

May  
2020



Lord of Life Lutheran

Lifelines

## A Note from Pastor Amanda

I had a nightmare the other night and y'all were in it. I had spent the day reading the governor's newest mandate about 20 people gathering for worship, read an article about the "24 things your church needs to consider before gathering", and had a 90-minute Zoom video conference with Bishop Shelley and Alaskan pastors to talk through what re-gathering will look like.

In my dream, it was Sunday morning. We had removed large sections of chairs from our sanctuary to create enough space between families. Power Point was ready, Carol was at the piano, Liz was in the sound booth, the Darts, Pananens, and Petersons were settling in, both the Lindquist families (that's 9 people) were walking up the sidewalk, and another 150 people were trying to come into the church. I was running around frantically counting heads, yelling "Only 20! Only 20!! There's only enough grace for 20!!!"

I woke up crying. I had seen your faces. I had felt the ache to be together again. The hunger for Communion and a word of hope and a desire for healing weighed heavy.

It's been 7 weeks since we were told to stay home and each week has felt like a month. Many are getting impatient and ready to go back to "normal" and that's understandable. Many will still stay at home for much longer, also understandable. The challenge to all of us is to be kind, to be patient, and to find our peace by trusting in God.

It's a message that's been passed down for centuries, written by a man under house arrest in Rome. Paul wrote Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians (and Philemon) from the confining comfort of his guarded home. His words of encouragement, perseverance, and trust in God's work are words that can strengthen us too.

Words from Philippians 1 are especially close to my heart as I think of all of you,

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

"It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus."

God give you peace, dear ones.  
You are in my daily prayers.

~Pastor Amanda



# What's Happening?

## Worship in person has been suspended—worship has not ended!

Join us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/lordoflifeak](http://www.facebook.com/lordoflifeak)) for worship on Sundays at 10:30am, or on Lord of Life's Youtube channel linked to our website: [lordoflifeak.com](http://lordoflifeak.com). If you can't be part of worship this way, call the church to request a DVD of our worship service to be delivered that weekend. Don't hesitate to share it on your own page and invite others to worship with us!

## Join us for May 10th Drive-In Worship at 10:30!

We gather together in our cars in the church parking lot to sing, pray, hear Scripture, and share in Holy Communion together. We use a radio transmitter to broadcast our service on 89.5 FM, and it reaches to North Pole Middle if we run out of parking.



To make this work smoothly and keep with state guidelines:

1. Enter from the frontage road (main entrance) and exit through the back onto Barbara Lee.
2. **DO NOT CARPOOL** – you can only have immediate family members in the car with you.
3. **DO NOT EXIT YOUR VEHICLE** or roll your windows down except for a crack to get a bulletin and the Communion cup (remember, the sound will be coming through your car radio.)
4. Please follow the parking guides to allow everyone to see.

This service takes many hands and special precautions to run smoothly, so if you'd like to serve the community by handing out Communion cups or bulletins, greeting people at the entrance, reading Scripture, or guiding people to parking spots, please let Pastor Amanda know via email or call!

**Youth Group** for 7-12 grades is still meeting every other Sunday via Zoom so we can catch up, “be” church for each other, play some games (no really!), and figure out what's important to us when everything is so chaotic.

We meet a little later at 8 till 9:30pm using the following meeting code: 958-9135-9979

Youth—watch for texts from Pastor Amanda with the link the day of our gatherings!

**Virtual Coffee Hour** every Sunday at 11am.

Pour your own coffee, tea, or cocoa and sign in to see one another, share survival tips, and be part of the Spirit's building the body of Christ!

Go to Zoom.com, click “join meeting” and use the code: 987 4966 0624 to join in, or call (253) 215-8782 and type in the same code.

## Children's ministries

We're getting creative to nurture the faith of our young ones and will be trying out some ideas!

But first—parents, just hang in there. We know school work is more than enough to handle. We're planning things for when your kiddos are searching for things to do.

We will be checking with you all this month and by June we'll send playful faith-building activities to do at your own pace through the summer.

## Bible Study ... Devotions ... Oh my!

We're working on ways to nurture our faith and listen to God's voice. If you have something to share with the community, a word of encouragement, a favorite Bible verse, let us know! And, keep connected on [facebook.com/lordoflifeak](http://facebook.com/lordoflifeak)

## Some Things Worth Celebrating!

With gratitude for those who have gone before and hope for the future, the ELCA gives thanks to God for the ministry of women.

In 2019-20 we celebrate **50 years** of white Lutheran women being ordained in the United States, **40 years** of women of color being ordained, and **10 years** since removing barriers for LGBTQIA+ being able to serve.

