

River of Life Lutheran Church

Chugiak, Alaska

"Ripples" Monthly Newsletter

March 2022

Our Purpose Statement:

We are a community of faith called to - glorify God - grow in faith and love, and - go into the world with the life-changing message of Jesus Christ.

[Visit our Website](#)

From the Pastor's Desk...

Are you “Let it snow” or “Hope it’s an early breakup”? “Vanilla” or “Chocolate”? “Cilantro” or “Curry”? “Rap” or “Classical”?

We had quite a lot of snow this winter. Hip, Hip, Hooray! We’ve also had a lot of rain and melting. Hip, Hip, Hooray? I know of a few people who have enjoyed this weather and I know of several who have felt this winter will never end. It always amazes me when I look at the people God has created and the vast difference of likes and dislikes that we exhibit. As someone once said, “That’s why they make vanilla and chocolate.”

Just as our DNA structure is unique to each of us, so are our tastes. I know a family member who will not eat anything with curry, let alone cilantro. They just can’t stand those spices. Yet I will happily eat food with either. On the other hand, when it comes to music I find that most rap music is completely unappealing to me, although I enjoy some Christian rap. I would rather listen to Mozart or Bach and I will admit that old-time rock and roll, Indie rock, and blues are pretty high on my list as well. I’m sure others would disagree with my tastes in music.

What things appear on your “likes” list and what things are put on your “dislikes” list? Have you ever wondered what things God or Jesus likes or dislikes? Have you ever tried to guess whether Jesus would have been a vanilla or chocolate lover if he had ice cream to eat? I don’t know the answers to those questions, but there is one thing of which I am certain, *“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”* (John 3:16) The next verse is equally important, John 3:17, *“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”*

In the redeeming works of God’s only Son, Jesus Christ, God reveals love for the WORLD and the desire that ALL might be saved. So, when it comes to God’s “likes” and “dislikes”, I’ve always believed that God puts all of us on his “likes” list. However, God doesn’t always approve of what we do (“dislikes”) our sinful ways - those things we do which are contrary to God’s will for our lives (see the 10 commandments). These are the things we do that destroy our relationship with God and harm ourselves and others in the process. We might say that God is intentional that all of us are on the “likes” list, which is not always the case with us.

As we enter into the season of Lent and journey through it together to the glorious celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, let us be careful with our lists. Let’s take time to reflect on what we place on our “likes” and “dislikes” lists. It is OK to like vanilla over chocolate, curry over cilantro or classical over rap; but as humans, we could end up putting certain people on those same lists - liking or disliking them just because of who they are. Let’s pray that God helps us to keep in mind that ALL are in need of Jesus Christ and no human creation of God’s falls outside of God’s grace. If any of us were measured by the sin in our lives, we would all fail, but through the saving act of Christ on the cross, we have hope of eternal life. By the grace of God shown to us, let's strive to put everyone on our "likes" list!

Grace and peace!
Pastor Ottum

Sunday Worship Service

We worship at 11:00am
in the downstairs fellowship hall of
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
18444 Old Glenn Hwy., Chugiak, AK

Drive around to the right side of the church and park in the lower parking lot. Enter through the kitchen door! You're welcome to bring your own seat cushion!

Lent Worship Schedule

(All the following services are at Our Redeemer Lutheran, downstairs)

Ash Wednesday worship / Holy Communion:

- Wednesday, March 2nd – 7pm

Mid-week Worship:

- Wednesdays, March 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th, April 6th – 7pm

Theme: Perfect Love Casts Out Fear

(Trinity Lutheran will join us at Our Redeemer for these services)

Holy Week:

- Sunday, April 10th – Palm Sunday
- Thursday, April 14th – Maundy Thursday, 7pm *(May be held at Trinity in Palmer)*
- Friday, April 15th – Good Friday, 7pm *(May be held at Trinity in Palmer)*

Easter:

- Sunday, April 17th – Easter Breakfast (potluck), 9:30am; Worship, 11am

2022 Church Council Members

President: Padi Wallace
Vice President: Dotty Eldred
Secretary: Mary Ann Hertzog
Treasurer: Bob Norton
Committee liaisons:

- Building – Terry
- Worship – Dotty

- Fellowship – Linda H.
- Outreach / Discipleship – Bob K.
- Mission – Church Council

Construction Update: *It's coming along!*

March Calendar

You're welcome to join us each Sunday before worship for Adult Bible Study at 10:00am. For the month of March we will continue studying the book of **Genesis**.

