

River of Life Lutheran Church

Chugiak, Alaska

"Ripples" Monthly Newsletter May 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...

The Spring Equinox, or Vernal Equinox is the “official” starting point of the Spring season. Here in Alaska it happened at 7:30am on Sunday, March 20. It’s the time of year when days have an equal number of daylight and nighttime hours. But in the 34 years I have lived in Alaska, it has never really meant springtime is here. It seems like every year, even though the sun has returned to our side of the equator, we still manage to have a snow day... or two... or three, before it really feels like spring around here.

So, for me, I look for the signs of spring within God’s creation that assure me spring has sprung. One of the most notable is the appearance of crocuses and daffodils. But even their appearance can be misleading - I have seen far too many of them fight to break through freshly fallen snow.

This week as I was driving through town I realized the other sign of Spring: allergy season! Suddenly there are pussy willows and tree buds everywhere! Even though I suffer from hay fever, I love how they all seem to pop out at once, or at least within a couple days of each other. They certainly seem to be a more reliable sign that winter really is over ... Right?

Don't get me wrong, there is still something special about the equinox. Though it doesn't necessarily mean we've begun a full-blown springtime in Alaska, it certainly initiates a season of preparing for spring. I think that if we were to compare it to the church calendar, the Equinox might be Ash Wednesday, the pussy willows and tree buds would be Easter, and the time in between, Lent. Ash Wednesday, like the Spring Equinox, is a time to acknowledge the season of winter (death) and to begin turning our attention to God's promises of new life as we look forward to welcoming back the Sun (Son). While most of nature lies dormant, we use the time in-between to reflect on how the same may be true in our spiritual lives. At the same time we look forward to the coming warmth of spring, as well as a time of spiritual growth grounded in the good news of the resurrection. And before we know it - the snow melts - new life springs forth! Our lives of despair are healed with the hope of new life in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus.

I just discovered a hymn written by Natalie Sleeth in 1986 called "Hymn of Promise" (check it out on YouTube). One of her verses sums it all up: *"In our end is our beginning. In our time, infinity. In our doubt, there is believing. In our life, eternity. In our death, a resurrection. At the last, a victory. Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see!"*

No longer frozen, the River of Life is flowing anew! He is risen!

God's Peace,
Pastor Bill 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!*

Construction Update

The picture is encouraging! Keep in mind that we may not move in in any

way until the interior is completely finished per rules of the municipality.

Builders have been working on all the basic electrical wiring and then the insulation; next will be the sheet rock.

Orders have been made for flooring tiles, carpets, appliances, cabinets, and chairs for the sanctuary and conference room. There will be a 3-4 month wait for these orders. Some tables have been purchased for the conference room and are being stored in a rented storage unit nearby.

Bob N. has rented that storage unit for us. It also is storing some cabinets and desks donated to us by Zion Lutheran Church. An upright piano has been given to us by Julie Saupe. It is being stored at Kimberly's home.

Thanks to all who have stayed after church services to help decide and vote on styles and colors, and of course, prices on all that has been ordered.

Thanks also to Terry for keeping close tabs on the daily work on the building. Bob and Kay have spent many, many hours taking inventory of losses and now finding reasonable replacements.

Having new banners to celebrate each season will be beautiful symbols to take with us into our renewed church building. A big thanks to Kay and her helpers!

*Bob Kelly
Building Committee*

*Congratulations to
Molly Twohy on her upcoming graduation
from Chugiak High School!*

Sunday Morning Adult Study – “The Fruit of the Spirit” – 10am

Pastor Ottum is leading the class on an exploration of the fruit of the spirit mentioned by Saint Paul in his letter to the Galatians. Join us! The class is held downstairs in one of the classrooms adjacent to the fellowship hall where we worship.

** Please note: There will be no Adult Bible Study on Sunday, May 29 (Memorial Day Weekend)*

Thursday Morning Bible Studies Continue Through May

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!

May Calendar

You're welcome to join us each Sunday before worship for Adult Bible Study at 10:00am.

- **Thursday, May 5 - 10:00am - Bible Study**

- **Sunday, May 8 - 10:00am - Adult Bible Study**
 - 11:00am - **Worship - Mother's Day**

- **Thursday, May 12 - 10:00am - Bible Study**

- **Sunday, May 15 - 10:00am - Adult Bible Study**
 - 11:00am - **Worship & Recognition of Graduates**

- **Tuesday, May 17 - 6:30pm - Church Council Meeting**

- **Thursday, May 19 - 10:00am - Bible Study**

- **Sunday, May 22 - 10:00am - Adult Bible Study**
 - 11:00am - **Worship**

- **Thursday, May 26 - 10:00am - Bible Study**

- **Sunday, May 29 - NO Bible Study over Memorial Weekend**
 - 11:00am - **Worship**

Noisy Offering

This quarter's "Noisy Offering" goes to **Heart to Heart Pregnancy Resource Center** in Eagle River.

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: Padi's friends, **John & Kim** (healing); Elaine's friend **Mike** (healing); Elaine's friend **Eve** (cancer/chemo); Elaine's mom **Virginia** (healing); Bob Norton's brother **John** (healing); Kim's aunt **Susie** (pacemaker surgery); 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); Linda H.'s sister **Susie** (surgery); and, Dotty's sister **Phyllis** (healing from 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 May Prayer Partner church, Sitka Lutheran Church.**

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*)

May Birthdays

8 - Ann Copenhaver

21 - Dotty Eldred

25 - Carter Eldred

May Anniversaries

6 - Bob & Diane Kelly

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