

December  
2022



Lord of Life Lutheran

Lifelines

## Notes from Curt Matz

We have reached the final month of the year 2022. It has been a year of transitions as together we have adjusted to the absence of a long-time pastor who was a friend and spiritual advisor to many in the congregation and beyond. During that time, we have done some things well while we struggled in other areas. We have supported and encouraged one another as we went through the prescribed ELCA process of preparing a site profile and establishing a call committee. Some expected the congregation to have a new pastor by this time while others expected this to be a lengthier process. But even as we continue to wait, we trust that God remains present with us and continues to provide all we need to enable us to be servants of God in this time and place.

During this Advent season we remember those who heard God promise to send them a good and righteous king to teach them the ways of God. Yet the earthly kings who ruled over them proved to be very human. They often served themselves rather than seeking the welfare of those whom God had entrusted to their care. Some certainly doubted that God

would ever fulfill that promise. God eventually did fulfill that promise in a most unexpected and surprising way. God did not send a mighty warrior but instead sent a newborn child – one who was weak and helpless and unable to do anything for himself. Through this child God has shown us that love is stronger than hate and that God is more powerful than any force that seeks to oppose God.

As we prepare our hearts and minds to receive this child and celebrate his birth, we remember his promise that he is with us always. We remember that all good gifts come from him. We ask that he might open our eyes to recognize those gifts, open our hearts to give thanks for them, and open our hands to use those gifts in loving and responsible ways.

May all of us experience a reflective Advent, a joyous Christmas season, and a blessed New Year.



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#### Dates to Note

- 3rd: 11am Decorating/Cookie Exchange
- 5th: 6pm Book Club
- 7th/14th: 6:30pm Soup Supper & 7pm Holden Eve Worship
- 8th: 1:30pm School Lunches
- 10th: 2pm Ornament Painting
- 12th: 7pm Council Meeting
- 24th: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- 25th: Christmas Carol Service

# Advent and Christmas



Advent is the season of reflection and preparation for the birth of Christ at Christmas and His expected return. Christmas is the fulfillment of all the promises God has made.

## December Events

**Church Decorating & Cookie Exchange on December 3 at 3pm.**

Get into the Christmas spirit! Help decorate the tree, set out decorations, and then enjoy a cookie swap. Bring a dozen cookies or other homemade holiday goodies to share.

**Ornament Painting Party on December 10 at 2pm.**

Led by Dianna Lindhag, this fun activity features the creation of a pretty, paint-swirled ornament (or two) for you to take home. Bring your kids—it's easy enough for them to do with a helping hand. All supplies provided. **FREE.**

## Adopt a Family

Once again, Lord of Life is pleased to be part of the Adopt-a-Family program. This year, we are honored to provide for a single mother with three teenage children. The family's needs and Christmas wishes are on printed sheets near the office. A Progress Board is in the entry. Gift coordinator is Eileen Dubowski. Deadline to deliver gifts to church: **December 21.** Share your blessings this holiday season!



## Advent and Christmas Worship

In addition to regular Sunday morning Worship from **December 4** through **December 20**, we offer additional ways to celebrate the birth of Jesus this year.

**Wednesday evening Advent worship at 7pm on December 7 & 14**

These services will feature the gorgeous melodies of the Holden Evening Prayer service. An informal **soup supper** will precede each Wednesday service at **6:30pm** in the fellowship hall adjoining the kitchen.

**Christmas Eve worship** with candlelight and communion. There will be a single service at **3pm.**

**Christmas Day Carol service at 10:30am.** Suggest your favorite traditional Christmas music!

These two Christmas services will also be streamed live on Facebook and will be available later on our website at [www.lordoflifeak.com](http://www.lordoflifeak.com).

**Note:** We always need volunteers to: read scriptures, help lead a service (assistant minister), usher, acolyte, prepare communion, and run PowerPoint and video. Willing to lend a hand? Contact the church office at office at [lordoflifeak.com](http://lordoflifeak.com) or sign up on the clipboard near the office. Instruction sheets are available for each job title.

