

The Dove

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



FEBRUARY
2022

Rev. Kyle Mietzner, Pastor

The Church You Have or the Church You Want

Dietrich Bonhoeffer is well known for his supposed participation in a plot to kill Hitler. He was executed by the Nazis at Flossenburg concentration camp on April 9, 1945 at the age of 39. During his short life, he accomplished an amazing amount of activity. He earned his first doctorate at the age of 21, which tells you something about a guy. He went on to lead a remarkable life that is well documented in a number of books and movies. Listen to this line from his book about the Christian life, called *Life Together*:

God hates visionary dreaming. It makes the dreamer proud and pretentious. The man who fashions a visionary ideal of community demands that it be realized by God, by others, and by himself. He enters the community of Christians with his demands, sets up his own law, and judges the brethren and God himself accordingly. He stands adamant, a living reproach to all others in the circle of brethren. He acts as if he is the creator of the Christian community, as if his dream binds men together. When things do not go his way, he calls the effort a failure. When his ideal picture is destroyed, he sees the community going to smash. So he becomes, first an accuser of his brethren, then an accuser of God, and finally the despairing accuser of himself.

You can dream about the life you want to live or the church you want to have, but at the end of the day, you only have the life you live and the church to which you already belong. A man who is unhappy with his wife will not be helped by dreaming about a new and better wife. That sort of behavior and thinking only degrades both husband and wife, and the great blessing that the Lord has given them in their marriage. So too, dreaming about what your church could be, or trying to force it to be something else than what it is, degrades the community with which the Lord has gifted you and made you a part.

Similarly, we might dream of how things used to be. Zion used to have hundreds of people here every week, and even in the middle of the week. Some of you remember those days. I've only heard about them and seen the numbers in Pastor Laue's journals. There can be a certain nostalgia about the past, even if we ourselves did not experience such things. Nostalgia is a Greek word, which literally means homecoming pain. Dreaming of the past brings pain.

There are two commandments against coveting and only one against murder. That is to say, contentment is one of the most difficult tasks for the Christian. We are not to worry about tomorrow, or fantasize about the past. We do not have tomorrow, and the past probably wasn't as good as we think it was anyways. We have today. This day is all we have. This church, today, is all we really have. Are you thankful for the life that the Lord has given you this day? Are you thankful for this church that the Lord has given you this day? We do not know what tomorrow may bring, but our daily bread will do for today. Jesus Christ, the Lord of the church, has brought us here, today. This is the day that the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it!

*Peace and Joy,
Pastor Kyle Mietzner*

IN THIS EDITION

Pastor's Letter	1
Announcements	2
From the Music Director	3
President's Letter	4
Stewardship	5
Anchor Lutheran School	6
Calendar	7

ZIONANCHORAGE.ORG

ANNOUNCEMENTS

God is Love Church Schedule

Church Service and Bible
Study Times:

- ⇒ Sunday: 1:00 to 4:30 pm
- ⇒ Tuesday: 7:00 to 9:00 pm
- ⇒ Thursday: 7:00 to 9:00 pm
- ⇒ Saturday: 6:30 to 8:00 am



Happy Birthday to...

Steve Lanz	February 10
Donal Mueller	February 12
Joshua Wabrowetz	February 12
Marian Lampert	February 24
Chase Mascelli	February 24

Happy Anniversary to...

Chris & Jacque Dickerson	February 2
Clint & Betty Olson	February 3

Opportunities to Serve

Looking for volunteers to help keep our church home clean, functional, and beautiful. Sign up sheets are located in the narthex:

- ⇒ Offering counters
- ⇒ Cleaning
- ⇒ Shoveling
- ⇒ Altar guild

Prayers & Squares: Come join in the joy of making quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Every Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon starting February 8th!

Helping Hands —Our outreach to help feed residents at Brother Francis Shelter and Clare House continues at a reduced level on the 2nd Friday of every month.

Christian Education Opportunities

Sundays @ 11:00 am:

- ◆ Children's Sunday School
- ◆ Adult Bible Study

Wednesdays:

- ◆ Catechesis @ 4:00 pm
- ◆ Meal @ 5:30 pm
- ◆ Bible Study @ 6pm
- ◆ Choir @ 7pm

Thursdays: (2/3 & 2/24 ONLY):

- ◆ Men's Study 6:30-8:00 pm

CHILI / BROWNIE COOK-OFF

February 13, 2022

Following bible study

**Here's your chance to enjoy great dishes
prepared by Zion's talented chefs!**





The information for this article comes from the 1981 *Hymnal Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship* and the 2019 *Lutheran Service Book – Companion to the Hymns*.

The Catechism hymn of Martin Luther's that is the "Hymn of the Month" for February is #607 – *From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee*. In *An Order of Mass and Communion for the Church at Wittenberg* (1523), Luther writes of his desire for "as many songs as possible in the vernacular which people could sing during Mass." During this early period of the Reformation, Luther corresponded with poets and theologians, requesting texts constructed in a manner suitable for hymn singing. It is believed that the example of such a text Luther included in those letters was his own *From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee*.

