

# The Dove

Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church—Anchorage, AK (LCMS)



APRIL  
2021

Rev. Kyle Mietzner, Pastor

## Χριστὸς ἀνέστη! – Ἀληθῶς ἀνέστη!

*Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!* That's what the squiggly words say. You might not be able to read them. You might not understand them at all. That's okay. I've even been corrected regarding the grammar of this joyous statement. Shouldn't it be *Christ was raised*? These things can be puzzling. It doesn't stop there though, does it? Odds are, if you are reading this, you've spent a significant amount of time in church, and my guess is that you also are still puzzled by some of the words and symbols that we use here. Again, this is okay. You might not ever understand all of it. Who can truly fully grasp the idea, and reality, that Jesus Christ is risen, even today? Our brains can only handle so much!

The author JRR Tolkien once received a letter from his aunt, in which he was criticized for using big words in what was supposed to be books for children; particularly the words *plenilune* and *argent*. He responded by saying that “limiting your vocabulary to what is supposedly within their reach simply prevents the gifted ones from expanding their knowledge.”

I recently started yoga. I found a particular youtube channel that doesn't do all the “spiritual” stuff that often accompanies this practice. I have enjoyed this quite a bit, but the instructor still uses all the Sanskrit terms for the particular poses, like शवासन and अधो. At first, I had no idea what this stuff meant, and it was weird. He didn't explain the things at all, but just used the words. I stuck with it, and learned what these things meant within several sessions.

Many words, phrases, or beliefs do not make immediate sense to us. How boring would the world be if we never learned new words or ideas? I can't imagine what it would be like if the dude on youtube teaching yoga just said “okay now, lay on the ground” instead of “now we will come into शवासन.” Honestly, I still do not know what the words *plenilune* and *argent* mean. Are you also perplexed by the joyous announcement of Mary Magdalene of *Christ is Risen!*?

My challenge to you is to find a symbol or word in the church that you do not understand and figure it out. Find out what the three symbols above the altar mean. What is יְהוָה? What is IC XC NIKA? Why is there a flower? Who is Geza St. Galy? You are surrounded by a growing garden of meaning here in the church. You stand upon the shoulders of thousands of years of giants. This is your inheritance!

Mary Magdalene announced that a new world had emerged from the tomb. Jesus Christ is risen from the dead, even today. The world has changed. Death and darkness are no longer our fate. There is so much more now that Jesus Christ has brought life and immortality to light! Let's keep learning and growing together, receiving this beautiful and new world that the Lord has handed back to us, through the resurrection of our Lord.

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*Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!*

+Pastor Kyle Mietzner

# CHURCH NOTES . . . . .

## Christian Education Opportunities

Children's Sunday School—Sundays @ 11am  
Adult Bible Study—Sundays @ 11am  
Wednesdays @ 7pm resuming April 21st  
Youth Catechesis—Wednesdays @ 4pm via Zoom

## Helping Hands Meal Prep

Our outreach program to help feed residents at Brother Francis Shelter and Clare House has resumed at a reduced level. Due to social distancing guidelines, Helping Hands are recruited as needed.

## Offerings

You are welcome to mail your offerings to the church to be presented during the next Sunday worship service. This can also be done through your financial institution's BillPay service.

## Church Keys

We recently changed the exterior locks on the church building. If you have an old key, you should toss it out.

## Birthdays

Ruta Cukurs	4/3
Linda Graham	4/4
Theodore Glowinski	4/10
Roman Wisroth	4/11
Elena Wisroth	4/15
Carter Dickerson	4/19
Brooke Hartman	4/22
Adrienne Fleming	4/27



## Anniversaries

Ralph & Cheryl Erickson	4/2
Sid & Stephanie Anderson	4/18



## Church Contacts

Church Office: 338-3838  
Pastor's cell phone: (336)944-2394  
Church address: 2100 Boniface Pkwy  
Anchorage, AK 99504

## Spring Voters Assembly Meeting

Zion's spring voters meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 18th at 12pm here at the church.

