

January
2020



Lord of Life Lutheran

Lifelines

A Note from Pastor Amanda

John wrote, "See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure." – 1 John 3:1-3

Jesus said to his disciples, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." – John 13:34-35

Love is a verb. It's been a while since I've said that, so you may have forgotten. You might have been misguided in the past, that love is a fluttering in your stomach, a shortening of breath, a blush of your face. Nope. Love is an action word. It's God's love that first transforms our hearts so we can *be* love to others. And that love does stuff like mowing lawns and washing clothes, making dinner and saving money for a trip. Love takes off work to help out a friend or gives up a bit of a weekend so someone doesn't feel alone.

In famous lyrics, "What the world needs now is love, sweet love." It's loving action that makes changes to the troubles we face every day. It's love that keeps us going and love that will shift

this hateful, spiteful world.

Jesus spoke to the crowd, "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'" – Matthew 25:37-40

Peter wrote to believing Jews spread all around Asia Minor, "The end of all things is near; therefore be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers. Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." – 1 Peter 4:7-10

May we, as Lord of Life, *be* love in 2020, and may others know we are Christians by our love.

~Pastor
Amanda



Loving Families host week—January 19-26!

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Dates to note

- 5: 12th Day of Christmas Celebration
- 10: 10am School Lunches
- 11: 10-3 Council Retreat
- 12: 6pm Youth Group
- 13: 7pm Council Meeting
- 19: 1-4pm Kid Fest Event
- 19-26: Loving Families host week
- 20: Kuwaa Sewing/Youth Event

Youth Happenings

Youth Group (7-12 graders)

Sunday, Jan. 12 @ 6pm

Check in this year—what is it you want in 2020? How do you figure out what is worth your effort? Join the Bible study!

The Underground (3-6 graders)

Jan. 19, 1—4pm

We're going to KIDFEST! There are 25 Bounce houses in the Carlson Center, let's go play! Eat lunch after worship on Jan 19 and we'll carpool to town. Cost is only \$10 per youth. We will need additional drivers.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day! 3rd—12th graders!

Monday, Jan. 20, 10am-1pm

We've got work to do to make our world better. Come sew, cut, and pack kits for women in Liberia and prepare lunch for the workers.

Christmas Program Thank You

Everyone did a wonderful job with the Christmas program Dec. 15! Special thank you to Nancy Uptgraft for leading our angels! Later, the 3-6 grade group went to Holiday Heights



for a Christmas party. They visited senior residents; sang and danced for entertainment; and then Santa Claus made a surprise visit and gave out gifts for all.



What a great group of young people we have at Lord of Life!

What does it take to welcome young people?

“There are no young people here” is a common refrain. Just 12% of ELCA members are aged 18 to 29.

According to Adam Fairchild, Delaware Maryland Synod, young adults are ready to impact the life of the church, but they want to see commitment to issues that shape their lives, like climate change and immigration.

How can congregations increase the ranks of young adults active in their congregations? Sophia Behrens, Rocky Mountain Synod, says youth are willing, just show them how. Church leaders need to connect young people to activities beyond youth



group and confirmation.

“A big part of it is getting kids involved with the church in high school and middle school.” Christopher Garza, an Augsburg College graduate, agrees. He was invited to serve on his church council and as a synod assembly voting member. Once there, he was unsure what to do. “...it goes back to outreach – go after them, involve them, train them. Engage us, get us involved... set us up for success – otherwise it’s just going to be the same people running the show.”

What can you do to welcome a young adult?

—LivingLutheran August 2019

12th Day of Christmas Celebration—January 5

On Sunday, January 5th, we celebrate the '12th Day of Christmas: Jesus, Our Light' after worship service. Expected time: 45 mins to an hour. The lesson and activities, for adults and kids of all ages, will include:

- drawing self-portraits in the dark
- participating in a Bible story telling how Jesus brought light to a dark world
- making crafts to remind us that Jesus is the light
- planning ways to share Jesus' light

Snacks provided by the January fellowship team.



Council Highlights



Bible study led by Pastor Amanda, 1 John 3:1-3. Life gets crazy and busy and how it is important to be present and in the moment. "Today I will marvel at the mystery of God."

Upcoming events: Putting Christmas Decorations away January 5th

Treasurer's report: Undesignated checking: 3,574.71; Designated Checking: \$13,788.49; Debit Card checking: \$1,236.60; Savings: \$24,901.68. Everything with the IRS is all caught up.