Luther's original version of the hymn is in four verses. It was (probably) first published in a broadsheet or pamphlet as was commonly done at that time. In 1524 it was included with seven other texts in the first Reformation hymn collection. Shortly after that publication, Luther expanded the second stanza into two verses. This second version was included in Johann Walter's 1524 choir hymnal. It is this five-stanza version that is printed in *LSB*.

From Depths of Woe, which is based on Psalm 130, is one of the earliest examples of German psalm versifications. It is most often included in hymnals under the category of "Hymns of Confession." Luther's pattern of viewing scripture through the lens of justification by grace is clearly seen in the text of *From Depths of Woe*. The hymn is often sung at funerals – the 1525 funeral of Luther's patron, Elector Friedrich the Wise, and Luther's own funeral rites in 1546. It is the Hymn of the Day for Ash Wednesday and Trinity 21 and is suggested for several additional dates in the lectionary cycle, as well as times of national or local tragedy.

Luther composed the tune, AUS TIEFER NOT, based on the Phrygian mode in the bar form of the German Renaissance. Bar form characterizes music that is rhythmic rather than chant-based. Modes are what we might very loosely compare to scales. They were, very simply described, melodic patterns of generally one octave that began on varying pitches. Luther's tune is in the A-A-B form. The first phrase is repeated twice, followed by a different concluding phrase. This is an extremely common hymn form and can be found all through *LSB*, (#s 488, 608 and 689 for example.) Luther's genius in what we call text painting – constructing melodic phrases to match the text – is on vivid display in *From Depths of Woe*. Even acknowledging the difficulties of translation from German to English, one can clearly see the pattern of words such as "depths" and "down" falling on lowered pitches and phrases of confidence in God's grace being set to rising melodic lines.

SOLI DEO GLORIA



Committee Update

Adam Wabrowetz
ZLC - President

How do we plan ahead? – God teaches us to look to him for counsel and guidance. In prayer and in reading scripture we can learn and understand what is good for us and our church. In addition we need to read, learn, research and understand both sides of a decision.

“For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace.” *Luke 14:28-33*

Our church is going through some changes. Our congregation asked two committees to provide us some answers. The first is – What are the differences between the Northwest District and the English District? The main reason for this question comes from a number of years that Zion’s church leadership (Pastor, Elders & Council) has had differing views with the Northwest District – I can personally attest to this. In return the Northwest District has not supported our traditional, liturgical, strong Biblical teachings as aligned very tightly with the LCMS views and decisions. Our church is faced with the decision to either stay with the Northwest District and accept those differences or move to another district willing to be our partner in building our church. I’m able to report that our committee, which includes Sharon C., Matt M., and Chris L, is doing a stand-up job looking at the pros and cons of each district and has also met with each district president. These meetings are on our church YouTube channel if you are interested in watching.

The second committee – Ralph E., Linda G., and Chris D., are working to help us understand the best way forward with our Council. Currently our By-Laws require 11 positions of which 4 are currently open and by April there will be only five positions filled – less than half. The committee is researching the feasibility of reducing the council to 7 or even 5 council positions. The direction of the new council would be charged with simply “keeping the lights on” and ensuring the physical matters of the church are dealt with efficiently and effectively. This will then provide great opportunities for people to be involved with evangelism, education, community outreach, small groups, etc. without the need to be at a council meeting. The outcome very likely could be, more could be done at Zion – not less. As a reminder, all council meetings are open to any member of Zion to offer input, support and ideas.

Please keep our church and these two committees in your prayers as we navigate through these waters continually looking for God’s loving guidance and understanding.

A Caring – Compassionate – Community – Church, we all support and love!

STEWARDSHIP

God in Man Made Manifest

The season of Epiphany focuses on how God was made manifest in the flesh of Jesus. The church spends time hearing of the miracles, signs, and wonders of Jesus in the world. And this made plain to all that Jesus really is who He said He was. He is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the only begotten Son of the Father, in the flesh. For “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14).

It is revealed for all the world to see that Jesus is God in the flesh. It is made manifest by His words and His work, by what He said and by what He did. And these belong together, for “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” Jesus is the Word and will of God in the flesh, that is, He is the walking, talking enactment of God’s Word.

It is no different for us. We are called not just to believe in God in hearts but also to trust in God in word and deed. As James wrote: “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves” (James 1:22), and again, “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? ... So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ... Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ... For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead” (James 2:14, 17–18, 26).

Our faith is lived out in works for our neighbor. Our trust in the Word and will of God is lived out not in word only but also in deed and in truth. In other words, the Epiphany of the Lord creates in us an epiphany of our faith in our works of obedience to God who commanded them. By this, our faith is made manifest to the world. It is, as Luther wrote of faith:

Faith is a divine work in us. It changes us and makes us to be born anew of God (John 1). It kills the old Adam and makes altogether different people, in heart and spirit and mind and powers, and it brings with it the Holy Spirit.

