

February  
2020



Lord of Life Lutheran

Lifelines

## A Note from Pastor Amanda

There's a story in John 5 that has been bugging me over the past few months. It's about one man among many who are waiting to be healed. Day after day, they all lay by a pool waiting for an angel to stir the water. When that happens, the first person in is healed.

The guy in our story has been ill for 38 years. YEARS! Can you imagine?! Most of us can go a few weeks with physical pain before we're discouraged; this guy has dealt with it for 38 years!

When Jesus walks by and sees him, he asks, "Do you want to be made well?" But the obvious answer isn't the one the man gives. He gives an excuse that he has no one to put him in the pool when the water is stirred up. But Jesus didn't ask him, "Why haven't you gotten into the pool?" he asked "Do you want to be made well?"

It's that question that has been nagging at me. It's in the back of my head as I make poor choices in my eating and exercise, as I blow past morning prayer in favor of starting in on work, as I ignore the dishes or making my bed or doing the other things that I know make me a centered and healthy person.

Amanda, do you want to be made well? And I'm really good at coming up with excuses instead of answering that question. Unfortunately, I don't think

that will change any time soon (it's been nagging me for months already to no avail.)

I share this because I don't think I'm the only one who struggles to do the good things that I want to do. (Since Paul wrote about it in Romans 7 [see verse 15], I'm pretty sure it's happened to us humans since the beginning of time.) Which is why the ending of our story in John 5 is important to hear.

Jesus healed the guy anyway.

I may know all the steps and tricks and ways to get healthy and centered in my life, but really, my actions and attempts are going to fall short. I need to be made well by the God who sees beyond my excuses to the things I suffer with and to heal me in those places.

Lent begins at the end of the month, that blessed season of truth-telling and repentance, of reliance on God and caring for others because truly, we all want to be made well.

In Christ's embrace,  
~Pastor Amanda



### Welcome to Denominations - Feb 9 after worship

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#### Dates to note:

- 1st: Church Game Night!
- 9th: Welcome to Denominations
- 9th & 23rd: 6pm Youth Group
- 10th: 7pm Council Meeting
- 14th: 10am School Lunch Prep
- 16th: 4pm The Underground
- 26th: 7pm Ash Wednesday Worship

# Youth Happenings

## THE UNDERGROUND 3rd-6th Grade

Sunday, Feb 16, 4-5:30pm

Last month we played, this month we're exploring the ways God works in people's work. Meet with Pastor Amanda to learn about what it means to be a pastor, try on some robes, play church, ask a ton of questions, and see what she does every day!

(Hey adults—you're always welcome at these events too!)

## Youth Group 7th- 12th Grade

Sunday, Feb 9 @ 6pm

Bible Study night—what does it mean to look for God in our lives and how do we know when we've found God?

Sunday, Feb 23 @ 6pm  
**CHALLENGE NIGHT!**

It's about time we have some healthy competition, a little quizzing, a lot of laughing. Join us for girls vs guys, jr high vs high school, pastor vs youth games! Can you take on the challenge?

## Welcome to... Denominations! February 9 after worship

Why are there so many  
different kinds of  
churches?

Where do they come  
from?

What's the difference?



We've all got questions about the Christian Church: how we came to be what we are, what the difference is between Catholic, Lutheran, Baptist, Non-denominational, and pseudo-Christian groups like Mormons or Unitarians. How do we remain faithful to Jesus' teachings when so many people read them differently?

**The biggest question: WHO HAS IT RIGHT?**

We'll explore some of these questions as we discover the ways God's Spirit works through the church in its many expressions. Your questions will be KEY as Pastor Amanda prepares for this event. Please write them down, email them, or ask so she can best prepare! See you February 9 after worship!

Please remember, these events are geared for ALL AGES — kiddos have questions about faith too!

## Loving Families

Living out God's love, welcome, hospitality, and graciousness is definitely our thing!

Thank you to the meal-preppers, meal-servers, life-sharers, cot-sleepers, bed-makers, compassion-givers, laundry-washers and co-organizers who gave these families a hand UP and made connections that will strengthen them in their journey.

If you'd like to be part of these families' movement out of homelessness, ask for an application before our next host week beginning mid-March. Keep your eyes and hearts open to serving our community!

Register through the church office or call Nenette at Love INC at 452-3876.



## Council Highlights

Bible study led by Pastor Amanda: LEAD – Living every day as disciples ([waytolead.org](http://waytolead.org)) leadership development resource. Watched a video about making changes in a congregation, listening to God's Spirit and trying new things.

Reviewed Master Calendar and discussed pushing the VBS program back to July, using the July 4th parade to invite local youth.

Discussed and honed 2020 goals. We will create SMART steps in the coming months for each goal.

Treasurer's report: Undesignated checking: \$1,819.90; Designated Checking: \$12,453.72; Debit Card checking: 784.15; Savings: \$7,671.88. ELCA Mission Support for October - December in the amount of \$3,352.19 will be sent 1-14-2020. ELCA Mission Support is up to date. Portico payment of \$3,873.19 will be sent out 1-14. All school lunch money has been expended.

Pastor's report: Christmas Eve attendance (90 + 23 = 113) was up slightly from 2018. Pastoral care: 7 families have been in crisis since Christmas. Pastor will be away at Holy Wisdom Monastery January 23-31 for continuing education. Vacation is planned for 3/7-3/20.

Education report: Sunday school materials were received and teachers have been signing up to teach classes.

