

November  
2020



Lord of Life Lutheran

Lifelines

## A Note from Pastor Amanda

Dear ones, my own words tend to fail me lately, my own thoughts clouded by the multiple layers of stress heaped upon us all. I've found great comfort in words that are not my own – looking to God's Word (Jesus) and words of faith (the Bible) to see me through.

I sincerely hope our study through Philippians has brought you some of that same encouragement, and if you've missed it, you can still read the studies on our website: [www.lordoflifeak.com/the-latest](http://www.lordoflifeak.com/the-latest).

As I write, we have 13 days till the election and we are all aware that the political contention will not be ending even then. So I submit to your faithful reflection the words of James 4:1-10:

"Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. Adulterers! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you suppose that it is for nothing that the scripture says, "God yearns jealously for the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? But he gives all the

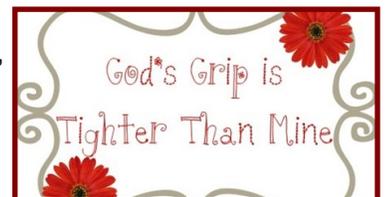
more grace; therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy into dejection. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you."

This is our role in the middle of the struggles around us. We are called to recognize our own motivations and "cleanse our hands" with "lament and mourning", submitting ourselves to God's way in this world that sometimes causes enemies, but not because we've fought for our own way.

And here's the clincher from verse 6, the words that meet me, and I hope meet you, just where you are in the middle of the fighting: God gives all the more grace, opposing the proud and giving grace to the humble.

May we walk humbly through disagreements and pandemic, looking for the ways God's grace meets us and keeps us going.

In God's  
grace-filled,  
ever-tight  
grip,  
~Pastor  
Amanda



## Worship in November

Although we ALL hoped to resume gathering in the sanctuary by now, Covid numbers rose steadily. We will gather in person when on the 14-day average of the Covid case rate is under 10 in the borough found at: <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/alertlevels.aspx> (So you know, council is working on another number scenario to accept a higher case rate.)

10 or more case rate (per 14-day average): worship will be online only

5-9 case rate: worship inside, face coverings required throughout service

under 5 case rate: worship inside, masks optional during the service

An email notice will be sent by Friday. If you don't get a notice, email [office@lordoflifeak.com](mailto:office@lordoflifeak.com) and request to be added!

# Events in November

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

## **Annual Meeting:**

You are invited to attend Lord of Life's Annual Meeting at **11:30am** on **Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>** to call new leadership, highlight ministries, and discuss the new budget. This is your chance for your voice to be heard! The Annual Report and proposed budget are available for review and download (after 10/28) on our website: [lordoflifeak.com/the-latest](http://lordoflifeak.com/the-latest). A few printed copies are also available on the table by the office.



We are expecting the meeting will be held on the video conference platform: Zoom.com with meeting ID 968 3398 9458 and password 015143. If you'd like to practice, attend our Zoom Fellowship on 10/25 and 11/1 at 11am (see email invite) If meeting online is a hardship, please contact the church office.

Your input is vital to the mission and ministry of our congregation! See you at the meeting!

## **All month long:**

Start collecting frozen turkeys to distribute on Wednesday, Nov 25 (most local stores have a great deal this month with \$50-100 purchase, often for a FREE turkey)  
Pick up gifts/gift cards for the family we will adopt for the holidays (Love INC program). Stay turned for information about our assigned family!

## **November 25, Thanksgiving:**

Hand out Thanksgiving Food Boxes (and turkeys) to ~200 people in our parking lot on **Wednesday, November 25 from noon to 2 pm** (volunteers please arrive at 11:30am)  
We will offer an online Thanksgiving worship Wednesday evening at 7pm

# Forming Faith

## **Youth Group Events (7-12<sup>th</sup> grades)**

**Nov 8 and 22 from 6—7:30pm**

We know you're missing your friends and what's normal, so this is mostly time to check in with each other and play a few card games.



**Nov 25 11:30am to 2pm**

Don't have class? Bundle up and come help hand out Thanksgiving food boxes!

## **November Weekly Bible Study!**

We've all asked the question: Is God good when there is so much evil and tragedy in the world? We call out to God with our worries about injustice and the pull to trust other things instead of God. What's a God-follower supposed to do?

### **We will read Habakkuk together!**

We will take a break the first week of November, then starting on the 10th, we will send out a study on a chapter of Habakkuk and make it available in "The Latest" on our website ([lordoflifeak.com](http://lordoflifeak.com)).

