

November
2021



Lord of Life Lutheran

Lifelines

A Final Note from Pastor Amanda

Oh, my dear siblings in Christ, these have been some of the hardest weeks of my time with you. My heart is overflowing with your kind words, your expressions of gratitude, and the bitter-sweetness of your farewell blessings.

I have been so deeply blessed to be your pastor these formative years of my ministry. I came fresh out of seminary – full of ideas and ideals – and you took a chance on me. You encouraged me to try new things and experiment with worship. I tried Bible studies, small groups, crazy Lent and Advent themes, and you participated *with joy!* We rode the ebb and flow of ministry in Alaska together: welcoming and releasing so many individuals, couples, and families; building on high energy and attendance; and evaluating and clarifying our mission in times of smaller groups with still faithful hearts.

I have also been blessed to be your pastor during the formative years of my life. I arrived when Jason and I were freshly married, navigating all those “firsts” together, seeking adventure. We became parents, and you all welcomed our babies like they were your own kids and grandkids. You let me bring them with me to work, making that transition into parenthood SO much easier on all of us. And in these last few years, I’ve seen you work hard to bite your tongues and do your best to welcome the wiggles.

The kindness and compassion and

hospitality and dedication you offer to one another, and your pastor, and your community is Lord of Life’s greatest asset. You all have been excellent adventurous fellow travelers in faith, and without doubt, you all will be a blessing to your next pastor as well.

As our paths diverge, know that you all go with me, for we are joined in Christ. The halo of light around the altar area will stand as a constant reminder of this mystical connection we share with all God’s saints.

Though I will no longer be your pastor, Lord of Life will remain in my prayers. Though I will not return to celebrate and grieve life’s transitions, know that this blessing from Romans 15:13 will be on my heart for you:

May the God of hope
fill you with all joy and peace in
believing,
so that you may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit.

It has been an honor and joy to be your pastor these 12 years. Thank you. Thank God for you. God bless you now and always.

~Pastor
Amanda

(A favorite
memory from
the Alaska
Synod
Women’s
Retreat in
2012.)



Nov. 14th — Annual Congregational Meeting

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Dates to Note

8th: 7pm Council Meeting

WEDS! 10th: 1:30pm School Lunch Prep

13th: 2-4pm Kempthorne Farewell Party

14th: 11:30am Annual Meeting

24th: 12-2pm Thanksgiving Food Boxes

25th & 26th: OFFICE CLOSED

(No Confirmation or Youth on the 28th)

Youth Events

We need an adult volunteer to be with us starting Dec 12!



Youth Group (6th-12th grade) meets

Sunday Nov 14 only

(November 28th is Thanksgiving weekend)

We will celebrate and play and goof off with Pastor Amanda for our last time. Pizza and ice cream party from 6-7:30pm.

Confirmation is at 4-5:30pm that night!

School Lunches

We had wonderful support for the Weekend School Lunches in October. Many thanks to Ramona, Barb, Lynne, Cheryl, Becky, Penny, Dixie, and Chris! Helpers who are not heading south for the winter, our next assembly is **Nov. 10 at 1:30pm**. Note that this is a **Wednesday** because there's no school Friday.

We are currently making 25 lunches for NPHS. I believe requests will come in from NPE, so 50 are planned for November. Thanks to your generosity in October, we have most needed provisions for our next assembly date. We do still need **26 fruit cups** and **6 oatmeal packets**. We also need **80 prepackaged cookies**—either 80 individual or 40 packages with 2 per package. Please bring fruit cups, oatmeal, and cookies to the church the first week of November. Thanks for your support!

