

November
2019



Lord of Life Lutheran

Lifelines

A Note from Pastor Amanda

Thanksgiving is the most devalued holiday of the year. We make a HUGE high-calorie meal, eat ourselves into a food coma, and maybe watch football. If we're serious about the day, we might take turns at the dinner table sharing the things that we're thankful for, but that's about it for celebrating Thanksgiving. And to further cheapen the holiday, after a day of thanking God for all the blessings in our life, our culture entices us to run out to the stores and buy-buy-buy more stuff! Hardly seems like we're thankful for what we have, doesn't it?

It feels empty and self-serving, which isn't what the holiday is about at all! Of course, we should include voicing our gratitude for family and friends, for warm homes and running vehicles, for full bellies and meaningful work and play. These are all great things to be thankful for! But why do we stop there?

Giving thanks happens a lot in the Old Testament and Psalms. Consider these examples:

~ Psalm 108:3 "I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples, and I will sing praises to you among the nations."

~ Isaiah 12:4 "And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted."

Giving thanks in scripture always includes telling others about what God has done. This year, what about sharing what

God has been doing in us as well? Talk about the times you have wandered and God has brought you back. Talk about the tight times and the ways God provided. Talk about the times you didn't think you could go on and found the Spirit giving you strength.

And then plan ways to live out your thanksgiving. Sit around the table and brainstorm ways to care for others out of the abundance you've received. Choose an animal or crop from ELCA Good Gifts (goodgifts.elca.org). Spend a morning packing food boxes at the Food Bank. Donate to the Rescue Mission or The Door youth shelter or Love INC's family housing ministry. Consider a legacy gift by adding your church to your will. Or maybe you share one thing you're grateful for each day. Imagine together how gratitude can shape the busiest season and then notice how your perspective changes.

However you choose to celebrate this Thanksgiving, I hope you have many reasons to be thankful, and may God continue to bless you for the sake of the world!

Gratefully,
~Pastor Amanda



"Welcome To... God's Plan" November 24!

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Dates to note

- 8: School Lunches 10am
- 10: Annual Meeting after worship
- 10 & 24: Youth Group 6pm
- 11: Council Meeting 7pm
- 17: The Underground 4pm
- 24: Welcome to... God's Plan!
- 27: Thanksgiving Boxes 12-2pm
- Thanksgiving Worship 7pm

"Lifelines"

Sunday School!

This has been an amazing kick off to our Sunday school year! A sincere **THANK YOU!** to each adult who is teaching our children with passion!

Upcoming Lessons in November:

- * God wants us to be encouragers.
- * God wants us to be helpful and kind (even when no one is watching!)
- * God forgives us as we forgive others.
- * Families are important to God.

Ages 3 and up are welcome!!

The Underground

3rd to 6th graders will be serving our community by preparing gifts and decorations for the seniors living at Holiday Heights!

Sunday, November 17 4:00-5:30pm

Come join Nancy in learning, crafting, and play as we prepare for our December field trip!

Youth News

Last month, the youth group decided to donate some of their earned funds to local groups that care for others.

\$500 to the youth shelter: The Door
\$500 the Food Bank (and a half-day of sorting and preparing food boxes)
\$500 to Love INC for housing families

This is an amazing group of generous people!!!

NOVEMBER EVENTS

Youth group:

Sunday, November 10 at 6pm

Relationships—getting into AND out of them!
And how to slow down when it's too serious.

Sunday, November 24 at 6pm

Laser Tag! (What's more fun than harmlessly shooting at each other?)

“Welcome To... God’s Plan!” November 24

What am I supposed to DO
with my life?

Something feels off—is God leading
me to do something else?

My job is changing, do I stay or go?

I just got this diagnosis, what is God
doing to me?

What is God’s PLAN??



We wrestle with all these questions over and over in our lives. Every transition, every opportunity, every bit of bad news, and the big problems of the world usually lead us back to these questions:

What is God’s plan?

How do we figure it out?

What am I supposed to do?

While we don’t have specific answers, having faith shapes the way we think about this question. Join us for our next event as we wrestle with God and think about what God calls us to do with the faith we have.

After worship, Sunday November 24.

I'm a turkey, you're a turkey, we're a turkey all!

November gives us A LOT of opportunities to participate in God's generosity!

