



LIFELINE FEBRUARY 2026

Pastor's Prattle

As I write this article, Memphis is anticipating a major winter storm. There is the possibility of damaging ice followed up with snow. That can create real problems, especially if there are widespread power outages. All we can do is prepare the best we can to be able to face whatever happens.

I suppose this situation can be similar to what life is like. We know that there will be "storms" in life that will come to us. We don't know what they will be or when they will come. They can be little drizzly rain or major, violent storms. We can only be as prepared as possible to handle them when they come.

We also know that there is a storm coming one day that will be beyond anything we have ever seen. It is when the Lord will come to bring judgment on the evils of this world and bring everything to an end. All that is evil will be drawn into the abyss for an eternity without God.

At the same time, all that is good in God's sight will be taken into his presence and spend eternity in glorious light. More than being an ending, it will be a new beginning of a life where there will be nothing evil.

So, how do we prepare for that "storm?" What will it take for us to be ready when that day comes? How can we be certain that we will be taken into God's presence?

There is just one way—and it is what Lent is all about. The season of Lent is a time for us to admit that we don't deserve anything good from God and to throw ourselves on his mercy. We take an honest look at ourselves and, when we do, we see that we have failed miserably at aligning ourselves with God's will. We realize that we deserve to go down into the abyss.

At the same time, we hear the good news of God's unimaginable love for us. It is a love that led him to sacrifice his Son for us. Then comes Easter! We see new life for his Son, which means all those who are bound to Him also have new life. That life means all the more because we have honestly examined ourselves and were found to be lacking. The coming "storm" does not cause us to fear, for we know that in Christ we will be safe.

I pray that you will take advantage of the opportunity this Lent to discover how great is God's love for you and that your Easter celebration will be all the more magnificent.

Pastor Jim



LORD OF LIFE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
AND PRESCHOOL
6865 Poplar Pike
Memphis, TN 38119

Church Office
901.754.0669

Preschool Office
901.309.3980

Email
lordoflife@bellsouth.net

Online
lordoflifememphis.com

Church Office Hours
9:00AM to 1:00PM
Monday to Thursday
Closed Fridays

Service Times:
8:30am Traditional
11:00am Contemporary

Rev. Jim Shears
Pastor
pastorjim@bellsouth.net

Nancy Bergeron
Choirmaster
Nberg10434@aol.com

Kendrick Little
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NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE

FOR THE MARCH ISSUE IS
FEBRUARY 20th.

Please send your articles to the church office at lordoflife@bellsouth.net
Call 754-0669 Monday to Thursday, 9am-1pm with any questions. You may send in your articles early if you like –the newsletter is always a work in progress. Thanks.



PANCAKE SUPPER TUESDAY

February 17th – 6:00pm

A pancake meal with all the trimmings!

Bring a friend!

The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is sponsored and served by the Church Council.

Some countries traditionally call the day before Ash Wednesday Fat Tuesday or Mardi Gras. The name predated the Reformation and referred to the common Christian tradition of eating special rich foods before the fasting season of Lent. Making and eating pancakes was considered a last feast with ingredients such as sugar, fat and eggs, whose consumption was traditionally restricted during the Lenten season.

Let's enjoy a pancake meal together in anticipation of the journey through Lent to Easter.



FEBRUARY 19th

“ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES”

HOLY COMMUNION AND THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Please note that we will have “Ash Wednesday” service on Thursday.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19 AT 6:30pm

Dinner will not be served



**LENTEN
MIDWEEK WORSHIP
SERVICES**

Thursdays at 6:30PM

February 26

March 5, 12, 19, 26

Soup Supper at 5:45pm.

Maundy Thursday – April 2 @ 7pm

Good Friday – April 3 @ 7pm



Food, Fellowship and Trivia!!

Come hang out with friends on **Monday, February 16** at Mellow Mushroom in Germantown as we get back to our monthly Trivia nights! Come eat and leave, or eat and trivia, or just trivia (7:30 pm).

Please text Victoria if you want to get a place at the table and monthly reminders for future events! Victoria at 901-828-0670.



BELTLINE COMMUNITY PROJECT

Sisters of Service are continuing to collect personal care items for the women in the Beltline community.

