

September
2020



Lord of Life Lutheran

Lifelines

A Note from Pastor Amanda

Every once in a while, something happens that turns our full attention on God. It's usually unexpected, usually a personal tragedy, usually something that breaks the patterns of normal life. It's when our equilibrium is thrown off, that we are more likely to seek God than when everything is going great.

When have you found that to be true in your life? You might be tempted to name the pandemic – but I invite you to look further back in your memories. When have you prayed more fervently, more frequently? When has God seemed the closest? And when has God seemed far?

Take some time with those questions, and then ponder this one:

What happened next?

When the crisis was over, when your heart began to mend, what changed within you? Did you find confidence? Act in kinder ways? Did you have clarity? Try something new? Did you shift some of the old ways of being into new ways?

Having an active, growing faith means we reflect on how God's Spirit moves through our lives, and through our church. I think the pandemic has given us an opportunity to figure out what is important to us as individuals, and us as a church.

In the pages of this newsletter, you will find a shift beginning to emerge that has been fueled by the necessities of the last seven months. This shift is all about openness to God and to one

another. Worship that was always open to all is no longer confined the walls of the church! Developing our own faith and guiding our children is no longer confined to a class an hour before worship, it's happening in our homes!

After a time of being exiled, God's people struggled with hope. They wondered if God was done with them and if there would ever be a normal to go back to. Through Isaiah, God promised the current reality did not have the last say: "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." and God would do all these things because, "... I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior... Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you.... Do not fear, for I am with you" (Isaiah 43).

By now, we expect life will keep shifting under our feet. But if we remember the ways God has been faithful in Biblical history and our own history, we might even begin to look forward to what may come next.

Peace, my dear siblings in Christ. I wish you the peace that comes from knowing God has got us. My prayers and love are with you.

In Christ,
~Pastor
Amanda



“God’s Work Our Hands” Service Day is September 13!

September 13 is Lord of Life’s Day of service along with the entire Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. That’s right—we’re serving the entire nation!

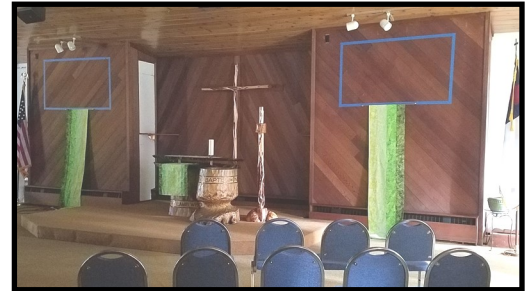
Join in doing God’s Work with Our Hands as we care for ...
Creation: picking up litter on St. Nicholas Drive from the church to Wendy’s
Neighbors in need: cut, split, and stack firewood for people in need of warmth
The body of Christ: write notes to encourage the people in our church
... or serve someone with kindness in your neighborhood or circle of friends!

Worship in September

It has been a refreshing joy to worship outside this summer! Thank you all for your flexibility, patience, and the joy of gathering to worship God on our front lawn! Being outside has allowed us more of us to worship together in ways that would otherwise be limited inside.

Before we need to break out the parkas, our sanctuary is being prepared for indoor worship!

To continue offering worship online, we have received a generous gift to install an excellent video camera in our sanctuary! To make our worship screen visible both in person and online, the gift includes the purchase of some massive TVs! To create more space for seating, we have rearranged the chairs into three sections. This service was free, courtesy of your Pastor.



We will continue to worship on the front lawn as long as the weather permits. (This allows us to keep singing and cuts down on Covid risks.)

Council has decided to follow the standards in use by the FNSB School District based on the 14-day average of Covid cases in the borough. These numbers can be found at: <https://coronavirus-response-alaska-dhss.hub.arcgis.com/> (The 7-day average stats are in the map at the top of the page.)

10 or more cases per day average: worship will be online only

5-9 cases per day average: worship will be inside with required face coverings the entire time

under 5 cases per day average: worship will be inside, masks may be removed during the service

Thank you for the spirit in which you worship, open to God's leading and presence with us even when we're disoriented. God is faithful and we are firmly in God's grip! Peace!

Forming Faith

7—12th grades gather the 2nd and 4th Sundays!
We return to our regular time from 6-7:30!

Sept. 13: Join in God's Work Our Hands projects during worship this day! Pick up trash, prepare firewood, or join in any project that interests you.

Sept. 27: Check-ins, games, and goof off night!

3rd—6th graders need your wisdom!

We are setting up the ministry for the year! Specifically, we are looking for interested individuals to share their jobs or hobbies with our young people, and how they see God at work in these things. Talk to Pastor Amanda to join this ministry, and she will help you prepare.

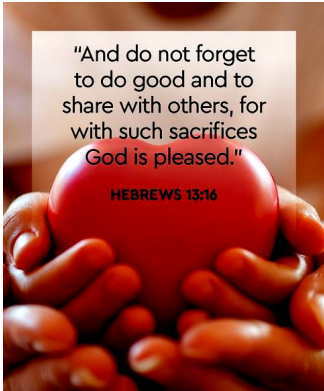
Sunday school is on hold, but God is not!

