

April
2019



Lord of Life Lutheran

Lifelines

A Note from Pastor Amanda

There's a famous 3-minute sermon by Pastor S.M. Lockridge about the failings and fear and despair and death of Good Friday with the hopeful refrain: "It's Friday... but Sunday's comin'." If you haven't heard it – go find it, I'll wait.

I think the power of his message is that it acknowledges the brokenness of failing and fear and despair and death; but doesn't let the story end there. The story never ends there. God's salvation is always comin'.

How well do you pay attention to the work God is doing in your own life?
Where do you need to hear:
"Sunday's comin'?"

It takes practice – spiritual practice – to listen to God. It takes time and effort to stop all the other things and pay attention to God's way of doing things. Like I've been saying at our Wednesday Lenten conversations, living in faith takes intentionality. With the Spirit's power, we've got to make choices to go deeper.

That's my sabbatical theme: **Go Deeper.** Here's how it will work:

For my Educational component, I hope to go deeper into preaching, exploring other ideas for study and delivery and participation. I'll be attending the Festival of Homiletics in St. Paul May 13-19. I'll be reading "Mighty Stories, Dangerous Rituals" by Anderson and Foley to fuel my preaching imagination.

For my Spiritual Renewal component, I will go deeper into ancient spiritual practices. I've applied to be part of a group

of 19 clergy for an 11-day Spiritual Renewal Retreat at Holy Wisdom Monastery in June. That time will revolve around praying the hours, holy silence, community discernment, service and work, and contemplative prayer. I'll be reading "The 7 Habits of Jesus" by Schmalzle to pattern my life after Christ's habits.

For my Restoration component (throughout the 10 weeks), I'm diving into things that feed my soul. I'll be camping with my family, taking voice and/or piano lessons, reading books for fun, and decluttering my house. I'll also be writing more with plans to start a blog. I'll also be reading "Where God meets Man" by Forde (FUR-dee), going deeper into Lutheran tradition that breathes God into our Monday through Saturday lives.

It's this final book I'd like you to read with me. It's not an afternoon kind of read – it will challenge you to go deeper into what you believe about God's relationship with us, what the cross teaches us, how baptism and communion feed us, and what our role is as people of faith. When I come back, we'll talk about it, study it together, Go Deeper as a congregation!

This is "Sunday" stuff for me – hope and life and transformation. I pray, with my whole spirit, that Sunday is comin' for you too.

Happy Easter,
dear beloved
people of God.

~Pastor Amanda



Easter Worship! April 21 at 8am & 10:30am!

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April dates to note:

- *April 8: Council Meeting 7 pm
- *April 12: School Lunches 10am
- *April 14: 7th-12th Grade Youth 6pm

April 21: Easter Sunday 8:00am & 10:30am Worship!

Men's Breakfast from 9 - 10:15!

- * April 26-28 AK Synod Assembly
- *May 5: "Welcome To... Mission!"

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Keep 'em coming!

Our Old Testament stories of God's faithfulness have fueled our Sunday school—keep on coming to finish our stories of Moses and God's care!

We will keep meeting until May 12, taking a break for Easter Sunday on April 21.

Youth Group News 7 - 12 Graders

Our only youth group this month:

April 14th at 6pm

Youth will be leading worship on Sunday, April 28. We will be doing a skit on Doubting Thomas.

Just a reminder—Confirmation Sunday for our 4 students will be May 12, Mother's Day!

School Lunches

*Packing of school lunches happens at
10:00 am on April 12th*

Once a month, we meet to prepare 45 lunches and it takes a village of hands, hearts, and donations of food items.

Have a little free time? Just show up at the church ready to assemble PB&J sandwiches!



NPBS Grad Bash TY

From a letter posted on our bulletin board—

Thank you for your generous donation of \$50 and swag bag gifts. With your donation, we are excited that [we] will be able to provide our seniors with gifts that they will cherish and keep for years. You have made a real difference in our celebration of the Class of 2019.

