



January
2026

Notes from David

The gospel of Jesus Christ has an ethical significance in our lives because the gospel frees us to serve our neighbor. Our own works are not enough to find justification as seen in Titus 3:4-7. It is through the work of God, as grace and mercy to humanity, with faith in Jesus Christ that we are justified. Our Triune God values human life, all human life and we should join with the Trinity in the importance of the sanctity of human life. This work of God frees us to do good works for our neighbors, which shows them the love of God that is meant to be shared to all people.

We as the body of Christ have a task to see that all are equal in the sight of God. All humanity was wonderfully created by God. We are not to consider anyone greater than another. Even amongst Christian believers we are all washed by the same Holy Spirit in the waters of baptism. This realization brings us to be able to love the neighbor as ourselves as seen in Matthew 22:39. The gospel of Jesus Christ does not just bring us closer to God but brings all of humanity together as well.

While we are called to love all of our neighbors equally and truthfully; one of the ways that we can love our neighbors is by being with, or accompanying them while they are

struggling. When evil is done to our neighbor we can help them get back up on their feet together accompanying them. This is a very reactive form of being a good neighbor. We can also be proactive in reaching out to our neighbors to let people know before they get to a difficulty. But in order to do this from a proper stand point we have to tell them with love in a way that they can hear it.

In the book *Luther and Liberation* by Walter Altman the author states that “the gospel is revolutionary and it is part of the preacher's task to denounce what is evil” (pg 79).¹ This can be a scary and difficult proposition for anyone. We are tasked nonetheless to let people know of the grace and goodness of the Lord. When we preach or teach about the gospel it does go hand in hand with the Law. The law can show us what evil is out there and how to avoid it.

In our conversations with our neighbors we can focus on the gospel because that is where the true power is in our relationships. The Gospel of Jesus Christ unites humanity to work against the suffering in this world as we grow in community together.

Lent begins next month!

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Dates to Note

8th: School Lunches
12th: 7pm Council Mtg
19th: OFFICE CLOSED

“LifeLines”

Lost Babylonian Hymn Found

نصوص أدبية من
مكتبة سبار، الجزء
الخامس: ترنيمة في
مديح مدينة
بابل والبابليين

Legend has it that Noah tucked away Babylonian writings on clay tablets before the great flood 4,000 years ago. Researchers just discovered a tablet writing, a hymn written in honor of Babylon that was lost a millennium ago.

A team of researchers from the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich and the University of Baghdad scoured hundreds of fragments of cuneiform tablets to rediscover the hymn to Babylon. This hymn was in praise of Marduk, Babylon and the Babylonians. It contains descriptions of the healing powers of Marduk, the splendor of Babylon, the spring borne by the Euphrates to the city's fields and the generosity of the Babylonians themselves.

The text survives in 20 manuscripts, from the 7th to the 2nd/1st centuries BCE, and it can be shown that it was a fixture in the school curriculum of the time. The author immortalized his devotion to his city, gods, and people in words that resonated until the final decades of cuneiform culture.

-Tim Newcomb, Popularmechanics.com 7-7-25

“The Resurrection of the Christ”

Shooting recently started on “The Resurrection of the Christ,” Mel Gibson’s follow up to 2004’s “The Passion of the Christ, having been entirely recast. “Passion” became one of the largest-grossing independent films of all time with a worldwide box office of \$610 million. “The Resurrection of the Christ” will be split into two films. “Part One” is slated for Good Friday on March 26, 2027, while “Part Two” is set for 40 days later on Ascension Day, May 6.

Finnish actor Jaakko Ohtonen (“The Last Kingdom”) has been cast in the role of Jesus, replacing original star Jim Caviezel. Mary Magdalene is being played by Cuban actress Mariela Garriga. Polish actor Kasia Smutniak (“Domina”) replaces Maia Morgenstern as Mary; Peter is being played by Italy’s Pier Luigi Pasino, and Pontius Pilate will be played by Italy’s Riccardo Scamarcio, who recently led the Johnny Depp-directed biopic “Modì.” Rupert Everett will appear in an unspecified small but important role.

Because of the time frame in which “The Resurrection of the Christ” takes place — three days after Christ’s crucifixion on Good Friday — “it made sense to recast the whole film,” a source close to the

production told *Variety*. “They would have had to do all this CGI de-aging that would have been very costly.”

The original film followed the final 12 hours before the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. As the title suggests, the plot of “Resurrection” is expected to focus on Jesus Christ’s resurrection. Other story details are being kept under wraps.

