

January
2025



Lord of Life Lutheran

LifeLines

Notes from David

The Body of Christ consists of baptized members of the whole, or universal Christian faith. As leaders and lay people within the Church we must work together within the ministry of the church for God's plan and mission in the world. The design for working together begins with "Love your Neighbor", and to love that neighbor actively, not passively.

A primary purpose of the church is raising disciples for Jesus Christ. This is a journey of transformation. It allows God to mold a person into the person He wants the individual to be. A disciple is a student who spends time learning and living the Christian experience. A congregation must work together to identify the best learning styles for individuals.

The Triune God is active in the world. God is active in creation and in our human lives. There is so much brokenness in the world that human beings are stripped of basic respect and dignity. God is working to heal those broken pieces of our lives.

The healing process has a two-part approach. On one side is the Gospel of Jesus, the promise of forgiveness of sins through faith for eternal salvation. The other side is the action of peace, justice and equity. The triune God is working these actions in the world now, continually sharing the gift with the created world and everything in it. We, as the baptized church, are called to be part of these actions,

and to spread the good news.

Each and every person within a congregation is going to have a different vision of what a worship service, or church event, would look like. The Body of Christ is made up of a large number of people and God uses and loves them all.

Evangelizing is proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ to another person. When we evangelize, we speak about how we have encountered Jesus and our own faith walk. Evangelizing needs to be authentic, both to ourselves and how we live our lives. Our story, if not true, holds no lasting power. If we do not live our life as changed, the story holds no power. With an engaging evangelizing proclamation we can help build connections across ecumenical partnerships and initiate social ministries. When we put forth the good news of Jesus Christ in our relationships, others know who we are on a deeper level.

The love, grace, and forgiveness of Jesus can be mirrored in our lives to help people. These actions help to shape who we are as individuals, congregations, and as a full body of Christ.

Proclaiming the good news happens in worship, prayer, fellowship, and any time in our day-to-day lives in such a way that it becomes possible to share.

First Ever Puzzle Swap Jan. 19th

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Dates to Note

9th: 12:30pm School Lunches
13th: 7pm Council Meeting
19th: Puzzle Swap (after worship)
20th: OFFICE CLOSED (MLK Day)

"LifeLines"

Inside Out 2 by Disney-Pixar

When we last left the personified feelings of *Inside Out*, they seemed to have everything together. Joy and Sadness were allied as the chief emotions within the mind of preteen Riley, while Anger, Fear and Disgust all found their roles.

That status quo remains in place at the start of the sequel, which begins with Riley entering her teen years. The peace lasts just seconds, however, until the puberty button gets pressed and a host of new emotions



enters “headquarters,” including Envy, Ennui, Nostalgia and Embarrassment. Leading them all is the frazzled emotion Anxiety. It soon becomes clear that Anxiety has come to diminish Joy.

“How can I help?” Anxiety asks Joy when she first comes on the scene, offering all sorts of options. She bounces around the room, suggesting she could take notes, get coffee, walk the dog or anything else that might be needed, rational or otherwise. As endearing as Anxiety’s can-do attitude might be, it soon becomes overwhelming. When Riley overhears older students making fun of her at high school hockey tryouts, Joy has no answers, leaving space for Anxiety to drive Riley into unleashing a barrage of apologies. While the apologies seem to work for Riley, Anxiety announces that she has a bigger plan. It requires Riley to ditch her old friends and devote every waking second to getting accepted by her new potential high school teammates. “That is not Riley!” protests Joy. “I know!” Anxiety enthuses. “It’s a better Riley! We’ll build her a whole new identity.”

Inside Out 2’s audience might recognize that statement as a setup for the central conflict, in which Joy and the other emotions try to prevent Anxiety from taking control of Riley. But to anyone older, there’s a sting of recognition. Even if age 13 is decades in our own past, and even if we may face stakes more dire than making a hockey team, adults all know what it’s like to let anxiety lead over joy.

On paper, the choice might seem simple: Why would anyone choose anxiety instead of joy? *Inside Out 2* provides an answer with beautiful simplicity.

Joy doesn’t have the answer for every situation. Sometimes, Anxiety feels better, because the emotion can make us feel as if we’re in control. When the personified Joy falls back after hearing Riley mocked, it’s Anxiety who takes charge, and despite the manic way Anxiety moves around, she nonetheless appears to offer a sense of control.

Christians know that anxiety offers only the illusion of control. “Whenever you face various trials, consider it all joy.” James 1:2-4

Anxiety literally takes over Riley’s mind, expelling Joy. Not only does Anxiety fail to solve Riley’s problems, but she creates more, a constant need to deal with the new problems Anxiety causes.

