

December  
2020



Lord of Life Lutheran

Lifelines

## A Note from Pastor Amanda

Advent is like an airport. (You all remember airports, right?) It is one of those in-between spaces that we have to pass through before we get where we're going. Time itself seems to drag on while we wait for what's next; the anticipation makes us restless and irritable. We find that the waiting space can either sap our momentum or energize us to do something new.

Every non-pandemic December gets filled up with to-do lists and package mailing deadlines, deep-cleaning and meal planning, parties and cookie exchanges. Yet everything is different this year as we are all asked to sacrifice. So maybe this year, in the waiting place of pandemic, we can truly experience the patient and persistent hope of Advent.

While our pandemic is not the same as the exile that God's people experienced, the words from Isaiah still speak hope into our situation. "Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." (Isaiah 43:18-19)

That's what this month before Christmas is about – waiting for signs of God's promises coming true, fighting against despair, fixing our focus, all while trusting God is present and salvation is near. Our job is to pause and listen for the ways God is doing new things within and around us.

This Advent season, I invite you to listen and reflect on what it is to WAIT. A dear colleague formerly of Juneau, Pastor Suellen Bahleda, has put together reflection words for each day of Advent around the word WAIT. Where have you found wonder or anguish, time to inhale or amid a tempest?

I invite you to print pages 5 and 6 of this newsletter, cut along the dotted line, and toss the paper strips into a bowl. Each day beginning November 29, grab a new strip and reflect on how you have lived in the waiting place those words name. Let these words guide you through your day, in your prayers, to spark conversation with loved ones, or help you name what is happening in your own life. Sundays will be a time to give thanks for these waiting places, knowing God is with us in them.

Our Wednesdays will be a time to gather on Zoom for Advent Worship, listen to Holden Evening Prayer, imagine new traditions, grieve traditions on hold, and trust God through this in-between season in our lives.

Wishing you peace in your Advent waiting, and a joyous Christmas. May you have eyes and hearts that perceive the ways God is bringing out something new in our waiting spaces.

~Pastor  
Amanda



## Forming Faith

### Advent Devotionals

'Tis the season of a plethora of daily devotional resources! There are two we'd like to share with you:

**"Overflowing with Hope"** is written by Lutherans around Alaska - some names you will recognize! You can also find it at [elcaalaska.net](http://elcaalaska.net) under "resources."

**"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?"** is created by Luther Seminary and can be downloaded at [luthersem.edu](http://luthersem.edu) (search "advent") or read "God Pause" daily.

### 7-12<sup>th</sup> graders

**Dec. 13 6—7:30pm**

Join us for dinner, chat, and games as we celebrate Advent and talk Christmas!

Only one meeting this month.

# Worship in Advent and Christmas

Welcome to a new church year and the Gospels of Mark and John! With a new church year comes a new focus: our Scriptures from now through May answer the question “who is God?” Advent points back to all the promises that God has made and Christmas is the fulfillment of those promises.

**Sunday morning Worship** from November 29 through December 20 leads us to reflect on the ways we wait with hope. The Scriptures take us on a journey from faithful hearts that keep watch, to facing the wilderness places within us, pointing beyond what we see to the hope we have in God’s promises, and the God who lives among us in vulnerability.

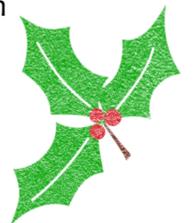
**Wednesday evening Zoom Worship at 7pm** on December 2, 9, and 16 will be an interactive time of reflection and prayer to center our hearts in this season. We will look at the stories behind some of our favorite Christmas hymns and incorporate Holden Evening Prayer as best we can! Join us on Zoom video chat <https://luthersem.zoom.us/j/95446498888?pwd=QmQ2VDNhSElzVUFZY1ZzWDFITStpZz09> or call (253) 215-8782 and enter the Meeting ID: 954 4649 8888 and Passcode: 177669

## Christmas Eve

Though it breaks our hearts, we are preparing for Christmas Eve Worship online this year. We will be preparing a pre-recorded worship which enables us to include as many households as possible in worship for that day. We are looking for...

- ◆ Readers of the Gospel story — record yourself reading either a short paragraphs or 2-3 verses (This can also be done at the church.)
- ◆ Singers of Christmas carols, recording yourself with the piano
- ◆ Pictures of your nativity scenes! Text them to 322-2065 or to [office@lordoflifeak.com](mailto:office@lordoflifeak.com)
- ◆ 10 second videos of you/your family holding/looking at a lighted candle(s)

Contact the church office by email or phone and let us know if you’d like to read or sing. Videos can be uploaded to a google drive or emailed to [pastor@lordoflifeak.com](mailto:pastor@lordoflifeak.com)



**Deadline to send in these things to us is December 17 at noon!**

## In-Person Worship Parameters

We are watching the 14-day average case rate at: <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/alertlevels.aspx> and making preparations with hope for gathering in person. Council passed a new mitigation plan that allows us to gather when the case rate is at 20 or below.

Greater than 21 case rate: worship will be online only, risk is too high

11-20 case rate: worship will be in person, masks required upon entry and during worship

5-10 case rate: worship will be in person, masks required upon entry, may be removed in worship

<5 case rate: worship will be in person, masks are optional

Worship in person will also change in some significant ways. To lessen potential virus spread, we will refrain from singing, passing offering baskets, or coming forward for Communion. As the vaccine becomes widely administered, we will be able to get back to building our faith in community again!

