

# River of Life Lutheran Church

Chugiak, Alaska

## "Ripples" Monthly Newsletter

### *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](#)

---

**Remember to turn your clocks BACK one hour before you go to bed Saturday night (Nov. 5)!**

---

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

When we look at the ocean, what do we see? We see the surface, right? But that's only the part of the ocean that's visible to us. Underneath that surface there is SO much more!

When we look in the mirror, what do we see? We see our face or our body, right? We might even be able to see a tiny bit of what is happening inside by observing how our face looks -peaceful or stressed, happy or sad, alert or tired. But even at that, it's just what is visible to us. Inside us there is SO much more!

When we look at River of Life, or any other congregation for that matter, what do we see? We see the physical manifestation of the Church – the human institution with its governing documents, organizational structure, theology, traditions, practices, building, meeting times, members, coffee hour, bank accounts, etc. Right now I think it's hard for any one of us to think about River of Life without thinking about the new building ... with its fresh new smell and new colors. But that is NOT the Church that Jesus promised.

Jesus was never interested in the surface level of religious institutions like Judaism, but in what was underneath the surface. Jesus was never content to deal with the surface level of people's physical and material lives, but always dug deeper into their spiritual lives. The life of any Church will never be in the institution.

So when we look at River of Life what we are challenged to see is more than just a new building, or human institution, or a social organization. Because the real Church is all of the people who have had a spiritual encounter with the divine that has changed how they see God, how they see themselves, and how they understand the meaning of their lives. It's people who have experienced such joy in the presence of the living God that they cannot help but tell others about it! It's people who boldly do the risky things God asks of them because they just can't NOT do them anymore!

This month of November is a time of giving Thanks. Let's give thanks to God for our new building ... and pray that when God gathers us together for worship and ministry that we, as God's children, will be forever changed from within. Let's pray that we be made alive and have the energy and excitement to do whatever it is that God calls us to do! For that is what God promises to do. And God who is faithful WILL do it.

Trusting in His promises,  
Pastor Bill Ottum

---

## *Sunday Worship Service*

We worship at 11:00am

We are now worshipping in our new building!

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

---

## **Make plans for the Christmas Bazaar!**

It's coming up **Saturday, November 12th.**

---

### **Dedication & Blessing of the New Church Building**

Please join us for this special, much anticipated Sunday worship service! Bishop Shelley Wickstrom will be preaching and leading worship along with Pastor Ottum.

**Sunday, Nov. 20 at 11:00am.**

---

### **Advent Mid-Week Worship – "Tidings of Comfort and Joy"**

We will be joining together in fellowship and worship with Trinity Lutheran again this year. River of Life will host Wednesday 11/30 and 12/14. Trinity will host Wednesday 12/7.

#### **Wednesday, November 30**

- 6:30pm – Advent Mid-week Soup Supper

(sign-up sheet will be in the narthex)

- 7:30pm – Worship
- 

## **November Calendar**

- **Thursday, Nov. 3 - 10:00am - Bible Study**

- **Sunday, Nov. 6** - 10:00am - **Adult Bible Study**
  - 11:00am - **Worship**
  - 11:45am - **Confirmation**
  
- **Tuesday, Nov. 8** - 6:30pm - **Church Council Meeting**
  
- **Thursday, Nov. 10** - 10:00am - **Bible Study**
  
- **Saturday, Nov. 12** - 9:00am to 4:00pm - **Holiday Bazaar**
  
- **Sunday, Nov. 13** - 10:00am - **Adult Bible Study**
  - 11:00am - **Worship**
  - 11:45am - **Confirmation**
  
- **Thursday, Nov. 17** - 10:00am - **Bible Study**
  
- **Saturday, Nov. 19** - 9:00am - **P.I.G.S.S. (Pretty Interesting Guys Studying Scripture) Work Party**
  
- **Sunday, Nov. 20** - 11:00am - **Worship - New Building Dedication**
  
- **Wednesday, Nov. 23** - 7:00pm - **Thanksgiving Eve Worship & Pie Social**
  
- **Sunday, Nov. 27** - 11:00am - **Worship with Holy Communion**
  - Noon - **Potluck and Decorate Church & Christmas Tree**

- **Wednesday, Nov. 30** - 6:30pm - **Advent Mid-week Soup Supper**
  - 7:00pm - **Worship**

---

## **Confirmation Class Has Begun!**

*(Class meets after worship on most Sundays)*

Over the course of the next several months, Pastor Ottum is teaching Luther's Small Catechism, the Old and New Testaments, and the life of Jesus to our Middle School Youth. Contact the office for more information.

---

## *Join us for Sunday Morning Adult Studies 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.

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

---

## **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!**

---

---

# 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's nephew **Riley** (healing); Elaine's friend **Larry** (healing from stroke); Elaine's friend **Merv**(ALS); Padi's friend **Lorraine** (cancer treatment); **Liam** (Cindy's nephew); **Bob Reupke**; **Stewart Mee** (healing); Joel & Padi's friend **Jack** (cancer); **Wayne Fredeen** (healing); Paul Krauszer's friend **George Gillis** (cancer); **Terry** (healing); Terry's friends **Dave** (support and encouragement) and **David** (recovery from surgery); Bob N's friend **Herb** (surgery); Kimberly's cousin **Kevin** (house fire); and Pastor Bill & Linda's friend **Jodi** whose husband passed away in a house fire.

## 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 November Prayer Partner church, Our Savior Lutheran Church in Nome.**

## 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 for any and all food and cash donations!

### **Updated List of Needs:**

- 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)

---

## **November Birthdays**

21 - Carol Baker  
28 - Mary Ann Hartzog  
28 - Bob Norton  
30 - Krin Kemppainen

---

## ***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.

## **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