

July  
2021



Lord of Life Lutheran

LifeLines

## A Note from Pastor Amanda

What are the things that build your faith? What sort of things have you experienced in life, or common practices you have done that help you draw closer to God? What makes you aware of God's presence in your life?

Part of our baptism service asks us to promise ongoing attention to our faith life. At an infant baptism, we ask the parents to commit to teaching the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the 10 Commandments, to nurture their child with Christian community, God's Word, and bring them to the sacrament of Holy Communion. As a church, we promise to provide space for these things, and to help parents live into the promises they make. Together, we embark on this path of faith formation.

What follows are Sunday school classes, Vacation Bible Schools, youth groups, retreats, and big trips. We sing songs and tell stories, we share our lives and ask where God is showing up.

It can feel like Confirmation is the culmination of this work. We have studied, we learn, we ask questions, and we stand up in front of the church and claim our faith. But faith formation is not just for the young.

Faith formation is a life-long work.

It doesn't stop when you affirm your faith as a youth, or when you

leave your parent's house and find your own way. It doesn't stop when the kids are grown or when retirement finally comes. Your faith is in a constant state of growth, of flux, of change and understanding and doubt.

So what are you doing to nurture it? Are you spending time on the things that build your faith? Are you learning the Lord's Prayer and the Creed and the 10 Commandments – not just memorizing them, but pausing to think about what weight each line speaks to your life? Are you building friendships that encourage your trust in God? Are you reading and listening to God's Word, again, pausing to think about what it means for you?

Someone asked me recently what is "enough" when it comes to spiritual practices (prayer, Bible reading, devotion books, acts of service.) I had to tell her, I don't know. But when we start to live out the rest of our baptismal covenant, I believe we're on the right track to "enough":

"That we learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made and work for justice and peace."

Green and growing,  
~Pastor Amanda



### Vacation Bible School, July 12-16 5:30-8pm!

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#### Dates to note:

5th: OFFICE CLOSED  
11th: 6pm Youth Group  
12th—16th: 5:30-8pm VBS  
19th: 7pm Council Meeting  
25th: 6pm Youth Group

## Youth Events

Youth Group meets on Sundays:

**July 11 and 25**

Anyone grades 6-12 are welcome!

**July 11, meet from 6-7:30pm for VBS prep!** After dinner, we will do a little set up for VBS and have a grown-up style VBS around the themes of the week.

**July 25, LAKE DAY 4pm-8pm!** Parents drop off at Chena Lakes at 4pm for sun and fun! Swimming, sand castles, canoes... hotdogs for dinner, pick up is 8.

**\*Will need 2 extra adults by July 21!\***



## Faith and Science Class

Join Pastor Amanda and others across the nation to learn about the intersection of faith and science.

**What:** An online class, “Mere Science and Christian Faith”

**When:** Wednesdays in July, 10am-11am AST

**What else:** Course material can be viewed later. Discussion is online on your own time. **\$55 fee.**

**Course Description:** We’re obsessed with technological advances and scientific breakthroughs. It can be hard to know how the Good News fits into a world that frequently seems caught up in everything else. We’ve all felt that conflict and it’s natural to want to avoid it. But what if we leaned into it? Mere Science and Christian Faith is designed to help you integrate your faith through a better understanding of science.



More information can be found at

<https://faithlead.luthersem.edu/> under “Academy”.

If you’d like to take the class together at Lord of Life on Wednesday mornings, let Pastor Amanda know!

## Vacation Bible School

**Join us from 5:30-8pm July 12-16!**

This adventure takes us through the stories of God’s people in the wilderness as we find all the ways we can TRUST GOD!

VBS is for all children ages 5—5<sup>th</sup> grade.

We will be outside for much of our VBS, praying for sunshine!

Hey church, here’s what you need to know:

We have volunteers to lead science and crafting projects!

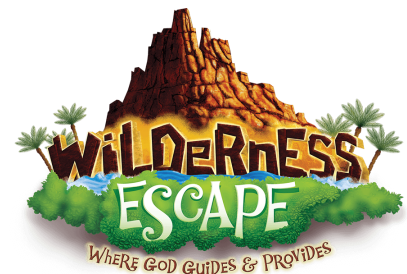
We have a food prep team and a menu!

We have a welcome and kick-off leader!

We have Bible story tellers!

We are looking for:

- ⇒ Set-up team the 5<sup>th</sup>—11<sup>th</sup> to set up tents, decorate a Bible story area, and organize the day’s items into piles (all ahead of time)
- ⇒ Group shepherds to move to each station and listen to these little ones’ big faith!



**MENU:** (We accommodate all food allergies/sensitivities!)

Mains: Uncrustables (pb&j), bagel sandwiches, ham and cheese cubes, tortilla rolls, and a pizza party

Sides: daily fruit and veggies, cheese sticks, chips, cheese-its, fruit cups, applesauce

Desserts: cookies, rice krispie treats, fruit snacks, brownies, ice cream cups

Drinks: juice boxes, water

# Fellowship has Returned!

Now that case rates have dropped, we are thrilled to resume intentional time for fellowship! Here's our schedule through the end of July. (Contact Liz or Denise with ideas for August.)

