

# River of Life Lutheran Church

Chugiak, Alaska

## "Ripples" Monthly Newsletter October 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...**

On Sunday October 30<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate Reformation Day - although it was October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1517 that Martin Luther posted his 95 theses. Back then he posted them by nailing them to the church door in Wittenberg, Germany; today he'd be posting them on social media! The idea was to start a public conversation, to have a discussion, to create a movement to change the status quo, to shake things up, to find a way into a new paradigm. In other words: to re-form the church's teaching and practices.

While we often credit Martin Luther with starting the whole Reformation that day, it wasn't really Martin Luther who started it. It was the Holy Spirit who is continually at work enlightening minds and spirits, transforming believers, and moving the Church forward in faith to wherever God is calling it. The Spirit after all is the Spirit of Truth, and speaks the same truth to all.

And Luther's views were not new. Many who came before him had similar views. What allowed the changes that Luther preached to take hold was the new technology of the printing press. Today, as we stand at the next huge shift in technology - digital / online technology, we have the opportunity to once again

change the world.

So, what happened at the Reformation? Martin Luther, a monk in the Roman Catholic Church, began to rediscover the main teaching of Christianity: that we are declared righteous (justified) by faith in the cross of Jesus Christ. Put very simply, the Reformation centered on the Gospel, the good news of God's saving love in Christ Jesus' life, death and resurrection. This teaching had become lost in Luther's 16<sup>th</sup> Century church by the church's emphasis on salvation through good works. And that was initially Martin Luther's strongest complaint regarding the Catholic Church's teaching about salvation. In effect, he denied that good works guarantee a person's salvation. No argument there.

For Luther, Scripture gives us direction for daily living. Whenever the Church was found to contradict Scripture and the Gospel of salvation by grace through faith – Luther felt that the church needed to be reformed.

River of Life Lutheran Church is in the middle of it's own "reformation." Two years after our house of worship burned down, God provided us a new building in which to worship. How will we use this opportunity to rediscover what mission and ministry God has in store for us?

I am grateful for what the Spirit did through Luther. I am grateful for the good news that we are justified by grace through faith. And most of all I am grateful for the way that grace shows forth in the endless, undeserved love that God has for every part of God's good creation. Including me. Including you.

Abundant blessings be yours,  
Pastor Bill Ottum

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### ***Samples of Martin Luther's Wit & Wisdom:***

On the Scriptures: *The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold of me. A simple lay(person) armed with the Scripture is to be believed above a pope or a cardinal without it.*

On Faith: *Faith is the "yes" of the heart, a conviction on which one stakes one's life. Our faith is an astounding thing – astounding that I should believe him to be the Son of God who is suspended on the cross, whom I have never seen, with whom I have never become acquainted.*

On Sins: *Nothing is easier than sinning. Temptations, of course, cannot be avoided, but because we cannot prevent the birds from flying over our heads, there is no need that we should let them nest in our hair.*

On Lies: *A lie is like a snowball. The longer it is rolled on the ground, the larger it*

*becomes.*

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## *Sunday Worship Service*

We worship at 11:00am

We are now worshipping in our new building!

*21301 Voyles Blvd., Chugiak, AK. 99567*

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### *Worship Committee Meeting*

*Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>  
after worship*

This is not a formal committee, and everyone is invited to come and share ideas about upcoming worship events (Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, hymns, choir, etc.).

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### **Confirmation**

Pastor Ottum would like to offer classes for middle school youth. The focus is on reviewing the basic teachings of the Bible and the Lutheran Church. Please contact him if you might be interested, or simply want more information.

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### *Sunday Morning Adult Studies Return at 10:00am*

#### *"The God Who Is"*

Pastor Ottum will be leading the class in a series of studies called "The God Who Is". Reading through various passages from the Old and New Testament, we will explore how God is a God of love, holiness, discipline, comfort ... and more.