During **February** we will be collecting sanitary pads and pantliners. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please put "Beltline Women" on the memo line of your check. We will purchase items and deliver all items for distribution. Thanks for your help!



MISSION GUATEMALA 2026

We are going to Guatemala this coming June 14-20. Those that have gone can tell you that it is a wonderful, moving experience. It is time to start thinking about it and planning for the trip. The total cost is around \$2,000, depending on the cost of airfare. Registration will open up in January. We invite you to begin praying about this opportunity to share the Good News with the Mayan people. If you want to know more about the ministry there, go to Prayamerica.org. If you have any questions, let Pastor Jim know.



AUDIO-VISUAL

---team---

We need some volunteers to help do the big video screen for 8:30am church service.

No experience needed, we will teach you what needs to be done. All volunteers welcome and as soon as possible! Please speak with Pastor Jim, or Steve Manasco.

NEW CLASS Alert!

LUTHERANISM 101

Are you interested in learning more about what Lutherans believe? Do you have questions about our teachings? Would you just like to review?

Beginning on February 1, we will have a 4-part survey of Lutheranism. We will look at our origins, our history and our central teachings. This class serves as a new member class, as well as an opportunity for members to go over what we believe once again. It is also an opportunity for anyone to check us out, whether or not they are interested in membership.

It will be held during the Sunday school hour, beginning at 9:45, on four Sundays beginning on February 1.

We would love to have you attend! Let me know if you have any questions. - Pastor Jim



WEDNESDAY MORNING LADIES GROUP ☺

Wednesday mornings from 10:00am-11:30am in the adult classroom.

Wednesday Morning Ladies/Life Threads (LOL's prayer shawl ministry). We are a group of ladies who meet to talk, share stories, eat, joke and laugh. Some of us bring a craft to do such as needlepoint, crochet and knitting. Even if you don't do a thing but talk, please come and enjoy a cup of coffee, a weekly snack and fellowship!



THOSE SERVING THE 8:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE

February 1
Assisting Minister: Jim Gienapp
Acolyte: none
Crucifer: none
Lector: Sue Hall

February 8
Assisting Minister: Shirley Lyles
Acolyte: Leah Collamore
Crucifer: Chloe Collamore
Lector: Jill Koch

February 15
Assisting Minister: Jim Gienapp
Acolyte: None
Crucifer: None
Lector: Jim Gienapp

February 22
Assisting Minister: Tony Marsh
Acolyte: Ian Cunningham
Crucifer: Cole Cunningham
Lector: Chrissy Cunningham

**Blessing Box Assembly
and Potluck dinner** —

Feb 11, 2026, at 6 pm

Come join us to do some community service and then have fun and fellowship over food.

Bring a dish to share and we hope to see you there!



The church's website address is lordoflifememphis.com, please try to visit the website at least once per week. The more often lots of people visit, our church website grows in popularity to help promote Lord of Life. Thank you!



The Flowers in February are given by:

- 1 – the Gienapps
- 8 –
- 15 –
- 22 – Lent 1



The Memorial Candle Is Given by:

- 1 –
- 8 –
- 15 – Bonnie Stevens
- 22 – the Ethertons



We have an Instagram Account! For anyone who follows Instagram you can find us at: [lordoflife_memphis](https://www.instagram.com/lordoflife_memphis)



Update from the Call Committee:

We have begun the interview process for a promising pastoral candidate and ask that each of us would be in prayer for our current and future pastor, and for God's guidance during this time.

Blessings, Tony Marsh - Call Committee Chair



Happy Valentine's Day

February 14th





February 16th



The **ALTAR FLOWERS** are donated for the traditional service. The price for an arrangement for the altar is \$30. When you sign up please say if you're allergic to any particular flowers. You can pay for the arrangement through the offering plate. Just mark "flowers" on your envelope or check. We ask that you take the arrangement home after the service.



A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the narthex for the **MEMORIAL CANDLE**. The Memorial Candle is given in honor of someone, or in memory of someone.

The candles burn for one week and the cost is \$3. Please put the payment in the offering plate. Write "memorial candle" on the envelope. The memorial candle hangs in the nave by the altar.