# **FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR**

Janet McCullough

zionlcmsmusic@yahoo.com

One of the renovations that occurred early in the Reformation was liturgical music. Most Lutherans are aware that Martin Luther was a writer and composer of hymns. A quick perusal of the indices in the back of *Lutheran Service Book* reveals numerous credits to Luther for both texts and tunes of his that are included in the hymnal. *A Mighty Fortress* is Luther's work – both the text based on Psalm 46 and the tune. The early Reformers didn't always compose original music, however. They often used hymns and melodies that were already sung in the Roman Church or the community as the foundation for their new hymns.

During the Sundays of Easter, beginning with Easter Two, the Sunday preludes will feature just such a hymn. One of the Sequences used in the Roman Church of Luther's time, and still sung today, is the Easter Sequence, *Victimae Paschali laudes* – literally translated "Victim Paschal Praise." (See LSB #460 for a partial text of that Sequence.) This Sequence, the oldest to be retained after the Council of Trent, is originally attributed to Wipo of Burgandy, who died c. 1050. It is also credited as being the fount from which sprang medieval liturgical drama. Before the time of the Reformation, additional stanzas were inserted between the verses of the Sequence. (See the note on the bottom of #460 for an example of this marriage of original text and added verses.) This combination of Sequence and verses became, by the time of the Reformation, the hymn *Christ Is Arisen*. Martin Luther said of this hymn – "After a time one tires of singing all other hymns, but *Christ ist Erstanden* one can always sing again."

The first two organ preludes will feature contemporary arrangements of the ancient Sequence melody. The remaining variations will be on the tune CHRIST IST ERSTANDEN, which is based on that Sequence. I'll play the melody for either the Sequence or the chorale before I play the organ arrangement. I'll also, as I did in Lent, include in the bulletin the dates relevant to the composers.

Finally, the postludes for those same Sundays of Easter are organ variations on the *Te Deum*. In this space in May I will turn our attention to the *Te Deum* – another glorious hymn handed down to us from the early centuries of the Church.

HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED, ALLELUIA!

# STEWARDSHIP

Our Father in heaven sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. His atoning sacrifice is the first fruits of all the dead, a pleasing aroma to His Father, so that His perfect life and death count for all who believe in Him. He claimed us as His own children in Holy Baptism. He sustains and strengthens our faith with His Holy Word and His Body and Blood.

As new creatures, who have put on Christ, we bear good fruit. We do the good works prepared for us, which He makes known to us in His Word. By faith then, trusting in the Word of God, we do what he says because He does not lie and always keeps His promises. For “without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him” (Heb. 11:6).

And so the Lord promises: “Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine” (Prov. 3:9-10). How do we honor the Lord with the wealth that God has given us in His generosity? By giving generously to those whom the Lord has called us to love and support your family, your society, and your church. And His promise is that, in so doing, you will never lack.

A common counterpoint is: “But that’s from the Old Testament!” Our Lord Jesus Himself gives us similar promises in the New Testament. He says, at the conclusion of the parable of the talents: “For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance” (Matt. 25:29).

And then at the end of the parable of the dishonest manager, he says: “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money” (Luke 16:10–13).

And in His sermon on the mount, he says: “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matt. 6:19–21).

We have become conditioned against these promises because of their misuse by the peddlers of the prosperity gospel – the guys on TV who say you get rich by putting God in your debt. And thus, we miss out on the fact that God does reward temporal faithfulness in temporal matters with temporal blessings. It’s no quid pro quo. It’s all from God’s grace and His fatherly divine goodness and mercy. But those Bible passages do in fact say what they say! It’s not the Old Testament’s problem. It’s ours. It is almost as if we have become so jaded against this that we think it a virtue to be stingy with our offerings.

But our Father in heaven still loves to bless those who bless others. He loves to give to those who give freely and generously. In fact, he challenges us to challenge Him: “Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need” (Mal. 3:10).

And so, while we don’t give so that we would get, we do receive from the Lord in order to give, and He will bless your giving with more receiving. As St. Paul wrote in Rom. 8:32: “He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?”

