

The Dove

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



FEBRUARY
2020

Rev. Kyle Mietzner, Pastor

What Do You Need?

"Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her." Luke 10:41-42

Do you ever feel like meetings at church are mandatory, but worship is optional? Why is that? If you've been elected or asked to come to a meeting, you feel like you've got to be there, but no one will notice if you miss the Divine Service. Maybe you worry about what will happen if you aren't at the meeting. Maybe you're worried about the power that you'll sacrifice if you miss a meeting or forgo an elected position. The truth of the matter though, is that worship is really the only mandatory meeting that Jesus gives to us in the church. You can organize a church in any way you wish, but the only real meeting we've got is to be gathered around Jesus in the Word and Sacraments. This is where the church is truly seen and Christ is present. This is why this church exists on this corner; to receive the Lord's gifts.

You've got options. You can fill your life with activity and wealth. You can spend your time in pursuit of increasing possessions and things that make you happy for a while. You can worry about all the things you've got to clean; your home and your life. There's no lasting satisfaction with any of these things. We find ourselves restless and unhappy. How often does it feel like we're just spinning our wheels for years at a time? Am I happier when I have more things? You can choose all of that stuff. Of course, you've got to do some of it. The real question though, is whether it is all necessary or not. But what else is there?

Sitting at Jesus' feet. Listening to His Word. Receiving His gifts. It sounds silly. But it isn't. You live in a world with bills to pay and things to get. Those things will never go away and they will never stop demanding your time, attention, and your energy. They will suck away all of your happiness. They're thieves of joy. This even includes all of the things you supposedly enjoy! Your interest in this or that will fade or change if they don't kill you first. Jesus calls us to come and sit with Him; to listen and eat.

It is tempting to be like Martha, isn't it? After all, she chases the things that the world values so much. She might make every meeting, but miss the Lord's Supper! Chores can wait. Jesus isn't disturbed by your clutter or mess. He isn't even disturbed by your sins. In fact, He is more aware of them than you are. This is why He came to be with us, to live with us, to die for us, and to be raised from the dead for us. Why would we not cling to Jesus? Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith! All the other stuff comes and goes, but Jesus and His word remains forever. Let's stick with Him.

+Pastor Kyle Mietzner

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CHURCH NOTES

Christian Education Opportunities

Children's Sunday School—Sundays @ 11am
Adult Bible Study—Sundays @ 11am
Wednesdays at 6:30pm
Men's Study—February 6th @ 7pm, Double Shovel
Cider Co., 502 W 58th Ave, Unit C
Youth Catechesis—Tuesdays @ 4pm

Helping Hands Meal Prep

This is an outreach program to help feed residents at Brother Francis Shelter and Clare House. On the 2nd Friday of each month, the Helping Hands meet in the kitchen at 10am to prepare meals and deliver them to the shelters. If you would like to get involved, you can do so by meeting to prepare the meals, volunteer to prepare a menu item in advance, help deliver the meals, or donate ingredients, such as elbow noodles, fish, oil & vinegar dressing, ranch dressing, salami, hamburger meat, or hams. Also, Brother Francis would appreciate clothes for men & women; Clare House would like clothing for women & children, as well as toys. If you have any questions, please call Cayre at 337-1008.

Birthdays

Tom Rawlins	2/3
Steve Lanz	2/10
Don Mueller	2/12
Joshua Wabrowetz	2/12
Marian Lampert	2/24
Chase Mascelli	2/24
Hazel Hartman	2/26



Anniversaries

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



Pioneer Home Christian Fellowship

On the first Tuesday of every month, join the residents of Anchorage Pioneer Home for Christian Fellowship. 923 W. 11th Ave., downtown Anchorage.

Church Contacts

Church Office:	338-3838
Preschool Office:	222-3838
Pastor's cell phone:	(336)944-2394
Church address:	2100 Boniface Pkwy Anchorage, AK 99504

Special Voters' Meeting

12pm Sunday, February 23th

There will be a quick special voters' meeting to determine Zion's position on Synod Res. 9-05, "To Amend the Constitution to Address Individual Membership and Advisory Representation". Copies of proposed wording is available at church or view at this link:

<https://blogs.lcms.org/2019/official-notice-office-of-the-secretary-the-lutheran-church-missouri-synod/>



Zion's Chili and Brownie Contest

12:15pm Sunday, February 23th

It's time to pull out your best chili and brownie recipes for our annual cooking and baking contest! The top 3 entries in each category get a prize!