**June 27th** - Finger Food Potluck! Pizza rolls, pigs in a blanket, bagel bites, mozzarella sticks, poppers...

**July 4th** - Red, White, & Blue Potluck! Get creative and bring something fun and colorful to share.

**July 11th** - Baked Goods! Share your baking skills with cookies, cakes, crisps, pies, and so much more.

**July 18th** - Grill Time Again! Sign-up\* to bring hamburgers, hotdogs, buns, chips, salads, and desserts.

**July 25th** - Subway Giant Six Foot Sub! Bring sides, drinks, or desserts to share.

We have begun using Signup.com for ways to connect, but paper copies will be available too.

Our dedicated site is: <https://signup.com/group/257005486845306026> and we will use this

for everything from fellowship treats to serving on Sunday roles. If you have questions,

contact the church office ([office@lordoflifeak.com](mailto:office@lordoflifeak.com)) or Council President, Liz ([lizsandbo@gmail.com](mailto:lizsandbo@gmail.com))



## Council Highlights

**Bible Study:** Led by Pastor Amanda. John 4:29. Witnesses are called to tell what they saw and heard, and devotion from “Live in Grace, Walk in Love” by Bob Goff.

**Treasurer's report:** Undesignated checking: \$3,883.82; Designated Checking: \$6,495.83; Debit Card checking: \$1,773.77; Savings: \$19,520.70. (Accessible funds for regular expenses: (all but “Designated”) = \$25,178.29) Offering and tithing, undesignated giving are down. The fuel bill is current. Bills paid, we have -\$2,000 to catch up the rest of this month, and we sit -\$13,000 more spent than offerings this year.

### **Pastor's report:**

- ◆ Past—very proud of those she put in charge of worship while she was on vacation, especially youth involvement. Attended Festival of Homiletics online.
- ◆ Present—plan VBS, rewrite for older youth. Prepare for outdoor worship. Plan 2022 Youth Gathering. Tell faith stories incorporated in worship.
- ◆ Future—Research “gift inventories.” Gather directory photos and clean up ICON membership discrepancies.

### **2021 Goal Check:**

- ◆ Discover/tell faith stories. Reflection as part of the sermon and fellowship time.
- ◆ Launch easy signup & serve program. Launching tomorrow for the Let's Grill fellowship.
- ◆ Complete Gift Inventory for the congregation. Amanda is researching.
- ◆ Strengthen members' connection. Sunday fellowship, coordinated by the Outreach Team.
- ◆ Engage people in worship. Curt met with the team. Picked all songs for regular services. The same rotation will be kept of contemporary and regular services, with 5th Sunday a surprise.

### **Ongoing Business:**

- ◆ VBS scheduled for July 12-16, 5:30-8pm; 5:30-6pm eat sack lunches and 6-8pm program time. Theme is Wilderness Escape, we are preparing for 30 students and ordering supplies. Nancy Uptgraft will manage VBS.
- ◆ Case rate has dropped below 2. We can worship inside/sing without masks. Will transition to passing the peace.

### **New Business:**

- ◆ Building Use/Equipment requests. Carol Hughes asked (tutoring). Checking insurance and how other churches handle these requests. NP Grange asked to use sound equipment 7/5. Will ask Jason Kempthorne's opinion and inform council.
- ◆ Ministry idea: garden harvests shared with the congregation will have a donation jar. Money collected will go to ELCA World Hunger (or another feeding ministry), let our gratitude for abundance help others.
- ◆ Vacant Council Position. Stewardship ends 12/21. Need to begin search for Treasurer. Engage the Nomination Team to search for both positions.
- ◆ Sunday School Imagining. Discussion—about a regular meeting day/time/feasibility.



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
Worship & Music:	Curt Renner	488-4405
Youth:	Kaylee Lindhag	388-5273
Stewardship:		
Mission & Social Ministry:	Denise Hradecky	799-5184
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](http://www.lordoflifeak.com)

Phone: 488-6720  
Pastor Amanda's cell: 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: Monday, July 19 @ 7:00 pm

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:  
[www.facebook.com/lordoflifeak](http://www.facebook.com/lordoflifeak)

## Special Prayers and Concerns

### Birthdays

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



### Prayers for:

- \* Barbara T, strength
- \* Dory (family of Barbara T), battling cancer again
- \* Eric P, cut finger and infection
- \* Vern D, ATV accident
- \* All the moving parts and clear weather for outdoor worship!
- \* Vacation Bible School youth!

Those with on-going health complications:

Steve H, cancer treatments  
Meg O, pain and mobility  
Gary O, PTSD & pain  
Erich and Polly Hoffmann

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

### Alaska Synod Prayer Partner for July:

Teller Lutheran Church,  
Teller, Alaska

Please pray for:

- \* Summer months of harvesting for the community
- \* Floating boats and running motors!
- \* Hope and peace for the future of the community, trusting God's work in them.

### Anniversaries

7/10 Chris & John Dart  
7/15 Becky & Eric Peterson  
7/19 Amie & Fred Maranville  
7/27 Margi Ungrodt & Curt Renner  
7/29 Patsy & Tony Fazio



*If your important date is missing, please let us know!*

