

June
2022



Lord of Life Lutheran

LifeLines

Notes from Curt Matz

For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11)

In 1994 my family was facing a time of crisis and knew that decisions we made would profoundly impact our lives. As we struggled with various options, a friend gave us a plaque bearing this Bible verse. We ended up making a major move and working at menial jobs for a couple of years in order to survive. A few months into those two years, a pastor directly and bluntly told me that it was time for me to go to seminary. I reluctantly said, "You're right." So, seven years after the initial crisis, I was ordained as a pastor at the age of fifty. We have lost the original plaque but this verse and these sentiments are new and fresh for us on a daily basis.

These words - originally spoken to the people of Jerusalem as they faced defeat in war, the destruction of their city, and captivity in a foreign land - are important for us at Lord of Life. This month we reach a couple of key points in our time of transition. A draft of our ministry site profile may be approved this month. The call committee will also begin their work this month. There is likely a great deal of hope that the transition time will soon end. Yet we are

also likely to experience times of discouragement and frustration as the process may not move as fast as we might like.

And even though we are at this key point in the transition, there is still much work to be done as we continue to reflect on the ministry God is calling us to carry out in our community. We need to continue to ask ourselves the question of where God might be leading us and how are we going to get there. Even after I made the decision to go to seminary, there still were many other decisions to make and actions that needed to be taken.

The same is true for us at Lord of Life. We are moving forward but the end of the journey is still not clear. We trust that God does have plans for us along the way. We trust that God will reveal those plans in God's own time and in God's own way. We trust that God will do good in us and through us. We pray that God will open our hearts, our minds, our hands, and our feet so we may recognize those plans as we traverse the smooth parts of the journey as well as any hills, valleys, curves, rivers, rocky spots, or other obstacles that might await.

New Youth Project—p. 2!

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Dates to Note

13th: 7pm Council Meeting

19th: Father's Day

21st: Summer Solstice

27th: 6:30pm Potluck Dinner & 7pm Bible Study

Youth News

The Youth Group is going to make/build raised beds in the month of June and plant veggies and herbs. The food will go to church events but also to the food bank or the Soup Kitchen.

If anyone has wood or potting soil or veggies/herbs they would like to share for the project, please contact Sam Aleshire at (907) 460-7177, or bring them to the church.

Stay tuned for additional details!



Get Me to the Church



There was a time when the church was the focal point of an American community. Families made it a priority to attend church services and functions every time the church doors were open. Sundays featured hours of church programming. Have times ever changed! Today, the majority of “practicing” Christians attend one church service per month, at most. Factors for the decline include—among other things—the availability of services online, the explosion of activities on weekends (like kids’ sports), and the general increase of a more secular mindset.

So why go to the trouble of getting up on Sunday morning, getting yourself dressed, and driving to your hometown church? Here are a few reasons...

There’s something reverent about simply being inside a church. It gives us a physical space to connect and draw closer to God and to realize that there is something out there bigger than ourselves. Entering a house of worship, we’re instantly elevated to a state where we’re opening ourselves to God and trying to understand his message. The simple act of walking in the door brings you closer. We’re making time for God and physically allowing him into our lives by attending a place of worship.

Not everyone is on the same page as their partner when it comes to faith. Couples who attend church together, however, report higher levels of happiness and satisfaction in their marriage. Why is that? Church reconnects us to shared beliefs. It reinforces the higher philosophy and purpose behind marriage and family and allows us a safe space to connect with God and our spouse together.

The community provided by a local church is essential because Christian life was never meant to be a solo act. That’s why there are nearly 60 “one another’s” mentioned in the New Testament.

In the chaos of every day, do you ever long for peace, quiet and reverence? When we attend church, we are transported to a place of peace. It’s a place of calm and joy. Attending church can help us revisit this revered state regularly. It gives us a space to pray and to express humility and gratitude. It gives us respite from the busyness of our daily lives.

Finally, church attendance connects us socially. This is especially true if you recently moved to the area, or even a new neighborhood. As a rule, church people are pretty friendly, and most churches have a variety of social events, groups, clubs, and volunteer opportunities. If you’re struggling to meet people or make friends, this is the place to do it!