Zion Lutheran Preschool

It says in John 13:34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

Flowers, candy, red hearts and romance? That's what Valentine's Day is all about, right? Well, maybe not! The story is said of the man behind the holiday—St. Valentine, while he was discussing religion and faith with the judge, pledged the validity of Jesus. The judge immediately put Valentine and his faith to the test ~ Valentine was to heal his daughter from blindness! When Valentine was presented with the girl, he befriended her, prayed with her and restored her sight.

Another common legend states that he defied the emperor's orders and secretly married couples to spare the husbands from war. It is said, in the year 269 AD, Valentine was sentenced to a three part execution of a beating, stoning, and decapitation all because of his stand for Christian marriage. The story goes that the last words he wrote were in a note to the judge's daughter, signing it, "from your Valentine." This is where exchanging "valentines" or love notes (often heart-shaped) on Valentine's Day is said to have begun. Also, traditions such as gifts, flowers and jewelry have been added to the card exchange.

Perhaps this story is just in fact a legend. Some say there is proof of the beheading on February 14th and others say there were three different Valentines whose stories were all merged into one... I'll let you decide.

This February 14th, from 6:00pm-9:00pm, we are having a parents' date night out. Please take a moment to sign up, so we can get a good count of children we will be having for the evening.

"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." 2 Corinthians 13:14

Happy Valentine's Day!

Ms. Gloria



STEWARDSHIP

Of the three things a person is not to talk about in polite company – religion, politics, and money – the church is called, in one way or another, to talk about all three. Perhaps this is the reason why teaching about stewardship often seems to be an afterthought. It's something that happens only out of necessity when financial constraints are already nipping at the heels.

There is a more excellent way. Stewardship shouldn't be the kind of teaching that comes up only when there is a financial crunch. It should be part and parcel of the ongoing instruction of Christians as they live out their faith in their vocations – members of their family, their society, and their church. This teaching touches upon every facet of our lives; it stakes a claim upon our time, our presence, our prayers, and our possessions.

Stewardship begins with the acknowledgment that we are stewards. A steward is a manager of someone else's possessions. In Christian stewardship, we recognize, according to the Apostles' Creed, that God is the owner of all things as the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. And in His fatherly divine goodness and mercy, He gives us what is His to manage here below.

The principal virtue for stewards is faithfulness. As St. Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth:

"Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful." (1 Cor. 4:2)

Stewards must manage that which belongs to the owner according to the owner's wishes. That is what it means to be faithful in stewardship.

That raises a question: How are Christian stewards to be faithful in their managing of what God has entrusted to them to manage? In other words, what are the specific duties of a Christian steward?

This depends upon what God has revealed in His Word for each of our vocations in life as those in a family (fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, children), society (governors or citizens), and the church (pastors or laity). The Table of Duties from *Luther's Small Catechism* lays this out in helpful and orderly way.

Let's look just at what the laity (hearers as it is labeled in the catechism) owe their pastors:

"In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel." (1 Cor. 9:14)

"Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows." (Gal. 6:6–7)

"Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, 'You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,' and, 'The laborer deserves his wages.' " (1 Tim. 5:17–18)

"We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves." (1 Thess. 5:12–13)

"Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you." (Heb. 13:17)

We can see that the Lord commands hearers to support the work of the ministry with the gifts God endowed them – their time, their presence, their prayers, and their possessions. This is the means by which God blesses His people with His gifts: the ministry with the support of those whom they serve, and the hearers with the work of the ministry.

St. Paul expounds upon this further in his letters to the church at Corinth. He instructs them to give regularly (1 Cor. 16:1–2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first-fruits (1 Cor. 16:2) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23).

All of this teaching is set forth squarely within the context of stations to which God calls us. This is always appropriate for the church to speak because it instructs God's people in how they are to live out their faith as His stewards under those who are created, redeemed, and sanctified by Him.