—Janis Robertson

Alaska Women's Retreat

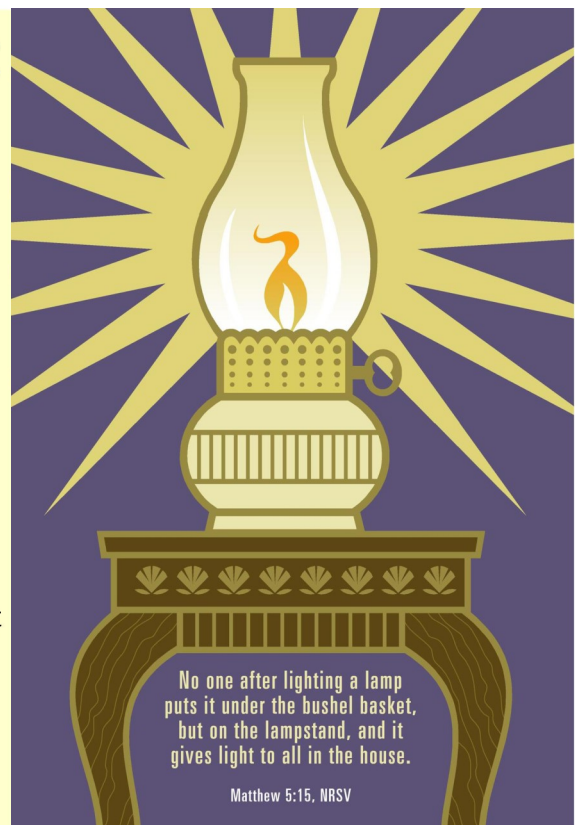
Women's Virtual Retreat
& ASWO Convention
Saturday, November 13



10 am - 2 pm
via zoom link

Virtual retreat is being planned and organized by Karen Voris, Linda Bender and Kathy Freeman, and ASWO Convention will be led by Anna Bryant and fellow ASWO board members. No cost to attend, open to all ladies of ELCA Alaska congregations and their friends.

More details to come!



Kemphorne Family Farewell Party



**Join us Saturday, November 13 from 2-4pm
as we thank and bless Pastor Amanda and her family on their way!**

All are welcome to bid farewell and show our gratitude to Pastor Amanda and her family for the past 12 years of shared ministry. We will gather in the sanctuary, masked and comfortably distanced, as we laugh, cry, moan, and shout with celebration over the things God has done through her.

While we are not having a full meal together, you may bring finger foods and treats to share.

We are collecting well wishes using a Google Form here: <https://forms.gle/dK4aXbvoqof76Jnp9> or you may simply bring your own written thoughts to give to Pastor Amanda. Her final Sunday is November 14.

Annual Meeting & Much More

**November opportunities abound to
participate in God's work!**

All month long:

- * Start collecting frozen turkeys or hams to distribute with Thanksgiving Food Boxes (most local stores have a great deal this month, often for a FREE turkey).

- * Pick up gifts/gift cards for the Love INC Christmas Adopt-a-Family we will adopt for the holidays! Stay tuned for information about our assigned family!



Sunday, November 14 at 11:30am:

You are invited to call new leadership, highlight ministries, and discuss the 2022 budget at the Annual Meeting. Your input is vital to the mission and ministry of our congregation! The Annual Report and proposed budget are printed at church and available on our website: lordoflifeak.com/the-latest. Attendance is in person or on Zoom.com Meeting ID: 967 1019 2575 Passcode: 728601

Wednesday, November 24, helpers needed at 11:15am:

Lord of Life distributes Thanksgiving Food Boxes from the Food Bank to households in need at Thanksgiving! We will be handing out 225 boxes in our parking lot starting at noon until the food is distributed. Here's a schedule of the day:

9am — early set up of 4-5 tables to put turkeys on, post "enter" and "exit" signs, paint arrows

10am — North Pole area churches (mostly St. Nick's) bring the turkeys they've collected

11:15am — Volunteers arrive, food needs to be unloaded into the handicap section of our parking lot (one area for food boxes, turkeys or hams are put on/under the tables)

Come as you can, stay as long as you're able. **We're generally done by 2pm.**

No Thanksgiving worship is planned for this year—yet. Council will work on that November 8.