Pastor's report: Helped Fairbanks Lutheran with call process, attended Women's Brunch and NP candle lighting ceremony. Ordered 250 Thanksgiving boxes, of which 20 were sent to the Delta community. Next year will do about 200. Currently preparing Mike Dubowski's Dec. 11 memorial, Advent worship, and planning Epiphany & Lent. We are getting requests for firewood, have one pending.

Facilities report: The only thing on the to-do list is to repair several outlets.

Youth report: Kaylee takes over in January and will do good things.

Ongoing business:

- ◆ Education kick-off party January 5 after church, with projects, crafts and stations.
- ◆ Support requested for sailors aboard USS Abraham Lincoln. Five names were given to the congregation and volunteers took the names and sent out care packages
- ◆ Winterizing the building has been started. We will try to complete this week.
- ◆ Handicap signs: Bases will be made so signs can be moved, though not easily. Total of 6 spaces, project on hold until spring.

New business:

- ◆ Boiler Inspection revealed a non-functioning gauge which Jered Dulany will repair.
- ◆ Loving Families host week is January 19-25. There is currently one family of 6, but more families may be added. Future Loving Families dates are March 15th and May 10th.
- ◆ A council retreat is scheduled for Jan. 11 from 10am to 3pm, with a potluck.

Loving Families Host Week

The Loving Families program helps families get back on their feet and into permanent housing. For 90 days, families stay in area churches for a week at a time, saving money on housing and food while the church supports them. Along with financial coaching, budgeting classes, goal-setting, and life skills, families save income and begin to look at the future. Through the past 3 years of Loving Families it is proven that this program **works** and it couldn't exist without the support of area churches like ours.

Loving Families

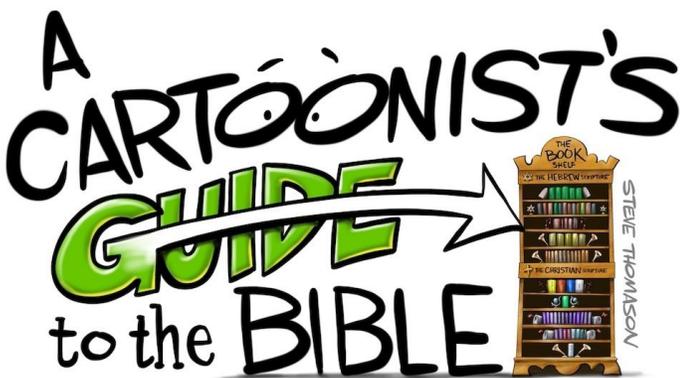
Lord of Life is part of this hand-up program! Our next host week is **January 19-26**. Sign up board is in the entry so you can provide a meal, items for breakfast or packed lunches, or spend the night on a comfy cot that gives the families an extra sense of security in a strange space.

Provide an evening of quiet conversation, or simply be present.

**Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.
Do good in the name of God for the people considered "least of these."**

A Ministry of Cartooning

Steve Thomason, pastor at Easter Lutheran Church in Eagan, Minnesota, uses cartoons and art to help connect people to the word of God in the way he knows best. His most recent project is A Cartoonist's Guide to the Gospel of Matthew, a full-color depiction of the Gospel and part of his "A Cartoonist's Guide to the Bible" series.



"We are more visually literate as a society because of the ease of producing visuals," he said. "People say, 'Pastor Steve, when you use your pictures, it just becomes so clear to me.' The image communicates something. It also helps them track through the logical progression of the sermon. I think people are so trained to be visual that it helps them pay attention and it ties the sermon together cohesively."

Dave Unmacht, congregation council president, said it helps engage worshipers. "Steve's ... sermon style is so unique and creative," he said. "It's unlike any other that I've experienced or witnessed."

Through his website (stevethomason.net), Thomason's work—art of all kinds, animation, writing, sermons—has spread across the world. Some of his artwork can be downloaded for a dollar, even though he's aware he could make more money from them. "I have no idea how many people actually use it. All I care about is that people are growing deeper in the realm of God."