Join us the following ways this month:

Special this month:

- Collect frozen turkeys to distribute on Wednesday, Nov 27 (Safeway has a deal for every \$100 spent)
- Hand out Thanksgiving Food Boxes (and turkeys) to 250 people on Nov 27 (11am till 2pm)
- Pick up gifts and gift cards for the family we will adopt at Christmas (Love INC program)
- Join in a community Thanksgiving worship (and bring a pie) Wednesday, Nov 27 at 7pm

Regular service opportunities:

- Prepare sanitary kits for girls without these necessary supplies every Tuesday from 9-12am.
- Pack weekend lunches for Elementary and High School students with food scarcity, Fri, Nov 8 10am
- Provide snacky treats after worship and encourage the time to share them!
- Spend some time with the young people in our church and let them know they belong!

Council Highlights

Bible study led by Pastor Amanda, Luke 10:25-27 "What must I do to inherit eternal life? Love God and love your neighbor." Read from ELCA resource "Stories of Faith in Action" about a church opening its doors to quiet space for music and meditation that met spiritual needs in the community. **What is happening around us, and how can we shift our patterns to meet these needs?*



Upcoming events: New Member reception October 27 as part of the Anniversary celebrations of Reformation, Lord of Life and Pastor Amanda's 10 years; November 10 Annual Meeting and preparation of Annual Report; distributing 250 Thanksgiving Food Boxes November 27; decorating for Christmas.

- ◆ Treasurer's report: Undesignated checking: \$5096.81 Designated Checking: \$12,503.94. Debit Card checking: \$485.61, Savings: \$5,620.93. Wonderful giving in Sept/Oct, moved to the positive. Paid mission support in amount of \$3,000 to further ministry across nation.

Ongoing business:

- ◆ Council consensus on the 2020 budget to be presented at the annual meeting (Nov 10)
- ◆ Updated plan and information for 502-44-10 celebration, Oct 27 during and after worship.
- ◆ Reviewed our process of welcoming guests into full participation—research is happening Synod-wide.

New business:

- ◆ Preparations for Advent: shifting lectionary to Wednesday nights with Holden Evening Prayer and focusing Sunday mornings on themes: Do Less, Experience Wonder, and Hold on to Hope. Children's program will be Dec 15, "Fumbly, Bumbly Angels"
- ◆ Discussed Christmas experience but timing didn't quite work—will explore for 2020.
- ◆ Updated membership records for inactive and families who had moved.
- ◆ 'Tis the season—gifts that make a lasting impact to combat poverty are at www.goodgifts.elca.org

Thursdays in Black



In every country, gender-based violence is a tragic reality. One in four women over 18 in the USA has been exposed to sexual or physical violence by a current or former partner; and one in eight rape survivors was under 12.

Victims are often silent. We all have a responsibility to speak out against violence, to ensure that women and men, boys and girls, are safe from rape and violence.

The *Thursdays in Black* campaign is simple. **Wear black on Thursdays.** If you have one, wear a pin to declare you are part of the global movement resisting attitudes and practices that permit rape and violence. Encourage others to join you. Black has been used with negative racial connotations. In this campaign it is a color of resistance and resilience.

Thursdays in Black grew out of the World Council of Churches (WCC) Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women (1988-1998), in which stories of rape as a weapon of war, gender injustice, abuse and violence, and tragedies from such violence became more visible. The campaign was inspired by The Mothers of the Disappeared in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and others.

Truck Stop Ministry

In New Kingston, PA, under a picnic pavilion behind St. Stephen church, Pastor Matthew Best spotted a man with cooking equipment, cushions, and other odds and ends. It turned out, the congregation was helping him because area shelters were full. Best asked the man, named Michael, what items would be most useful in an emergency homeless bag. Michael listed several things and went on to tell Best about people living out of their cars at a nearby truck stop.



St. Stephen members sewed waterproof drawstring bags, filled them with personal care items and arrived at the Flying J truck stop to meet with people. But no one showed up. Months went by, they changed the time, they put signs up, and still—nobody. “Then, one day, people came, and they have been coming ever since.”

Two years on, with grant support from their synod and ELCA World Hunger, parishioners go to the truck stop twice a month where eight to 20 people receive emergency bags and help with laundry. The Flying J donates showers. After they get the laundry going, they go to the attached Denny’s to eat. “The meal lets everyone relax,” Best said. “People experiencing homelessness are just like everyone else. They have good days and bad days. They have joys and sorrows.”

When parishioners invited Ebony, who was staying at the Flying J, to join the meal, she declined. But eventually she joined them at the end of the table, away from everyone. One evening Ebony was in the middle of the group, inviting new people to join them, saying, “Come on over here. This is great. It feels like family.”

