



LIFELINE APRIL 2026

Pastor's Prattle

When we come to church on Sundays, what do we expect? We come expecting to see many of the same people, follow the same liturgy, sing familiar hymns, hear a well-worn favorite story. Very little changes from week to week. Maybe we'll get lucky and hear a sermon that stands out from the usual.

Easter Sunday is no different, except we will probably see someone we haven't seen since Christmas. There will be flowers everywhere. The paraments will be white. The music will be more celebratory than what we have been singing during Lent. The message will be focused, not on the result of sin, but the result of Jesus paying the price for it. The emphasis will be life!

Who among us, though, will come to church expecting to run into Jesus? The women on Easter morning went to the tomb, expecting Jesus to still be there. Much to their surprise, they didn't find Jesus, but an angel, telling them what had become obvious – Jesus wasn't there. He had come back to life! Then, even more surprising, they ran into him (Matthew 28). And he spoke to them!

Do you expect to encounter Jesus when you come on Sundays? Do you feel his presence? Do you hear him speak to you? Is he real for you? Or is he confined to a story in a book, an image on the wall, a mention in the choir anthem? And do we leave him behind when the service is over?

The whole point of Easter is that Jesus is no longer restrained by anything in the realm of time and space. Not bound by death, not confined to a burial place, not limited to a point in time. Which means he is also not limited to the place where we worship or the hour that we spend there. He has taken up once again the part of his divinity that he laid aside for us and has assumed his place as King of all creation at the right hand of power in the heavenly realm.

So, what does that mean for you? When you come for worship, do you expect to be greeted by Jesus, for him to speak to you? The fact is, when you arrive, he is already here. The risen Christ is here to greet you, to speak to you, to have an encounter with you in the Word and at the Table. He is not confined in any way but fills this space and is ready to fill your heart and mind. And the best part, when we leave, he goes with us, living in us, always present.

The next time you come into the church, be ready to meet Jesus. He is waiting for you. Remember, HE IS RISEN!

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 2:00PM
Monday to Thursday
Office Closed on Friday
Sunday Worship Services
8:30AM Traditional
11:00AM Contemporary

Rev. Jim Shears
Pastor
pastorjim@bellsouth.net

Debi Lawler
Church Secretary
lordoflife@bellsouth.net

Allie Reynolds
Preschool Director
lolpreschool38119@bellsouth.net

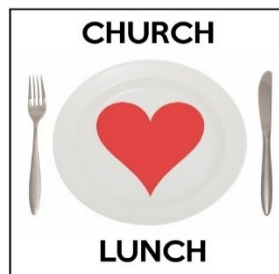
Nancy Bergeron
Choirmaster
Nberg10434@aol.com

Kendrick Little
Church Pianist
ken.little@yahoo.com



Got
Facebook?

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



Sunday, April 19, we will have a catered Lunch after the second service to welcome Pastor Wes, and to wish Pastor Jim a happy retirement! Come and join us for this time of fellowship. So we'll know how much food we'll need, please sign up on the board in the hallway, or contact the office. We hope everyone can come!



MISSION GUATEMALA 2026

We are going to Guatemala this coming June 13-20. 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. We invite you to pray 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.



BELTLINE COMMUNITY PROJECT

Sisters of Service are continuing to collect items for women in the Beltline community. During **April** we will collect skin care items like body wash, shower puffs, wash cloths, shampoo, conditioners, razors, shave gel, and lotion.

Please deposit items in the large purple container near the office. If you prefer to make a monetary gift, please put "Beltline Women" on the memo line of your check. We will then purchase and deliver all items for distribution. Thank you so much for your generosity! The women are so grateful for your gifts!



Come join us at **Mellow Mushroom in Germantown** for trivia at **7:30 pm on the third Monday of each month**. Our next trivia night is Monday, April 20th. Families are welcome! Come eat and leave, or eat and trivia, or just trivia (7:30 pm).

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



Kelvin Hill 6
 Doris Sass 21
 Louise Manasco 23

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

<u>March</u>	
1st	66
8th	49
15th	61
22nd	45
29th	56



GRADUATION TIME!!

