

June
2021



Lord of Life Lutheran

LifeLines

A Note from Pastor Amanda

I forget sometimes, how green the world can be. The signs of new life are everywhere around us: bright unfurling leaves, blades of rising grass, greenish-yellow dust on every surface all point to the new thing happening.

But in a few weeks, the pollen will finally disperse, I'll be able to breathe again, and the awe and mystery of "green up" will become the new normal.

The same move is reflected in our church calendar. We mark this season as "Ordinary Time" and our colors match the "green and growing" world around us.

While the purpose of Advent-Christmas-Lent-Easter is to tell the story of God's work on our behalf, the purpose of this ordinary time is to find our work in response to God's good news for us. We use these summer months to ask tough questions, to find ways we need to grow in faith, to discover our gifts, and to use them for the sake of our neighbors and community.

Our Scripture readings shift from the miraculous and awe-inspiring and God-defining actions to deeper

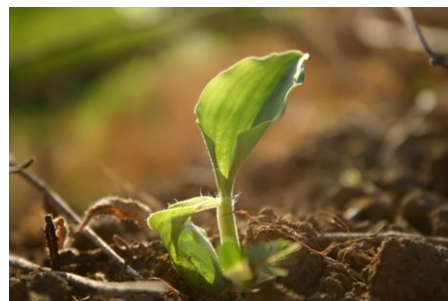
reflection on who we are as God-followers.

How does that amazing news of life defeating death shape the way you live in this world? How is God transforming you to live with that kind of life? What is God teaching you about faithfulness? And most importantly, how are you living what God is teaching you?

I invite you to sit with those questions in this green-and-growing season. Reflect on how God has been stretching you beyond what's comfortable and when you've followed, how has God proven faithful?

And remember the gift of this season, that when all the big celebrations pass, we find God is still faithfully meeting us in our ordinary days.

Peace,
~Pastor Amanda



Getting ready for VBS, watch for more info!

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Dates to note:

12th: Outdoor worship preparations
 13th: First Outdoor Worship
 6pm: Youth Group
 14th: 7pm Council Meeting
 20th: Father's Day
 27th: 6pm Youth Group

"LifeLines"

Youth Events

Youth Group meets from 6-7:30pm
on Sundays

June 13 and 27

Anyone grades 6-12 are welcome!

June 13, bring gloves and wear boots, we're cleaning our portion of St. Nicholas Drive and we end with a frosty!

Then, join us **June 27 for a bonfire and outdoor obstacle course!** What puzzles can you solve? What skills do you have? What challenges can your team beat?

We will use our fire pit time to dream up our plans for the summer: lake day, overnights at the church, service projects, and planning for the 2022 Youth Gathering in Minneapolis. Don't miss out!

Synod Assembly Notes

Alaska Synod Assembly is a yearly gathering of ELCA Lutherans from across the state. We hear updates from each other's ministries and the mission of the ELCA. This year, we met online. Resources can be found at www.elcaalaska.net and www.facebook.com/AlaskaSynodELCA/videos/

This year focused on innovation in our style and practice of worship and in the future of the church. Faith stories included a church building in Chugiak that burned down and how they have become more deeply connected to the community. Churches shared their online worship knowledge and experiences to help improve.

Sam Aleshire attended a workshop on endowments for those who would like to include Lord of Life in their will.

Paula Fritsche attended a workshop on coaching for congregations and individuals, asking questions to get at the root of our motivation and clarify our goals.

Pastor Amanda attended a workshop on inviting people to interact as a community and keeping online groups connected.

Phishers of Men (not the good kind)

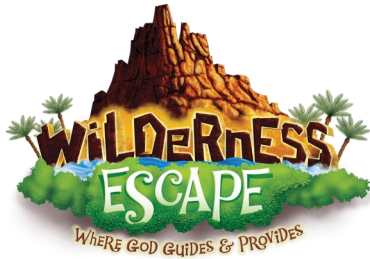
Congregations are being targeted by scammers and phishing attacks—sad but true! Emails or texts pretend to be from a pastor or bishop and ask for private conversation or a favor. Last year, the FBI reported that this is a \$26 billion scam. Lord of Life received such an email recently. How did we spot it? How can you?

1. Check the sending email address/phone number. Attackers create addresses with the real name but use a fake email, often from gmail or yahoo accounts. Text scammers use local area codes, claiming it's a new phone number. These emails often contain misspellings, strange punctuation, or grammar that is slightly "off". Know that Pastor Amanda will never contact you via email or text asking for money.
2. Look for red flags in tone and grammar. Attackers want to create a sense of urgency, to prey on our natural desire to help. They may claim the pastor needs something and is in a meeting. Or needs to urgently have a private conversation.
3. These scams often ask for the purchase of gift cards or want you to provide information (for more scams). *Requested help purchasing \$300 Amazon Apple e-gift card for a friend because "they are having issues charging my card" and it was a friend's birthday (see sense of urgency, #2). We would of course be reimbursed.*

If an email or text seems 'off' have someone else read it and get their opinion. Contact the church or synod office to confirm the email address or phone number of the sender.