In that simple image audiences can see the stark flip side of Paul’s promise. Where casting our requests to God creates a peace so great that it’s impossible to understand, letting anxiety rule results in no peace, no solutions and, most of all, no joy.

—Living Lutheran, 7-12-24

10 Predictions about the Future Church

What will the future church be like?

- 1. The potential to gain is greater than the potential to lose.** The church was Jesus' idea, not ours. It will survive our missteps. Reports of the church's death are greatly exaggerated.
- 2. Churches that love their model more than the mission will die.** Entire denominations won't make it. The difference will be between those who cling to the mission and those who cling to the model. When the car was invented, many horse and buggy manufacturers went under, but human transportation exploded. Suddenly average people could travel at unprecedented levels. The mission is travel. The model is a buggy, car, or jet. Companies that show innovation around the mission (Apple, Samsung) will always beat companies that remain devoted to the method ([Kodak](#)). Churches need to focus on the mission (leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus) and be innovative in our model.
- 3. The gathered church is here to stay.** The church is inherently communal. While our gatherings might shift and look different, Christians will always gather to do more than we ever could on our own.
- 4. Consumer Christianity will die and a more selfless discipleship will emerge.** Consumer Christianity asks *What can I get from God?* It asks, *What's in it for me?* This is antithetical to the Gospel. As the church reformats, a more selfless church will emerge.
- 5. Sundays will become more about what we give than what we get.** Our gatherings will become more about Jesus and the world he loves. Rather than a gathering of the already-convinced, the churches that remain will be decidedly outsider-focused. Word will be supplemented with deeds. This is the kind of outward focus that drove the rapid expansion of the first century church.
- 6. Attendance will no longer drive engagement; engagement will drive attendance.** In the future, the engaged will attend because only the engaged will remain. Engagement driving attendance is what has fueled the church at its best moments throughout history. It's an exciting shift.
- 7. Simplified ministries will complement people's lives, not compete with people's lives.** Churches that focus on the few things the *church* can uniquely do best will emerge as the most effective churches moving forward.
- 8. Online church will supplement the journey but not become the journey.** Think of it like meeting someone online. You can have a fantastic relationship. But if you fall in love, you ultimately want to meet and spend your life together. So it is with Jesus, people and the church.

- 9. Online church will become more of a front door than a back door.** Online church has the potential to become a massive front door for those who want to know what Christianity is all about. In the same way reading reviews online reviews is a first stop before buying a toaster, a church's online presence will be a first home for people which will lead to a personal connection with Christ and ultimately the gathered church.



- 10. Gatherings will be smaller and larger at the same time.** There are bad mega-churches and bad small churches. Large churches will get larger. At the same time, churches will establish more intimate gatherings as millennials seek tighter connections.



Lord of Life Lutheran Church North Pole, Alaska

2025 CHURCH COUNCIL

President: Becky Peterson
 Vice President: **Vacant**
 Secretary: Ranae Browning
 Treasurer: Heather Markel

At Large Members: Evan Keil
 John Dart
 Brent Strickland
 Eric Peterson

**Welcome,
new council
members!**

Intern Pastor: David Ingram
 Financial Secretary: Carol Dahl

Lord of Life Lutheran

1005 Saint Nicholas Drive
 North Pole Alaska, 99705
 Website: www.lordoflifeak.com
 Office Phone: (907) 488-6720
 Intern Pastor's cell: (907) 322-2065

E-mail

Jo: office@lordoflifeak.com

Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9am to 1pm

Mission Statement

"Sharing the Light
and Warmth of God's Love"

Next Church Council Meeting: **Feb. 10 @ 7pm**

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

1/7 Katy Castor
 1/20 Cohen Neske
 1/23 Riley Maranville
 1/24 Ty Peterson



Prayers for:

~ Becky P, continued healing
 ~ Friends & family grieving
 loss of DeAnna Skilbred
 ~ Hoffmann-Fritsche family,
 various health issues
 ~ Chris B, scheduled for spinal
 surgery in the spring

~ Those with on-going health issues

Alaska Synod Prayer Partner for January:

**Petersburg Lutheran Church,
Petersburg, AK**

We pray:

For the peace from above, to
 all the children of the church
 For the hope from above, to all
 the baptized people
 For the healing from above, to
 all those in need, both body
 and mind

Anniversaries

None

*Is your important date
 missing? please let us
 know so we can
 celebrate with you!*



Contact

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

