

April  
2021



Lord of Life Lutheran

Lifelines

## A Note from Pastor Amanda

Too often we talk about God as having done something. Like: 2,000 years ago, Jesus walked the earth and healed people and taught people and died and rose again. It is all true – Jesus did those things. But that story stays in the past.

How is the Easter story playing out in your life right now? How do you see God bringing life where you never thought it could show up?

Maybe it's in the simple and dependable things, like melting snow and sprouting seedlings – even after 7 months of harsh winter, life still blooms. Maybe God's work is more obscure and surprising to you, like making a hard but healthy decision and standing by it even if it hurts. Maybe you catch glimpses of God's work in you instead of robust changes, like a moment when you took a deep breath instead of flying off the handle.

How is God bringing that abundant life into your days? Right now, what is God doing in you?

It can be a hard question to answer. God's work through the Spirit is rarely straightforward but works in puzzling ways, as Jesus told Nicodemus:

"Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from

above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." (John 3:7-8)

Over the next 7 weeks of Easter (that's right, the church really likes to extend the party!) we will hear stories as people encounter new life and new hope in the risen Christ, as their eyes are open to new possibilities and their understanding of God-with-them expands.

May the same happen for you, dear church. As signs of life appear all around us, may you know the One within you, bringing you life and hope for the future.

How have you seen God at work?

Watching for grace,  
~Pastor Amanda



### Easter Sunday Worship, April 4 at 10:30am!

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#### Dates to note:

- 1st: 7pm Maundy Thursday Worship
- 2nd: 7pm Good Friday Worship
- 4th: 10:30am Easter Sunday Worship
- 8th: 2pm School Lunches
- 11th & 25th: 4:30 Confirmation and 6pm Youth Group
- 12th: 7pm Council Meeting
- 23rd—24th: Synod Assembly (online)

## Worship leading to a meaningful Easter

**Holy Week begins March 28!** We are preparing for in-person worship through holy week:  
Palm and Passion Sunday Worship, Sunday, March 28

We read both Christ's entry into Jerusalem amid the cries of "Hosanna!" meaning: save us and Christ's Passion (his suffering and death) from the Gospel of Mark. That warm and joyful and expectant greeting is contrasted with the cries of "Crucify!" as all who followed fall away.

Maundy Thursday Worship, April 1 at 7pm

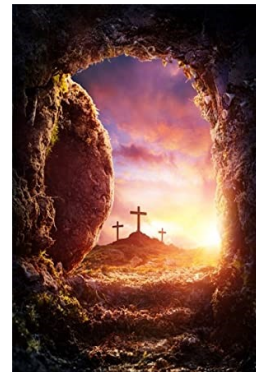
This reflective evening is centered around Christ's last supper, Holy Communion, and his last instructions to his disciples to love one another—a love that is sharply contrasted by the many betrayals that followed.

Good Friday Worship, April 2 at 7pm

We again read the Passion story, but from the Gospel of John—focusing on the victory of the cross as Jesus to accept ours failings and brings salvation.

Easter Worship, Sunday, April 4 at 10:30am

Our celebration of Christ's victory over death—that nothing will ever be able to separate us from the love of God: not death, not sin, not hopelessness, not a virus, not ANYTHING!



## Council Highlights

**Bible Study:** Pastor Amanda read an article: "Will the Congregation Come Back? Should Not Be Our Biggest Concern" 6 better questions: 2 for reflection: Have we represented Jesus well during lockdown? Are we representing Jesus well as we come out of lockdown? 4 for discussion: what have we learned, how can we better serve those at home, how well we serve our online users, and what can we do to help those who are hurting?

**Treasurer's report:** Undesignated checking: \$16,856.16; Designated Checking: \$8,844.83; Debit Card checking: \$1,384.88; Savings: \$12,028.41. Yearly subscriptions are due for OneLicense, ICON congregation info management and Quickbooks. \$500 each was sent last month to four local ministries.

**Pastor's report:** February in-person attendance averaged 25, online 38, total 61. Wednesdays averages about 15 total. Preparing for Holy Week and Easter. April 20-22 is Pastor's Collegium, April 23-24 is Synod Assembly, both online this year. Non-voting guests can attend assembly via Facebook!

### 2021 Goal Check:

- ◆ Discover/tell faith stories. Online synod training was more technical than expected.
- ◆ Launch easy signup & serve program. Liz is researching the signup/serve program.
- ◆ Complete Gift Inventory for the congregation. Will try to do this Rally Sunday.
- ◆ Strengthen members' connection. Discussed.
- ◆ Engage people in worship planning teams. We will return to the Service of Life written by Carol Bras. Curt Renner, Janis Robertson, and Eileen Dubowski planned hymns for Easter season and 7 weeks following. Amie Maranville continues to hang the banners. Sean will be on the Worship Ministry Team.

**Ongoing Business:** We are ineligible for round 2 of the Payroll Protection grant, but currently doing OK. Will post financial updates monthly in the newsletter and during the service. Outreach Team member council position is open; please contact Liz Sandbo (Council President) if you know a good candidate.

**New Business:** Evie Freeman resigned from Council. Discussed in-person expectations for Easter, Pastor Amanda will create an invitation to RSVP for attendance. Voted to support NPHS Grad Bash, donate \$50 and 125 items for the swag bags.

