

July
2020



Lord of Life Lutheran

Lifelines

A Note from Pastor Amanda

How you doing, dear ones? I feel pulled in all kinds of directions about all kinds of things lately. Mixed messages give me whiplash. Other's choices make me question my own. Calls for equality tug at my consciousness. My own desires give me false security. And no matter how much I wonder and worry and plan, something always changes.

It's unnerving – for ALL of us – as things keep shifting below our feet. The days pass like a roller coaster as we try to keep the uncertainty at arm's length. What once was a given doesn't seem as certain.

So we're constantly in search of something solid. As people of faith, we don't have to look far. While others look to different leaders, studies, and strategies, we build our house on the Rock.

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock." (Matthew 7)

What are the "words of mine" that Jesus is referring to? Go read Matthew 5, 6, and 7. Blessed are the ones who are weakest in society's eyes. The intentions of your heart matter. Trust God hears your prayers – ask for what you need and think big-picture. Stop working toward some earthly (fleeting) reward. Don't get strung out on worry. Set aside

your judgment of others and treat them as you'd like to be treated. Take news with a grain of salt and keep your trust in God alone.

This is what God's kingdom is like. These are the foundations we build on. And these things can't be shaken by bad news, by overwhelming circumstance, by who's in office, by sickness, or even by our own mistakes. Because in all those things, exist the grace of God.

"When Jesus had come down from the mountain, great crowds followed him; and there was a leper who came to him and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean.' He stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, 'I do choose. Be made clean!'" (Matthew 8:1-3)

For our frailties, our mistakes, our bad days, we come with the same request as the leper. And we find a God who is willing and able to put us back on solid ground.

Be wise, dear ones. Build your hearts and lives on what is solid. And when the rains come and the floods rise, stand firm on the grace of God. You've got this. And God's got you.

In God's FIRM grip,
~Pastor Amanda

Someone surprised Eileen!

Not sure who did it, but Eileen was sure surprised!

Backstory: Eileen typically fills her fuel a measured amount every few months. With water seeping into her basement, she's been running the furnace to help take water out of the air. Figuring she was about out of fuel, she called the company. After 30 gallons, fuel started squirting out of the vent pipe — her tank was full! (*Effective measures were taken to absorb the spill.)

She'd like to thank the mystery person who cared for her in this way. She'll have fuel till 2021! (If you ever want to do something for someone and they need to know what but not who, Pastor Amanda keeps confidentiality very well.)

Worship in July

We are on Facebook Live (www.facebook.com/lordoflifeak/live) every Sundays at 10:30am, or on Lord of Life's YouTube channel linked to our website: lordoflifeak.com by 2pm. You can also request a DVD.

July 5: Online worship only! Pastor Lisa Smith-Fiegel, Director of Evangelical Mission in our Alaska Synod Office will be our guest preacher this day! No service will be held at the church.

July 12, 19, and 26: On the lawn or in your car!

These are **blended services**. Bring a comfy lawn chair or enjoy the summer breeze on a bench or picnic table. If you're more comfortable or your health requires, stay in your car. **Drive-in Worship** will be set up too, listen from within a 1-mile radius on 89.5 FM.



Outdoor Worship Service

1. Arrive early. Those wishing to stay in their vehicles park in the front row / handicap parking spaces. Others may settle on the front lawn 6 feet away from others.
2. Wear a mask. Use the bathroom at home before coming. Please keep physical distance.
3. Bulletins, devotion books, Communion cups, and an offering basket will be on an entrance table and passed out by ushers.
4. Pray for sunshine! In case of rain, service will be drive-in only.

If you'd like to serve with cleaning/set up or by handing out Communion cups or bulletins to those walking OR to those in cars, please contact the church office or show up at 9:45am to help!

Hey, Paul Bunyan!



We need you...

and your ax (okay, your chain saw). A North Pole local is donating several cords of wood to Lord of Life for our winter firewood donation program. The trees have been felled but they need to be limbed, loaded and brought to church. The donor would like

the wood removed ASAP.

Our remaining wood supply also needs to be shifted, so seasoned wood can be accessed first.

We also need additional people able to load and/or deliver wood next winter. Please contact the office if you can help with this one-time project or to be added to the winter deliverer's list.

Guest Preachers

Mark your calendars this summer! Several wonderful pastors are sharing God's Word in upcoming worship services. We are honored to "host":



August 16: Bishop Shelley Wickstrom, Alaska Synod

For these services, worship is online only.

After online-only worship, join us on Zoom for a Virtual Coffee Hour!

