometimes referred to as the “ah-ha” moment when we finally come to realize the truth.

Throughout this season of light, the scriptures reveal certain identities: the identity of Jesus, the identity of John the Baptist and the identity of God’s people. Throughout this season Jesus is revealed as someone who breaks down barriers, whether they be in his family or his socioeconomic class, or his Jewish faith. Jesus brings down the barriers between men and women, powerful and marginal, Jews and Gentiles, family, and strangers. Truly it can be said that the people who walked in the land of darkness have seen a great light (John 1:5).

God has richly blessed Lord of Life church throughout our 50 years. I am thankful for all of you, showing your faithfulness in shining your lights at our Fish n’ Loaves program throughout the years. Your lights also shined brightly at Vacation Bible School and our Red Cross Blood Drives. You were all a light in the world to the needy people at Christmas whose names appeared on our Christmas Giving Tree. The shelves at Gleaners Food Bank had more food on them because of your generous giving. We make a difference in this Community and in our world, because we dare to let our lights shine. Epiphany may be just a 7 week season in the church but its inspiration lasts throughout the year.

Worshipping 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. 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 the only specialized minister 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 646 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

## JANUARY BIRTHDAY’S

01 – Deanna Garcia  
04 – Gavin & Ronan Elarton  
05 – Megan Unruh  
09 – Rylan McCurdy  
11 – Eric Newburg & Robert McCurdy  
14 – Dylan Hedblad  
21 – Miranda Verbison  
23 – Kim Hall  
25 – Ryan Elarton, Richard McElyea  
26 – Jason Verbison  
27 – Ralf Zaar



## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

*Have a wonderful anniversary!*

23 – Kenneth & Deborah Winslow  
31 – Steve & Barb Billings

## 2023 Hospitality and Fellowship

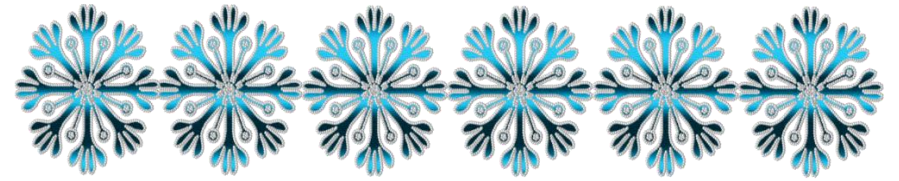
Once a month this winter we will have a potluck following worship.  
This is a special time to 'break bread' with our Lord of Life community. We will have an opportunity to get to know one another a little bit better. See you there.

*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



# Winter Potluck January 15 following worship

Bring anything you would like to share:  
hot food, cold food,  
healthy food, not-so-healthy food

*It's totally up to you!*

**Join in the fellowship!**



## A New Year – New Opportunity

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. Chewing**  
*12 Months of Congregational Stewardship*



## 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.*

Bob Cannon, Skylar Eve, Dan Travis and all troops, Austin Reed, Craig Moilanen, Ramona Augustine, Lynn and Dave, Bettina and Ralf Zaar, Ella Wallace, Carol, Wendy, Ryan, and Cindy.



## Adult Bible Study

Adult Bible Study meets on Sundays at 10:45 am. This year's theme will be "God's Exceptional Choice". See Gloria McCracken if you are interested or have questions.

**LORD, IN THIS NEW YEAR, HELP US TO BE BETTER STEWARDS OF THE TIME THAT YOU GIVE US.**

“Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil” (Ephesians 5:15-16).





*Save the Date*

**February 5<sup>th</sup>**

*Following worship*

**Super Bowl  
Potluck**

## **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

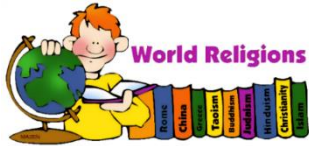
**It's Easy.....**download the GivePlus app through the Apple's app store and Google's play store. ...yes, it's free to download and you are not charged a fee to make donations using this app.

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.



## “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”

Our class dug deep into world religions in our last class of the 2022 year. We learned that while Christianity makes up over thirty percent of the world’s beliefs, there are many others in God’s world. We spent time working to understand the precepts of four other basic faiths which include: Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, and, of course, the Jewish faith.

Considering Christ admonished us to love our neighbors it seems extremely important that we understand that all humankind is a part of God’s creation. To help us understand other beliefs we, over the years, incorporated outside sources. This year we used one of the better Ted Talks videos on world religions. You, too, can see what our confirmands saw in their class: [You Tube ted talk The five major world religions - John Bellaimy](#)

Well, this world religion class sets the stage for next year’s first class on the study of our many Christian beliefs.

Most of our Lord of Life youth will have had a great deal of experience with Christians of other denominations. Friends and family members are frequently involved in a variety of congregations. They may or may not have learned the sometimes-subtle differences between these groups. Many teens who have grown up in a global neighborhood will wonder what the big deal is. They may be asking, "If all Christians worship the same God and Jesus is seen as Lord and Savior in each of these traditions, why would they 'split' apart into separate denominations?"

Throughout this lesson, our kids will be encouraged to hold on to just such a sense of unity among the Christian denominations. There is truly only one Christian church, often seems to be behind the surface differences and conflicts of the many church bodies. Hopefully, this lesson will also provide an opportunity for students to learn about the various emphases that the denominations bring forward, such as the sovereignty of God, the commitment to social justice, the importance of

radical grace, the mystery of the triune God, and Jesus' presence in the sacraments, the connections and heritage that extend 2,000 years to the 12 apostles chosen by Jesus himself, and so on. This lesson gives our LOL youth the opportunity to see just how BIG the Christian church and its teachings really are—God is far too big to fit into any nice, neat little box that we finite humans can fully understand. The Faiths of the World lesson ends with the following prayer:

**Almighty God, the world you created has a wondrous variety of people and cultures. You have asked us to be firm in our faith and to be witnesses to your work in the world. Help us to learn and grow in faith so that we can share that faith with others. You have also asked us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. Help us to respect others and to learn from them so that we can better appreciate the diversity and beauty of your whole creation. We pray this in Jesus’ holy name, Amen**

In summary, it's important to note that the many denominations of the Christian church share a belief in the triune God (*Father, Son, and Holy Spirit*) and the understanding that Jesus is the Son of God clothed in human flesh whose life, death, and resurrection are how humanity is saved and brought back into a right relationship with God and given eternal life. The teaching of the details varies among the denominations, and there are many more Christian denominations that have split from the major theologies, especially for us Lutherans. We Lord of Life ELCA Lutherans hold that the differences between the denominations simply hide the true unity of the Christian church—a unity in Christ that can be seen only from God's perspective.

*Happy New Year fellow Lutherans,  
Mr. Craig*