

April 2024



Lord of Life Lutheran

LifeLines

Notes from David Ingram

Evangelism is a term that has taken on many forms and meanings. As an ELCA church we have evangelical in our name. Evangelism can be stated as simply telling people the good news of Jesus Christ. That can be a very scary and difficult thing to do. Think about how we each will tell the story. The good news is that Jesus died on the cross, resurrected, and ascended to heaven. All that have faith in Jesus Christ will be granted salvation through God's grace. All of which is a gift from our Triune God, the trinity, God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

A crucial aspect to being able to evangelize is speaking on how the Trinity has affected us in our own lives. Our own faith story is our testimony, how God has touched our lives, how the trinity has transformed us into the people we are now.

This is my personal testimony story. I was raised in a Christian household and attended church since I was a baby. I learned as a kid how to answer all questions correctly. As a teenager, I began having questions that were not being answered fully. I began searching for myself and really taking charge of my own spiritual journey. I was not just relying on my parents to nurture my spiritual relationship with God. I joined a church that valued

questions. Conversations about religious and spiritual ponderings, ideas, and thoughts were highly valued and I loved those conversations. It deepened and enriched my personal relationship with God.

Then I joined the US Army as a chaplain assistant. Chaplain assistants are tasked to help anyone in their battalion with any spiritual issue, regardless of religion or denomination. I absolutely loved all the conversations with the different soldiers and their religious beliefs and philosophies. One of the big takeaways that I had was that God loves all people. God desires a personal relationship with all people. The second was that mysteries surround God. There is no way that we can possibly know everything there is to know, but asking questions and having conversations helps to enlighten us. God desires a personal relationship with everyone in a deeply loving and caring relational way. The Holy Spirit moves within us, stirring our souls, pointing us to God. Faith in Jesus Christ the Messiah who suffered death, was crucified, resurrected, and ascended to heaven, is the key to our spiritual journey.

I'd love to hear your testimony.

Could you be our Council President or VP?

Why Join a Church?	2
Council Highlights	3
Special Dates & Prayers	4

Dates to Note

8th: 7pm Council Meeting
11th: 12:30pm School Lunches
26th-28th: Synod Assembly

Why Join Your Church?

“Why bother with church membership?”

Sometimes it’s said with genuine curiosity. “So explain to me what membership is all about.” Maybe it’s said with a tinge of suspicion—“Tell me again, why should I become a member?”—as if joining the church signs you up to automatically tithe by direct deposit.

Many Christians still bristle at the thought of officially joining a church. Why all the hoops? Why bother joining a local church when I’m already a member of the universal Church?

Here are a few reasons why church membership matters.

1. You make visible your commitment to Christ. Membership is one way to raise the flag of faith. You state before God and others that you are part of a body of believers. The New Testament knows no Christians floating around in “just me and Jesus” land. Believers belong to churches.

2. Making a commitment makes a powerful statement in a low-commitment culture. Bowling leagues require more of their members than our churches. (take a minute to think about that) Joining a church says “I am committed to this group of people and they are committed to me. I am here to give, more than get.”

Even if you’ll only be in town for a few years, it’s not a bad idea to join a church. It lets your home church know you’re being cared for, and it lets your present one know that you want to **be** cared for locally. Also of note, the younger generation prefers to date the church—have her around for special events, take her out when life gets lonely, and keep her around for a rainy day. **Membership is a way to stop dating churches and marry one.**

3. We can be too independent. It’s one of the best and worst things about us. We are free spirits and critical thinkers. We get an idea and run with it. But who’s running with us? And are any of us running in the same direction? Membership says, “I am part of something bigger than myself.”

4. Church membership keeps us accountable. By identifying ourselves with a particular church, we let the pastors and members of that local church know that we intend to be committed in attendance, giving, prayer, and service.

5. Joining the church will help your pastor be a more faithful shepherd. Part of his or her job is to determine whether members of the congregation are in need of special care regarding their spiritual condition. They try to follow up with people who haven’t been at church for a while, for instance. But if you never become a member, they can’t tell if you are really gone, because they might not be sure if you were ever here!

