

June
2025



Lord of Life Lutheran

LifeLines

Notes from David

A lament is a prayer in which we express our frustration, grief, anger, fear, and trepidation, as well as our faith in God to restore, heal, and comfort us. Lamenting prayers can be used to talk to God in our most desperate of times. Lamenting is not something that we should shy away from but use to speak to God.

A Lament can describe a petition, individual or communal, as an address to God, description of distress, or prayer for help. The book of Lamentations is described as a funeral dirge. The poets from Lamentations, Psalms, and other books also express a faith that Yahweh will deliver and restore the people.

We see that God listens to us all and restores us in God's time. He desires us to reach out to us with difficult emotions. We are freed to make bold proclamations to Yahweh, of all the emotions that we experience in difficult situations. When we hold onto troubling emotions, we live without hope; but if we proclaim all of it to God, we can begin receiving hope and renewal.

Ancient lamenting poets and authors used this genre to express themselves. They knew they could go to God with their problems to get comfort and

restoration. In Jeremiah 15 and Psalms 3, we see that the author has a deep relationship with the one true God who helps people that call out for renewal. In Psalms, the author notes that the enemies are many and the enemies say that God is not going to help. Even though enemies are around, the Lord God will come to save and sustain the lamentor. In Jeremiah, the Lord is taking vengeance on Jerusalem for listening to a false prophet. Jeremiah is praying to God that he knows that the vengeance is the Lord's and that Jeremiah is being harmed by everyone else. The situation Jeremiah finds himself in is dangerous, but he knows his restoration is through the Lord. It does not take away from the difficult situation, but puts his future hope in the strength of God. Lamenting coincides with Lutheran theology in that Lutheran theology puts the action on the Divine. The reality of human existence includes difficult times and God is here to accompany us through them. This leads us to the Theology of the Cross where we can bring our sins and difficulties to the cross of Jesus and we can be washed clean by the saving grace of God.

Vacation Bible School details on Facebook

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Dates to Note
Mondays: 10am Bible Study
9th: 7pm Council Mtg
16th-20th: VBS

"LifeLines"

Council Minutes

Devotional: Becky Peterson opened the meeting with devotional.

David Ingram's report: The Memorial Service and Easter Sunday went well and he received positive feedback. He personally visited/called three people, some times. [Regarding seminary], he has two projects to complete, but currently has good grades this semester. His new classes will include Lutheran Ethics, Global Church in Motion, and New Testament Letters.

President's report: Becky reminded us of her upcoming surgery on June 13. Jo Schackman, Office Manager, will be on vacation June 20 – 30. There will be no remote work as Jo needs to enjoy her time off without interruptions. Aleshire Baby Shower approved for the last week of May. It is necessary that all using the facility submit the appropriate "Building Use" form, including members of Lord of Life Church.

Treasurer's report: Mary Mills provided Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss as of April 30, 2025. Shipping charges were not included on previously approved VBS requisition. \$645.03 should be reimbursed as organizers shouldn't be liable for shipping. Approved.

Secretary's report: Ranae will update the council roster and provide contact information for all council members.

Ongoing Business:

- ♦ Lord of Life's 50th Anniversary. The theme will be Oktoberfest. The community will be invited to the celebration. Brent will plan and organize the activities, to include gingerbread cookie decorating, pretzel toss, costume contest, etc. Council again requested a budget for planning purposes.

Vacation Bible School

Got a K-5th grader? Sign them up for VBS (June 16-20, 5:30-8pm) on Lord of Life Lutheran Church's Facebook page.

This year's theme is True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World



New Business:

- ♦ The pianist needs to arrive on time.
- ♦ Hannah Ross needs to be added as an Admin on Facebook. President Becky will make sure this happens.
- ♦ Ranae Browning committed to serving as Teller on the second Sunday of each month along with Brenda Sadler.
- ♦ Annual spring cleanup scheduled for Sunday, June 8, 2025.
- ♦ Evan Keil will schedule teller training and notify tellers.

American Beliefs Study

The proportion of Americans participating in a religious community has slipped to 33% in the past 5 years.

**Only 64%
of
Americans
describe
themselves
as Christian**

This represents a decline of 12%. This happened despite the nation's population growing by 30 million. Over the past 10 years, Americans have gravitated away from Christianity. More than two thirds preferred Christianity 10 years ago (68% in 2011). In the same timeframe, the proportion having no religious preference has risen from 22% to 26%. Still, more than half of Americans see themselves as Christian — 213 million out of a population of 331.8 million. That's a big number.

In religious demography, researchers talk about “conversions” and “defections.” Every year some people convert to Christianity from another religion or from no religion. Every year some people leave Christianity for another religion or no religion. This is not just about people attending church less often, drifting away but still believing in Jesus, and still considering Christianity to be their faith. This is about people saying, “I was a Christian ten years ago, but now I'm not.” In America today, there are more Christian defections than conversions. **If faith communities had stemmed the loss of those leaving the faith, the number of Christians would be 15 million higher today.** That's also a big number.

Encouragingly, the percentage defining their faith as very significant in their lives has ticked up. Among self identified Christians, 54% define their faith in their lives as having considerable significance. And the share of Christians involved in a faith community who say their faith is significant in their lives has grown from 67% to 76% in the past ten years. The chief takeaway may be that the Christian church has few champions in American society except for itself.

The trends in spiritual identification and church attendance in this survey suggest that the venerable position of the church in American society is waning, but slowly. Moral beliefs once universally accepted as true are being questioned in large numbers. Americans also value having places of worship in their communities.

