

August
2025

Lord of Life Lutheran

Lifelines



Notes from David

“Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.” 1 Samuel 3:10

In our noisy, fast-paced world, listening has become something of a lost art. We are surrounded by voices—on the news, on social media, in our workplaces, even in our own homes. Amid all this clamor, the most important voice is often the hardest to hear: the voice of God.

Throughout Scripture, we are invited to be listeners. When young Samuel heard God calling in the night, he responded, “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.” 1 Samuel 3:10. That response models what it means to be a follower of Christ—not one who merely talks about faith, but listens and lives the life God wants for us. So how do we listen to God?

Through His Word. God speaks to us through Scripture. When we read God’s Word, we are not just reading stories—we are encountering the living God who speaks grace, truth, and life into our hearts. In John 10:27, Jesus says, “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.” We come to know Jesus’ voice by immersing ourselves in His Word, regularly and prayerfully. God is revealing who God is in the holy scriptures, the whole of scripture, God is a deeply complex God.

Through Prayer. Listening to God in prayer is not only about presenting our prayers but also quieting our hearts to hear what God is saying. We are there to sit at the feet of Jesus and listen to his loving voice. Luther emphasized the importance of

meditative prayer—reading a passage of Scripture and then sitting with it, letting God shape our thoughts. As we pray, we ask not just for what we want, but for the ears to hear what God wants for us.

Through the Community of Faith God also speaks through the body of Christ. In worship, sermons, sacraments, and even casual conversations with fellow believers, we can hear God’s voice of encouragement, correction, and calling. The body of Christ all of us in this congregation and all the fellow believers around the world and throughout time.

Through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit works God’s will in our lives and to guide us into deeper faithfulness. The Spirit helps us discern God’s voice amid the noise by shaping our consciences, granting us peace or rest, and prompting us to act in love and service. As we grow in faith, we become more attuned to how God may be leading us.

Listening Leads to Living. Listening to God is never a passive act. True listening leads to action. When we hear God’s Word, we are called to trust in His promises and to walk in His ways. Whether that means forgiving someone, serving a neighbor, or standing up for truth, listening always leads to faithful living.

May we, like Samuel, be ready to say each day: “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.”

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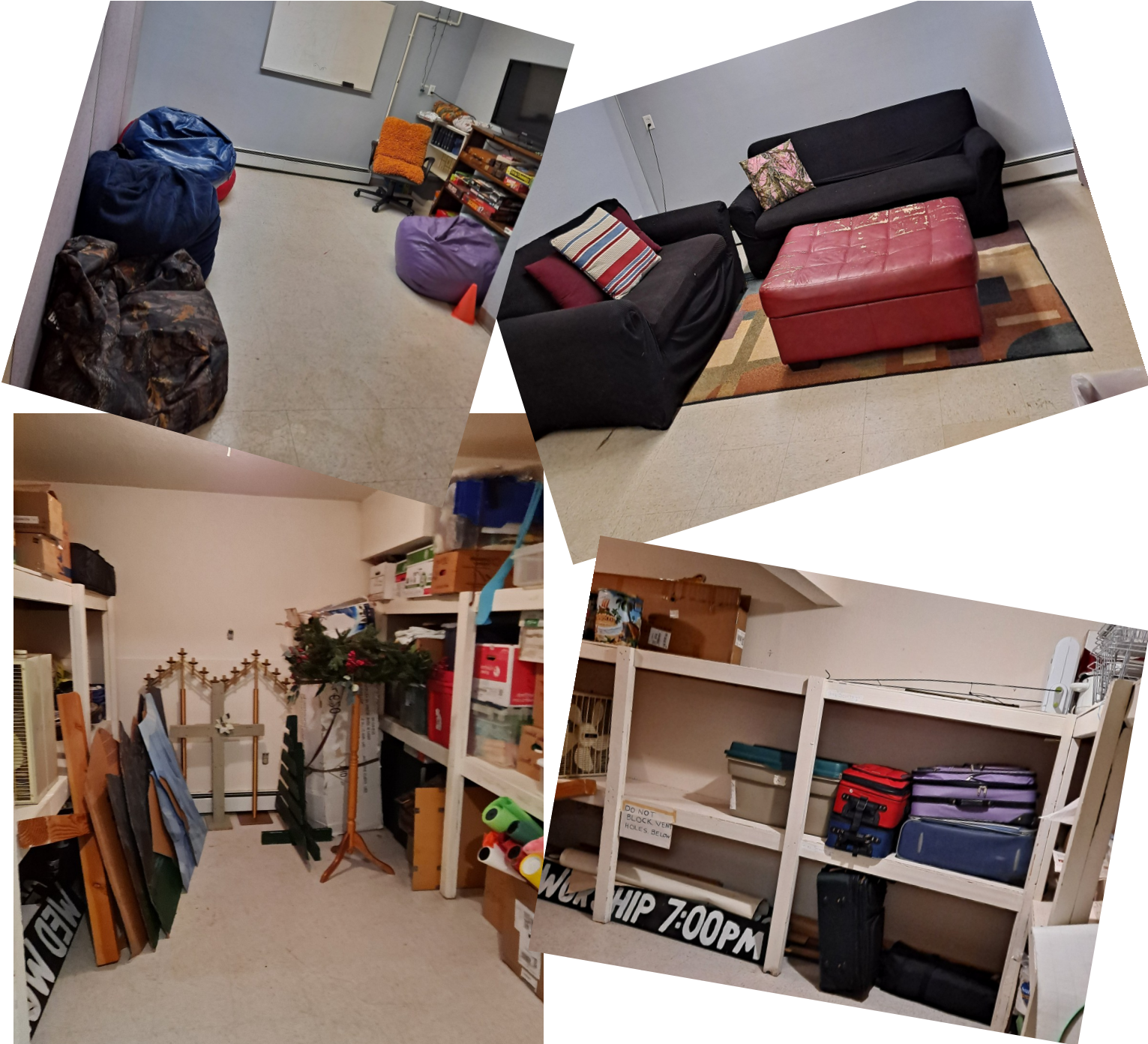
Dates to Note

