

January
2021



Lord of Life Lutheran

Lifelines

A Note from Pastor Amanda

Disney came out with a movie over the Christmas holiday called “Soul” directed by Pixar’s chief creative officer, Pete Doctor. He’s the same person who brought us “Monsters Inc,” “Up,” and “Inside Out.” (Basically, he’s the guy who makes us cry at kid movies.)

“Soul” is the story of a man whose body is between life and death and his soul escapes “the great beyond” and travels to the place where new souls get their personality. He’s assigned to be a mentor with soul 22, who cannot find her “spark” and therefore cannot go to earth. Don’t worry, I didn’t spoil anything.

I loved this imaginative journey into what makes us who we are, that honors our uniqueness and complexity, and names our fears and doubts. I loved the “thin spaces” of life and death and being “in the zone.” But what got me the most is how they portrayed the search for a soul’s purpose.

Living in a capitalist society, I buy stuff that I can use. When it’s no longer useful or enjoyable or entertaining (and can’t be repurposed), I toss it. It has served its purpose. I think we make a mistake when we treat ourselves and others like those items.

This hunt for our own purpose can cloud the gift it is to be alive. When we’re consumed with what we should be doing and if we’re actually doing it, or wondering why God still has us on this earth, we are missing the gift of just being here – of enjoying a sunrise or sipping on a cup of our favorite hot beverage, of telling stories with a friend or letting someone else know we care.

I hear the mother, Maria Portokalos, from “My Big Fat Greek Wedding” ringing in my ears, “I gave you life so that you could live it!”

God has given you life! Live it, dear ones. Find the things that bring you joy, that transport you to a different place of rest and peace, where you are enough just by existing, with nothing to prove or produce. Because you are a beautiful soul, worthy of love for just who you are and this life we have is a gift from God.

As we cautiously move into a new year, may your soul remain steady in the One who creates, redeems, and sustains you.

Peace,
~Pastor Amanda



Epiphany Worship, Jan 6

**THE
EPIPHANY
OF OUR
LORD**



*A Worship service led by the
ELCA bishops elected in 2019*

Wednesday, January 6, 2021

8pm Eastern | 7pm Central

**LIVE on synodical Facebook pages
and websites across the ELCA**

What: Live—streamed Epiphany Worship Service

When: January 6, 2021, 4pm Alaska Standard Time

Where: <https://www.facebook.com/AlaskaSynodELCA/>

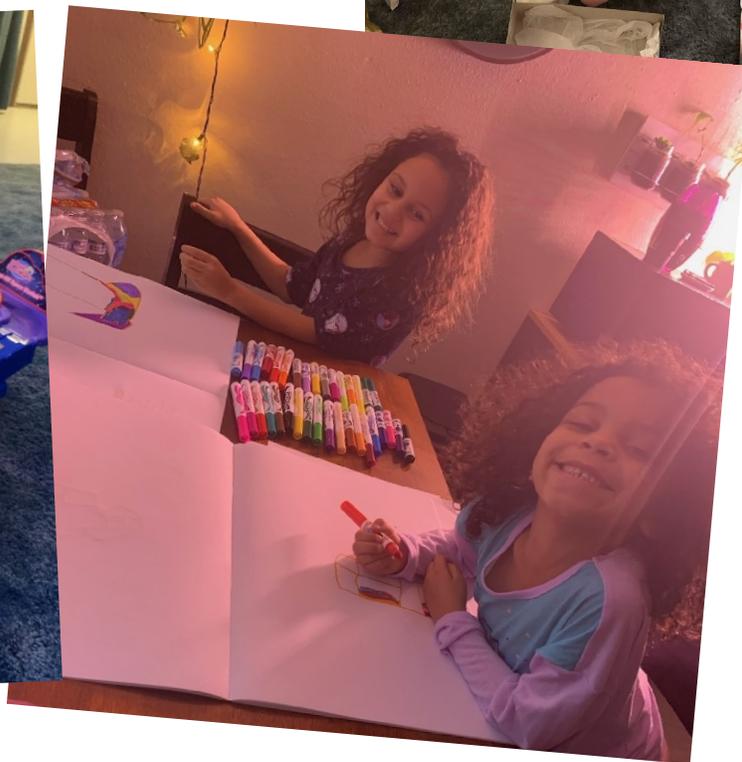
Just go to the AK Synod Facebook page at 4pm on Jan. 6 to be part of this unique service!

Adopt-a-Family Christmas Gifts

Lord of Life was excited to adopt a family of five (a single mom and 4 children: girls ages 7, 5, and twin boys age 2) for the holidays. We are grateful that Love INC provides this opportunity.

Thank you to everyone who so generously provided blocks/legos, art supplies, gift certificates, cooking supplies, fluffy towels, paid an electric bill, new clothes, earrings, dolls and toys and SO MANY other gifts that made their Christmas sparkle. Just look at those faces!

Mom is especially grateful to our church and is finding ways to connect with us. She is looking forward to thanking us in person and excited for the day she can do the same for another family.