Americans who continue to profess Christianity clearly favor a less-structured experience. This is evident in how they increasingly affiliate with nondenominational and independent churches. Mainline and minor Christian denominations saw a 3% decline over the past 10 years, while Independent and non-denominational churches have seen a 3.2% increase. 21% of Christians now affiliate with a non-denominational church, compared to 18% ten years ago. Plainly, the American Christians who remain in the pews are less tied to historical Christianity than their forebears. Other results suggest that they still seek out some level of traditionalism in their new church homes. But the increase in independent, non-denominational worship venues is evidence of a waning sense of historical identity among American Christians. **They are more likely now to see themselves as simply Christians and less likely as Lutherans, Catholics, Baptists or Presbyterians.**

We are now more concerned about social unrest, health crises and injustice, with stress and spiritual issues close behind. Church leaders must speak to all these concerns, relaying timeless messages of reconciliation, harmony and lovingkindness to an anxious population.

Tone is important, too. The American church has a better chance when its leaders and members are authentically open, tolerant, warm and genuine. Such attitudes are vital in reaching new generations and retaining existing members.

—The American Beliefs Study, ACS Technologies Group, 2022



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|-----------|
| 1 <u>10:30 am</u> <u>Sunday</u> <u>Worship</u> | 2 <u>10 am</u> <u>Bible Study</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u> | 3 | 4 <u>10 am</u> <u>TOPS Meeting</u> <u>12 pm</u> <u>Food Boxes</u> <u>5:15 pm</u> <u>TOPS Meeting</u> | 5 <u>9 am - 12 pm</u> <u>17-Mile</u> <u>Homemakers</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u> | 6 | 7 |
| 8 <u>10:30 am</u> <u>Sunday</u> <u>Worship</u> | 9 <u>10 am</u> <u>Bible Study</u> <u>7 pm</u> <u>Council</u> <u>Meeting</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u> | 10 | 11 <u>10 am</u> <u>TOPS Meeting</u> <u>12 pm</u> <u>Food Boxes</u> <u>5:15 pm</u> <u>TOPS Meeting</u> | 12 <u>9 am - 12 pm</u> <u>17-Mile</u> <u>Homemakers</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u> | 13 | 14 |
| 15 <u>10:30 am</u> <u>Sunday</u> <u>Worship</u> | 16 <u>10 am</u> <u>Bible Study</u> <u>5:30 pm - 8</u> <u>pm</u> <u>Vacation Bible</u> <u>School</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u> | 17 <u>5:30 pm - 8</u> <u>pm</u> <u>Vacation Bible</u> <u>School</u> | 18 <u>10 am</u> <u>TOPS Meeting</u> <u>12 pm</u> <u>Food Boxes</u> <u>5:15 pm</u> <u>TOPS Meeting</u> <u>5:30 pm - 8</u> <u>pm</u> <u>Vacation Bible</u> <u>School</u> | 19 <u>9 am - 12 pm</u> <u>17-Mile</u> <u>Homemakers</u> <u>5:30 pm - 8</u> <u>pm</u> <u>Vacation Bible</u> <u>School</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u> | 20 <u>5:30 pm - 8</u> <u>pm</u> <u>Vacation Bible</u> <u>School</u> | 21 |
| 22 <u>10:30 am</u> <u>Sunday</u> <u>Worship</u> | 23 <u>10 am</u> <u>Bible Study</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u> | 24 | 25 <u>10 am</u> <u>TOPS Meeting</u> <u>12 pm</u> <u>Food Boxes</u> <u>5:15 pm</u> <u>TOPS Meeting</u> | 26 <u>9 am - 12 pm</u> <u>17-Mile</u> <u>Homemakers</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u> | 27 | 28 |
| 29 <u>10:30 am</u> <u>Sunday</u> <u>Worship</u> | 30 <u>10 am</u> <u>Bible Study</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u> | 1 | 2 <u>10 am</u> <u>TOPS Meeting</u> <u>12 pm</u> <u>Food Boxes</u> <u>5:15 pm</u> <u>TOPS Meeting</u> | 3 <u>9 am - 12 pm</u> <u>17-Mile</u> <u>Homemakers</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u> | 4 | 5 |



Lord of Life Lutheran Church

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Intern Pastor's cell: (907) 322-2065

E-mail

Jo: office@lordoflifeak.com

Office Hours
Weekday mornings

Mission Statement
Sharing the Light &
Warmth of God's Love

2025 CHURCH COUNCIL

President: Becky Peterson
Vice President: Brent Strickland
Secretary: Ranae Browning
Treasurer: Mary Mills
At Large Members: Evan Keil
Eric Peterson
Vacant
Intern Pastor: David Ingram
Financial Secretary: Carol Dahl

Next Church Council Meeting: **June 9 @ 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

6/3 Donna Peterson
6/4 Jeromey Lindhag
6/5 Karen Erickson
6/7 Stella Gregory
6/7 Missy Rees
6/10 Eileen Dubowski
6/13 Fran Hradecky
6/14 Dan Rees
6/15 Duane Dahl
6/15 Alexes Lindquist
6/18 Dan Matz
6/22 Evan Keil
6/23 Eric Peterson
6/26 Loretta Pananen



Anniversaries

6/14 Chris & Ken Blais
6/19 Marilyn & Jim
Woolace
6/28 Sheri & Marti Pakkamaa



Prayers for:

~ Friends and family of
Barbara T, grieving her
passing
~ John T, recovering from
stroke
~ Those with ongoing health
issues

Contact

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



Alaska Synod Prayer Partner for June:

Good Shepherd Lutheran
Church, Wasilla, Alaska

Grant us your peace this
day, Lord

Strengthen our faith this
day, Lord

Shine your grace on us this
day, Lord



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