

October
2025



Lord of Life Lutheran

LifeLines

Notes from David

One of my projects this semester was to look at the ELCA social statements. I thought these ideas could be useful for us. The ELCA economic life social statement focuses us on finding solutions given the stewardship of the assets that God gave us to work God's mission on Earth. The four pillars mentioned to focus our deliberations are: For all, Livelihood, Sufficiency, and Sustainability. Economic Stewardship is a vital part of our churches life and should be taken with care. As we approach our annual meeting our budget will be looked at. These four ethical perspectives can help guide us to steward our God given assets effectively.

For all- This is the concept that economic life and ability to live is for all humanity and creation, not just for the individual, but for all people that God created to include all of creation. The whole of creation should be considered when making decisions for our stewardship. This idea should also include making sure that the most vulnerable or needy are taken care of first.

Livelihood- This is the concept that our lives are paid for through our jobs or support from family and organizations. The idea that we have a vocation empowered by God helps us to maintain the work that is needed to provide for our basic needs. Our human dignity is a gift

from God. He has given us the freedom and responsibility to find a livelihood that best serves us and those around us at the same time.

Sufficiency- This is the concept that we all need our basic needs met. Then we can look at helping others. The government has a responsibility to help make sure that those in need have their basic needs taken care of sufficiently. We can steward our resources to ensure as many basic needs are met in our church. We as a group of believers can find the best balance for as many of our missions in the community and in our church groups to have sufficient use of resources.

Sustainability- This is the concept that what we do now should be a plausible long term solution for the natural and social systems. Planning for the long-term future can be difficult because factors that influence the solution can change and what was sustainable is no longer sustainable over the years. We are called to be stewards of both the natural environment and the social systems that we live in. It is our responsibility to not harm the environment or social systems . If they are harming the people or the environment we are called to speak out against injustice.

With deep gratitude in Christ, David

50 Years—Wow!

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Dates to Note

Mondays: 10am Bible Study
13th: 7pm Council Mtg
26th: 50th Anniversary

“LifeLines”

Church Council Minutes

President's Report: Becky McElveen reiterated that there are no designated areas in the building, other than the Pastor's office and the Administrative Assistant's office; all other areas are shared.

Pastor's Report: David Ingram really likes his current classes and enjoyed his recent trip to Iowa. Mentoring continues with Pastor Curt Metz. There have been no home visits, but he has had a lot of phone calls.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Mills provided Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss as of August 31, 2025. She expressed appreciation for the new laptop computer. A new category for "50th Anniversary" has been added to the website.

Old Business

- ♦ 50th Anniversary. Kyle Renner provided an update including: Decorations – Supplies are arriving. Food – Lynne is coordinating. Entertainment – Kyle will ask Steve, the DJ, to coordinate. Approximate cost \$400 - \$800. Marketing/Publicity – Margie will pick up 75 invitations. Ranae will order a waterproof banner to be hung outdoors announcing the event. Quilt is finished – Dixie Keil. Thrivent – Several grants received to help with expenses for this event. David will personally invite former pastors, bishops, etc. to attend or to submit a video message. Programming 30 minutes: Special music/hymns, Recognition, Prayers & Benediction. Approved \$3000 budget for the celebration.
- ♦ Annual Meeting. Becky reminded everyone that annual reports are needed. Budget Meeting has been scheduled per Mary Mills, Treasurer.

New Business

- ♦ Approved expenditure of up to \$200 for a chair rack to store folding chairs. Will revisit purchase of a second rack if needed.



50th Anniversary

Lord of Life Lutheran Church was founded in North Pole, Alaska in 1975 on Reformation Sunday. We are celebrating 50 years of serving God.

Please join us **Sunday, October 26** from **2 to 5 pm** in our Thanksgiving celebration by sharing your stories and by your fellowship. There will be a short 30 minute program consisting of music, recognition, prayers and a benediction. Finger foods and beverages will be provided.

If you are unable to attend in person, we'd love it if you shared a memory or two. Send by email to office@lordoflifeak.com and we will share them at the gathering. We look forward to celebrating with you!

We love an RSVP. Respond to office@lordoflifeak.com.



What is Samhain?



Dressing up in costumes and trick-or-treating are popular Halloween activities, but few associate these fall traditions with their origins in Samhain, an ancient Celtic pagan festival. For the Celts, who lived during the Iron Age in Northern Europe, Samhain marked the end of summer and kicked off the Celtic new year. Ushering in a new year signaled a time of both death and rebirth, doubly symbolic because it coincided with the end of a bountiful harvest season and the beginning of a cold and dark winter season that would present plenty of challenges.

**Samhain was
a time of
stock-taking
and sacrifice**

Little is known about the particulars of Samhain, since sources are either folkloric literature like the Celtic sagas or Roman authors who would have likely trashed the traditions of a culture with which they clashed.

