

May
2021



Lord of Life Lutheran

Lifelines

A Note from Pastor Amanda

Every Easter season, we move away from the Hebrew Scriptures to focus on the book of Acts as the disciples spread out into the world with the message: Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

There is something thrilling about reading how the early church got started. There are stories of miraculous healings that make everyone's ears perk up. The message about Jesus being killed but not staying dead is so clear, so succinct, and so compelling that we read about thousands who believe the message.

It's easy to read and believe that God was working overtime in those days. The message was fresh, the audience wide, and the evidence clear. God was certainly busy, but that kind of power seems to have fizzled in our days.

Sometimes, it's hard to believe that God is busy like that now. Where are the speakers with first-hand knowledge that can answer the questions and seem to know what to say? Where are the healings and signs of God's presence? Where are the masses believing the good news?

God seems more elusive in our daily lives than present in them.

I think it's important to remember the first messengers were not professionals. They were fishermen, a tax collector, a zealot, and a tentmaker (and lots of unknown!) The only thing that set them apart was that they spent

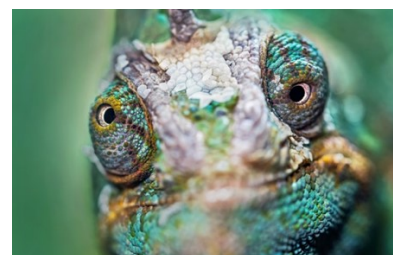
time with Jesus. They listened, learned, studied, questioned, and absorbed what God was offering them. And as Acts 2:42 tells us, those who believed "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

It was dedication to the Scriptures, to building community, sharing meals (including Communion), and prayer that kept them connected and attuned to God. Listening, learning, studying, questioning, and absorbing God.

How do these things point you to God? Where do you hear God's voice in the Scriptures? What do they tell you about how God works? How do you see God in your friendships? How has Communion fed your spirit? When has God met you in prayer?

If we devote ourselves to looking for God in those same places in our lives, we will see God at work too. It may not be in earth-moving, life-altering ways, but knowing God's work in us will give us the same boldness to tell others. Then, who knows what will happen next?!

Looking for God with you,
~Pastor
Amanda



Don't Forget to Sign Up for the Charity Walk

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Dates to note:

2nd and 16th: 6pm Youth Group
9th: Confirmation Sunday, Mother's Day
9th—16th: Loving Families Host Week
10th: 7pm Council Meeting
13th: 1pm School Lunch Prep
14th: Charity Walk for LoL Youth Group
31st: OFFICE CLOSED

"LifeLines"

May Events!

EVERY Monday and Thursday, 8:00—9:00 pm
AA meeting—open to the community
EVERY Tuesday 5:30-8:00 pm
Girl Scout Troop 249 is beginning to gather
EVERY Thursday 9:00—11:30 am
17-mile Homemakers for craft and meetings



May 14—anytime between 2-8 pm at Pioneer Park (Alaskaland!) Choose 1, 2, 3, or 3.8 mile walk through the park. The \$25 registration supports our Youth Group, and you snack as you walk! Register at [explorefairbanks.com/charitywalk](https://www.explorefairbanks.com/charitywalk) or at the info kiosk that day.

Special for the month of May:

May 9—Confirmation Sunday—students claim their faith and commit to keep asking questions!

Celebrating Graduates of North Pole High!

Youth gathered to pack rocks and shades with inspirational messages for our graduating seniors!

May 15-16—Church Clean-up Weekend—watch for an email on [signup.com](https://www.signup.com) or check the list in the entry

May 23—Pentecost Sunday, celebrate God's Spirit!

May 30—It's a 5th Sunday! Youth have planned and will lead Worship for Trinity Sunday.

Council Highlights

Bible Study: Led by Pastor Amanda. 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24. Our Christian call is to: Respect those who labor among you, esteem those in love, encourage the faint-hearted and help the weak, test everything and hold fast onto what is good, give thanks in all circumstances, reject evil.

Treasurer's report: Undesignated checking: \$17,062.55; Designated Checking: \$8,854.83; Debit Card checking: \$1,750.58; Savings: \$13,385.38. Total in the bank is approximately \$41,000. \$2000 remains from CARES funding, which will be spent with next payroll.

Pastor's report:

- ◆ Worship participation—Wed attendance avg 8, Sundays 61.5, Easter 102 (33 in person after 12" snow!)
 - ◆ Community giving—72 Farm to Table boxes. 100 personal hygiene kits. 20+ bottles of hand sanitizer.
 - ◆ Groups resumed meeting at the church—17 Mile Homemakers (Thursdays) and Girl Scouts (Tuesdays)
- Pastor's Collegium is April 20-22; Synod Assembly is April 23-24. A gaming computer will be purchased to correct the video problem. Caleb Boatman and Caden Lindhag are finishing confirmation. Jacoppi Pahkamaa will lead worship during pastor's vacation 5/21—6/3. Fellowship will be planned after outdoor worship this summer.