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!

Since many of our "kids" are getting older, they are going to be the leaders of VBS for the young ones who attend. Be sure to invite your friends!

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

This is an all-church effort! Start by praying for those who will plan and lead this week. We will be hosting everything outside (weather and Covid permitting) and need help ...

- ⇒ Preparing creative bag meals
- ⇒ Setting up outside spaces each day
- ⇒ Clearing outside items each night
- ⇒ Co-leaders with Middle School students
- ⇒ Story tellers
- ⇒ Guides in conversation
- ⇒ Adventure seekers

Watch for more information and get involved!

Council Highlights

Bible Study: Led by Pastor Amanda. Isaiah 58:13-59:1. For what impossible situation is God inviting you to have greater faith?

Treasurer's report: Undesignated checking: \$13,239.44; Designated Checking: \$8,463.47; Debit Card checking: \$1,027.70; Savings: \$16,462.35. NP Cares funding is used up and expenses are now being covered by offering. April had three pay periods.

Pastor's report:

- ◆ Worship participation—average attendance was 70.75. Community giving—201 Farm to Table boxes over 3 weeks. Lord of Life is considering taking over both orders and distribution for Tuesday food boxes. We are a distribution site for Tuesdays/Wednesdays. We received a donation for a new projection computer that should fix issues. A gaming computer at Costco costs \$1250 and should be enough for our needs. Youth helped prepare NPHS grad gifts (worry stone, prayer card, and sticker).
- ◆ June worship planning—getting things together for outdoor worship. Will have a retreat this summer to build the bond for the 2022 Youth Gathering in Minneapolis. Vacation scheduled 5/20-6/3.

2021 Goal Check:

- ◆ Discover/tell faith stories. Hymn suggestion in memory/honor of people. Will ask people to write prayers. Dedicate time for faith stories.
- ◆ Launch easy signup & serve program. Liz sent out a test signup and it went well.
- ◆ Complete Gift Inventory for the congregation. Amanda is researching.
- ◆ Strengthen members' connection. Facebook continues strong. In person and online worship.
- ◆ Engage people in worship. Amanda is planning the first few weeks; Curt headed up planning teams in prior months.

Ongoing Business: NP will not have a July 4th parade. Lord of Life will have VBS July 12-16. Outdoor worship begins June 13, with setup June 12. More benches, mosquito spraying, and fellowship.

New Business: Cards still being sent out. Will discuss in August whether we are ready to host Loving Families in person. Mitigation Plan-reviewed and updated the Mitigation Plan. Synod Assembly Report (see article, p. 2). We will hire someone to clean on Kevin's alternate weeks.



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:	Julie Tanguay	906-290-9456
Mission & Social Ministry:	Denise Hradecky	799-5184
Financial Secretary:	Becky Peterson	385-9581
Pastor:	Amanda Kempthorne	322-2065 (cell)

** We are transitioning into our new structure for council! **

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: June 14 @ 7:00 pm

Newsletter deadline: 20th of each month.
Get the latest on our website:
www.lordoflifeak.com/the-latest
or
Follow our Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/lordoflifeak

Special Prayers and Concerns

Birthdays

- 6/3 Donna Peterson
- 6/4 Jeromey Lindhag
- 6/5 Karen Erickson
- 6/7 Missy Rees
- 6/10 Eileen Dubowski
- 6/12 Patsy Fazio
- 6/13 Fran Hradecky
- 6/14 Dan Rees
- 6/15 Duane Dahl
- 6/15 Alexis Lindquist
- 6/20 Jesse Fults
- 6/22 Evan Keil
- 6/23 Eric Peterson
- 6/26 Loretta Pananen
- 6/30 Amelia Dulany



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

Prayers for:

- * Barbara T—continuing to recover
- * John H—undergoing surgery
- * Boatmans, especially Caleb—grieving the sudden loss of his best friend
- * Jim D—grieving the loss of his mother Helen
- * Those with on-going health complications:
Steve H, cancer treatments
Meg O, pain and mobility
Gary O, PTSD, pain
- * All the moving parts and clear weather for outdoor worship!

Alaska Synod Prayer Partner for June:

Trapper Creek Fellowship,
Wasilla, Alaska

Please pray for:

- * Snow load damaged the eave of the church that covers the handicap parking - this will cost \$ they set aside for other maintenance
- * Small group in person, pray for connections
- * Changing community into weekend getaway rather than full residents who connect



Anniversaries

- 6/14 Chris & Ken Blais
- 6/17 Jo & Roger Bolish
- 6/19 Brenda & John Kowalski
- 6/28 Sheri & Marty Pahkamaa

