

# River of Life Lutheran Church

Chugiak, Alaska

## "Ripples" Monthly Newsletter July 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](#)

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### From the Pastor's Desk...

It's so easy to get caught up in our vacation plans and grow lazy in our church attendance and spiritual life during the summer months. Like the little girl named Sarah who asked her parents, "Where does God go for summer vacation?"

It just so happened that Sarah asked her parents on the day that her family was going to visit the grandparents. Well, her parents were a little stumped by her question. After all, the summer was their "time off." Time to lounge in the sun. Time to plan family vacations and weekends away. It was time to concentrate on rest and relaxation. But for Sarah, it was strange not to go to church, see her friends, or be with God.

Her mother chuckled at the question, and told her God doesn't go on vacation. Sarah wondered, "Why don't we go to church then? Why don't I get to see my church friends?" Her parents weren't really prepared to deal with questions like this! What could they say? After all, God wasn't on vacation ... they were!

So, where does God rank in your summer plans? Will God go with you on vacation, or will a break from school and work mean a break from God? This summer instead of taking a rest from our spiritual life, why not use the summer to grow closer to God. Be creative! Be committed! Be with Christ! Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Go to Church! Summer is a wonderful time to worship. If you are vacationing, to find a Lutheran church close to you, visit: [www.elca.org › tools › findacongregation](http://www.elca.org/tools/findacongregation).
- Camp Out or Take a Hike! Summer is a great time to really appreciate the beauty of God's creation. So hike, bike, fish, and swim -- just get out there! While you're there, consider pausing to read Psalm 104, which is a beautiful poem of God's creation.
- Be an Explorer! Decide on something you want to learn about Christ and His Church this summer and explore! Perhaps you want to learn more about the Gospel. Consider reading The Gospel of Matthew from beginning to end.
- Help Out! Christ was a servant to all and He wants us to be the same. Consider projects you can do to help others both in your neighborhood and community.
- Listen Up! We are surrounded daily by so much noise. Why not try listening to something different? Try a Lutheran podcast, or listen to music. Also, check out Issues ETC (<http://issuesetc.org>), another Christian Lutheran broadcast.
- On July 4th, as a nation, we'll pause to remember and celebrate our independence. But let's not forget the freedom of life that Christ Jesus has given us. Take time to remember that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life and in Him we will always be free!

God never goes on vacation and we shouldn't find excuses to take a vacation from church. How can we continue on our journey with Christ during the summer months?

Peace, Pastor Bill Ottum

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## *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!*

# **Construction Update**

## **Building Construction Update**

This past month paving was completed at the entrances to the parking lot and the church, as well as an area for handicapped parking. Our thanks for Wayne Plumb for overseeing this project, as well as grading our parking lot area around the church entrance.

Progress on the interior has been a frustrating experience of taking a few steps forward and then having to stop for corrections or changes. Much of the contract work can only be done after other work has been completed. The good news is that we are moving forward towards completion. The bad news is that we have no final completion date. We are grateful to our project manager Terry and our Building Committee for all their hard work as we continue to move forward.

## **Summer Yard Sale Schedule**

Thank you to all whom helped make our **June Yard Sale** a success! We collected \$1,787.

Our yard sale next month will be  
**July 22-23.**

*We need more donations!*

*Continue to clean out those closets,  
garages and sheds!*

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*Sunday Morning Adult Studies are on vacation for the  
summer and will resume in Fall.*

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## **Thursday Morning Bible Study Continues**

From 10am – noon Pastor Ottum leads a study of the Bible readings for the next Sunday worship.

Coffee and refreshments are served. The class is held upstairs at Our Redeemer in the room across from the Sanctuary. **Everyone is welcome!**

**Please Note: There will be no Thursday Bible Study on July 21 and July 28.**

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## **July Calendar**

- **Sunday, July 3** - 11:00am - **Worship**
- **Thursday, July 7** - 10:00am - **Bible Study**
- **Sunday, July 10** - 11:00am - **Worship**
- **Tuesday, July 12** - 6:30pm - **Church Council Meeting**

- **Thursday, July 14** - 10:00am - **Bible Study**
- **Sunday, July 17** - 11:00am - **Worship**
- **Friday, July 22** - 9:00am - 4:00pm - **Yard Sale Day**
- **Saturday, July 23** - 9:00am - 4:00pm - **Yard Sale Day**
- **Sunday, July 24** - 11:00am - **Worship**
- **Sunday, July 31** - 11:00am - **Worship**

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## Noisy Offering

This quarter's "Noisy Offering" goes to the **Alaska Fisher House** on JBER. The Alaska Fisher House is a "home away from home" for service members, veterans, and their family members. It provides a warm and compassionate environment for families to heal and support each other while receiving medical care in the Anchorage area.

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

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# 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: **Kimberly's family** as they mourn the passing of her cousin Debbie; Elaine's friend **Eve** (cancer/chemo); Elaine's friend **Larry** (healing); Elaine's friend **Bob** (gratitude for successful surgery, prayers for healing); Padi's friend **Lorraine** (cancer treatment); **Liam** (Cindy's nephew); **Bob Reupke**; **Stewart Mee**; Joel & Padi's friend **Jack** (cancer); and, **Wayne Fredeen** (healing).

## 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 July Prayer Partner church, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, in Juneau.**

## 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.

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## 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 for June:

- Household Cleaners: especially dish soap, laundry soap
- Personal Toiletries: hand/body soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes (especially multi-packages)
- Evaporated Milk
  
- Peanut Butter (16-18 oz.)
- Crackers: Saltines, ritz, etc.
- Plain Pasta: spaghetti, macaroni elbows, other shapes
- Tomato Paste, Tomato Sauce, Pasta Sauce (\*\*NO diced tomatoes)
- Pasta/Rice Mixes: Hamburger Helper, Pasta Roni, Rice-a-Roni, Pasta Sides
- Refried Beans, Pork-n-Beans
- Soups: Cream of Mushroom, Cream of Chicken, Vegetable, Beef Stew, (\*\*NO Chicken Noodle or Tomato Soup, please)
- Broth: Chicken, Beef, Vegetable
- Condiments: Ketchup, Mustard, Mayo, Relish, BBQ, etc.
- Beverages: Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate

## July Birthdays

1 - Elaine Pfeiffer  
17 - Charlene Howe  
18 - Diane Kelly  
23 - Molly Twohy

## July Anniversaries

17 - Fred & Linda Heinzelmann  
29 - Carol & Annie Fields

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## 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