We celebrate the gifts and service that women have brought to our church and our world as pastors. And at the same time, we also lament the ways women and LGBTQIA+ pastors have been and are still kept from serving.



It's silly, it's heartwarming, it's a famous person who isn't political sharing things to give you hope in the goodness of humanity.

Actor John Krazinski collects stories of people serving others and presents them on Sunday nights on his Youtube channel "Some Good News." He's done everything from thanking hospital workers to throwing a virtual prom to gathering the Broadway cast of "Hamilton" to ease the burden and bring good news.

His first episode can be found at:  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=F5pgG1M\\_h\\_U](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F5pgG1M_h_U)

Remember to look for the helpers and dwell on the things that are excellent and worthy of praise. And... enjoy some fresh pre-pollen air.

## Council Highlights

**Book Study:** Ch. 3 of The Invitational Christian. "Quality Matters." Philippians 4:8-9, Quality matters in our church, not just for ourselves but what is quality for others. Worthy of honor: welcoming of all, Communion for everyone, accessible worship, clean and organized space. Discussed things we're used to that aren't quality: bathroom updates needed, building visible, education, deeper fellowship.

**Master calendar and goal check:** Visibility has increased through Facebook postings and live church feeds. Sunday school is cancelled, and youth is working on getting resources on the website.

**Upcoming Events to be Determined:** 4th of July Parade/Booth, Clean-up Day, Confirmation Sunday (delayed to the fall), Outdoor Worship, VBS prep.

**Treasurer's report:** Undesignated checking: \$4,481.47; Designated Checking: \$10,812.17; Debit Card checking: \$1,3336.68; Savings: \$2,102.12. Outstanding: \$2,000 to ELCA for benevolence, \$506 for insurance, fuel bill, benefits and payroll at the end of the week. Discussed ways to promote and communicate giving.

**Pastor's report:** Gratitude for family vacation and council's decision making on the virus. Worship services on Facebook Live, Lenten worship on Zoom, Good Friday live presentation/Facebook watch party, and Easter Drive-in Worship (~65 in person, 130 total clicks, 731 saw on Facebook). Called 23 households, attended four trauma and grief trainings and Synod meetings.

**Youth:** Youth group will meet and play games on Zoom Sunday night at 8:30pm.

**Ongoing Business: Safety:** Curt reviewed different safety plans, hopes to Facetime Tim soon. **Loving Families,** the last family has graduated. The program has ended for now; we will resume in the fall. **VBS:** We are in wait and see mode, discussed sending weekly materials to families, will talk with families

**New Business:** Hone 2020 goals postponed. Worship: do a second recording for a children's sermon? Sunday school: special bulletins, online activities for kids (Liz and Paula will work as a team on this). Discussed SBA loan-turned-grant, requested Pastor Amanda start the application process asap.





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

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: May 11 @ 7:00 pm **via Zoom**

Newsletter deadline: 20th of each month.

Get the latest on our website:

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

or

Follow our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/lordoflifeak](http://www.facebook.com/lordoflifeak)  
(even if you don't have a Facebook page!)

## Special Prayers and Concerns

### Birthdays

5/3 Cody Kowalski  
5/4 Lars Peterson  
5/11 Carol Hughes  
5/15 Curt Renner  
5/15 Cliff Sandbo  
5/16 Marilyn Woolace  
5/18 James Aleshire  
5/19 Brenda Kowalski  
5/21 Kevin Marshall  
5/23 Jonathan Kempthorne  
5/23 Lynne Skjefte  
5/24 Karen Kuhnert  
5/26 Barbara Thoma  
5/28 Julie Tanguay



We wish you all a celebration worth noting in this crazy year!  
God bless and guide you!!!

*Info missing? Email the office!*

### Anniversaries

5/9 Denise & Fran Hradecky  
5/23 Loretta & Er Pananen  
5/30 Michelle & Kevin Powers  
5/31 Vanessa & Josh Knutson



### Prayers for:

\* All those with immune complications: Cheryl, Evie, Steve, Meg, Lynne, Lars, Pat, Dory, Gary, Darlene, Loretta, and others  
\* All those living in isolation  
\* Brad—relief of back pain  
\* Those celebrating special events that they cannot share with others (send a card!!)

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

### May Prayer Partner:

**Epiphany Lutheran-Episcopal Church, Valdez, AK**

### Please pray for:

- rejoicing in connections of online worship
- people grieving alone
- wider faith community support (without judgment) for women with unexpected pregnancies