# Appreciation Corner

Dear Church Family!

Thank you for your generous donation; your gift will be used to help those in need in your community!

Blessings,

Chana Harnbuckle,  
Donor Relations, Love INC

*Thank you!*

Thank you,

To the members of Lord of Life Lutheran Church from the Alaska Synod of the ELCA in grateful appreciation for giving \$12,661.49 for Mission Support beyond the congregation for synod and church-wide ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Shelly Wickstrom, Synod Bishop

Dear Lord of Life Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your donation to the Fairbanks Community Food Bank.

In the last year, thanks to your support, over 3 million pounds of GOOD food was kept out of the landfill and redistributed to people in need. You helped provide 700,000 meals, 40% of them to children. Your donation also allowed over 100 local agencies, like Meals on Wheels, to receive over 800,000 pounds of food at no cost to them.

What a lovely community to live in. THANK YOU!

Anne, Fairbanks Community Food Bank

Lord of Life Team,

Thank you for your incredible support! I want to warmly welcome you to the Rescue Mission family. We are blessed to be able to serve those in need—all because of you. Looking forward to what this year holds. We'd love to build a strong relationship with your team :)

We are committed to being good stewards of your gift! Praying for your ministry this year!

Pete Kelly, CEO

## Youth Events



We will meet on  
**Sunday,**  
**April 11 & 25**

**Confirmation class meets at 4:30pm**

We are talking about the start of the Christian church, questions people had, and the letters that encourage our faith. Get ready for Confirmation Sunday, May 9!

**Youth Group meets from 6pm-7:30pm**

Game nights (Caden's bringing one!) and Bible study and "Where do you see God?" galore! We will also make some plans for the summer - and talk about the Gathering!!!

## Love INC Furniture Bank

It's tough to find quality used furniture in the Fairbanks area at a good price. The Furniture Bank offers affordable furniture whether you're just getting on your feet or want to upgrade what you already have.

*Wait a minute... I thought that stuff was given to people in need. It is!*

After screening, free furniture vouchers are given to qualified clients. They come by, take a look, and tag what they need. But the public can buy from the Furniture Bank, too. Cash from sales pays for bus and laundry vouchers and prescriptions, among other things.

It's time to spring clean! Got something to donate? Call Love INC at **452-3876**.





Lord of Life Lutheran Church North Pole, Alaska

## 2021 CHURCH COUNCIL

President:	Liz Sandbo	687-1918
Vice President:	Sean Garrison	888-2052
Secretary:	Cheryl Park	488-4167
Treasurer:	Sam Aleshire	488-4692
Worship & Music:	Curt Renner	488-4405
Youth:	Kaylee Lindhag	388-5273
Stewardship:	Julie Tanguay	906-290-9456

### One open at-large position, 2 year commitment!

Financial Secretary:	Becky Peterson	385-9581
Pastor:	Amanda Kempthorne	322-2065 (cell)

**\*\* We are transitioning into our new structure for council! We just set goals and plans for this year and will be sharing them soon! \*\***

## Lord of Life Lutheran

1005 Saint Nicholas Drive  
North Pole Alaska, 99705  
Website: [www.lordoflifeak.com](http://www.lordoflifeak.com)

Phone: 488-6720  
Pastor Amanda's cell: 322-2065

### E-mail:

Pastor Amanda: [pastor@lordoflifeak.com](mailto:pastor@lordoflifeak.com)  
Jo: [office@lordoflifeak.com](mailto:office@lordoflifeak.com)

### Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 9am to 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 12 @ 7:00 pm

Newsletter deadline: 20th of each month.  
Get the latest on our website:  
[www.lordoflifeak.com](http://www.lordoflifeak.com)  
or  
Follow our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/lordoflifeak](http://www.facebook.com/lordoflifeak)  
(even if you don't have a Facebook page!)

## Special Prayers and Concerns

### Birthdays

- 4/7 Jacoppi Pahkamaa
- 4/16 Sarah Gregory
- 4/20 Jo Small
- 4/22 Sam Aleshire
- 4/23 Caden Lindhag
- 4/26 Kaylee Aleshire
- 4/30 Darlene Matz



### Anniversaries

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



*If your important date is missing,  
please let us know!  
We don't want to miss  
celebrating with you!*

### Prayers for:

- \* Son and family of Tim & Jo S, safe move to Puerto Rico
- \* Baby Genevieve born mid-March with heart troubles
- \* Those worshipping with us who are searching for deeper connections with our church
- \* Evie F, preparing to move into her apartment in TN.
- \* Those with on-going health complications:
  - Steve H, cancer treatments
  - Meg O, pain and mobility
  - Gary O, PTSD, pain
  - Gary F, heart and strength

Contact [office@lordoflifeak.com](mailto:office@lordoflifeak.com)  
to sign up for prayer chain email!

### April Prayer Partner:

Trinity Lutheran Church  
Palmer, Alaska

### Please pray for:

- \* Decisions on camera purchase for worship.
- \* Sharing Holy Week ministry with River of Life (Chugiak) as their building recently burned down.
- \* Rebuilding connections in the community: rebuilding food ministry and community garden, fellowship meals together. Fighting loneliness.
- \* Their unique building houses many shops that had to close due to the pandemic. After a few needed improvements, they are advertising lease space for businesses, so pray for vendors to return.