

August
2020



Lord of Life Lutheran

Lifelines

A Note from Pastor Amanda

When is the last time you thought about what God is doing in your life?

We often think of our faith in little moments like an inspiring Sunday morning, an answer to prayer, a sense peace in a time of chaos. How often have you taken time to reflect on how these little moments connect to a bigger picture of God's work in your life?

Growing up, my church invited people of all ages to share their faith stories in the church season of Lent (in the spring). I'd listen to people talk how God guided them through job changes, illness, raising kids, the end of a marriage, and even death of a loved one.

Not having experienced these things, it took me a while to realize I had my own faith story to share. It took someone asking me a few questions to help me see that God was already present in my life.

Start by thinking through some of the key events of your life, positive and painful alike. (Feel free to make a timeline, journal, create art as you do this!) How did God use those events to shift or strengthen the direction of your life?

Have you been surprised that you've made it through a difficult situation? Who did God put in your path to encourage you?

When have you felt like God was enabling you to use your gifts to bless someone else?

When has forgiveness been a hard path, and what brought you wholeness after being hurt?

When have you created a new thing, idea, event, artwork, writing, etc? How was God involved?

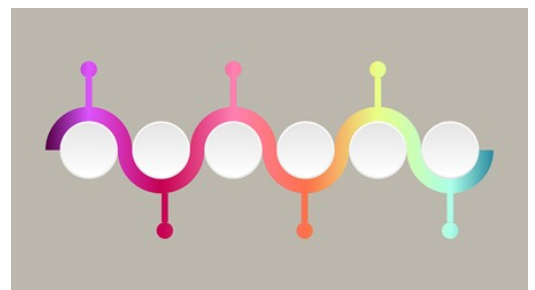
How have your experiences and wisdom helped you support someone else in their struggles?

Where (in time or place) have you felt God's presence very close to you? What does that feel like for you?

Once you've spent some time with these questions, ask yourself if there's anything happening now that echoes in your history. How does God's work in your past help you find comfort, direction, or strength for today?

You have a story of God's faithfulness and love, of God's sometimes heavy hand that guides you, of God's comfort and strength in your life. And that story is still being written. Thanks be to God!

In God's faithful grasp,
~Pastor Amanda



August 30 is a 5th Sunday Worship!

Join us on the front lawn for a worship like no other! It's a 5th Sunday!

This Sunday will build on Peter's confession (Matthew 16) that we will read on August 23. Worship will be a discovery of God's work in us, as we have an opportunity to explore our own faith stories and hear from the life of one of our members. Worship will revolve around God's active presence in our lives, transforming us into the image of Christ! Join in the joy of God's work!

Worship in August

In addition to holding worship on the front lawn, we are also on Facebook Live (www.facebook.com/lordoflifeak/live) every Sunday at 10:30am, or on Lord of Life's YouTube channel linked to our website: lordoflifeak.com by 2pm. You can also request a DVD of the worship service.

August 2, 9, 23 and 30: On the lawn or in your car! (see below for Aug 16)

These are **blended services**. Bring a comfy lawn chair or enjoy the summer breeze on one of our benches or picnic tables. If you're more comfortable or your health requires, stay in your car. **Drive-in Worship** will be set up too, listen from within a 1-mile radius on 89.5 FM.



Outdoor Worship Service

1. Arrive early. Those wishing to stay in their vehicles park in the front row / handicap parking spaces. Others may settle on the front lawn 6 feet away from others.
2. Wear a mask until worship begins. Use the bathroom at home before coming. Please keep physical distance.
3. Bulletins, devotion books, Communion cups, and an offering basket will be on an entrance table and passed out by ushers.
4. Pray for sunshine! In case of rain, you may choose to stay in your car OR sit with an umbrella!

If you'd like to serve with set up or by handing out Communion cups and bulletins or with parking, please contact the church office or just show up at 10:00 am to help. Volunteers always appreciated!

Youth Groups

7th—12th grades gather the 2nd and 4th Sundays!

We meet on the front lawn for games, challenges, and conversation about life from 7—8:30pm.

August 9: Back to School Conversation ...

Look, a LOT is going to be different about this year. Come talk about what makes you nervous, what is going to be hard, what you're looking forward to, and where God might be in this mess.

August 23: Check-in, Game/goof off night!



3rd—6th grades are considering a mid-week event to accommodate busy weekend schedules. Watch our website for updates on our first event!

Guest Preacher August 16!

We are honored to "host" Bishop Shelley Wickstrom of the Alaska Synod, at worship 10:30 am August 16.



For this day, worship is online only!

VBS Update

After much discussion, it was deemed best to cancel Vacation Bible School. Our children's safety is always our first consideration. Since the spread has increased in the borough, we are choosing not to be a potential place where it can spread.

We are still working on safe practices for children's ministries in our church, and encourage you to continue to bring them to outdoor worship!

August Food Drive!

