

October  
2024



Lord of Life Lutheran

LifeLines

## Notes from David Ingram

Confession was a source of confusion and distress to me. I had to go to the person and confess my sin/s to the person that I sinned against and get forgiveness from them. As a child my parents always told me to go and apologize. I never really felt forgiven. So that part was a struggle for me to understand. Grace from God did not make sense. Just saying sorry felt so hollow. I ignored that part of the Christian faith until I worked for a Catholic priest who was raised as a Lutheran. How he explained it was that confession is not about earning anything. It is more about saying out loud and admitting that we have sinned against God and are working toward becoming more aligned with God's will for our lives. That was the first time sin was taught as an action against God and not just an inappropriate action to a person. Grace was abundant and from God. Confession can be a time to unburden ourselves and learn from our actions. Confession is to be a time that we come closer to God removing the boundaries that we put up. God's grace will always be more than enough to forgive us and more importantly to bring us closer to God in relationship.

"It would have been more tolerable if they had added one word about faith, which comforts and encourages consciences. About this faith, which obtains the forgiveness

of sins, there is not a syllable in so great a mass of regulations, commentaries, summaries, or books of confession."

Confession and Absolution feels obligatory and in many ways it is. Confession should feel more in the way of God's grace and a time to grow our relationship with God. It brings reconciliation. God's love covers us and envelops us. Sometimes when we have not been willing or able to reconcile God is still with us. The reconciliation process, with confession and absolution, brings about peace in our souls. The peace of God that permeates everything we are. This peace helps us to deepen our relationships with God and others. "A fixed time for Confession is not prescribed because all are not ready in the same way at the same time." One thing that I have been thinking about is how we say the confession at the start of the service every week. It is incredibly important to work through confession and absolution especially before we go to the communion table. I know I am not always in the correct space to really get into the full confession mindset on Sunday morning. I think that we are called to be in confession and absolution outside of the church setting when the Holy Spirit is moving us to bring our relationship closer to God.

**Did you know.... We have a monthly Prayer Partner (p. 4)**

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### Dates to Note

9th: 12:30pm School Lunches  
14th: 7pm Council Meeting  
17th-19th: Youth Retreat, Seward  
Nov. 2: Daylight Saving Time!

"LifeLines"

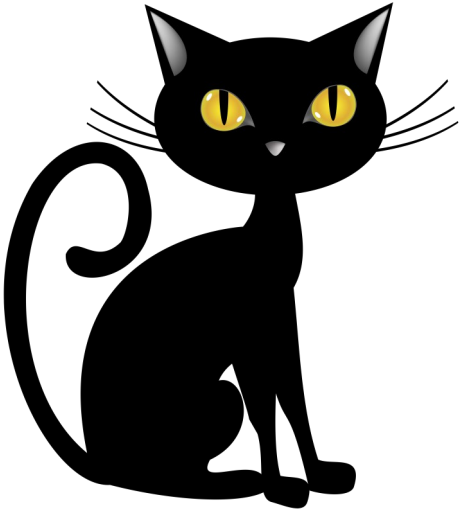
# Council Update

Church Council did not meet in September. Here are the August financials:

## Profit & Loss August 2024

	TOTAL	
	AUG 2024	JAN - AUG, 2024 (YTD)
Revenue		
41000 Designated Income		
41020 Misc - Short Term		8,742.99
<b>Total 41000 Designated Income</b>		<b>8,742.99</b>
49501 Tithes - In Person	3,614.00	35,395.29
49502 Tithes - Online	1,726.70	15,964.94
49503 Thrivent Grant	20.00	20.00
49504 Tithes - Designated Savings	600.00	19,879.00
49505 Misc Income		1,031.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$5,960.70</b>	<b>\$81,033.22</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$5,960.70</b>	<b>\$81,033.22</b>
Expenditures		
60400 Banking Fees		
60402 Online Deposit Fees		564.10
<b>Total 60400 Banking Fees</b>		<b>564.10</b>
60700 Benevolence Giving	534.07	5,156.04
61800 Conferences and Meetings		
61802 Conference Travel		480.80
<b>Total 61800 Conferences and Meetings</b>		<b>480.80</b>
62400 Designated Expenses		
62406 Education		802.50
62419 Youth		400.00
62420 Misc Short Term	159.60	4,445.60
<b>Total 62400 Designated Expenses</b>	<b>159.60</b>	<b>5,648.10</b>
62500 Dues and Subscriptions	792.90	1,545.20
62501 Accounting Software Fees	182.52	1,356.77
<b>Total 62500 Dues and Subscriptions</b>	<b>975.42</b>	<b>2,901.97</b>
62700 Evangelism and Special Events		
62703 Travel		264.14
<b>Total 62700 Evangelism and Special Events</b>		<b>264.14</b>
63300 Insurance Expense		3,250.00
63800 Misc Expenses	231.88	231.88
64900 Office Expense		543.31
66000 Payroll Expenses		568.86
66001 Health & Disability Insurance		932.86
Taxes	310.01	2,035.48
Wages	6,129.70	38,376.85
<b>Total 66000 Payroll Expenses</b>	<b>6,439.71</b>	<b>41,914.05</b>
68600 Utilities		
68601 Electric	226.00	2,544.00
68602 Natural Gas		5,023.48
68603 Cellular Phone	336.24	2,688.83
<b>Total 68600 Utilities</b>	<b>562.24</b>	<b>10,256.31</b>
Reimbursements		750.00
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$9,224.90</b>	<b>\$77,249.06</b>
<b>NET OPERATING REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ -3,264.20</b>	<b>\$3,784.16</b>
Other Revenue		
70200 Interest Income		56.33
<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$56.33</b>
<b>NET OTHER REVENUE</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$56.33</b>
<b>NET REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ -3,264.20</b>	<b>\$3,840.49</b>

