

December  
2019



Lord of Life Lutheran

Lifelines

## A Note from Pastor Amanda

It's sprint time, people: that time of year when we live our lives by checklists and deadlines. If it's not Christmas things, it's end-of-the-year things at work. But it's not just that these things are happening that makes this season chaotic, it's our expectations of how things *should* be:

Plates full of beautiful and tasty cookies. Perfectly cooked meal. Gifts that express our love and joy in the ones we give them to. Happy memories. Peace on Earth. God feeling close.

Unfortunately, Christmas carols tend to feed into this perfectly serene picture we paint. Silent night? Wait – animals, childbirth, and newborns are hardly silent. Do you hear what I hear? Nope – it's just the wind and I don't have time to wonder about it. Joy to the World? Maybe the world missed that message – the Savior hardly reigns out there.

So here's an idea: don't buy into it. Wrap a present crooked and crumple the paper (that's how it'll look afterward anyway.) Let the inflatable light-up snowman lean to the left. Make half the cookies you usually do (your waistline will thank you.) Your holidays are holy days because of God's presence within them, not because everything goes as planned.

On Sundays, I'll invite you into a new way of being in this season of anticipation and hope. A way of being that will hopefully slow down the nagging need for perfection during the rest of the week.

We will practice being present both in body and in mind on December 1<sup>st</sup>. I've got some imaginative ways we can experience wonder on December 8<sup>th</sup>. We will gather in joy and chaos as Fumbly, Bumbly Angels lead worship on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Near the end of deadlines, we'll explore what holding on to hope looks like on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. In fact, our Wednesday worship on December 4 and 18 will lean heavily on the hope of God's promises in Isaiah.

It all comes together in worship on Christmas Eve at 3pm and 8pm. Good news of great joy for all people means those ready and those still frantically preparing. Guess what, God shows up either way.

I really want the best for you this Christmas. I want your dinner to turn out perfectly, your gifts to be delightful and delighted in, and your electricity bill to be manageable. But mostly, I want your heart to be steady, your faith to be in awe of God's gifts, and your hope to endure.

Merry Christmas, dear ones.  
~ Pastor Amanda



### Christmas Program and Finger Food Buffet Dec 15!

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#### Dates to note

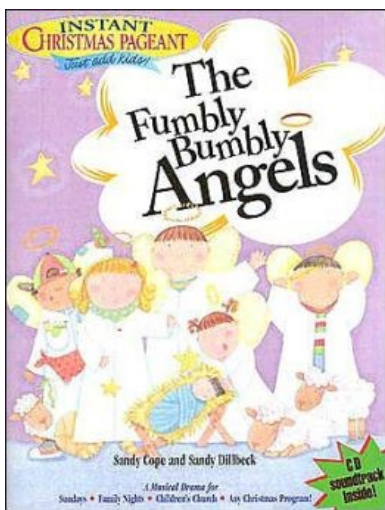
4 and 18: 6:15 Soup Supper,  
7pm Holden Evening Worship  
7: 10am-12pm Advent Brunch @  
Fairbanks Lutheran  
8 & 22: 6pm Youth Group  
9: 7pm Council Meeting  
13: 10am School Lunches  
15: 4pm The Underground  
24: 3pm & 8pm Christmas Worship

## Christmas Program

Lord of Life children and youth present **The Fumbly, Bumbly Angels!**

This Christmas drama features four angels (who else?), hearts set on singing in a heavenly choir, who end up in a tiny, soon-to-be-famous village...

Children will lead us in worship on **Sunday, December 15**. All children are invited to take part as well as any other interested persons, especially the young at heart. A finger food buffet will follow the Christmas program.



## Youth Groups

### 7th-12th grade Youth Group

Sunday, Dec 8 6-7:30pm—game night

Sunday, Dec 22 6-7:30pm—Christmas party!

### The Underground (3rd-6th grade)

**Dec. 8 & 15 @ 9:30:** Christmas Program practice. The 15th is also Jesus' birthday party!

**Dec. 15, 4-5:30:** Visit Holiday Heights Senior home with handmade crafts to spread holiday cheer! A special thank you to those who purchased gifts for the residents.



## Advent Schedule — Center your celebrations on Christ!

Advent is a season of expectant hope. Worship will guide us toward Christmas where our hearts are at peace, our minds full of wonder, and we find our hope fulfilled.

### Sunday morning Worship:

**Dec 1:** Be Present

**Dec 8:** Experience Wonder

**Dec 15:** Children's Christmas Program:

**The Fumbly, Bumbly Angels**

**Dec 22:** Hold on to Wonder



### Wednesday Evening Dec 4 and 18:

**6:15pm** Soup Supper

**7pm** Holden Evening Prayer Worship

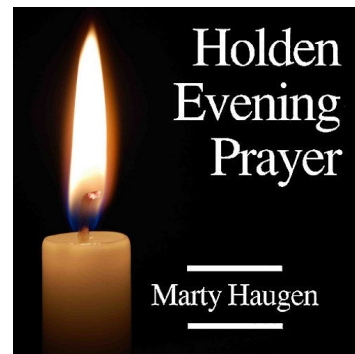
Join us for an evening of worship in reflective music

Dec 4: Isaiah 2:1-5

The future day when God sets up a reign of peace where wars end.