We're all missing the fair this year: the entertainment, the rides, the fine work of artists and gardeners alike. But in a bigger impact, the Fairbanks Food Bank misses one of its biggest restocking opportunities!



So our churches get a chance to step up!

The goal: **500 pounds from 20 churches = 10,000 pounds!**

You can bring food directly to the Food Bank, bring your food donations to worship and put in the red wagon or drop it off on the bench by the front door during the week.

If you're shopping from home, shoppers can go to [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/l/270A3CAWWU4CB/ref=cm_go_nav_hz) where your food order will be delivered directly to the Food Bank. Here's the link: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/l/270A3CAWWU4CB/ref=cm_go_nav_hz (the Food Bank's address is 725 26th Ave, Fairbanks, AK 99701.)

For more information go to the Food Bank website, their Facebook page, or contact Sam.

Council Highlights

Book Study: Ch. 6 of The Invitational Christian. "Give Them Tools." Reach out to others. Website that offers clear, current information. Business cards to hand out would be a great start. Next month, Ch. 7, "The Importance of With."

Treasurer's report: Undesignated checking: \$22,328.03 (of which, \$4,969.75 is what remains of the Payroll Protection Program Grant); Designated Checking: \$6,757.50; Debit Card checking: \$365.49; Savings: \$5,095.29. ELCA benevolence of \$855.80, WELCA of \$30, and electric and internet have been paid. Payroll is covered. Youth balance of \$4,088.48 will be used for the big youth gathering in MN.

Pastor's report: Between in-person attendance and YouTube and Facebook views, total worship attendance is ~80. Monday morning Bible Study has resumed. A driveway wedding was performed for a North Pole couple. Current projects: Policy and constitution updates; sanctuary capacity, parameters for returning to indoor worship; mitigation and phasing plans. Future projects: A tree donation, confirmation/fall education options, updating the membership book and clearing files.

Ongoing Business: Worship— We will stay outdoors as long as possible; the longer we can stay outside, the more people we can have participate. By September we may have to look at inside options. Inside worship will change drastically. Families without online capability are provided a DVD of the service by request. Alaska Synod Bishop, Shelley Wickstrom will preach on Aug. 16.

New Business: July birthdays and anniversaries. Proposed Bylaws and Policies & Procedures: Congregation Meeting Call-in Procedures presented. Policies passed: Debit card, Money handling, Maternity/Paternity and Adoption, and Sabbatical leave.

Building use request: An educational daytime children's cooking class, a for-profit endeavor. More information will be requested.

Possibly do a Wednesday event for The Underground as it's hard to get them together in the summer.

Facilities Report: Tim Schackman wants to clear more brush and will work on it.

Education Report: Nancy Uptgraft proposes bringing children downstairs for Sunday school activities and returning during communion, two Sundays per month. Discuss next meeting.





2020 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:	Kaylee Lindhag	388-5273
Stewardship:	Julie Tanguay	906-290-9456
Evangelism:	Nancy Uptgraft	378-4633
Facilities:	Tim Schackman	210-488-5961
Financial Secretary:	Becky Peterson	385-9581
Pastor:	Amanda Kempthorne	322-2065 (cell)

Lord of Life Lutheran

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North Pole Alaska, 99705
Website: www.lordoflifeak.com

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Pastor Amanda's cell: 322-2065

E-mail:

Pastor Amanda: pastor@lordoflifeak.com
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: August 10 @ 7:00 pm

Newsletter deadline: 20th of each month.
Get the latest on our website:
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

- 8/3 Erin Powers
- 8/8 Heather Uptgraft
- 8/10 Wayne Lindquist
- 8/11 Carol Dahl
- 8/11 Jim Kuhnert
- 8/12 Knox Knutson
- 8/18 McCoy Lindquist
- 8/18 Becky Peterson
- 8/20 Vanessa Knutson
- 8/23 Bob Thoma



*If your info is missing, let us know—
email the office or write a note!*

Anniversaries

- 8/1 Penny & John Warnke
- 8/1 Ann & Jered Dulany
- 8/3 Dianna & Jeromey Lindhag
- 8/5 Liz & Cliff Sandbo
- 8/6 Cheryl & Rob Park (—>)



- 8/14 Dixie & Evan Keil
- 8/16 Christine & Wayne Lindquist

Prayers for:

- * Those grieving loved ones, those dying while hospital staff try to support them.
- * Those with health troubles: Paula F recovering from surgery, John W healing from knee replacement.
- * For those in transitions and discerning new paths: Curt and Margi, Eileen, Carol and Duane.
- * Those with on-going health complications: Meg O, Gary O, Polly H, Erich H, Evie F, Gary F, Steve H, Pat T (on hospice).

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

August Prayer Partner: Christ Lutheran Church, Soldotna, AK

Please pray for:

- God's work through the uncertainty of COVID
- many teachers, active and retired, who are anxious about safety in their work
- caring and supporting those in assisted living facilities

