



Our Savior's Lutheran Church

August 8, 2022 Vol 2 Issue 1

507 Bering Street Nome, Alaska 99762 (907) 443-5295



From the Council President

As I sit down and reflect over this past year and a half since assuming the duties as council president, I can't help but have a full heart as God has continued to bless our amazing congregation. I want to thank all of you who have shown your faith in our church and your trust in me allowing me to serve as the church council president of Our Savior's Lutheran Church (OSLC). This past year and a half we have certainly faced several challenges from a world in need although OSLC stepped up and continues to shine in God's love. Even though we have been through a tough last couple years, this past year and a half we have had some big changes.

The Covid-19 pandemic hit the world, the state of Alaska and Nome presenting many challenges the likes that none of us have ever seen before. Businesses were affected, countless lives were altered and many changes were implemented that have transformed the makeup of our world most likely forever. In the face of it all, God's message of love was never so clear. Even though we were

unable to meet in person due to Covid, the church council continued to meet and monitor the conditions in and around Nome. The council was in contact with Bishop Shelley Wickstrom of the Alaska Synod and made the decision to open to in-person worship services beginning with Easter 2021. As we continued to endure the pandemic, the church council's vision was first and foremost that of safety of our congregation and its members.

As we begin to worship together again, it is unclear how Christians across our country will view Sunday worship. It is easier to watch church from home at our leisure but I hope we all feel the amazing presence of God in our sanctuaries and feel that closeness to our creator while being physically present in church. I encourage each one of our members to consider inviting others to church each Sunday.

I continue to pray for the members of our congregation, the church council, and Pastor Amanda so that OSLC may continue to thrive even though we have seen some of the toughest times many of us have ever experienced. I pray God will continue to guide and lead us as we navigate difficult decisions and I pray for each of you to remember to be faithful to God recalling your own baptisms and confirmations. I am excited to continue to serve as the president of the church council through January 2023.

Peace,

Eric

*...speak the truth in love
growing to become more
like Christ... Eph 4:15*

Sunday Services

Good news! The church council voted unanimously to resume weekly worship services starting August 7th. Bring a friend and join us at 11am each Sunday!

OSLC Website: www.OSLCNome.org

If you haven't already done so, check out our website www.oslcnome.org! The site includes information about our church and includes an option for online giving using a credit or debit card or as an automatic withdrawal from your bank account. The church newsletter is posted to the website and you can also find a list of church council member names. We welcome suggestions on other content to include or ways we can make the website more user friendly!

New Council Members

In January of 2021, we installed new church council members, including president Eric Ortman, vice-president Joleen Medlin, treasurer Kirsten Bey, and general members Hannah Joe and Buddy Okleasik. The following year, we installed secretary Janice Wilson and general member Karla Homelvig. Karla recently moved out of state so the council will be appointing a member to fill her seat.

Speaking on behalf of OSLC and the church council, we want to thank Bryan Weyauvanna, Buddy Okleasik, Dana Handeland, and Tracey Buie for serving as previous Church council officers. All did a fabulous job as we had big shoes to fill. We are all grateful to each of them for their service.

Sale of the Parsonage

In the spring of 2021, Our Savior's Lutheran Church sold the church parsonage after congregational approval. The sale of the parsonage will alleviate OSLC from continuing to heat and maintain a residence that was no longer being used to house a full-time pastor, all of which was becoming a significant drain on our savings. And more good news, the new owners are Pastor Amanda and Jordan Snyder!

OSLC

PO Box 965
Nome, Alaska 99762

(907)443-5295
oslcnome@gmail.com

Sunday Worship

We gather every Sunday at 11am for worship.

Please join us as we gather together. All are welcome!

About Us

Our Savior's Lutheran Church (OSLC) is located in the community of Nome on the Seward Peninsula on the western coast of Alaska.

OSLC is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) and part of the Alaska Synod. OSLC was incorporated in 1954 and is the only Lutheran church in Nome.



A Message from Pastor Amanda

As I reflect on the seasons of my life, I cannot help but realize that since the time I was 3 years old, my life has always revolved around the academic calendar. A new year for me never began in January, but instead, it always began in the late summer as a new school year was unfolding. For over four decades, I have either been a student, a teacher, or both. This year, however, I turned a page in my calendar, staring at the word *August* and realized it has become just another month. I am no longer a student and I am no longer a teacher; therefore, this August no longer marks a new year.



Change can be scary because it means we may no longer be comforted by the familiarity of our old routines. Change can bring so many unknowns into our lives. Like me, many of you may be facing new changes of some kind: an empty house as kids leave for school, a new job with new responsibilities, or the changing of the season. Some changes bring excitement and new possibilities, while other changes bring anxiety and fear of the unknown.

*O give thanks to the Lord,
for he is good, for his
steadfast love endures
forever... Psalm 136:1*

change we are facing today, no matter what unknown future awaits us, we can take courage in knowing that God's love is steadfast and that it endures. This means that God's love toward us is a love that is loyal now and will continue to be forever. His love will not change and it will not go away.

During this season of your life, my prayer is that each one of you will find comfort in the knowledge that you are loved by God with an enduring steadfast love.

Regardless of how we feel in the midst of change, the Bible reminds us of the God who does not change. Twenty-six times in Psalm 136, we read that God's steadfast love endures forever. No matter what

Call Committee

This spring, the council approved a call committee to begin the process of calling a pastor to lead the congregation. Pastor Amanda has lead our congregation as our intern pastor since December of 2020 while completing her requirements for ordination through the TEEM program at Pacific Lutheran Seminary in California. At this time, she is the only candidate being considered by the Call Committee.

Pastor Amanda has a master's degree in both Education (2006) and in Theology (2015). She graduated from the TEEM program in the Spring of 2022 and has since been approved by the Alaska Synod for ordination. She is currently serving part-time as our Interim Pastor until the call committee completes their important work. We look forward to seeing what blessings God will bring us through this process.

Church Council

Eric Ortman, President
(907) 303-9124

Joleen Medlin, Vice President
(907) 434-2936

Janice Wilson, Secretary
(907) 434-1884

Kirsten Bey, Treasurer
(907) 434-2016

Hannah Joe, General Seat
(907) 304-1534

Buddy Okleasik, General Seat
(907) 304-9218

Interim Pastor

Amanda Snyder
(907) 434-1822

Please contact Pastor Amanda or a council member with any concerns or questions. You can also call or email:

(907) 443-5295
OSLCNome@gmail.com

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Help Wanted!

Our Savior's Lutheran Church is always looking for people who can assist with worship each Sunday. There are number of ways that you can volunteer on a Sunday morning, such as reading the lessons, playing piano, lighting the candles, or even sharing a message. We are also looking for people are willing to help clean up after the service with vacuuming and taking out the trash. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact a council member or Pastor Amanda. We are thankful for all of those who have given generously of their time and their talents.



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