Beginning September 20, you're invited to have a little fun with your faith! Each week, we will have activities, questions, and challenges to get you thinking and talking about God through the rest of the week.



"Fun with Faith" packets will be available at worship and throughout the week for families, individuals, and anyone who needs a little lightness and laughter, a little thought and a whole lot of hope in their lives.

Food Drive Update



Lord of Life participated in the Fairbanks Food Bank's 2020 Churches Challenge! The Food Bank missed out on many opportunities to collect foodstuffs due to Covid-19, especially the Tanana Valley Fair, when they usually add thousands of cans to their shelves. LoL's goal was to collect 500 lbs. of food—a lofty goal that we BLEW PAST! Take a look at the Food Bank's record: <https://www.fooddriveonline.org/fairbanksfoodbank/return.php?c=61e250a526> Remember, \$1 = 1 pound of food.

Though the challenge has nearly ended, our community will always have food insecure families. Donations of non-perishable food can always be brought to the church and left on the bench near the door or in the basket near the offices.

These donations will be sent to St. Jude's food pantry for distribution to those in need in North Pole.

Thanks to all who cleared out their pantries and added extra items to their grocery lists to support this worthwhile cause!

Council Highlights

Book Study: Ch. 7 of The Invitational Christian, "The Importance of With." Focus on inviting others. Guide people through the service, and reflect with them afterward, allows you to share your faith.

Master Calendar and Goal Check: Increase church visibility: Tim spent 10 hours clearing limbs; will do more out front. Engage members in our mission: Connecting people with additional needs, help with grocery pickup etc, should the community relock down.

Treasurer's report: Undesignated checking: \$10,227,98; Designated Checking: \$19,960.31; Debit Card checking: \$1,044.49; Savings: \$6,137.68. As of Aug. 10, all bills have been paid. \$938.35 remains in the Cares Act funding.

Pastor's report: We are using FNSB's Covid-19 guidelines, have final draft of mitigation plan created. State is hosting a monthly meeting for religious leaders, bi-weekly Synod meetings. Celebrated Baptism of Riley Nassuk. Planning for God's Work, Our Hands scheduled for Sept. 13. Taking a class for the month of August: Leading in a Liminal Season.



Ongoing Business:

- ◆ We will reopen for worship in the fall, using FNSB's 2-week average. 10+ cases: online worship only; 5-9 cases: worship inside with distance, masks required; -5 cases: worship inside with distance, masks optional. No coat racks, coffee or food. Fellowship in the sanctuary with physical distance. Special signage in bathrooms. A stationary offering basket and individual communion cups at entrance. Nursery will be locked. Kids' worship bags modified with take-home items.
- ◆ We have until December to use grant funds, though most has been spent. Reporting comes later.
- ◆ We received a gift for electronic equipment to broadcast for those worshipping at home. A remote control camera will move and focus on various parts of the service. Two 75" TVs will be mounted on each side of the altar, replacing the screen and projector.
- ◆ New Bylaws presented for council restructure in 2021, discuss next meeting. Debit Card policy was updated.
- ◆ Reopening for Girl Scout troops will happen when schools reopen.

New Business: Sunday School will be revisited in September. May have take-home bags to use during the week. God's Work Our Hands service projects: Wood project, highway cleanup, exterior lighted cross.

President's Report: Waiting for direction from Love INC on proceeding with Loving Families program.

Youth Update: ELCA Youth Gathering postponed until 2022 due to Covid risks.



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

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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: September 14 @ 7:00 pm

Newsletter deadline: 20th of each month.

Get the latest on our website:

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

- 9/4 Brenda Sadler
- 9/9 Evie Freeman
- 9/10 Robert Peterson
- 9/16 Evan Kempthorne
- 9/20 Jim Woolace
- 9/21 Dixie Keil
- 9/27 Kaylee Lindhag
- 9/28 Roger Bolish
- 9/28 Karen LeFlore



Anniversaries

- 9/13 Meg & Gary Ojala
- 9/15 Sam & Eric Aleshire



If your important date is missing,
let us know—email the office or
give us a call!

Prayers for:

- * Family and friends grieving the recent death of Pat Thurman
- * Marilyn W's mother, Pauline, as the family makes decisions about her end of life care
- * Dixie & Evan K's grandson, Evan healing from heart surgery
- * Those grieving Dustin Baxter's sudden death, his family and child
- * Those with on-going health complications: Meg O, Gary O, Polly H, Erich H, Evie F, Gary F, Steve H

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

September Prayer Partner:

**Christ Lutheran Church,
Fairbanks, AK**

Please pray for:

- internal work on purpose statement and guiding principles for ministry
- open to conversation about becoming a "Reconciled in Christ" (RIC) congregation to be better supportive of the LGBTQ+ community
- newly rebuilt septic system and payments for it