Do you have someone graduating this year from high school or college? Please

contact the office and give us their name, so we may honor them in a special way on Sunday, May 10th. We need all information by May 3rd. Thank you! Office (901) 754-0669



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



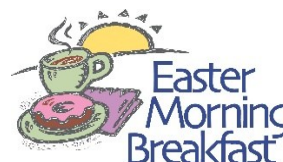
PALM SUNDAY March 29 at 8:30AM & 11:00AM
MAUNDY THURSDAY April 2 at 7PM
GOOD FRIDAY April 3 at 7PM



EASTER SUNDAY
April 5th

Join us as we worship and celebrate!

8:30AM Traditional Worship
 9:15AM Easter Breakfast
 10:00AM Egg Hunt
 11:00AM Contemporary Worship



EASTER BREAKFAST

Easter is just around the corner — the youth will sponsor the Easter breakfast. There will be a free will offering to help fund scholarships for youth activities. Youth are asked to sign up to help with serving and clean up duties on April 5th. Also, the youth families are asked to bring a breakfast casserole (or 2) to serve. Please sign up on the youth board in the hall or let Kathy Marsh know.



EGG HUNT

Please bring bags of individually wrapped candy and eggs for the Easter egg hunt on April 5th. Please place it in the marked bin by the office. The youth will stuff the eggs during the Good Friday lock-in.

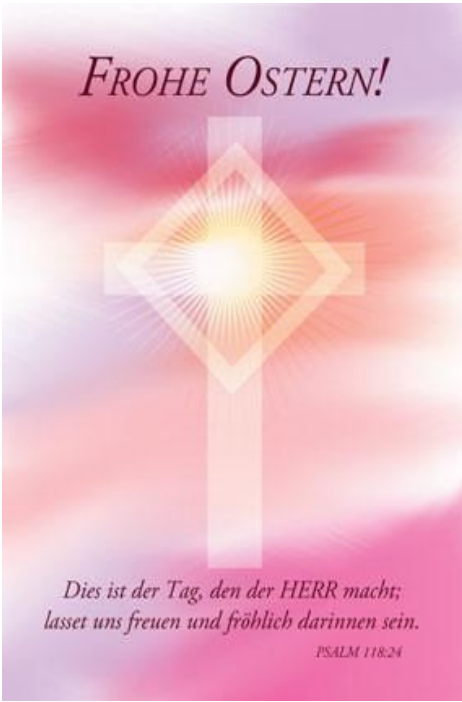


AUDIO-VISUAL
 ---Team---

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.





**German Easter Service
Saturday, April 4th
at 4:00pm**

**JESUS
LIVES!**

Hallelujah!



THOSE SERVING THE 8:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE

April 5 – Easter
Assisting Minister: Brent Berry
Crucifer: Cole Cunningham
Acolyte: Ian Cunningham
Lector: Chrissy Cunningham

April 12
Assisting Minister: Shirley Lyles
Acolyte: none
Crucifer: none
Lector: Sue Hall

April 19
Assisting Minister: Jim Gienapp
Acolyte: Leah Collamore
Crucifer: Chloe Collamore
Lector: Jill Koch

April 26
Assisting Minister: Karen Manasco
Acolyte: none
Crucifer: none
Lector: Sue Hall

If you are unable to serve on your designated day please find someone to take your place. Please call the church office with the change, 901.754.0669



Altar Flowers



The Memorial Candle Is given in April by:

- 5 –
- 12 – Bonnie Stevens for family birthdays
- 19 –
- 26 – The Ethertons



YOUTH – GOOD FRIDAY LOCK IN

The youth will have a lock in Friday, April 3. It will begin with the Good Friday Service at 7pm. They will set up for the Easter Breakfast and have fun. Everyone will need to be picked up by 9 am on Saturday, April 4.

Thank You for 9 Years of Service!

We are saying Thank you, and happy Retirement to Pastor Shears! Not a “good-bye” though, because he and Aloma will still be around. You might see them doing things around the church, or singing in the choir? They are still a part of Lord of Life! Let’s celebrate with a look back at some picture through the years...