The wheel of the year was a major factor in Celtic worship. The Celtic year was divided into two halves — light and dark, which were delineated by two of their four annual fire festivals. In between, rituals or ceremonies marked solstices or equinoxes. Samhain, the fire festival that marked the beginning of the dark half of the year, is between the autumn equinox and the winter solstice. During Samhain, the world of the gods “was believed to be made visible to humankind,” leading to supernatural tricks and trouble; ghosts of the dead and spirits from the Otherworld were also thought to return to the earth. To appease deities, sacrifices of crops and animals were burned in bonfires as a protective measure from evil otherworldly beings and offerings were left out for visiting mischievous spirits. Tricks and pranks were often played, but blamed on fairies and spirits during the three-day period when the line between the two worlds blurred.

The spiritual undertones of the Samhain festival also lent themselves to looking to the future. Druids, or Celtic priests, thought that the presence of otherworldly spirits made it easier to make predictions about the future. At the bonfires of the festival, fortune-telling was done alongside sacrifices, and many participants donned costumes, often masquerading as animals or beasts, to fool the spirits.

The practices of this fire festival evolved over time with the spread of Christianity and the Catholic church, by 43 A.D., following Rome conquering most of the Celtic lands. Many Celtic traditions were reframed with a Christian narrative to capitalize on the popularity of the pagan practices while spreading the new religion. That reframing created many of the Halloween traditions that people still participate in today.

In 609 Pope Boniface IV declared a celebration called All Saints’ Day, also called All-hallows or All-hallowmas; the day before was thus known as All-hallows’ Eve. The festival honored Christian martyrs and saints. 250 years later, Pope Gregory III strategically moved the celebration to November 1, when Samhain would have typically been held. The homage paid to martyrs and saints who died closely paralleled the appeasement of ghosts of the dead during Samhain. Participants in the new holiday celebrated much the same as their Celtic forebears had — with bonfires and costumes that reflected the spiritual and otherworldly. The offerings of food and goods to protect themselves from spirits and ancestral ghosts became offerings of food and drink to the poor, displays of generosity. The tricks and pranks attributed to evil spirits manifested themselves in the spirit of the saints.

Eventually, All-hallows’ Eve evolved into Halloween. The pagan-turned-Christian practices of dressing up in costume, playing pranks and handing out offerings have evolved into popular traditions even for those who may not believe in otherworldly spirits or saints. Whether Halloween celebrants know it or not, they’re following the legacy of the ancient Celts who, with the festival of Samhain, celebrated death and rebirth.

—Cady Lang, Oct. 30, 2018



October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 <u>10:30 am</u> <u>Sunday</u> <u>Worship</u>	29 <u>10 am</u> <u>Bible Study</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u>	30 <u>5:30 pm</u> <u>Girl Scouts</u>	October 1 <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>	2 <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u>	3	4
5 <u>10:30 am</u> <u>Sunday</u> <u>Worship</u>	6 <u>10 am</u> <u>Bible Study</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u>	7 <u>5:30 pm</u> <u>Girl Scouts</u>	8 <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>	9 <u>12 pm</u> <u>School</u> <u>Lunches Prep</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u>	10	11
12 <u>10:30 am</u> <u>Sunday</u> <u>Worship</u>	13 <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>	14 <u>5:30 pm</u> <u>Girl Scouts</u>	15 <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>	16 <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u>	17	18
19 <u>10:30 am</u> <u>Sunday</u> <u>Worship</u>	20 <u>10 am</u> <u>Bible Study</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u>	21 <u>5:30 pm</u> <u>Girl Scouts</u>	22 <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>	23 <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u>	24	25
26 <u>10:30 am</u> <u>Sunday</u> <u>Worship</u> <u>2 pm - 5 pm</u> <u>Lord of Life's</u> <u>50th</u> <u>Anniversary</u>	27 <u>10 am</u> <u>Bible Study</u> <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u>	28 <u>5:30 pm</u> <u>Girl Scouts</u>	29 <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>	30 <u>8 pm</u> <u>AA</u>	31	1



Lord of Life Lutheran Church

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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 McElveen
Vice President: Brent Strickland
Secretary: Ranae Browning
Treasurer: Mary Mills

At Large Members: Evan Keil
John Dart
Margi Ungrodt
Vacant

Intern Pastor: David Ingram

Financial Secretary: Carol Dahl

**Serve on
Council
and be
heard :)**

Next Church Council Meeting: **Oct. 13 @ 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

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:

~ All those traveling to our
50th anniversary celebration
~ Those with ongoing health
issues

Contact

office@lordoflifeak.com to

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!*



sign up for prayer chain emails

Alaska Synod Prayer Partner for October:

Fairbanks Lutheran Church,
Fairbanks, Alaska

Gracious and Loving God,

We pray for continual
renewal through the Holy
Spirit.

We pray for our peaceful
rest in the hands of God.

We pray for learning and
understanding from our
rabbi, Jesus Christ