The simplest assistance has the greatest impact. “What we have learned in this ministry is that the most valuable commodity we offer is community. Our participants have no place where they fit, where they are welcome, where they are cared for without judgment.” —*LivingLutheran.org* (excerpt)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	November 1	2
9 am New Member Class	10 am Bible Study	9 am - 12 pm Kuwaa Sewing Group	12 pm Food Boxes	9 am - 12 pm Banner Bunch		9:30 am - 10:30 am Yoga Devotion
9:30 am Education Hour	8 pm AA	5:30 pm - 8 pm Girl Scouts	4:30 pm - 5:30 pm Girl Scouts - Daisies	9 am - 12 pm 17 Mile Homemakers		
10:30 am Worship				8 pm AA		
11:30 am 502-44-10 Anniversary Celebration						
6 pm - 7:30 pm Youth Group						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:30 am Education Hour	10 am Bible Study	9 am - 12 pm Kuwaa Sewing Group	12 pm Food Boxes	9 am - 12 pm Banner Bunch	10 am School Lunch Assembly	9:30 am - 10:30 am Yoga Devotion
10:30 am Worship	8 pm AA	5:30 pm - 8 pm Girl Scouts	4:30 pm - 5:30 pm Girl Scouts - Daisies	8 pm AA		
11:30 am Fellowship						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:30 am Education Hour	10 am Bible Study	9 am - 12 pm Kuwaa Sewing Group	12 pm Food Boxes	9 am - 12 pm Banner Bunch		9:30 am - 10:30 am Yoga Devotion
10:30 am Worship	7 pm Council Meeting	5:30 pm - 8 pm Girl Scouts	4:30 pm - 5:30 pm Girl Scouts - Daisies	9 am - 12 pm 17 Mile Homemakers		
11:30 am Fellowship	8 pm AA			2:45 pm Band Practice		
6 pm - 7:30 pm Youth Group				8 pm AA		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:30 am Education Hour	10 am Bible Study	9 am - 12 pm Kuwaa Sewing Group	12 pm Food Boxes	9 am - 12 pm Banner Bunch		9:30 am - 10:30 am Yoga Devotion
10:30 am Worship	8 pm AA	5:30 pm - 8 pm Girl Scouts	4:30 pm - 5:30 pm Girl Scouts - Daisies	9 am - 12 pm 17 Mile Homemakers		
11:30 am Fellowship				8 pm AA		
4 pm - 5:30 pm The Underground						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:30 am Education Hour	10 am Bible Study	9 am - 12 pm Kuwaa Sewing Group	12 pm - 2 pm Thanksgiving Food Boxes	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED	9:30 am - 10:30 am Yoga Devotion
10:30 am Worship	8 pm AA	5:30 pm - 8 pm Girl Scouts	4:30 pm - 5:30 pm Girl Scouts - Daisies	8 pm AA		
11:30 am 'Welcome To...' Event!			7 pm Thanksgiving Worship			
6 pm - 7:30 pm Youth Group						



Lord of Life Lutheran Church North Pole, Alaska

2019 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:	Jacoppi Pahkamaa	388-2620
Stewardship:	open	
Evangelism:	Nancy Uptgraft	378-4633
Facilities:	Tim Schackman	210-488-5961
Financial Secretary:	Amie Maranville	488-0552
Pastor:	Amanda Kempthorne	322-2065 (cell)

Lord of Life Lutheran

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Phone: 907-488-6720
Pastor Amanda's cell: 907-322-2065

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: Dec. 9 @ 7:00 pm

Newsletter deadline: 20th of each month.

Website updates:
www.lordoflifeak.com
or
Follow our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/lordoflifeak
(even if you don't have a Facebook page!)

Special Prayers and Concerns

Birthdays

- 11/1 John Dart
- 11/1 Margery Austin
- 11/7 Margi Ungrodt
- 11/12 Hannah
Musgraves
- 11/14 Vern Dulany
- 11/17 Jason Kempthorne
- 11/20 Mike Dubowski
- 11/21 Mercedes Lindquist
- 11/25 Morgan Boatman
- 11/25 Chris Blais
- 11/28 Jeremiah Castor
- 11/28 Dennis Musgraves



Prayers for:

- * Mike B—continued healing following stroke
- * Meg O—continued improvement from stem cell injections to her knee
- * Aaron W—healing from ulcerative colitis
- * Dawn—healing from ulcer
- * Mary A—less isolation and improved connections
- * Steve H.—continued healing with cancer treatment
- * Continued healing— Al G, Paula F, Jeromey L, John H

Contact:

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

If your info is missing, let us know! Email the office or write a note!

November Prayer

Partner:

Island of Faith Lutheran Church, Wrangell, AK

Please pray for:

- Plans for joining with the Episcopal Church to offer a full-time pastor position!
- Currently, rotating lay volunteers who lead worship
- Beginning plans for a residential STEM high school but need to work through a difficult history of misconduct that closed the previous school