Wooden Plate Offering

The **FIRST** Sunday of each month the Wooden Plate is passed in addition to the regular offering plate. All money going into the **Wooden Plate** is split between two Community Service local outreach Ministries **ONLY**. Those Ministries are Memphis Interfaith Association (MIFA) & St. Luke's food pantry. Thank you for your generosity, you make a difference!

___ Community Service Ministry Team



Got Facebook?

'Like' our Facebook page so you can get updates on activities and share events with your friends.



HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY!

Blake Ketcham	5
Bruce Bollenbach	12
Connie Sheddan	18
Becky Claverie	19
John Krosnes	19
Morgan Bryant	21
Jill Koch	27
Kenny Friend	28

DID YOU KNOW?

There is a small blue sign at every railroad crossing that has an 800 number to call in case of an emergency, like if there is a car stuck on the tracks! If you call the number and tell them the information that is on that sign, they will know exactly where you are and how to contact the right



people to shut down that area until the car can be removed. Good information to know!

2025 Convocation - Aug 6th-8th

Kathy Marsh - delegate

I attended the 2025 Convocation August 6th to 8th in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I also attended the Faith Formation Festival on August 4th and the Women of the NALC gathering on August 5th.

As requested by the Call committee, I took several copies of the Lord of Life Church profile in case our dean, Pastor Ness, had anyone he recommended.

The Faith Formation Festival (for youth leaders) was on Aug 4th. We shared ideas for how to get our youth (and church) involved both in the church and the community. We also had a workshop about Music in the church and youth program.

The gathering of the Women of the NALC was on Aug 5th. The Women of the NALC takes a collection of gift cards to benefit the Disaster Response team. We sent several gift cards. There was a presentation from Mary Bates about the NALC Disaster Response. We also discussed some of the agencies on the NALC website that have been vetted to use for mission donations.

The NALC has a new website. During the Convocation, we voted on some constitutional changes and elections. During the breakout sessions, I learned more about the LIFE to LIFE Discipleship program (which is free to download from the NALC) which helps to provide tools to talk with people about your faith. We did workshops about the RENEW program which is designed to help churches continue to do what is working toward making disciples and discontinue those things that are not. This might be a program that we want to do (either as a council or a whole congregation) to evaluate the programs we have here at LOL. We would follow it up with EQUIP, where we get resources from the NALC to help us continue our motion toward things that work. These could include training, Bible study curriculum or other resources.



UNICE!

Continental Youth Conference July 7 – 10, 2026 Roanoke, VA

Cost will be \$300/person, plus spending money for meals on the road, and souvenirs.

There is a limit of 350 people for the event. Youth, and required chaperones, will get priority. Additional adults will be added if space allows. Please sign up on the board in the narthex.

Volunteers Needed!

We will have Soup Suppers before Lenten services this year, and we need volunteers to make soup on March 19. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, see Beth Kooker.

February 26th- Beth Kooker
March 5th - Kenny Friend
March 12th- Donna McKenny
March 19th - ?
March 26th – Al Lyles



We're presently doing Preschool Enrollment.
Please share with anyone you know who may be interested!
Contact preschooldirector@lordoflifepreschoolmemphis.org with questions.



Child focused • Faith Centered • Play based
**Lord of Life
Preschool**

Enrolling
18m-5 years
old



**JOIN US FOR A TOUR TUESDAYS AT 9:30AM OR
THURSDAYS AT 11:00AM.
WE ARE ENROLLING FOR SPRING 2026 AND AUGUST 2026!**



Cydney Beets, Brent Berry,
Nanci Gienapp, Sarah Gulla,
Frank Howell, Kelli Howell,
Robby Jacquette, Beth Kooker,
Mark Kooker, Joe Lowry,
Norm Rodriguez, Don Sass, Laurie Soffos,
Mike Tibbets