### Ongoing business:

- ◆ Next Loving Families host week is March 15th through March 22nd
- ◆ February Game Night is Saturday February 1st, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

### New business:

- ◆ New Membership Classes are scheduled for 2/23 and 3/1 and will receive members on 3/1
- ◆ Sign will be repainted this summer by end of July 2020
- ◆ Pastor Amanda is going to gather the auditing team for Q4 2019

## Church Game Night

## Lent begins February 26

Saturday, February 1

6pm—8pm

Beat the winter blues and anybody who dares challenge you to a game!

We'll have decks of cards, party games, and board games available. We'll make fresh popcorn and pull some pizzas from the oven.

All you need to bring is yourself and a playful spirit!



This season of prayer and acts of service, of humility and repentance is meant to bring into focus the ways we live out (or don't live out) God's call to be faithful disciples. All through the 40 days we will read stories of faithful and flawed people, that we can see how God's mercy extends to us.

Ash Wednesday on February 26 marks the beginning of Lent. We worship together at 7pm and hear God's call to return to the Lord, are marked with the sign of the cross in ashes, and begin these 40 days remembering our baptism into new lives through Christ.

Worship on Wednesdays is from Feb 26—April 1.

## ELCA World Hunger: Making a Difference

Toa Phoeurn is a mother and subsistence farmer in the Kampong Speu province of Cambodia. She and her husband grow rice and corn to meet basic expenses, but with four children ages 14 to 20, they are increasingly stressed. In 2018, Toa joined a vegetable producers group supported by ELCA World Hunger. It was designed to help farmers adapt to a changing climate. The US Agency for International Development predicts extreme weather patterns in Cambodia, with prolonged drought and intense typhoons and flooding.



Toa received training in farming techniques including drip irrigation, which makes it easier to grow a variety of produce. With her new tools and training, Toa started growing cucumbers. From her first harvest she earned \$500, more than four times as much as her old corn crop. She paid for food and school fees, with enough left for savings. From her second harvest, she bought a bicycle for her daughter to get to school. “[Now] I have money to support the study of my children, and I have saved some money to support my family.”

From education to microloans, the programs you fund are making a difference in many lives. Thank you.

—Boundless, Winter 2019 (excerpt)

Lord of Life



2020!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>February 1</b>
Serving Week	10 am Bible Study	9 am - 12 pm Kuwaa Sewing Group	12 pm Food Boxes	9 am - 12 pm 17 Mile Homemakers		9:30 am - 10:30 am Yoga Devotion
9:30 am Education Hour	8 pm AA	5:30 pm Girl Scouts	4:30 pm Girl Scouts - Daisies	4 pm Chair Aerobics		6 pm Church Game Night
10:30 am Worship				8 pm AA		
11:30 am Fellowship Treats						
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
9:30 am Education Hour	10 am Bible Study	9 am - 12 pm Kuwaa Sewing Group	12 pm Food Boxes	4 pm Chair Aerobics	5 pm - 9 am GS Overnight	9:30 am - 10:30 am Yoga Devotion
10:30 am Worship	8 pm AA	5:30 pm Girl Scouts	4:30 pm Girl Scouts - Daisies	7 pm Band Practice		
11:30 am Fellowship Treats				8 pm AA		
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
9:30 am Education Hour	10 am Bible Study	9 am - 12 pm Kuwaa Sewing Group	12 pm Food Boxes	9 am - 12 pm 17 Mile Homemakers	10 am School Lunch Assembly	9:30 am - 10:30 am Yoga Devotion
10:30 am Worship	7 pm Council Meeting	5:30 pm Girl Scouts	4:30 pm Girl Scouts - Daisies	4 pm Chair Aerobics		
11:30 am Welcome to Denominations	8 pm AA			8 pm AA		
6 pm - 7:30 pm Youth Group						
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
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11:30 am Fellowship Treats				7 pm Band Practice		
4 pm - 5:30 pm The Underground				8 pm AA		
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
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11:30 am Fellowship Treats			7 pm Ash Wednesday Worship	8 pm AA		
6 pm - 7:30 pm Youth Group						



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	888-8259
Stewardship:	Julie Tanguay	906-290-9456
Evangelism:	Nancy Uptgraft	378-4633
Facilities:	Tim Schackman	210-488-5961
Financial Secretary:	Becky Peterson	
Pastor:	Amanda Kempthorne	322-2065 (cell)

## Lord of Life Lutheran

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North Pole Alaska, 99705  
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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: Feb. 10 @ 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](https://www.facebook.com/lordoflifeak)  
(even if you don't have a Facebook page!)

## Special Prayers and Concerns

### Birthdays



- 2/1 Mary Ash
- 2/6 Christine Lindquist
- 2/7 John Hoffmann
- 2/12 Kristi Boatman
- 2/15 Caleb Boatman
- 2/22 John Warnke
- 2/24 Nancy Uptgraft

### Anniversaries



- 2/22 Donna & Steve Heideman

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

### Prayers for:

- \* De Skilbred and family, grieving the loss of her husband
- \* Eileen D — grief and next steps
- \* Rejoice with John H — no brain tumors! Tests coming up to find the source of his migraines.
- \* Steve H — begins a 3 month cancer treatment program
- \* Mary Ash — less isolation and improved connections
- \* Healing and strength — Meg O knees and kidneys, Eric P healing hip, Al G healing heart, Paula F ankles and shoulder, Pat T cancer

Contact:

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

### February Prayer Partner:

**First Lutheran Church,  
Ketchikan, AK**

### Please pray for:

- Funds and plans to repair the front steps from the street to the building
- Worship preparations for Lent