2021 Goal Check:

- ◆ Discover/tell faith stories. "Discover" was focus of Lent Wednesdays, will include Sundays of Easter.
- ◆ Launch easy signup & serve program. Will send out test signups to council, use for church clean-up.
- ◆ Complete Gift Inventory for the congregation. This will be done in August.
- ◆ Strengthen members' connection. Bring back fellowship. See who wants to prepare hamburgers/hot dogs near end of service, to flow directly into fellowship after outdoor services.
- ◆ Engage people in worship. Curt will create a team for summer planning. Carol Bras' Service of Life will be used. May 9 Confirmation cake and fellowship to celebrate!

Ongoing Business: Denise Hradecky volunteered for Social Ministry position. Joyously approved!

New Business: Loving Families Host Week May 9-16, no housing, may have one meal with them at Love INC's location. Church clean-up will be May 15/16. Outdoor worship will begin around June 13.

VBS: Discussed possibility and dates. If NP holds July 4th parade, we will hand out VBS flyers.

Sweet Magnolias on Netflix

Sweet Magnolias premiered last May, and quickly became the most-watched show on Netflix. The cozy drama follows three friends as they deal with the ups and downs of relationships, new businesses, and child-rearing in Serenity, South Carolina. Season 1 ended with a cliffhanger, causing fans to rally for another season (coming up!).

Watch the trailer for [Season 1 here](#).



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church doesn't really exist, but it's a second home for the lead characters of *Sweet Magnolias*. Created by Sheryl Anderson—a member of Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Santa Monica, CA, and a TV writer—the show is based on novels written by



Sherryl Woods. Anderson depicted it as an ELCA congregation, right down to the landmark shown on the building. She also made the pastor a woman, imbuing her with the qualities she admires in ELCA pastors.

the opportunity to have these remarkable characters portrayed by amazing actresses who have all been on their own faith journey. It's my script, but it's [God's] design."

"It is a gift to be able to do what I love best and to have

"The things that are important to me are grace, redemption and the power of coming together."

Youth Events

Confirmation Sunday is May 9!

Celebrate the commitment of our youth to love God and keep asking questions!

Youth Group will meet on Sundays

May 2nd and 16th

(this is different than our usual 2nd and 4th Sundays!)



We've got some planning to do for youth-led worship on the 5th Sunday, May 30! Any youth in 6th grade and up are invited to plan and participate! Pick out favorite songs, put together worship that means something to you, and teach these adults a thing or two about how we meet God!

Glacier Bible Camp

Wondering how to keep your kids busy this summer? Send them to Glacier Bible Camp in Juneau!

Kids entering 5th-9th grade enjoy a traditional camp experience with crafts and games, gifts of the Spirit, and campfires. This camp isn't just for Lutherans so best friends can come, too.

Those entering 10th-12th grade can be Counselors in Training or come as campers. CITs assist primary counselors to help with a cabin of campers and receive a 50% discount.

- ◇ **Make New Friends:** Bond with youth from all over Southeast. A highlight of camp is always the friends you make.
- ◇ **Grow in Your Relationship with God:** Camp is a place to ask questions and mature in your faith. Our study this summer is about *fire in the Bible*.
- ◇ **Have Fun:** Camp is where you will laugh, play, and take a break from the world. And the food is awesome!

Fees are low and campers can register [here](#).



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!!!!	
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

1005 Saint Nicholas Drive
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: May 10 @ 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

- 5/3 Cody Kowalski
- 5/4 Lars Peterson
- 5/11 Carol Hughes
- 5/15 Curt Renner & 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 Barb Thoma
- 5/28 Julie Tanguay



Prayers for:

- * Barbara Thoma - pneumonia
- * Freeman family moving things
- * Those with on-going health complications:
Steve H, cancer treatments
Meg O, pain and mobility
Gary O, PTSD, pain
Hoffmann family, declining health and dementia
- * Council's work to make safe choices around Covid. Thank God all for your support and patience through this tough work!

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



Anniversaries

- 5/9 Denise & Fran Hradecky
 - 5/23 Loretta & Er Pananen
 - 5/30 Michelle & Kevin Powers
 - 5/31 Vanessa & Josh Knutson
- If your important date is missing, please let us know!



Alaska Synod Prayer Partner for May:

Thornton Memorial Lutheran
Wales, Alaska

Please pray for:

- * The community of 150 people who call Wales home
- * Successful hunts and fishing as they subsist on the land
- * Wisdom for Gilbert Oxereok, Synodically Authorized Minister of the church
- * Hope in Christ and reasons to celebrate God's love