—LivingLutheran.org (excerpt)

Lord of Life



2020!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 <u>10:30 am</u> Holden (Evening) Prayer Worship <u>11:30 am</u> Fellowship	30 <u>8 pm</u> AA	31	January 1 <u>OFFICE</u> <u>CLOSED</u>	2 <u>OFFICE</u> <u>CLOSED</u> <u>9 am - 12 pm</u> 17 Mile Homemakers <u>8 pm</u> AA	3	4
5 <u>10:30 am</u> Worship <u>11:30 am</u> 12th Day of Christmas Party	6 <u>10 am</u> Bible Study <u>8 pm</u> AA	7 <u>9 am - 12 pm</u> Kuwaa Sewing Group <u>5:30 pm</u> Girl Scouts	8 <u>12 pm</u> Food Boxes <u>4:30 pm</u> Girl Scouts - Daisies	9 <u>7 pm</u> Band Practice <u>8 pm</u> AA	10 <u>10 am</u> School Lunch Assembly	11 <u>9:30 am - 10:30</u> <u>am</u> Yoga Devotion <u>10 am - 3 pm</u> Council Retreat
12 <u>9:30 am</u> Education Hour <u>10:30 am</u> Worship <u>11:30 am</u> Fellowship Treats <u>6 pm - 7:30 pm</u> Youth Group	13 <u>10 am</u> Bible Study <u>7 pm</u> Council Meeting <u>8 pm</u> AA	14 <u>9 am - 12 pm</u> Kuwaa Sewing Group <u>5:30 pm</u> Girl Scouts	15 <u>12 pm</u> Food Boxes <u>4:30 pm</u> Girl Scouts - Daisies	16 <u>9 am - 12 pm</u> 17 Mile Homemakers <u>8 pm</u> AA	17	18 <u>9:30 am - 10:30</u> <u>am</u> Yoga Devotion
19 Serving Week <u>9:30 am</u> Education Hour <u>10:30 am</u> Worship <u>11:30 am</u> Fellowship Treats <u>1 pm - 4 pm</u> The Underground	20 Serving Week <u>9 am - 12 pm</u> Kuwaa Sewing and Youth Serving <u>10 am</u> Bible Study <u>8 pm</u> AA	21 Serving Week <u>5:30 pm</u> Girl Scouts	22 Serving Week <u>12 pm</u> Food Boxes <u>4:30 pm</u> Girl Scouts - Daisies	23 Serving Week <u>9 am - 12 pm</u> 17 Mile Homemakers <u>8 pm</u> AA	24 Serving Week	25 Serving Week <u>9:30 am - 10:30</u> <u>am</u> Yoga Devotion
26 Serving Week <u>9:30 am</u> Education Hour <u>10:30 am</u> Worship <u>11:30 am</u> Fellowship Treats	27 <u>10 am</u> Bible Study <u>8 pm</u> AA	28 <u>9 am - 12 pm</u> Kuwaa Sewing Group <u>5:30 pm</u> Girl Scouts	29 <u>12 pm</u> Food Boxes <u>4:30 pm</u> Girl Scouts - Daisies	30 <u>9 am - 12 pm</u> 17 Mile Homemakers <u>8 pm</u> AA	31	1 <u>9:30 am - 10:30</u> <u>am</u> Yoga Devotion



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	
Stewardship:	Julie Tanguay	
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
Website: www.lordoflifeak.com

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

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: Jan. 13 @ 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

- 1/7 Katy Castor
- 1/9 Ashley Garrison
- 1/11 Meg Ojala
- 1/18 Bill Reeves
- 1/23 Riley Maranville
- 1/24 Ty Peterson
- 1/30 Donna Heideman,
Liz Sandbo



Prayers for:

- * Eileen Dubowski—grieving the loss of her husband, Mike
- * Dawn F (friend of Margi U)—recovering from pneumonia
- * Dan Skilbred—in end stages of Parkinson's disease, on hospice
- * Mental health and strength for those fighting depression
- * Mary Ash—less isolation and improved connections
- * Continued healing— Meg O, Al G, Paula F, John H, Mike B, Steve H, Pat T

January Prayer Partner:
**Gloria Dei Lutheran Church,
Anchorage, AK**

- Please pray for:**
- Pain in the congregation over conflicts that caused the pastor to leave abruptly
 - Transition in the office staff
 - Peace and comfort as they move forward and rebuild the sense of community

Anniversaries

- 1/1 Kelly & Zach Fennell
- 1/11 Evie & Gary Freeman



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

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