Besides Cinecittà, “Resurrection” will shoot in ancient southern Italian towns including Matera, Ginosa, Gravina Laterza, and Altamura.





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 <u>10:30 am</u> <u>Sunday</u> <u>Worship</u> (Carol Service).	29 <u>10 am</u> <u>Bible Study</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u>	30	31 <u>10 am</u> <u>TOPS Meeting</u> <u>12 pm</u> <u>Food Boxes</u>	January 1 <u>OFFICE</u> <u>CLOSED</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u>	2	3
4 <u>10:30 am</u> <u>Sunday</u> <u>Worship</u>	5 <u>10 am</u> <u>Bible Study</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u>	6 <u>5:30 pm</u> <u>Girl Scouts</u>	7 <u>10 am</u> <u>TOPS Meeting</u> <u>12 pm</u> <u>Food Boxes</u> <u>5:15 pm</u> <u>TOPS Meeting</u>	8 <u>9 am - 12 pm</u> <u>17-Mile</u> <u>Homemakers</u> <u>12 pm</u> <u>School</u> <u>Lunches Prep</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u>	9	10
11 <u>10:30 am</u> <u>Sunday</u> <u>Worship</u>	12 <u>10 am</u> <u>Bible Study</u> <u>7 pm</u> <u>Council</u> <u>Meeting</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u>	13 <u>5:30 pm</u> <u>Girl Scouts</u>	14 <u>10 am</u> <u>TOPS Meeting</u> <u>12 pm</u> <u>Food Boxes</u> <u>5:15 pm</u> <u>TOPS Meeting</u>	15 <u>9 am - 12 pm</u> <u>17-Mile</u> <u>Homemakers</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u>	16	17
18 <u>10:30 am</u> <u>Sunday</u> <u>Worship</u>	19 <u>OFFICE</u> <u>CLOSED</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u>	20 <u>5:30 pm</u> <u>Girl Scouts</u>	21 <u>10 am</u> <u>TOPS Meeting</u> <u>12 pm</u> <u>Food Boxes</u> <u>5:15 pm</u> <u>TOPS Meeting</u>	22 <u>9 am - 12 pm</u> <u>17-Mile</u> <u>Homemakers</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u>	23	24
25 <u>10:30 am</u> <u>Sunday</u> <u>Worship</u>	26 <u>10 am</u> <u>Bible Study</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u>	27 <u>5:30 pm</u> <u>Girl Scouts</u>	28 <u>10 am</u> <u>TOPS Meeting</u> <u>12 pm</u> <u>Food Boxes</u> <u>5:15 pm</u> <u>TOPS Meeting</u>	29 <u>9 am - 12 pm</u> <u>17-Mile</u> <u>Homemakers</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u>	30	31



Lord of Life Lutheran Church

North Pole, Alaska

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

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Office Hours
Weekday mornings

Mission Statement
Sharing the Light &
Warmth of God's Love

2026 CHURCH COUNCIL

President:	Vacant
Vice President:	Tina Holland
Secretary:	Ranae Browning
Treasurer:	Mary Mills
At Large Members:	Evan Keil John Dart Margi Ungrodt Vacant
Intern Pastor:	David Ingram
Financial Secretary:	Carol Dahl

**Use Your
Gifts on
Church
Council**

Next Church Council Meeting: **Jan. 12** @ 7pm

Newsletter deadline: 20th of each month.
Get the latest on our website:
www.lordoflifeak.com/the-latest

or
Follow our Facebook page, worship live Sundays at 10:30am:
www.facebook.com/lordoflifeak

Special Prayers and Concerns

Birthdays

1/7 Katy Castor
1/20 Cohen Neske
1/23 Riley Maranville
1/24 Ty Peterson



cataract surgery
~ Tobin family, strength to
deal with many issues
~ Snowbirds who recently left
us for warmer climates
~ Those with ongoing health
issues

Anniversaries

None

*Is your important date missing?
please let us know so we can
celebrate with you!*

Prayers for:

~ Cheryl P, recovering from
knee surgery
~ Juniper M (Musgraves
family), recovering from



Alaska Synod Prayer Partner for January:

**Christ Our Savior Lutheran
Church, Anchorage, Alaska**

In these long nights and
shortened days, when the
cold settles deep and the
light feels far away, we trust
your promise that darkness
does not overcome the
light.

Sustain us through this
season, O Lord. Warm our
hearts with your Word.