Dec 18: Isaiah 11:1-10

The coming future of the ideal ruler who will turn fighting and danger into harmony.



## A Dairy Little Christmas



Just one dairy cow can produce up to three gallons of milk each day. It's a reliable source of both nutrition and income — the total package for a family in need. Your gift comes with a free, limited-edition card to help you give in honor of someone special. Give creative, memorable gifts this Christmas, and share God's love around the world!

It's as easy as 1-2-3. Choose a gift. Pick out a card. Make a difference! Gifts range from \$10 chicks, blanket, mosquito net; \$20 feeds 10 people soup; \$50 gets a goat; \$150 builds a latrine; \$715 buys the farm; or simply, "give where it's needed most."

This can be done online at <https://goodgifts.elca.org/> or pick up one of the catalogs on the sign-up table in the entryway!

## Women's Brunch

A fun tradition to kick off the Advent and Christmas season! Women are invited to a potluck brunch shared with the 3 ELCA churches in Fairbanks/North Pole.

Join the celebration

**Saturday, December 7**

from **10am-12**

at Fairbanks Lutheran Church

1012 Cowles St (across from the library)

Bring a dish to share if you're able, warm up your singing voice and Christmas spirit, and meet our sisters in Christ! Childcare is available!

## Council Highlights

Bible study led by Pastor Amanda, Ephesians 4:11-16, how God builds us into a community. Shared "new member brochure" and process of welcoming people to Lord of Life.

### Upcoming events:

- ◆ Advent season and preparations for Christmas. November 30th, 3pm church decorating, some winterizing of the building.
- ◆ Christmas Program is December 15, finger food buffet to honor our first Christmas without a kitchen

Treasurer's report: Undesignated checking: \$7,182.67 Designated Checking: \$14,863.54. Debit Card checking: \$1485.61, Savings: \$8461.88.

Audit Report review: Commitment to quarterly audit meetings after each quarter. Recommendation to not transfer financial reporting to church management software. Treasurer will begin presenting a check register for council review. Audit team is working on other policy and procedure documentation.

### Ongoing business:

- ◆ Discussed video conferencing glitches and procedure changes for 2020.
- ◆ Handicap signs are in progress, will get back to it when the spaces are accessible.

### New business:

- ◆ Support requested for sailors through Lt Chaplain Christina Mauntel (member of LoL). Will request 10.
- ◆ Adopt a Family through Love INC will be posted when information comes in—week of Thanksgiving.
- ◆ Christmas Eve Worship discussed, will be at 3pm and 8pm this year (up from 9pm)
- ◆ New Council members officially begin in January.



## The ELCA: A Sanctuary Denomination



The highest legislative body of the ELCA, our Churchwide Assembly, gathered delegates from congregations and synods to address memorials and resolutions gathered from around the nation. We will be presenting our shared work over the next few months.

One of the topics brought forward by the New York Synod was a resolution to become a sanctuary denomination. It passed as 700 of the 922 in attendance approved.

**What does this mean?** (A solid Lutheran question.)

Becoming a sanctuary denomination means the ELCA is publicly declaring that walking alongside immigrants and refugees is a matter of faith. We acknowledge the brokenness of our immigration system and commit to providing concrete resources to assist the vulnerable. **THIS IS NOT NEW** to the ELCA. The Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (a refugee resettlement agency) began over 80 years ago, AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation, and Opportunities) has been functioning since 2015. Our social messages and statements specifically in 1991, 1993, and 1995, affirm the value of each life, regardless of where they were born.

We are not called to act in ways that are illegal. We are not called to align ourselves with a political party. We **ARE** called to see the people over the issue and act with the same compassion of Christ.

## What Makes Me Lutheran?

When we call ourselves Lutheran, we identify with the Reformation movement sparked by Martin Luther and we claim a theology expressed in the “Lutheran Confessions.”

The Lutheran Confessions, written by Luther and a colleague and published in 1580 as *The Book of Concord*, addressed both beliefs (what we think about God, sin, salvation, etc.) and practices (whether priests can marry, do we need a pope, whether Christians have to fast or go to confession, etc.). You are likely familiar with one of these writings: Luther’s *Small Catechism*.

These documents weren’t meant to establish a separate denomination. Their purpose was to explain that the way Lutheran Christians understood and practiced their faith was authentically Christian, even though it differed somewhat from Roman Catholic beliefs. The heart of the Confessions is the understanding that the gospel is the promise of the free gift of God’s love, forgiveness and new life.