Lord of Life Lutheran, NALC Installs Senior Pastor Jim “PJ” Shears

PJ was installed as the Senior Pastor of Lord of Life Lutheran church on Sunday, March 19, 2017. His lovely wife, Aloma, was at his side. The church was full of well-wishers. Lord of Life is very blessed indeed to have such a man of experience to be leading it.

He was born in Madison, WI but moved to Memphis at a young age. He grew up in Memphis, and attended Immanuel Lutheran church, and school. He was confirmed at Immanuel and ordained there in 1972.

PJ has served congregations in Annandale, MN, Knoxville, TN, and New Orleans, LA where he built a very large congregation. After Hurricane Katrina hit, PJ and Aloma came back to Memphis where he retired and began working for Family Christian stores. He also served in the U.S. Army Reserve as a Chaplain.

A Quote that sums up what PJ aspires to as follows:

“Jesus had two priorities for his ministry: immersion in prayer, and teaching 12 men how to be disciples by modeling it. My desire for Lord of Life is for everyone to grow in prayer, and for us to learn personal discipleship. The day is past for traditional outreach programs. We need to go back to how it all started—one on one, face to face.”

Pastor’s Installation





Pastor Jim Shears was ordained in 1972 and served congregations in the LCMS, and ELCA, before being rostered in the North American Lutheran Church.

At various times, Pastor Shears has sold cars, gone to computer school, driven a big rig, worked in the restaurant business from junior assistant in fast food to multi-unit supervision to corporate training, and also has worked at the non-profit Family Christian Stores. He served as a chaplain in the Army Reserve, and National Guard.

Pastor Shears has much experience in serving needy people, having rebuilt a church that was destroyed in Hurricane Katrina and turning it into a center for helping people rebuild their homes and businesses in the New Orleans area. He took his youth on many mission trips in the U.S. and has been to Guatemala a number of times to work among the Mayan people.



Crawfish Boil



Guatemala



Trunk-or-Treat with the Preschool



Confirmations



Youth Mission Trips





Bowling



VBS



BAPTISMS



Preschool



Cydney Beets, Beth Berry,
Brent Berry, Nanci Gienapp,
Sarah Gulla, Frank Howell,
Kelli Howell, Robby Jacqueline,
Mark Kooker, Joe Lowry,
Phyllis Nichols, 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
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
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, is attached to The Joint
Services War College in Norfolk, VA, as an
instructor. He is the 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.**

APRIL 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:00AM Ladies Group	2 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:00pm SERVICE	3 GOOD FRIDAY 7:00pm SERVICE Youth Lock-In	4 No DFS 4:00pm German Easter Service
5 EASTER  8:30AM Traditional 9:15AM Easter Breakfast 10:00AM Egg Hunt 11:00AM Cont	6 Office & Preschool Closed 10:30am Bible Study	7	8 10:00AM Ladies Group	9	10 Office Closed	11 8-1 DFS
12 8:30AM Trad. 9:45AM Christian Ed 11:00AM Cont	13 10:30am Adult Bible Study	14	15 10:00AM Ladies Group	16 6:30PM Choir Practice	17 Office Closed Preschool Parent Teacher Conference	18 8-1 DFS Students' Last Day 1 – 4pm Violin Rehearsal with Sandy
19 8:30AM Trad. 9:45AM Christian Ed 11:00AM Cont 12:15PM Church Luncheon	20 10:30am Adult Bible Study 7:30pm TRIVIA at Mellow Mushroom	21	22 10:00AM Ladies Group	23 6:30PM Choir Practice	24 Office Closed	25
26 8:30AM Trad. 9:45AM Christian Ed 11:00AM Cont	27 10:30am Adult Bible Study	28	29 10:00AM Ladies Group	30 5:30pm Worship & Music 6:30PM Choir Practice	1 Office Closed	2

**LORD OF LIFE
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

6865 Poplar Pike
Memphis TN 38119