Jenny Long & Stephanie Pearson, Co-Chairs
2019 Grad Bash Committee

Serving Our Community

Every Wednesday, Lord of Life serves as a distribution point for the Fairbanks Community Food Bank. Volunteers and office staff process calls and check IDs, cart tables outside and back in again, sort dozens of food boxes, and help people carry it all to their cars. Do we get anything else done on these days? Sometimes, not a lot! But it's an honor to support the Food Bank's efforts. We feel blessed to meet wonderful folks who are truly thankful. "First-timers" are speechless to see how much food they receive.

The Food Bank doesn't have what anyone would consider a great business plan. They get free food and then give it away. Plus, they have to pay for a warehouse and utilities, staff, and delivery vehicles. Yet they've been making it work for 37 years now, thanks to the generosity of the community we live in. Their vision:

- To have no one in the Tanana Valley die of starvation
- To have no Tanana Valley child go hungry
- To provide emergency food assistance to all who meet federal poverty guidelines

Coming up soon: A fundraiser held at the Food Bank where the public can buy pottery handcrafted by local artisans.

EMPTY BOWLS
April 6th, 2019
Fairbanks Community Food Bank
11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Council Highlights

Bible study: God's Word is good for keeping you connected to God. Read Philippians over the next month.

Upcoming events: Clean up Day, April 28th. "Welcome to Mission", Sunday, May 5th. 5K Walk for Charity, May 10th. Confirmation Sunday, May 12th, (Mother's Day). Pastor Amanda's sabbatical leave begins Monday, May 13th.



- ◆ President's report: Pastor Dan Bollerud will be invited to write the May newsletter article and be introduced his first Sunday, May 19.
- ◆ Treasurer's report: Undesignated checking: \$ 4,037.22, Designated Checking: \$ 13,505.71. Debit Card checking: \$ 2,642.91, Savings: \$ 6,586.74. We are not meeting budget and are dipping into savings.
- ◆ Pastor's report: The church website has been redesigned! 26 people attended the youth retreat to Valdez, 19 of them from Fairbanks/North Pole. A meeting will be held with local pastors to discuss holding Good Friday worship at Lord of Life. Sabbatical plan was presented, will be in the April newsletter for all to see.
- ◆ Facilities: Jered Dulany signed up Lord of Life for a heating maintenance agreement, which will save potential after hours call out fees.
- ◆ Mission & Social Ministry report: Evie Freeman will coordinate volunteers to assist with the clothing drive at North Pole Baptist church.
- ◆ Worship & Music report: Curt Renner will investigate the feasibility of installing a system linking Bluetooth to hearing aids that filters out extraneous sound. Due to recent violence in worship spaces, safety and evacuation procedures will be looked into and become part of usher training.

New business: Scheduled a Church Garage Sale fundraiser for May 31—June 1 to help fund the septic repairs. A youth group mission trip from Two Harbors, MN will stay overnight July 27.

Alaska Synod Assembly Meeting, April 26-28, 2019

Synod Assembly is a time for us to gather, celebrate, share, discuss, and pray as we continue to journey together as the Body of Christ in the Alaska Synod. This year the Assembly meets Friday, April 26 through Sunday, April 28, and will be hosted at Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.

For many across the state, this is the largest worship gathering we attend all year.

This year we're digging into communication and community. Lori Draper of the Peace Alliance will teach non-violent communication strategies. We will address small conflicts like how to talk to our 90-year-old neighbor who still climbs on his roof, and big conflicts like the polarization of our nation. Our theme hymn: Neither Death nor Life, from Evangelical Lutheran Worship #622

Prairie Rose Seminole, Director of ELCA American Indian/Alaska Native ministries will represent our ELCA Churchwide body.

The weekend will be filled with these discussions and greetings, workshops about communicating, approving a synod budget based on congregation support, and addressing any resolutions brought forward. We close with worship at Lutheran Church of Hope or with other Anchorage-area churches.

Please keep Pastor Amanda, Ann Dulany, and our soon-to-be-determined male delegate in your prayers!

“Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise” –Martin Luther



Certain hymns hold deep meaning, regardless of theological accuracy or how musically well-written they are. It falls to pastors and church musicians to decide what will be sung in worship. Ideally, familiar hymns and songs will be balanced with new music, while remaining faithful to the lectionary. The older and well-known with newer; simple with complex; a variety of musical genres which are both comfortable and *challenging*.

Questions to ask when selecting hymns:

- What is the theme of the day? A sermon theme helps to identify an appropriate hymn response. Perhaps there is a church anniversary or a crisis in the community or world; events can dictate changes in the musical menu
 - What liturgical actions are taking place? Worship planners can avoid picking a hymn that they end up wishing they could have used later when it was more “on point.”
- What is the function of each hymn in worship? *What* is sung matters, but *when* it is sung does too.

What we sing changes us, through both text and the music—especially when they are married well. What is offered as assembly song must reflect God and His work through Jesus Christ. What we choose matters. **If this makes sense to you, consider choosing hymns and songs during pastor Amanda’s sabbatical. Talk to her for more information and a little training!**

Kuwa Update *A condensed version*

Jenny Cosgrove and Stan Olsen just returned from Liberia, where programs are doing well and making a positive impact. This year they conducted a joint Bible/Koran School in Lowoma with stories common to the Old Testament and the Koran. 150+ children attended and had a great time. Rev. Paye told a very animated story of David and Goliath and the local Muslim leader told about Moses and Pharaoh.

Over 100 reusable sanitary napkin kits were distributed to girls in three villages in the Days to Girls program. The girls asked good questions and were excited to get the kits. If they take care of them and wash them properly the kits should last each girl 3-4 years. We are the first NGO to bring this program to Liberia and it has proved very popular. We also presented the program to Phebe and Curran Nursing Schools; they hope to include this program into their nursing curriculum and have students take it into the villages.

3 hand dug wells are being installed in the villages of Balama, Konjade and Teglei and wells are being repaired in three more villages. A contractor was hired to “hand drill” a well in Fassama; he drilled two 80’ holes for consistent water flow. These deep wells shouldn’t run dry in the dry season.

The “Big Belly” program teaches pregnant women about changes in their body, fetal development, proper nutrition and how to care for themselves and the baby, and encourages fathers’ involvement.

Future projects include renovating aging schools and churches. It is hoped to have congregations “adopt” a facility to cover repairs and ongoing costs.





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	April 1	2	3	4	5	6
<u>9:30 am</u> Education Hour	<u>10 am</u> Bible Study	<u>5:30 pm - 8 pm</u> Girl Scouts	<u>12 pm</u> Food Boxes	<u>8 pm</u> AA		<u>9 am - 12 pm</u> Banner Bunch
<u>10:30 am</u> Worship	<u>8 pm</u> AA		<u>6:15 pm</u> Soup Supper			
<u>11:30 am</u> Fellowship			<u>7 pm</u> Lenten Worship			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<u>9:30 am</u> Education Hour	<u>10 am</u> Bible Study	<u>5:30 pm - 8 pm</u> Girl Scouts	<u>12 pm</u> Food Boxes	<u>2:45 pm - 3:45 pm</u> Band Practice	<u>10 am</u> School Lunches	<u>9 am - 12 pm</u> Banner Bunch
<u>10:30 am</u> Worship	<u>7 pm</u> Council Meeting		<u>6:15 pm</u> Soup Supper	<u>8 pm</u> AA		
<u>11:30 am</u> Fellowship	<u>8 pm</u> AA		<u>7 pm</u> Lenten Worship			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<u>9:30 am</u> Education Hour	<u>10 am</u> Bible Study	<u>5:30 pm - 8 pm</u> Girl Scouts	<u>12 pm</u> Food Boxes	<u>7 pm - 8 pm</u> Maundy Thursday Worship	<u>7 pm - 8 pm</u> Good Friday Worship	<u>9 am - 12 pm</u> Banner Bunch
<u>10:30 am</u> Worship	<u>8 pm</u> AA			<u>8 pm</u> AA		
<u>11:30 am</u> Fellowship						
<u>6 pm - 7:30 pm</u> 7-12 Youth Group						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<u>8 am - 9 am</u> Easter Worship	<u>10 am</u> Bible Study	<u>5:30 pm - 8 pm</u> Girl Scouts	<u>12 pm</u> Food Boxes	<u>2:45 pm - 3:45 pm</u> Band Practice	<u>Synod Assembly</u>	<u>Synod Assembly</u>
<u>9 am - 10:30 am</u> Easter Brunch	<u>8 pm</u> AA			<u>8 pm</u> AA		<u>9 am - 12 pm</u> Banner Bunch
<u>10:30 am - 11:30 am</u> Easter Worship						
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
<u>Synod Assembly</u>	<u>10 am</u> Bible Study	<u>5:30 pm - 8 pm</u> Girl Scouts	<u>12 pm</u> Food Boxes	<u>8 pm</u> AA		
<u>9:30 am</u> Education Hour	<u>8 pm</u> AA					
<u>10:30 am</u> Worship						
<u>11:30 am</u> Fellowship						
<u>12 pm</u> Clean Up Day						