Starting at 11am, go to Zoom.com, click "join meeting" and use the code: 922 5244 9173 to join in, or call (253) 215-8782 and type in the same code for voice only. Chat with one another, share survival tips, and thank God for each other!

Movie Night Recommendations

We encourage you to stretch your understanding of the world you live in.

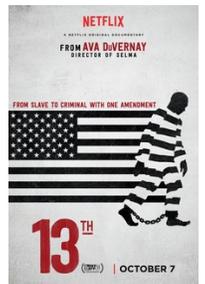
Just Mercy tells the true story of Bryan Stevenson, a civil-rights attorney who works to defend Walter McMillian, who was wrongfully convicted of murder. Rent it for **FREE only through the end of June** through every digital movie series in existence! →



← **The Hate U Give**, the story of Starr Carter, who lives in two worlds: the poor, black neighborhood where she resides and the white prep school she attends. This uneasy balance is shattered when she witnesses a fatal shooting by a policeman. Facing pressures from all sides, Starr must find her voice and stand up for what's right.



13th, currently free on Netflix and YouTube, is a documentary on the 13th amendment, exploring the intersection of race, justice, and mass incarceration in the United States. It is a solid look at our national systems that brought us to today. →



Council Highlights

Book Study: Ch. 5 of The Invitational Christian. “Address Their Fears.” Four major fears in sharing faith: rejection, fanaticism, harming a good relationship, and fear of feeling stupid. Which of the four do you have and how to overcome it? For July, discuss Ch. 6, “Give Them Tools.”

Master calendar and goal check: Increase church visibility (sharing Facebook Live and YouTube is a great way to get the word out), engaging youth (hosting monthly 7th-12th grade events), support for those in crisis (checking on people, AA resumed meeting), engage members in mission (use newsletter and website to interact).

Treasurer's report: Undesignated checking: \$7,289.79; Designated Checking: \$6,777.50; Debit Card checking: \$444.49; Savings: \$4,369.64. Profit and loss: ELCA has been paid for May and bills are current. We received a PPP grant of \$25,800, 75% for payroll and 25% for utilities over the next 8 weeks. The timeline and percentages may soon be extended. Jo Schackman has returned to full time. Payroll expense shows as negative due to funding from the grant. Encourage tithing from PFD now coming in July.

Pastor's report: Bishop Shelley deemed us a vital congregation (under 75 people) and nominated us for a churchwide level program. Participating in online continuing education (Festival of Homiletics). Sending thank you notes to church members for monetary support since worship has gone online. Synod reviewed our website and provided glowing feedback (9/10 on front page!). Added bio for Pastor.

Ongoing Business: Outdoor services planned for June 14/21/28 and July 12/19/26 with a tent for worship team in case of rain. July 5 is Facebook live only. The property will be treated for mosquitoes 6/13 and 7/11. Sam Aleshire is willing to head up Outdoor VBS, will be asking families for input in preparing. Someone will be hired to supplement Kevin's cleaning when the church reopens.

New Business: Online presence must continue as people have varying levels of comfort gathering. Suggested to change from projector to LCD TVs and camera in sanctuary (more research needed, searching for a team to put together a plan). Using newsletter list, reach out to birthday/anniversary celebrants.





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

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: July 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

- 7/6 Alayna Knutson
- 7/7 Jo Bolish
- 7/9 Chris Dart
- 7/10 Jo Schackman
- 7/11 Er Pananen
- 7/13 Cheryl Park
- 7/16 Ellison Pahkamaa
- 7/19 Hannah Boatman
- 7/22 Jered Dulany



Anniversaries

- 7/10 Chris & John Dart
- 7/15 Becky & Eric Peterson
- 7/19 Amie & Fred Maranville
- 7/20 Karen & Jim LeFlore
- 7/27 Margi Ungrodt & Curt Renner
- 6/28 Sheri & Marty Pahkamaa



Prayers for:

- * Those grieving loved ones, those dying while hospital staff try to support them.
- * Those with health troubles: Pastor Ron Rucker (Wasilla) breathing troubles, Paula F recovering from surgery, John W healing from knee replacement.
- * For those in transitions and discerning new paths: Julie and family (Evie's daughter), Curt and Margi, Eileen.
- * Those with on-going health complications: Meg O, Gary O, Polly H, Erich H, Evie F, Gary F, Steve H, Pat T.

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

July Prayer Partner:

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Anchorage, AK

Please pray for:

- Preparations and planning for parking lot worship
- Newly created a plan of steps in returning to in-person worship
- Balancing with the 2 other churches that met in their building



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