## New Bench



We have a beautiful new bench, generously built and donated by Eric Peterson in honor of Mike Dubowski, who passed away November 4, 2019. Next time you stop by Lord of Life, be sure to admire it—it's right next to the offices!

## Thank You

I'd like to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers and cards of sympathy, comfort and peace. We were able to bring my mom home on her 101st birthday and spend her last days with her family by her side.



- Marilyn Woolace

## Council Highlights

**Bible Study:** Led by Pastor Amanda. In the chaos of the world, our work is to stay centered on the unchanging promise of God. "By the grace of God I am what I am."

**Master Calendar and Goal Check:** Increase church visibility: completed! Engage youth and children: Nancy Uptgraft took 3rd - 6th graders to Dan and Missy's farm, corn field maze, and petting zoo. Support for those in crisis: Thanks to all sending cards to people. Engage members in mission: Supported Loving Families program by providing all meals for one family. Sunday school will resume when Covid cases go down.

**Treasurer's report:** Undesignated checking: \$10,490.74; Designated Checking: \$10,695.32; Debit Card checking: \$2,833.55; Savings: \$7,198.59. We are doing okay because of the CARES funding; otherwise we would be in the hole \$12,000. Tithes are increasing slightly. Bills are all paid except one payroll (3 paydays in October).

**Pastor's report:** Worship equipment is being fine-tuned. New equipment should be ready for Reformation Sunday. Nominating Team is actively seeking leaders. Currently doing Boundaries Training with the Synod. Finishing Philippians bible study and will do an Old Testament study next. Preparing for Confirmation classes. Broken window will be fixed mid-November.

### Ongoing Business:

- ◆ Covid-19 Mitigation Plan will be revisited in November and possibly another phase added. Issue of home communion will also be revisited.
- ◆ Still waiting on instructions for how to close out the PPP loan/grant program.
- ◆ Total expended for worship streaming equipment was \$6,892.22. A new computer was needed to upgrade. All funds and equipment were donated. The switch to GCI from ACS for necessary streaming capabilities increased costs from \$126.79 monthly to approx. \$250.
- ◆ Because of Covid-19, we will not have an in-person Reformation party, but a Zoom call after church with a KAHOOT Reformation game is planned.

### New Business:

- ◆ Computer and Internet Policy, Operational Ethics Policy, Cold Weather Policy all passed.
- ◆ Rees family will again donate beef to help fund our fuel bill.
- ◆ Office Manager's raise, voted for at 2019 Annual Meeting, will date from her annual review.
- ◆ Nov 8 Annual Meeting: Council members may attend in person. Other congregation members must attend via Zoom unless they have a special need (i.e., no internet), in which case they may request to attend in person.



# Fun on the Farm

What a fun-filled day! Nancy Uptgraft and Pastor Amanda took the 3rd-6th grade youth group to the Rees' farm. They got to feed some animals and they learned a little about raising livestock (who knew cows like junk food??) and caring for God's earth. From there they went to the nearby corn maze, with a stop for a cup of hot chocolate—yum!





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: December 14 @ 7:00 pm

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

## Special Prayers and Concerns

### Birthdays

- 11/1 John Dart
- 11/4 Margery Austin
- 11/7 Margie Ungrodt
- 11/12 Hannah Musgraves
- 11/14 Vern Dulany
- 11/17 Jason Kempthorne
- 11/19 Kevin Powers
- 11/21 Mercedes Lindquist
- 11/25 Morgan Boatman
- 11/27 Chris Blais
- 11/28 Jeremiah Castor
- 11/28 Dennis Musgraves



### Prayers for:

- \* Betty S, former NP teacher healing from surgery and Nancy U who is now her care-giver
- \* Those grieving: Eileen, Marilyn, Bishop Shelley.
- \* Those who are selling homes and/or moving.
- \* Those with on-going health complications:
  - Meg O overall health, Gary O, Paula F upcoming surgeries, Polly H dementia and diabetes, Erich H heart troubles, Evie F concussion recovery, John H medical concerns

*If your important date is missing, please let us know! We don't want to miss celebrating with you!*

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

### November Prayer Partner:

Brevig Memorial Lutheran Church, Brevig Mission, AK

Please pray for:

- God's provision as they prepare for winter
- Strength for the community of believers as they worship together via the radio
- Protection in the time of COVID