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# Lutheran Social Services of Alaska

It is hard to believe that one year has passed since the Covid 19 pandemic brought our world to a near standstill. The Coronavirus pandemic is truly not the only crisis humankind is facing – but it has affected all of us one way or another. My staff and I are convinced that there are lessons to learn from this crisis. For example, the values of kindness, compassion and collaboration is evident from the many who have blessed our ministry with your prayers and donations of food and financial support.

We were blessed to have been asked to provide rental, mortgage and utility assistance for the AK Can Do Fund, as well as the Cares Act Funds. AK Can Do funds distributed were \$431,000 to 413 households with another \$144,000 just received in March. The Cares Act funds were from the Municipality, and we partnered with United Way to distribute \$24.8 million to over 7,000 households between June 15, 2020 and through March 2021.

The LSSA Food Pantry continues to operate during these troubling times. We are pre-packing food boxes for distribution and we are practicing social distancing during distribution. We also continue to see a large number of households visiting our Mobile Food Pantry each Tuesday in the parking lot of Lutheran Church of Hope. Items of need for the Food Pantry are canned chili and soups, ramen, tuna, mac-n-cheese, canned fruits, pasta, cereal and oatmeal.

Thank you to all who donated Easter baskets to the food pantry this year. The baskets are of many different styles and colors, but they all were similar as they contained the message of Easter. What a blessing it is to be able to share the hope that Easter gives us in such a heartfelt way. These baskets come as a huge relief to parents who may not have otherwise been able to afford an Easter basket and will be a great surprise to the children who receive them! We will be distributing Easter baskets through April 2nd. Thank you to Betty Anderson for all her work coordinating the distribution of the baskets.

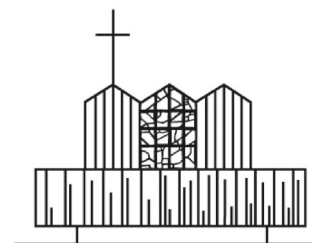
Please keep LSSA, our staff, volunteers, and our clients in your prayers as we continue the struggle in response to this lingering disaster called Covid 19. We appreciate the support.

Easter brings us hope; may it linger in our hearts forever. Here's wishing you a very Happy Easter!

Alan Budahl  
Executive Director LSSA  
1303 W. 33<sup>rd</sup> Ave.  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
907-272-0643



Zion Lutheran Church (LC-MS)  
 2100 Boniface Parkway, Anchorage, AK 99504-3166  
 Phone #: 907-338-3838  
 e-mail: [zion-admin@gci.net](mailto:zion-admin@gci.net)  
[ZionAnchorage.org](http://ZionAnchorage.org)



# APRIL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 9:30am Divine Service  11am Bible Study & Sunday School	29 12pm Holy Monday Service	30 12pm Holy Tuesday Service	31 12pm Holy Wednesday Service  4pm Youth Catechesis via Zoom	1-Apr 6pm Individual Confession & Absolution  7pm Maundy Thursday Service	2 12pm Good Friday Chief Service  6pm Individual Confession & Absolution  7pm Tenebrae Vespers	3 7pm Easter Vigil w/ 1st Communion
4 9:30am Easter Service  11am Bible Study & Sunday School	5 7pm Easter Monday Divine Service	6 7pm Easter Tuesday Divine Service	7 7pm Easter Wednesday Divine Service	8 7:30pm Elders Meeting via Zoom	9	10
11 9:30am Divine Service  11am Bible Study & Sunday School	12	13 7pm Council Meeting	14 4pm Youth Catechesis via Zoom  6:30pm Russian Jack Community Council Mtg	15	16	17
18 9:30am Divine Service  11am Bible Study & Sunday School  12pm Voters Meeting	19	20	21 4pm Youth Catechesis via Zoom  7pm Bible Study	22	23	24
25 9:30am Divine Service  11am Bible Study & Sunday School	26	27	28 4pm Youth Catechesis via Zoom  7pm Bible Study	29	30	1-May