Vacation Bible School

When: July 11-15, Monday-Friday, 5:30pm to 8pm

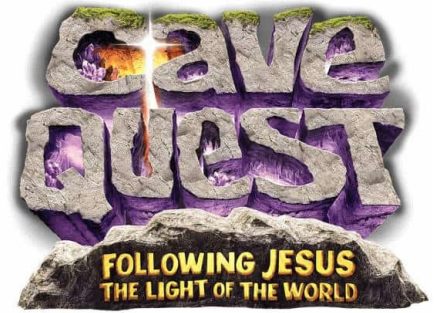
Where: Lord of Life, of course!

Who: 1st—5th graders (finished, not entering). Need not belong to Lord of Life so invite a buddy!

Cost: FREE

Go spelunking through dark caves with Jesus as your light at Cave Quest Vacation Bible School! Kids learn Jesus is the one who lights our way and gives us hope for each new day. His love illuminates when the path is dark.

Dinner included each night (dietary restrictions? Just let us know!).



Council Highlights

Bible Study: Being Aware of God's Willingness to Give (Luke 11:1-10)

Treasurer's report: Quickbooks is online and reconciled. **March 31** balances: Undesignated checking: \$ 6,874.83; Designated Checking: \$ 5,564.58; Debit Card Checking: \$ 2,146.61; Savings: \$ 18,101.36. Undesignated checking 0026: \$ 6,557.42. **April 30** balances: Designated Checking: \$ 3,107.87; Debit Card Checking: \$ 1,696.21; Savings: \$ 18,798.33. \$4,000 in bills will go out tomorrow.

Pastor's report: Easter had wonderful attendance. Returning communion at the altar has brought back a sense of community. Confirmation is postponed indefinitely. Have been attending the Inter-ministry class online.

Ministry Events Calendar & 2022 Goal Setting/Objectives/Timeline:

- ◆ Call process. Sunday School. Electronic Sign. Congregational/Community Events.
- ◆ Calendar. Youth will run VBS; planning meeting May 22. No info yet on 4th of July parade. Outdoor worship possibly monthly. God's Work Our Hands in Sept.

Ongoing Business:

- ◆ Site Profile. Per Bishop Shelley, should be posted for 3 weeks for review.
- ◆ GoodCents grant for electronic sign. Did not meet deadline, looking ahead to next time.
- ◆ Natural Gas changeout. Bob will investigate options.
- ◆ Spring Cleanup. Liz will get list from John. Tasks and lists to follow.



New Business:

- ◆ Birthdays/anniversaries. Request updated lists.
- ◆ TOPS (updated) Building Use Agreement approved.
- ◆ Outdoor worship. Discussed.
- ◆ Call committee. Marty Pahkamaa, Sam Aleshire, Jo Small, Al Griswold, and 2 TBD.



Lord of Life Lutheran Church

North Pole, Alaska

2022 CHURCH COUNCIL

President: Liz Sandbo
 Vice President: Bob Thoma
 Secretary: Cheryl Park
 Treasurer: Dianna Lindhag

At Large Members: Denise Hradecky
 Kevin Powers
 John Hoffman

Check the directory for our council members' numbers!

Interim Pastor: Curt Matz
 Financial Secretary: Becky Peterson

Lord of Life Lutheran

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 North Pole Alaska, 99705
 Website: www.lordoflifeak.com

Office Phone: (907) 488-6720
 Pastor Curt's cell: (907) 322-2065

E-mail

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 13 @ 7pm

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

or

Follow our Facebook page, worship live Sundays at 10:30am:
www.facebook.com/lordoflifeak

Special Prayers and Concerns

Birthdays

6/4 Donna Peterson
 6/4 Jeromey Lindhag
 6/5 Karen Erickson
 6/7 Stella Gregory
 6/7 Missy Rees
 6/10 Eileen Dubowski
 6/13 Fran Hradecky
 6/14 Dan Rees
 6/15 Duane Dahl
 6/15 Alexes Lindquist
 6/18 Dan Matz
 6/20 Jesse Fults
 6/22 Evan Keil
 6/23 Eric Peterson
 6/26 Loretta Pananen
 6/30 Amelia Dulany



Prayers for:

~ Darlene Matz—circulation issues
 ~ Friends of Margi U with premature baby—health and growth
 ~ Those with on-going health issues:
 Meg O, heart and mobility



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

Alaska Synod Prayer Partner for June:

Mesa Sagrada, Wasilla, AK

This prayer partner is a recognized mission of the AK Synod that focuses on Hispanic outreach in the Mat Su Valley.

Anniversaries

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