Now What? Covid Vaccines and Worship

There is light at the end of the fabled tunnel. The first round of Covid-19 vaccines has been administered in Alaska, and Round 2 is en route. We are emotionally weary, and some have lost loved ones, but we have pulled together with grace and emotional strength.

When case rate numbers drop to acceptable levels — as they will!— worship in the sanctuary will resume. To protect your health, we will still refrain from singing together, passing offering baskets, or coming forward for Communion. Keep checking the Alert Levels at <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/alertlevels.aspx> for 21 case rate.

We look forward to a new year, bringing renewed faith, a new hope!



Celebrate 50-40-10 Women's Ordination



Growing up Roman Catholic, Pastor Emeritus Gigie Sijera-Grant of First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Ellicott City, MD, thought about becoming a nun. But in her words, “God has a sense of humor.”

She and her husband joined a Lutheran church because of their Sunday school program. An ELCA director asked her, “How would you like to become a pastor?” She laughed. But the thought persisted. For

a whole year. By God’s grace, she received a scholarship from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. In 2002, Sijera-Grant became a pastor, answering a call to serve First Evangelical Lutheran Church.

In seminary, an Asian male pastor warned her, “You’ve got a double whammy. You are a woman and a person of color.” Says Sijera-Grant, “Back then, I didn’t understand what he meant. I do now. In my 17 years of ministry, I’ve seen sexism, patriarchy and racism in subtle ways.

My perspective of community has kept getting larger—from a congregation to the Asian community to other ethnic communities to the wider church. My vision of the church keeps expanding to embrace more people, especially those different from me. We are all God’s children!” —*livinglutheran.org*

Council Highlights

Bible Study: Hebrews 10:12-33 “Wilderness and Chaos.” Where in your life is chaos and where in your life is calm? Reflected on the words whisper, ache, turn, inhale.

Master Calendar and Goal Check: Engage youth and children. Support for those in crisis: appreciation for Facebook posts. Engage members in our mission.

Treasurer’s report: Undesignated checking: \$1,982.94; Designated Checking: \$6,777.52; Debit Card checking: \$1,494.56; Savings: \$9,656.46. ELCA paid in November, Portico paid through November. It is our last free month from GCI, bill will increase to \$205 excluding pastor’s cell phone. CARES funding is spent. Comparing expenses to offering, we are —\$857.87 for the year (which is actually better than most years.)

Pastor’s report: All church bible study of Habakkuk completed. 225 Thanksgiving food boxes given out. 7pm Thanksgiving Eve worship. Leading Advent worship on Zoom Wednesdays. Attending online lectures on anxiety and grief. Two firewood requests in past month. If NP Cares approves application, we are tentatively approved for \$18,000. Adopt-a-Family gifts will be delivered 12-21. Christmas Eve service will be pre-recorded and available noon 12-24.

Ongoing Business:

- ◆ PPP loan/grant is spent. Sam is reconciling funds for reporting.
- ◆ Worship streaming equipment is installed and complete.

New Business:

- ◆ **Adopted:** Website and Social Media Policy, Lay Employees Policy, and Nursery Policies and Procedures, Reimbursement Policy (reimbursements must be submitted with 60 days with original receipt). **Removed:** Correspondence to Congregation and Audit Committee Policies (redundant), Usage of Narthex Policy, Committee Policy.
- ◆ **Video:** We need to train volunteers to run the new video equipment. Jason is creating a manual/script for the technicians. Training will take an hour initially with follow-up practice and training as needed.
- ◆ Christmas Eve worship is online only. Discussed opening the building for meditation and quiet prayer, decided against it.
- ◆ Committee reports: None.





Lord of Life Lutheran Church North Pole, Alaska

2021 CHURCH COUNCIL

President:	Liz Sandbo	687-1918
Vice President:	Sean Garrison	888-2052
Secretary:	Cheryl Park	488-4167
Treasurer:	Sam Aleshire	488-4692
Education:		
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:		
Facilities:		
Financial Secretary:	Becky Peterson	385-9581
Pastor:	Amanda Kempthorne	322-2065 (cell)

Lord of Life Lutheran

1005 Saint Nicholas Drive
North Pole Alaska, 99705
Website: www.lordoflifeak.com

Phone: 488-6720
Pastor Amanda's cell: 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: January 11 @ 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
1/30 Liz Sandbo



Anniversaries

1/11 Evie & Gary Freeman



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

Prayers for:

- * Steve H, battling cancer
- * Millicent K, mother of Pastor Carol G, hospitalized with Covid and pneumonia
- * Gary and Evie Freeman - Covid
- * Jo S family, grieving death of Paul S
- * Pastor Erika B, grieving death of her grandmother, preparing to welcome their baby girl!
- * Those with on-going health complications:
 - Meg O hip pain,
 - Brenda S healing a broken leg
 - Gary O general health,
 - Paula F upcoming surgeries,
 - John H medical concerns

Contact office@lordoflifeak.com
to sign up for prayer chain email!

January Prayer Partner:

Alaska Native Lutheran Church
Anchorage, AK

Please pray for:

- their work to preserve their history in photo albums
- connections among people when they're not gathering for worship