2019 CHURCH COUNCIL

President:	Liz Sandbo	687-1918
Vice President:	Sean Garrison	888-2052
Secretary:	Cheryl Park	488-4167
Treasurer:	Sam Aleshire	488-4692
Education:	Paula Fritsche	488-3017
Mission & Social Ministry:	Evie Freeman	385-9588
Worship & Music:	Curt Renner	488-4405
Youth:	Jacoppi Pahkamaa	388-2620
Stewardship:	open	
Evangelism:	Nancy Uptgraft	378-4633
Facilities:	Tim Schackman	210-488-5961
Financial Secretary:	Amie Maranville	488-0552
Pastor:	Amanda Kempthorne	322-2065 (cell)

Lord of Life Lutheran

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 North Pole Alaska, 99705
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Phone: 907-488-6720
 Pastor's cell: 322-2065

E-mail:

Pastor Amanda: pastor@lordoflifeak.com
 Jo: office@lordoflifeak.com

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 9am - 1pm

Mission Statement

"God's word moves us to make connections by welcoming all, strengthening and serving the healthy and hurting."

Next Church Council Meeting — April 8 @ 7:00 pm

Newsletter deadline: 20th of each month.

 Website updates:
www.lordoflifeak.com
 or
 Follow our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/lordoflifeak
 (even if you don't have a Facebook page!)

Special Prayers and Concerns

Birthdays

- 4/7 Jacoppi Pahkamaa
- 4/13 Zach Fennell
- 4/22 Sam Aleshire
- 4/23 Caden Lindhag
- 4/26 Kaylee Aleshire
- 4/30 Darlene Matz



Anniversaries

- 4/1 Dan & Missy Rees
- 4/3 Sean & Lisa Garrison
- 4/8 Fred & Marge Austin
- 4/11 Jim & Karen Kuhnert

If your birthday or anniversary is missing from the newsletter or bulletin, please call or e-mail the office with your information.

Prayers for:

- * Jacob S. (Tim and Jo Schackman's grandson) - healing after dog attack
- * Thoma family—grieving Barb's mother, Vera & Bob's mother, Mary Kay, and cancer battle of sister in law Dory
- * Steve H.—continued healing with cancer treatment
- * Scheduled for surgery: Paula F, Evie F
- * Ongoing health concerns: Meg O, Paula F, Evie F

Send an email to office@lordoflifeak.com to sign up for our prayer chain emails!

April Prayer Partner:

**Shishmaref Lutheran Church
 Shishmaref, AK**

Please pray for:

- Easter celebrations that can involve the whole village and communicate God's love
- Changing season and availability of food
- Plans for moving the community and the division and tensions in that choice
- Wholeness in Christ
- Peace and strength for all those with silent struggles.