# Thanksgiving Thank You



**We are people who show up for our community, among other churches that do the same. God is good!**

Thank you to everyone who donated turkeys and hams to distribute to hungry people this Thanksgiving! Lord of Life handed out 225 boxes of food and turkeys to the community, provided by the Fairbanks Community Food Bank and extra turkeys and hams from the people of Lord of Life, St Nick's, and St. Jude's.



## Council Highlights

**Bible Study:** Revisit Ch. 2 of the Invitational Christian, "Why Should Anyone Come?" Our Work Matters to God. Discussed how being part of LoL has changed our lives, what ministries matter to us. Practiced ways we can invite others to join us in these meaningful ministries — not just "come to church."

**Master Calendar and Goal Check:** Engage youth and children: youth group is meeting twice monthly, more focused on playing together. Support for those in crisis: Cards still being sent. Evie Freeman and team has sent 200 masks to Central CA. Engage members in our mission: including women to help with masks.

**Treasurer's report:** Undesignated checking: \$7,817.72; Designated Checking: \$6,812.49; Debit Card checking: \$774.56; Savings: \$8,199.49. Have not paid ELCA \$822.00 and \$96.97 Disaster Relief.

**Pastor's report:** Completed boundary training. GCI phones are changed over. Philippians study ended, no feedback. Had two last minute requests for weddings. Mentoring a Presbyterian seminarian. Coming up: Adopt-a-Family, Thanksgiving food boxes, Habakkuk study in November.

### Ongoing Business:

- ◆ Loan/Grant, Final funds will go to heating fuel. Application for forgiveness is in progress.
- ◆ New equipment. Jason will craft instructions, then training for volunteers can begin.
- ◆ Dan and Missy Rees have donated beef, can start dropping off shares when we are ready. Sign up for 20 lbs for \$200, they can be picked up at the church when you've paid!
- ◆ We expect the broken window will be repaired within the month.

### New Business:

- ◆ Safe Church Policy passed includes boundary training, guidelines for inappropriate contact reporting.
- ◆ Annual meeting went well online! Next year, add a microphone so those in the sanctuary can be heard and display information on TV screens.
- ◆ Amended gathering parameters: more than 21 case rate—online worship only. 11-20—in person worship, masks required. 5-10— masks required as we gather. <5— masks optional.
- ◆ Online communion. Will be done on "live" Sundays, not pre-recorded services, at pastor's discretion. Information will be sent to the congregation prior to Communion for study and reflection.
- ◆ Christmas program. Cancelled this year.





Lord of Life Lutheran Church North Pole, Alaska

## 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](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: December 14 @ 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



### Anniversaries

- 12/8 Lynne Skjefte & Lars Peterson



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

### Prayers for:

- \* Steve H, continuing to battle cancer and new tumors
- \* Eileen's granddaughter for tummy troubles
- \* Jo S family, multiple family members diagnosed with Covid, especially Paul and Jean
- \* Those with on-going health complications:  
Marilyn W fighting shingles,  
Meg O hip pain,  
Gary O general health,  
Paula F upcoming surgeries,  
John H medical concerns

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

### December Prayer Partner:

Amazing Grace Lutheran  
Church, Anchorage, AK

- Please pray for:
- God's presence in their online worship together
  - Children and Youth ministries continuing creatively!
  - Protection and health amid the exponential rise in Anchorage's COVID cases
  - Creativity in worship during Advent and Christmas

**WATCH**

**ACKNOWLEDGE**

**INSPECT**

**TRUST**

**WALK**

**APOLOGIZE**

**IMPLORE**

**TREMBLE**

**WHISPER**

**ACHE**

**INHALE**

**TURN**

**WOBBLE**

**ADMIT**

**INVITE**

**THANK**

**WONDER**

**ADORE**

**ILLUMINATE**

**TRY**

**WILDERNESS**

**ABANDON**

**IMPROVE**

**TEST**

**WASH**

**ATONE**

**IMITATE**

**TASTE**

**WAKE**

**AIM**

**IDEAL**

**TREASURE**

**WITNESS**

**AMPLIFY**

**INSPIRE**

**TESTIFY**

**WEARY**

**ASHAMED**

**INDEBTED**

**TEMPTED**

**WORTHY**

**ABUNDANT**

**INDWELLING**

**TRIUMPHANT**

**WISDOM**

**ALPHA & OMEGA**

**INFINITE**

**TRINITY**

**WORSHIP**

**ACCLAIM**

**IGNITE**

**TRANSFORM**

**WALLOW**

**ANGUISH**

**IMPATIENT**

**TRESSPASS**

**WHOOOP**

**ADMIRE**

**INCREASE**

**TWINKLE**

**WELCOME**

**ACCOMPANY**

**INCLUDE**

**TEND**

**WANDER**

**ANCHOR**

**IMPERFECT**

**THORN**

**WORD**

**ANTICIPATE**

**IMMANUEL**

**TIDINGS**

**WORRY**

**AFRAID**

**IRKED**

**TIRED**

**WEEP**

**ASK**

**IMPLORE**

**THIRST**

**WARM**

**ASSURED**

**INVIGORATED**

**THANKFUL**

**WHOLE**

**AUTHENTIC**

**INCREDIBLE**

**TRADITION**

**WHIRLWIND**

**ADVOCATE**

**IMAGINATION**

**TEMPEST**

**WANT**

**ACCEPT**

**IDENTIFY**

**THINKING**

**WATER**

**ALIVE**

**INCARNATE**

**TENDER**