Mondays: 10am Bible Study
11th: 7pm Council Mtg
19th: Back to School!

“LifeLines”

Applause, Applause

What can be accomplished in a day! The youth area and storage room had spun out of control. Several people swept through (see what we did there?) and cleaned it up in a single afternoon. They organized, made tough decisions about what to throw away, and sent whole **truckloads** to the landfill. It's clean, uncluttered, and better in every way. Your church thanks you! Kudos to **Casey Burnett, Chris Dart, Eileen Dubowski, Donna Heidemann, Dixie & Evan Keil, Kaylee Lindhag, Lynne Skjefte, and Nancy Uptgraft** for their hard work on this project. Apologies if anyone wasn't mentioned here but please know that your efforts were appreciated :)



The Great Dechurching—and a Silver Lining

40 million Americans stopped attending church in the past 25 years. Will the institutions that have helped preserve us in our faith still exist for our children, let alone our grandkids? The defining problem driving out most people is ... just how American life works in the 21st century. Contemporary America is designed to maximize individual accomplishment and leaves little time or energy for forms of community that don't contribute to one's own professional life. Religious community is a math problem that doesn't add up.

For most Americans who were once a part of churches but have left, the process of leaving was gradual, and in many cases they didn't realize it was even happening until it already had. It's less like jumping off a cliff and more like driving down a slope, eventually realizing that you can no longer see the place you started from.

Consider a typical dechurcher: a 30-something woman who grew up in a suburban megachurch, was heavily invested in a campus ministry in college, then after graduating moved into a full-time job. In her 20s, she meets a guy who is less religiously engaged, they get married, and, early in their marriage, they stop going to church. When Sunday morning comes around, it is simply easier to stay home and catch whatever sleep they can as the baby (finally) falls asleep. Or a person might be mid-career in a high-stress job. Add 15 hours of commute time, and two-thirds of their waking hours are already gone. When a friend invites them to Sunday brunch, they may want to go to church, but they also want to see the friend they haven't seen for months. The friend wins out. After a few weeks of either scenario, the thought of church on Sunday carries a certain mental burden—you might want to go, but you also dread the questions about where you have been. Soon it feels like it'd be harder to attend than to skip.

A church reminds people that their identity is not in their job or how much money they make

church asks people to prioritize one another over careers, to prioritize prayer and time reading scripture over accomplishments. The great dechurching could be the beginning of a new moment for churches. They could model better, truer sorts of communities, in which the hungry are fed and the weak are lifted up. Such communities might look more like the communities Jesus expected his followers to create.