Oh, it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. And so it is impossible for it not to do good works incessantly. It does not ask whether there are good works to do, but before the question rises, it has already done them, and is always at the doing of them.

He who does not these works is a faithless man. He gropes and looks about after faith and good works and knows neither what faith is nor what good works are, though he talks and talks, with many words about faith and good works.

Faith is a living, daring confidence in God’s grace, so sure and certain that a man would stake his life on it a thousand times. This confidence in God’s grace and knowledge of it makes men glad and bold and happy in dealing with God and all His creatures. And this is the work of the Holy Spirit in faith. Hence a man is ready and glad, without compulsion, to do good to everyone, to serve everyone, to suffer everything, in love and praise to God, who has shown him this grace.

And thus it is impossible to separate works from faith, quite as impossible as to separate burning and shining from fire. Beware, therefore, of your own false notions and of the idle talkers, who would be wise enough to make decisions about faith and good works, and yet are the greatest fools. (*Preface to the Book of Romans*)

So, then, let our faith be active by God’s power in the Word through the Holy Spirit. And let then our faith be made manifest to the world by what this faith does: serving our neighbor – in church, in the family, and society – with the works of faith in time, talents, and treasures.



Dear Anchor Family,

At Anchor, we are beginning to implement concept-based Math to support the development of our Mathematics program. We chose this approach to Math curriculum because it is a highly effective teaching method that aims for mastery and instills a deep understanding of mathematical concepts. Concept-based Mathematics epitomizes what educators love about teaching Math, which includes concrete problems, pictorial lessons, abstract progression, number bonds, bar modeling, and a strong focus on mental math. This rigorous program balances supervised learning and independent practice while encouraging communication.

There are some unique learning styles that are reinforced regularly throughout the concept-based Math program. They may be a little different to the way you were taught at school, but it doesn't mean that you can't help your child to practice and master these and other strategies as they progress through our Math curriculum. For the 2022/23 school year, Anchor will be investing in Big Ideas Mathematics as our primary curriculum resource. Here is some practical advice on how you can support your child at home.

1. **Think Beyond the Right Answer:** One of the most important aspects of a concept-based Math program is to support problem-solving and authentic applications of Math in context. You can support your child's learning by helping them remember struggling and making mistakes are a normal, and important, part of learning
2. **Learn About the School's Approach to Mathematics:** If you're hoping to better understand your school's approach, ask your child's teacher to include explanations or examples of the strategy or approach your child is learning in homework tasks.
3. **Support Your Child (But Don't Do the Work for Them!):** It can be tempting for well-meaning parents to step in when their child struggles – but for children to learn, they need to be the ones doing the thinking. Resist telling your child how you would solve the problem. Instead, pose questions that ask them to explain their mathematical thinking to you.
4. **Bring Math Into Everyday Tasks:** Model that mathematics is solely for school, but rather, mathematics is a part of our everyday lives. Depending on your child's age, you could discuss the shapes of signs, perspective in art, patterns in architecture, as well as make them aware of how a knowledge of quantity, measurement, and cost helps you to function in everyday life.
5. **Promote Positive Attitudes About Math:** If your child is frustrated, explain that a wrong answer is not a failure, but an opportunity to learn.

Contagious Illness Guidelines in Response to COVID-19: Anchor Medium Risk - Masks strongly recommended, social distancing and best-fit application of the Anchor Contagious Illness Guidelines (2021) implemented. To learn more, visit our website at alsalaska.org. Active COVID-19 cases: 4

Matthew Baxter, PhD
Principal

Rebecca Finney
Early Childhood Director

**ANCHOR LUTHERAN SCHOOL
SILENT & LIVE AUCTION
MARCH 19TH, 2022**

Doors open at 5pm / Heavy Hors D'oeuvres / Live Auction begins at 7:30pm

\$50 General Seating / \$75 Limited Reserve Seating

For more information please email: auction@alsalaska.org or call (907) 351-5468

Auction Donations Welcome / Sponsorship Opportunities Available

FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

30	31	1 7:30pm Elders' Meeting	2 4pm Youth Catechesis 5pm Dinner Hour 6pm Bible Study 7pm Adult Choir	3 6:30pm Men's Study	4	5
6 9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study & Sunday School	7	8 10am Prayers & Squares 7:00pm Council Meeting	9 4pm Youth Catechesis 5pm Dinner Hour 6pm Bible Study 7pm Adult Choir	10	11	12
13 9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study & Sunday School 12pm Chili/Brownie Cook-Off	14	15	16 4pm Youth Catechesis 5pm Dinner Hour 6pm Bible Study 7pm Adult Choir	17	18	19
20 9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study & Sunday School	21	22	23 4pm Youth Catechesis 5pm Dinner Hour 6pm Bible Study 7pm Adult Choir	24 6:30pm Men's Study	25	26
27 9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study & Sunday School	28	1	2	3	4	5

Zion Lutheran Church 2100 Boniface Pkwy Anchorage AK 99504
E-mail: zion-admin@gci.net

Phone: 338-3838
Pastor's Cell Phone: (336) 944-2394