A quote from the studies: *"There is a God we want, and there is a God who is—and they are not the same God. The turning point of our lives is when we*

*stop seeking the God we want and start seeking the God who is.”*

Grab a cup of coffee or tea and come join us in the Fellowship Room at the back of the new church. BYOBible

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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. **Everyone is welcome!**

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## **October Calendar**

- **Thursday, Oct. 6** - 10:00am - **Bible Study**
  
- **Sunday, Oct. 9** - 10:00am - **Adult Bible Study**
  - 11:00am - **Worship**
  - 11:45am - **Worship Committee Meeting**
  
- **Tuesday, Oct. 11** - 6:30pm - **Church Council Meeting**
  
- **Thursday, Oct 13** - 10:00am - **Bible Study**
  
- **Sunday, Oct. 16** - 10:00am - **Adult Bible Study**
  - 11:00am - **Worship**
  
- **Thursday, Oct. 20** - 10:00am - **Bible Study**
  
- **Sunday, Oct. 23** - 10:00am - **Adult Bible Study**
  - 11:00am - **Worship**

- **Thursday, Oct. 27** - 10:00am - **Bible Study**
- **Sunday, Oct. 30** - 10:00am - **Adult Bible Study**
  - 11:00am - **Worship - Reformation Sunday**

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## Make plans for the Christmas Bazaar!

It's coming up **Saturday, November 12th**. Vendor forms will be available later this week.

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### ***Friendly Reminder:***

Don't Forget to notify the church office of any address, phone or email changes!

### **Need pastoral care?**

Please remember to notify the church office if you are ill or hospitalized so that we can offer prayer and support directly to you. If you have a pastoral emergency (death in the family, hospitalization, etc.) contact Pastor Bill at [907-223-7042](tel:907-223-7042).

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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: Padi's cousin's husband **Jon** (prayers for healing & better health); 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** (wrist injury); Joel & Padi's friend **Jack** (cancer); **Wayne Fredeen** (healing); **Jai's nephew** (head injury); Paul Krauszer's friend **George Gillis** (cancer); **John Copenhaver** (heart surgery); **Terry** (healing from knee surgery); Terry's friends **Dave** (support and encouragement) and **David** (recovery from surgery); **Bob N.** (back pain); Kimberly's sister **Michelle** and niece **Emily** (COVID); and, **the people in Florida**.

## 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 October Prayer Partner church, Petersburg 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.

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## Western Alaska Disaster Recovery Assistance

To address the immediate needs of the communities in Western Alaska affected by the typhoon, donations can be made through:

- the **Alaska ELCA Synod office** (to support congregational ministry to and with those impacted) via check or credit card over the phone [\(907\) 272-8899](tel:9072728899); or,
- the **Alaska Community Foundation's Western Alaska Disaster Recovery Fund**, 3201 C Street, Suite 110, Anchorage 99503 (<https://alaskacf.org/>).

(Photos courtesy of New York Post [1-top left], floodlist.com [2-top right], msn.com [3-bottom left], fitspl.com [4-bottom right].)

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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 for any and all food and cash donations!

### **Updated List of Needs for October:**

- Peanut Butter (16-18 oz.)
- Crackers: Saltines, Ritz, etc.
- Ravioli in cans (Ravioli, Beefaroni, etc.)
- Long Grain White Rice (Large bags welcome - pantry can repackage)
- Plain Pasta: spaghetti, macaroni elbows, other shapes
- Pasta/Rice Mixes: Hamburger Helper, Pasta Roni, Rice-a-Roni, Pasta Sides
- Soups: Vegetable Beef, Beef Stew, Ramen, Cup of Noodles
- Condiments: Ketchup, Mustard, Mayo, Relish, BBQ, etc.
- Beverages: Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate
- Household Cleaners: especially dish soap, laundry soap
- Personal Toiletries: hand/body soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes (especially multi-packages)

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## **Lutheran Disaster Response**

Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need. [Learn more.](#)

- [Hurricane Response](#)

Like Lutheran Disaster Response on [Facebook](#), follow [@ELCALDR](#) on [Twitter](#) and follow [@ELCA\\_LDR](#) on [Instagram](#).

[Sign up](#) to receive Lutheran Disaster Response alerts.

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## October Birthdays

9 - Jeremy Ottum  
11 - Steve Twohy  
20 - Kay Norton  
21 - Becky Durst  
27 - Pastor Bill Ottum  
29 - Cindy Lietzau

## October Anniversaries

6 - Jim & Mary Ann Hartzog  
7 - Harold & Gerry Cronquist

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## 2022 Church Council Members

President: Padi Wallace  
Vice President: Dotty Eldred  
Secretary: Mary Ann Hartzog  
Treasurer: Bob Norton  
Committee Liaisons:

- Building – Terry
- Worship – Dotty
- Fellowship – Linda H.
- Outreach / Discipleship – Bob K.
- Mission – Church Council

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