Next Steps for Lord of Life

All transitions in life are hard, especially when they happen in church leadership. You may be feeling all sorts of things: sadness to be sure, anger for some, shock for others, acceptance, and (or) panic about the future. But we are not alone as we figure out what's next.



On **Sunday, November 28th**, our Alaska Synod Bishop, Shelley Wickstrom will be with us in worship and will walk through that most pressing question: WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

She will explain the work she will do on our behalf to appoint an interim pastor who will guide Lord of Life in listening for God's direction. She will walk through the process to call a new pastor like writing a church profile and creating a call committee. And finally, she can answer any questions you have. Join us in the sanctuary or from home online for worship that day (www.facebook.com/lordoflifeak/live at 10:30am or on our website Monday: www.lordoflifeak.com)

Council Highlights

Bible Study: Led by Pastor Amanda, reflection on trusting God in all things using the hymn "My life flows on in endless song" -Robert Lowry, ELW 763

Treasurer's report: Undesignated checking: \$3,470.13; Designated Checking: \$5,606.19; Debit Card checking: \$762.15; Savings: \$10,459.26; total assets: \$20,297.73. We saw an increase in tithes. So far this month we are only -\$190.73 in the red. We have \$1000 in invoices to pay. Returned WELCA funds of \$534.16 will go to general funds.

Pastor's report:

- ♦ Past—counseling, visiting members. Confirmation is rolling with 3-4 students. Great conversations about the Spiritual Gift Inventories.
- ♦ Present—Organize nominations. Compiled Gift Inventories into usable format.

2021 Goal Check:

- ♦ Discover and tell faith stories.
- ♦ Research/launch a signup & serve program. **Completed.**
- ♦ Complete Gift Inventory for the congregation. **Completed.**
- ♦ Strengthen members' connection. *Ongoing.* Directory is completed, ready to print and distribute.
- ♦ Engage people in worship planning.

Ongoing Business:

- ♦ Annual Meeting reports due by Oct. 18.
- ♦ Beef shares. 15 shares @ \$200. Notification will be sent out.
- ♦ Gift Inventory results.

New Business:

- ♦ October/November birthdays/anniversaries.
- ♦ 2022 Proposed Budget review and approval to bring to the congregation.
- ♦ Nominating Committee update. We have 4 at-large positions open, among others.
- ♦ Membership changes. New Member classes for 3 people who would like to become members. One family requested to be removed from membership—transfer to Fairbanks area church.
- ♦ Pastor Amanda's announcement of the completion of her call, letter given to council to review.





2021 CHURCH COUNCIL

President:	Liz Sandbo	Check the directory for our council members' numbers!
Vice President:	Sean Garrison	
Secretary:	Cheryl Park	
Treasurer:	Sam Aleshire	
Worship & Music:	Curt Renner	
Youth:	Kaylee Lindhag	
Stewardship:		
Mission & Social Ministry:	Denise Hradecky	
Financial Secretary:	Becky Peterson	
Pastor:	Amanda Kempthorne	322-2065 (cell)

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: Monday, **Nov. 8** @ 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, worship live Sundays at 10:30am:

www.facebook.com/lordoflifeak

Special Prayers and Concerns

Birthdays

11/1 John Dart
11/4 Marge Austin
11/7 Margi 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:

* Frank (family of Jo Small), fighting an aggressive cancer
* Rick W (friend of Cheryl P), breathing difficulties
* Tim, relative of John W, healing and pain relief
* Kempthorne family and LoL congregation as we transition

Those with on-going health complications:

Meg O, heart and mobility
Erich and Polly Hoffmann
Barb Thoma, heart strength
Nursing staff during Covid

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

Anniversaries

None this month

If your important date is missing, please let us know so we can celebrate with you!

Alaska Synod Prayer Partner for November:

Shishmaref Lutheran Church, Shishmaref, AK

Please pray for:

- New Pastors! Spouses Aaron and Anna are sharing the call to serve!
- Patience and care while Covid spreads
- Preparations for the winter