6. It gives you a chance to make promises. When you become a member, you promise to serve, attend worship, and accept the spiritual guidance of the church. If you don’t join the church, you miss an opportunity to publicly make these promises.

These are all things to consider next time you see an announcement for New Member classes. *Membership matters.*

Some act as if joining a church automatically signs you up to tithe by direct deposit

Council Minutes

Bible Study. Philippians 4:10 by apostle Paul.

Treasurer's report: Jo's Lord of Life debit card has been closed. Dianna has a new card; it covers monthly auto-payments. Fortissimo Piano Tuning charged \$1243.45 for its annual tuning, which was questioned. David's travel was reimbursed. *[Financials unavailable]*

David Ingram's report: David's vacation dates: last week of May/beginning of June, August 11, and 10 days before school starts. A visiting Pastor will be here to cover.

Events Calendar:

- ◆ March 20/27 Lent Soup Supper and Lenten service
- ◆ March 24 Easter Egg Hunt Palm Sunday
- ◆ March 28 Maundy Thursday @ New Hope
- ◆ March 29 Good Friday worship
- ◆ March 30 Prayer Vigil
- ◆ March 31 Easter Sunday Breakfast followed by worship
- ◆ April 1 Private baptism
- ◆ April 14 Cribbage Games at LoLL
- ◆ July 4th Kaylee Lindhag will man a table at the North Pole Grange advertising VBS with a poster and sign-up materials.



Ongoing Business:

- ◆ Collecting Mission statement votes. Chris Blais will have voting slips ready to vote on Mission statement Easter morning. A strawberry Cheesecake made by Kaylee L will be the prize.
- ◆ Frozen pipes. Beckley fixed frozen pipes in one day. The utility room's gas furnace doesn't keep the room as warm as the fuel oil furnace did. The pipes were able to collect water which froze. Beckley made the entrapment much smaller. Kevin will add plywood for fire safety. A heating blanket will be added this summer.
- ◆ Pole-barn. Contractor will be contacted in April. Plans and supplies list should be complete by April 30. Pole-barn will be built in the summer, next to wood shed, matching the church's exterior.
- ◆ LED lighting was bought from Browns Company. They'll be installed when its warmer.

New Business:

- ◆ VBS. Dates July 8-12 They will use the campfire. Will receive \$400 from Youth Funds and \$400 from Education Funds.
- ◆ Carpet Cleaning. Should be done after VBS. Chris B. has a rug shampooer. Will probably need a second machine and volunteers.
- ◆ High School Graduate. James Aleshire.
- ◆ Office furniture. New office chair for David. Council approved.
- ◆ Easter Food Donation list posted.
- ◆ Sensory Eggs. Either Playdough or Slime Eggs on Easter Sunday.
- ◆ Septic system. Has not been pumped since 2019, when it was new. It should be done this Spring.



Lord of Life Lutheran Church North Pole, Alaska

2024 CHURCH COUNCIL

President: **Vacant**
 Vice President: **Vacant**
 Secretary: Chris Blais
 Treasurer: Dianna Lindhag

At Large Members: Evan Keil
 John Dart
 Becky Peterson
 Kevin Powers

Intern Pastor: David Ingram
 Financial Secretary: Becky Peterson

Volunteer to serve on your Church Council!

Lord of Life Lutheran

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Website: www.lordoflifeak.com

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Intern Pastor's cell: (907) 322-2065

E-mail

Jo: 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 8 @ 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

- 4/6 Sarah Gregory
- 4/7 Jacoppi Pahkamaa
- 4/20 Jo Small
- 4/22 Sam Aleshire
- 4/23 Caden Lindhag
- 4/26 Kaylee Aleshire



Prayers for:

- ~ Dixie S, friend of Ramouna S, healing from cancer surgery
- ~ Snowbirds, returning from their travels
- ~ Those with ongoing health issues

Contact

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

Alaska Synod Prayer Partner for April:

Teller Lutheran Church,
Teller, Alaska

- God, we praise your Holy name in the mysteries of our lives
- Lord, bless your living water in the renewal and refreshing of our minds
- Eternal God, open our ears to your saving love in our everyday lives



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