RELATIVES & FRIENDS

Anderson, Shelly -
Baechler, Wendell - former member
Benfield Family, Ben Brian – friends of Joe Lowry
Brister, Tish & Ron – Donna McKinney's sister & BIL
Cavalier, Roy, Angie & Faye –friends of Naomi Mertes
Coleman, Vicki – friend of Floyd Johnson
DeLoach, Katherine - former member
Dodd, Carolyn – our former Preschool Director
Easton, Gavin - friend of Laura & Kelvin Hill
Edgerton, Ruth – mother of Katherine DeLoach
Ellis Family Cousins of Georgette Etherton
Etherton, Jim – Bob Etherton's brother
Froelich, Jack + Gerry – in-laws of Linda Froelich
Geerdes, Rosemary – wife of Bob Geerdes
Haggard, Barbara – friend of Floyd Johnson
Hare, Vicki – friend of Bob & Georgette Etherton
Holman, Kathy – friend of Pam & David Anderson
Hoover, Tom – brother of Nanci Gienapp
Howe, Jake – friend of Naomi Mertes
Hugel, Susan – friend of the Bethany people
Inman, Clark – grandson of Marla & Page Inman
Inman, Jack, Emma & family – son & daughter-in-law
King, Scott – friend of Jim Gienapp
Loewenstein, Kim & family - Jim Gienapp's sister
Lois – a Beltline meal recipient who had heart surgery
Loven, Myra - Naomi Mertes' mother
Marsh, Brenda & Bill – parents of Tony Marsh
McNeill, Sr., Phillip – friend of Erin & Ray Schultz
McStay, Lori – daughter of Nanci & Jim Gienapp
Mittler, Airana – granddaughter of Ginger McDowell
Mueller, Shannon – cousin of Jim Gienapp
Pearson, Jeff – Pastor Jim's youngest brother
Pyburn, Barbara & family in NewOrleans, lost 2 Sons
Quesenberry, David – on the loss of his mother
Rindels, Joyce - friend of Naomi Mertes
Roux, Denis – brother-in-law of Sue Hall
Sanders, Betty – sister-in-law of Kim Sanders
Sanders, Faye – mother-in-law of Kim Sanders
Saum + family – son of Nancy Balazadeh
Suzanne, Devin – friend of Laura & Kelvin Hill
Taylor, Don – friend of Joe Lowry
Taylor, Tony – friend of Naomi Mertes
Tully, Loni – friend of Laura & Kelvin
White, Bill – our former pastor
Williams, Donna – friend of Laura Hill

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

A-3 Brendon Brotherton, Navy – stationed at MCAS Iwakuni, Japan, grandson of Mike Tibbets
CDR Eric M. Etherton, USN (Operations Officer for the Aircraft Carrier John F. Kennedy) being built in Newport News, VA. son of Bob & Georgette Etherton
Staff Sgt. Fletcher Lewis, Airforce – (stationed at Dyer AFB in Abilene, TX), nephew of Sue Hall

PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARIES

Dave & Elizabeth Linkenhoker (daughter Grace) (Haiti)
Josh & Nani Harris (Singapore)
Debbie Ward (Panama)
Pastor Didi Panzo– NALC missionary (The Democratic Republic of the Congo)

PRAY for the underground churches in North Korea and their pastors/overseers and families.

FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30AM Trad. 9:45AM Christian Ed 11:00AM Cont 1:00PM CPR Training (1 to 4pm)	2 10:30am Adult Bible Study	3	4 10:00AM Ladies Group	5 6:30PM Choir Practice	6 Office Closed	7 8-1 DFS
8 8:30AM Trad. 9:45AM Congregational Meeting 11:00AM Cont	9 10:30am Adult Bible Study	10	11 10:00AM Ladies Group 6:00PM Potluck Dinner	12 6:30PM Choir Practice	13 Office Closed	14 8-1 DFS
15 8:30AM Trad. 9:45AM Christian Ed 11:00AM Cont	16 Presidents Day Office & Preschool Closed 7:30PM Trivia Night	17 6-7PM Pancake Dinner	18 ASH WEDNESDAY 10:00AM Ladies Group	19 6:30PM Ash Wednesday Service 7:15PM Choir Practice	20 Office Closed	21 8-1 DFS
22 Lent 1 8:30AM Trad. 9:45AM Christian Ed 11:00AM Cont	23 10:30am Adult Bible Study	24 5:30PM BBQ Team Meeting	25 10:00AM Ladies Group	26 5:45PM Soup Supper 6:30PM Lenten Service 7:15PM Choir Practice	27 Office Closed	28 8-1 DFS

 **LORD OF LIFE
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

6865 Poplar Pike
Memphis TN 38119



FEBRUARY