Lutheran Social Services of Alaska

Thank you to those who knitted scarves and hats for Project Homeless Connect that were distributed on January 22 at the Egan Center. These warm items put smiles on many individual's faces who spend their days/nights on the streets or in and out of shelters. I especially would like to thank those who volunteered that day. We had over 60 agencies represented, 224 volunteers and we served 754 individuals.

More than 17,000 families in our community struggle month to month to stay warm, keep a roof overhead and put a meal on the table. All it takes is a single upset, a temporary job loss, an unexpected medical bill, and suddenly the security of home is in jeopardy. A little help with rent or utility assistance can keep a family from falling into homelessness. **Join a community united to make sure no Anchorage family is left out in the cold.** The best way to end family homelessness is to prevent it from happening in the first place.

You can help do that on Friday, February 7th at the United Way's Walk 4 Warmth - a half-mile walk to raise funds for rent and utility assistance to help struggling families stay warm and housed this winter. Check-in begins at 4:45pm at First Presbyterian Church at 616 West 10th Avenue, and the walk starts at 5:45pm. The walk ends at the Anchorage Museum where you will enjoy free admission to the exhibition premiere of Evicted. Proceeds will be distributed to families through LSSA. Go to United Way of Anchorage's website to sign up, give a donation or start a fundraiser.

This is the time of the year when food supplies at the Food Bank of Alaska are at the lowest level. The shelves are pretty bare. We need your help in keeping our shelves stocked. We need canned soups and fruits, ramen and pasta, cereal and instant oatmeal, Spam and tuna, peanut butter and jelly. Anything will be appreciated. Drop it off at your church or at the Food Pantry Monday-Friday 9am to 4pm.

We had to postpone our first Trivia night, as we are installing a new donor management system and did not anticipate all the work involved with that project. Also, the senior class in Social Work have been assigned Bean's Café and LSSA to help us with fundraising and advocacy awareness. So now we have 8 students helping us with Trivia Night, which we have moved to February 21st. Flyers and email invitations will be out shortly. We will have 10 rounds of 7 questions each from different categories. It is sure to be a fun night, as we have had too much fun coming up with the questions.

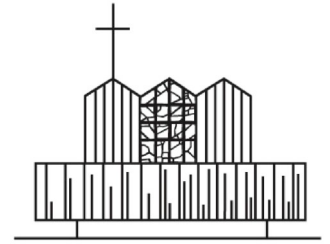
Thanks to everyone who has contributed to LSSA through the Pick.Click.Give. campaign on the Alaska Permanent Fund online application. If you haven't completed your 2020 PFD application yet, please prayerfully consider giving a gift to LSSA as you apply this year.

Together Caring for Others,

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FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 9am Matins Service 9:30am Divine Service 11am Sunday School & Bible Study	27	28 10am Prayers & Squares 4pm Youth Catechesis 7pm Stewardship Meeting	29 6:30pm Bible Study 7:30pm Choir	30	31	1-Feb 2pm Baby Shower for Caitlin & Bridget van Bavel
2 9am Matins Service 9:30am Divine Service 11am Sunday School & Bible Study	3	4 10am Prayers & Squares 4pm Youth Catechesis 6pm Pioneer Home Christian Fellowship	5 6:30pm Bible Study 7:30pm Choir	6 7pm Men's Study @ Double Shovel Cider Co.	7 5:45pm United Way Walk 4 Warmth	8
9 7:45am Elders Meeting 9am Matins Service 9:30am Divine Service 11am Sunday School & Bible Study	10	11 10am Prayers & Squares 4pm Youth Catechesis 7pm Council Meeting	12 6:30pm Bible Study 7:30pm Choir	13	14 10am Helping Hands Meal Prep 6-9pm Parents' Night Out Preschool Fundraiser	15
16 9am Matins Service 9:30am Divine Service 11am Sunday School & Bible Study	17 Presidents' Day	18 10am Prayers & Squares 4pm Youth Catechesis	19 6:30pm Bible Study 7:30pm Choir	20	21 LSSA Trivia Night (TBD)	22
23 9am Matins Service 9:30am Divine Service 11am Sunday School & Bible Study 12pm Special Voters' Meeting 12:15pm Zion's Chili & Brownie Contest	24	25 10am Prayers & Squares 4pm Youth Catechesis 7pm Stewardship Meeting	26 7pm Ash Wednesday Service 8pm Choir	27	28	29