- **Wednesday, March 2** - 7:00pm - **Ash Wednesday Worship**

- **Sunday, March 6** - 10:00am - **Adult Bible Study**
 - 11:00am - **Worship**

- **Wednesday, March 9** - 7:00pm - **Midweek Lent Service**

- **Thursday, March 10** - 10:00am - **Bible Study**

- **Sunday, March 13** - 10:00am - **Adult Bible Study**
 - 11:00am - **Worship**

- **Tuesday, March 15** - 6:30pm - **Church Council Meeting**

- **Wednesday, March 16** - 7:00pm - **Midweek Lent Service**

- **Thursday, March 17** - 10:00am - **Bible Study**

- **Sunday, March 20** - 10:00am - **Adult Bible Study**
 - 11:00am - **Worship**
 - **Wednesday, March 23** - 7:00pm - **Midweek Lent Service**
 - **Thursday, March 24** - 10:00am - **Bible Study**
 - **Sunday, March 27** - 10:00am - **Adult Bible Study**
 - 11:00am - **Worship**
 - **Wednesday, March 30** - 7:00pm - **Midweek Lent Service**
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Noisy Offering

This quarter's "Noisy Offering" goes to the **LOVE, INC.**

The *Noisy Offering* is the fourth Sunday of each month. Each quarter we collect for a different local community need.

Prayer Concerns and Celebrations

Our Congregation

We pray for the health and vitality of ROL's Ministry & Mission.

Family and Friends

We pray for continued healing, encouragement, and strength for: Bob Norton's brother **John** (surgery); Kim's aunt **Susie** (pacemaker surgery); **Terry Chase** (heart attack); Carol's husband **Scott** (thanks and healing from successful heart surgery); Padi's friend **Lorraine** (cancer treatment); **Liam** (Cindy's

nephew); **Bob Reupke**; **Stewart Mee**; Joel & Padi's friend **Jack** (cancer); **Wayne Fredeen** (lung cancer); Kimberly's mother **Patricia** (prayers for healing); and we ask for healing and recovery for those who are facing surgery, or have had recent surgeries: **Joel, Terry**, and Terry's friend **Bill** (recovering from brain tumor surgery).

Prayer Partners

We pray for the health and vitality of the ministry of our other Knik Cluster congregations and their pastors (**Joy, Eagle River; Trinity, Palmer; Good Shepherd, Wasilla: Table of Grace, Bethel**), and our prayer partner for March – Table of Grace (CUD) - Bethel.

Compassion for Others in Our Community

Dear Father in heaven, Creator of what is good, beautiful, and full of joy, so that all may work in harmony with you - we thank you for all the good that comes to us. May we be your children, joined together to serve you. May our life bring joy to others, and may we do good without ceasing through your great, strong love, which moves us, strengthens us, and helps us every day, however hard life may be. May your name be praised throughout the world. May your kingdom come and your will be done on earth as in heaven. Amen.

Thank you, God, for the body of believers who are called to serve you, who are proclaiming the Good News to all who will hear. From those who minister across the country to the men, women, and youth here at home, send us out to be a light in the dark. Send us out to speak life, to extend grace and mercy, to feed the hungry, to befriend the lonely, and to find the lost. Open the doors of this church and fill it with the broken, the angry, the hurting. Let them find forgiveness and comfort here in the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Chugiak Eagle River Food Pantry

We accept food donations for the Chugiak Eagle River Food Pantry every Sunday. Please consider a donation of non-perishable food to benefit our local community. We will deliver our food offerings each month to the Food Pantry.

Thank you!

List of Needs:

- Shopping Bags (*paper, plastic, reusable*) or Boxes (*approx. size of copy paper boxes*)
- Household cleaners (*dish soap, laundry detergent*)
- Paper towels
- Personal toiletries (*hand/body soap, shampoo/conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes*)
- Pantry supplies (*regular and gluten free: flour, sugar, baking soda/powder, spices, olive oil, etc.*)
- Saltines
- Soups/stews: Cream of Mushroom

- Pasta/Spaghetti Sauces
- Condiments (*ketchup, mustard, mayo, relish, BBQ sauce, soy sauce, etc.; all regular and sugar free*)
- Hot beverages (*hot chocolate, coffee, tea*)
- Cereal (*especially LOW SUGAR, gluten free; oatmeal – long cooking, instant, variety boxes*)
- Cake Mixes & Frosting (*also decorating supplies, such as sprinkles and kid-friendly items*)

March Birthdays

1 - John Copenhaver
4 - Kim Cronquist
7 - Tristan Kemppainen
18 - Terry Durst

March Anniversaries

22 - Don & Cindy Lietzau