## Black Cats and Bad Luck



One of our oldest superstitions is that crossing paths with a black cat will bring bad luck. The dark-colored felines have also been folded into modern Halloween symbols, giving them the reputation of being spooky. **But how did the association between black cats and bad luck begin?**

The connection between humans and cats can be traced back to the world's earliest civilizations, notably ancient Egypt. Cats also made an appearance in Greek mythology, specifically Hecate, goddess of magic and witchcraft, who had a cat as a pet and a familiar.

In 1233, an official church document called "Vox in Rama" was issued, declaring black cats an incarnation of

**In 1233 Pope Gregory IX declared black cats an incarnation of Satan**

Satan. The decree marked the beginning of the inquisition and church-sanctioned witch hunts. Although the early Christian church in Europe coexisted with witches, as the church gained power, they saw witches as direct competition in gaining the hearts and minds of the people. That's when the church began hunting, torturing and killing witches in vast numbers. The old lady with her cats became seen as suspect. At some point, the pairing of witches with cats narrowed to black cats.

Eventually, the fear surrounding black cats and their association with witchcraft made its way across the Atlantic, courtesy of Puritan colonists. **The idea that witches could turn into their familiar likely evolved from those accused of witchcraft having cats as pets.**

During the Middle Ages, cats were blamed for spreading Bubonic plague and used as another reason to get rid of them. In a bizarre piece of irony, killing the cats helped *spread* the plague. With fewer cats to control the rodent population, the disease spread even more rapidly.

Given the belief in medieval Europe that the devil and witches were capable of taking the form of black cats, it makes sense that the superstition surrounding crossing their paths developed. A black cat crossing your path might very well be on a mission from a witch. Just as easily, it could be the devil in disguise—and no one wants to cross paths with the devil. This explains why a black cat crossing your path is considered a bad omen.

This notion continued into the Renaissance. Fearful peasants might have hurried to the nearest church and paid for a priest to bless them and rid them of any curse that might have been laid by the cat. As this

**The idea of black cats as bad luck isn't universal**

was a source of income for the church, such fears would have likely been encouraged.

Some cultures believe that black cats bring good luck. Their resemblance to the cat-goddess Bastet led them to be honored in ancient Egypt. In Scotland and Japan, they represent prosperity. Apparently, whether a black cat is viewed as benevolent or evil depends on which lore is embraced.

—Elizabeth Yuko, *history.com*



Lord of Life Lutheran Church North Pole, Alaska

## Lord of Life Lutheran

1005 Saint Nicholas Drive  
North Pole Alaska, 99705  
Website: [www.lordoflifeak.com](http://www.lordoflifeak.com)

Office Phone: (907) 488-6720  
Intern Pastor's cell: (907) 322-2065

### E-mail

Jo: [office@lordoflifeak.com](mailto:office@lordoflifeak.com)

### Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9am to 1pm

### Mission Statement

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

## 2024 CHURCH COUNCIL

President: Becky Peterson  
Vice President: **Vacant**  
Secretary: Chris Blais  
Treasurer: Dianna Lindhag

At Large: Evan Keil  
Members: John Dart  
Becky Peterson  
Kevin Powers

Intern Pastor: David Ingram  
Financial Secretary: Carol Dahl

**Volunteer  
to serve  
on your  
Church  
Council!**

Next Church Council Meeting: **Nov. 11 @ 7pm**

Newsletter deadline: 20th of each month.

Get the latest on our website:

[www.lordoflifeak.com/the-latest](http://www.lordoflifeak.com/the-latest)

or

Follow our Facebook page, worship live Sundays at 10:30am:  
[www.facebook.com/lordoflifeak](http://www.facebook.com/lordoflifeak)

## Special Prayers and Concerns

### Birthdays

10/6 Denise Hradecky  
10/6 Mark Uptgraft  
10/15 Janis Robertson  
10/16 Bob Workman  
10/18 Parker Ingram  
10/24 Amie Maranville  
10/28 David Matz



### Prayers for:

~ Fazio family and friends,  
grieving Tony's passing  
~ Snowbirds preparing to  
leave for winter months  
~ St. Jude's congregation and  
Pastor John, adjusting to his  
retirement

### Contact

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

### Anniversaries

10/16 Carol & Duane Dahl  
10/21 Tim & Jo  
Schackman



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



### Alaska Synod Prayer Partner for Oct.:

River of Life Lutheran Church,  
Chugiak, Alaska

May the people of God glorify  
God daily with joy and peace.

May the people of God  
continue to grow their faith  
through love.

May the people of God live out  
the gospel of Jesus Christ with  
their neighbors.