—Jake Meador, *The Atlantic*

What can churches do in such a context? **A healthy church can be a safety net** by offering members real assistance in times of need: meals after a baby is born, money for rent after a layoff. A church reminds people that they are children of God, loved and protected and infinitely valuable.

What if the problem isn't that churches are asking too much, but that they aren't asking nearly enough? **A vibrant**



Contribution Statements

Thank you to all of you who contribute to Lord of Life Lutheran ministry and mission.

Your statements for the first half of 2025 have been emailed or are in your church mailbox.

If you would prefer emailed statements in the future please provide a current email to Jo in the office.

If you did not receive an email or a copy in your box be sure to update your email address with the office.

Please contact me if you have questions or anything needs correction.

Carol Dahl, Financial Secretary
(907) 322-2394/cdahl.np@gmail.com



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 <u>10:30 am</u> <u>Sunday</u> <u>Worship</u>	28 <u>10 am</u> <u>Bible Study</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u>	29	30 <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>	31 <u>9 am - 12 pm</u> <u>17-Mile</u> <u>Homemakers</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u>	August 1	2
3 <u>10:30 am</u> <u>Sunday</u> <u>Worship</u>	4 <u>10 am</u> <u>Bible Study</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u>	5	6 <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>	7 <u>9 am - 12 pm</u> <u>17-Mile</u> <u>Homemakers</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u>	8	9
10 <u>10:30 am</u> <u>Sunday</u> <u>Worship</u>	11 <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>	12	13 <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>	14 <u>9 am - 12 pm</u> <u>17-Mile</u> <u>Homemakers</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u>	15	16
17 <u>10:30 am</u> <u>Sunday</u> <u>Worship</u>	18 <u>10 am</u> <u>Bible Study</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u>	19 <u>First Day of</u> <u>School</u>	20 <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>	21 <u>9 am - 12 pm</u> <u>17-Mile</u> <u>Homemakers</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u>	22	23
24 <u>10:30 am</u> <u>Sunday</u> <u>Worship</u> <u>11 am</u> <u>Sunday School</u>	25 <u>10 am</u> <u>Bible Study</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u>	26 <u>5:30 pm</u> <u>Girl Scouts</u>	27 <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>	28 <u>9 am - 12 pm</u> <u>17-Mile</u> <u>Homemakers</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u>	29	30
31 <u>10:30 am</u> <u>Sunday</u> <u>Worship</u> <u>11 am</u> <u>Sunday School</u>	1 <u>OFFICE</u> <u>CLOSED</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u>	2 <u>5:30 pm</u> <u>Girl Scouts</u>	3 <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>	4 <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u>	5	6



Lord of Life Lutheran Church

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E-mail

Jo: office@lordoflifeak.com

Office Hours
Weekday mornings

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

2025 CHURCH COUNCIL

President:	Becky McElveen
Vice President:	Brent Strickland
Secretary:	Ranae Browning
Treasurer:	Mary Mills
At Large Members:	Evan Keil John Dart Eric Peterson Resigned Vacant
Intern Pastor:	David Ingram
Financial Secretary:	Carol Dahl

**Serve on
Council
and be
heard :)**

Next Church Council Meeting: **August 11 @ 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

8/3 Erin Powers
8/8 Heather Uptgragt
8/10 Wayne Lindquist
8/11 Carol Dahl
8/18 McCoy Lindquist
8/18 Becky Peterson
8/23 Bob Thoma



Anniversaries

8/1 Penny & John Warnke
8/3 Dianna & Jeromey Lindhag
8/6 Cheryl & Rob Park
8/14 Dixie & Evan Keil
8/16 Christine &
Wayne Lindquist



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

Prayers for:

~ Friends and family of Larry
(Eileen D's friend), failing
health
~ Scotts' son, shot with nail
gun
~ All those traveling this
summer
~ Those with ongoing health
issues

Contact

office@lordoflifeak.com to
sign up for prayer chain emails



Alaska Synod Prayer Partner for August:

First Lutheran Church,
Ketchikan, Alaska

Lord, Teach me to listen
with faith, humility, and
readiness to obey.

Lord, Open my ears to Your
Word and my heart to Your
Spirit.

Lord, Shape my life
according to Your will. Amen