## The Story of “Hallelujah”

Leonard Cohen was known for timeless writing and poetry that float outside of any particular epoch. His hallmark track has captivated generations of listeners. While “Hallelujah” may sound like an old standard or a hymn passed down through the ages, it was written in 1983 using a humble Casio keyboard. Fun fact: **Cohen wrote a staggering 180 verses for “Hallelujah.”** Adding to its drama are the original version’s husky vocals, from Cohen’s years of smoking. Youtube link: <https://youtu.be/YrLk4vdY28Q>.

“Hallelujah” and the album it came from were rejected by Leonard Cohen’s own record company because Columbia Records decided that “Hallelujah” didn’t have the commercial cachet they sought. The song was eventually released by an independent label. It was widely ignored.

Oddly enough, the song’s popularity can be traced to its inclusion in the soundtrack of *Shrek*, one of the highest grossing movies of 2001, which launched Hallelujah into the stratosphere. **There is no other song with a trajectory like “Hallelujah.”**

Many view it as a Christian song. Interestingly, Cohen was Jewish. “The word Hallelujah appears across religions and faiths. People take what they need from [the song] and what they want it to be. I think that’s why it’s played everywhere from weddings to funerals and births,” says Dan Geller, director of documentary *Hallelujah: Leonard Cohen, A Journey, A Song*.

—[theguardian.com/film/2022](https://www.theguardian.com/film/2022)

**“Hallelujah” was rejected by Cohen’s label due to a lack of commercial appeal**

## Council Highlights

**Bible Study:** Devotion 11: Coming to Terms with Life’s Realities Luke 18:1-8

**Treasurer’s report:** Kuwaa Mission funds need to be sent; Dianna will send remaining funds. NSF Policy was confirmed.

**Pastor’s report:** Thanksgiving Eve service at New Hope. Was unable to attend collegium for ELCA Pastors. Our confirmation student will do lessons at home, with pastor’s oversight. Local music depts. will be contacted re pianists.

**Ministry Events Calendar & 2022 Goal Setting/Objectives/Timeline:**

- ◆ Call process. Committee hasn’t met since mock interviews. Seven AK congregations are currently without a pastor.
- ◆ All ages Sunday school. Will meet following worship for now.
- ◆ Congregational/Community Events. Dianna will lead an ornament class. Thanksgiving food boxes.
- ◆ Electronic Sign. Liz will work on this in January.

**Ongoing Business:**

- ◆ 2023 Tithe Cards. We already have reusable cards.
- ◆ Helping AK Surplus Funds. Must serve the community. \$84,000 total available.

**New Business:**

- ◆ Upcoming Events. Thanksgiving Eve worship at New Hope; Christmas decorating 12-3; Advent Wednesdays Soup Supper & Holden Eve Worship; Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship.



Lord of Life Lutheran Church

North Pole, Alaska

## 2022 CHURCH COUNCIL

President:	Liz Sandbo	2023 Council members in next month's newsletter!
Vice President:	Bob Thoma	
Secretary:	Cheryl Park	
Treasurer:	Dianna Lindhag	
At Large Members:	Denise Hradecky Kevin Powers Allen Griswold	
Interim Pastor:	Curt Matz	
Financial Secretary:	Becky Peterson	

## Lord of Life Lutheran

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

### E-mail

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. 12 @ 7pm**

Newsletter deadline: 20th of each month.  
Get the latest on our website:  
[www.lordoflifeak.com/the-latest](http://www.lordoflifeak.com/the-latest)

or

Follow our Facebook page, worship live Sundays at 10:30am:  
[www.facebook.com/lordoflifeak](http://www.facebook.com/lordoflifeak)

## 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



### Anniversaries

- 12/8 Lynne Skjefte & Lars Peterson
- 12/30 Sarah & Mike Gregory



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

### Prayers for:

- ~ Herzberg family, grieving Nick's father's death
- ~ Steve H's sister—continued healing
- ~ Max, friend of Eileen D, missing in India
- ~ Lord of Life family—embrace change as pastor search continues
- ~ Those with on-going health issues:
  - Tanya A's son Bryan, jaw cancer
  - Meg O, heart and mobility
  - Darlene M, continued healing



### Alaska Synod Prayer Partner for December:

#### First Lutheran Church, Ketchikan, AK

- Please pray for:
- ~ Guidance for interim pastor and congregational leaders after retirement of pastor
  - ~ Puppet ministry team
  - ~ Staff of daycare center and families served by it