An example of how this theology shapes our practice...Lutherans call the sacraments “means of grace” because we believe that baptism and communion are ways through which God’s grace is given to us. Unlike Christians who talk about baptism as committing oneself to Christ, we believe that God’s grace comes to us freely. Baptizing babies reminds us of that.

If the Christian faith is a piece of music, denominations might be different musical voices in a choir. Although the musicians sing different notes, together the sound is much richer than that of a single voice. —*LivingLutheran.org* (excerpt)



# Lord of Life DECEMBER 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<u>10:30 am</u> Worship	<u>10 am</u> Bible Study	<u>5:30 pm - 8 pm</u> Girl Scouts	<u>12 pm</u> Food Boxes	<u>9 am - 12 pm</u> Banner Bunch		<u>9:30 am - 10:30 am</u> Yoga Devotion
<u>11:30 am</u> Fellowship	<u>8 pm</u> AA		<u>4:30 pm - 5:30 pm</u> Girl Scouts - Daisies	<u>2:45 pm</u> Band Practice		<u>10 am - 12 pm</u> Advent Brunch
			<u>6:15 pm</u> Soup Supper	<u>8 pm</u> AA		
			<u>7 pm</u> Holden Evening Prayer Worship			
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<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>9 am - 12 pm</u> 17 Mile Homemakers	<u>10 am</u> School Lunch Assembly	<u>9:30 am - 10:30 am</u> Yoga Devotion
<u>10:30 am</u> Worship	<u>7 pm</u> Council Meeting		<u>4:30 pm - 5:30 pm</u> Girl Scouts - Daisies	<u>6 pm - 7:30 pm</u> NP Christian School Christmas Program		<u>10 am - 4 pm</u> Girl Scout Tea
<u>11:30 am</u> Fellowship	<u>8 pm</u> AA		<u>6 pm - 8 pm</u> Celebration of Mike Dubowski's Life	<u>8 pm</u> AA		
<u>6 pm - 7:30 pm</u> Youth Group						
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<u>9:30 am</u> Education Hour	<u>10 am</u> Bible Study		<u>12 pm</u> Food Boxes	<u>9 am - 12 pm</u> 17 Mile Homemakers		<u>9:30 am - 10:30 am</u> Yoga Devotion
<u>10:30 am</u> Worship	<u>8 pm</u> AA		<u>4:30 pm - 5:30 pm</u> Girl Scouts - Daisies	<u>2:45 pm</u> Band Practice		
<u>11:30 am</u> Fellowship			<u>6:15 pm</u> Soup Supper	<u>8 pm</u> AA		
<u>4 pm - 5:30 pm</u> The Underground			<u>7 pm</u> Holden Evening Prayer Worship			
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<u>10:30 am</u> Worship	<u>10 am</u> Bible Study	<u>3 pm</u> Christmas Eve Worship	<u>OFFICE CLOSED</u>	<u>8 pm</u> AA		<u>9:30 am - 10:30 am</u> Yoga Devotion
<u>11:30 am</u> Fellowship	<u>8 pm</u> AA	<u>8 pm</u> Christmas Eve Worship				
<u>6 pm - 7:30 pm</u> Youth Group						
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<u>10:30 am</u> Holden (Evening) Prayer Worship	<u>10 am</u> Bible Study		<u>OFFICE CLOSED</u>	<u>8 pm</u> AA		<u>9:30 am - 10:30 am</u> Yoga Devotion
<u>11:30 am</u> Fellowship	<u>8 pm</u> AA					



Lord of Life Lutheran Church North Pole, Alaska

## 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:	<b>open</b>	
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

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

Phone: 907-488-6720  
Pastor Amanda's cell: 907-322-2065

**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: Dec. 9 @ 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

- 12/10 Penny Warnke
- 12/11 Ann Dulany
- 12/16 James Dulany
- 12/23 Curtis Matz
- 12/24 Al Griswold
- 12/29 Cash Knutson
- 12/31 Elaina Warnke



### Anniversaries

- 12/8 Lynne Skjefte & Lars Peterson



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

### Prayers for:

- \* Eileen D—grieving the recent loss of her husband, Mike
- \* All those traveling outside for the holidays
- \* All those facing the holidays far from home
- \* Meg O—improvement from stem cell injections to her knee
- \* Mary A—less isolation and improved connections
- \* Continued healing— Al G, Paula F, Jeromey L, John H, Mike B, Steve H, Pat T

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

### December Prayer Partner:

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Wasilla, AK**

**Please pray for:**

- 6 people fighting cancer, many are responding to treatments
- rejoicing in the gift of a freezer for their food closet
- rejoicing in children's ministries with high energy!
- gearing up for Christmas, welcoming families and sharing God's love with the community.

