

# The Dove

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



JANUARY  
2020

Rev. Kyle Mietzner, Pastor

## Holy Innocents and You

December 28, the fourth day of Christmas, is the Feast Day of the Holy Innocents. These are the male children under the age of two that were killed by King Herod in his attempt to murder Jesus Christ before He could present a threat to his own rule. We remember them as the first martyrs; the first to be killed for the Name of Jesus. Historically, we have slight evidence as to the size of this slaughter, but one can only imagine the impact this would have on any city. The Feast day of the Holy Innocents has been observed since the most ancient of times in close connection to Christmas.

The second and third days of Christmas observe Stephen and John. Stephen was the first man martyred for the faith (Acts 7), while John was exiled for it (Revelation). Both men were brave in their witness of Christ. The Innocents, however, had no choice in the matter. They were taken from their mothers' arms and slaughtered. Many icons of the Innocents show Jesus with all of these tiny children in His arms. I have also seen icons of pre-born children who have died, resting in the arms of Jesus. The church needs men like Stephen and John, but just as important as those great heroes are the voices and lives of the little ones in our midst. It is easy to think that whoever speaks the loudest is the most important, but the opposite is true in the Kingdom of God. *Let the little children come to me!*

Christians have always had a special place for children. We were known for rescuing babies who were abandoned, which was an accepted practice in the Roman Empire until 374 AD. It was normal to let deformed babies die, rather than care for them. Yet, Christians were continually observed rescuing them! Some of our first commonly owned buildings were hospitals and orphanages, meant to care for those who had been discarded by society.

The *Didache*, a 1<sup>st</sup> century Christian book of instruction, even goes so far as to prohibit the killing of a child in the womb. Why? *All life* is the Lord's gift. It is the one gift which we cannot recreate on our own. This means that *your life* is a gift, just as much as the one second old zygote, or the ninety year old man! All humanity shares in this common gifted existence. The Christmas season celebrates both unexpected children (John and Jesus) and old folks waiting to die (Simeon and Anna). You are given a special place to care for those who have been discarded and discounted by the rest of the world. There's a reason why the church has always cared for widows and orphans.

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We have all failed, at one point or another, at caring for one another. For this we repent and ask forgiveness. The Lord is always more ready to forgive than we are to repent! His forgiveness outweighs our contrition. His love is for all people, no matter who or how they are. He has truly taken on every part of our life in His nativity. All people matter in Christ, so all people matter in the church. Young, old, and everyone in between. You matter. Peace be with you!

+Pastor Kyle Mietzner

# CHURCH NOTES . . . . .

## Christian Education Opportunities

Children's Sunday School—Sundays @ 11am  
Adult Bible Study—Sundays @ 11am  
Wednesdays at 6:30pm (resumes in Jan.)  
Men's Study—January 9th @ 7pm, Cynosure  
Brewing, 144 E. Potter Drive, Unit E  
Youth Catechesis—Tuesdays @ 4pm

## Birthdays

Evangeline Mietzner	1/1
Luke Rolfe	1/6
Richard Murphy	1/12
Leah Rawlins	1/15
Mia Anderson	1/29



## 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.

## Anniversaries

Steve & Christina Lanz 1/6



## 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

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## Zion's All-Church Birthday Party

12pm Sunday, January 19th



It's time for Zion's big party to celebrate EVERYONE'S birthdays! On Sunday, January 19, we'll start the celebration with a potluck meal beginning at noon. After we've dined, we'll start the gifting—by way of a White Elephant exchange.

### What Does This Mean?



Find something around the house in new or like-new condition, wrap it up nicely, and bring it to the party.

You don't need to go out and buy a present! Many of us are beginning our Spring cleaning (including recent Christmas presents) and we can find some great gifts right at home.



# Zion Lutheran Preschool



*Happy New Year 2020 Zion Families!*

*I pray that your 2019 is full of love, prosperity, health, and happiness!*

*Thank you for your continued support of the preschool.*

*May God bless you in abundance!*

*Gloria Vuocolo*



# STEWARDSHIP

Our God is a God who works through means. He can and has worked immediately without agency, as the Bible testifies, but primarily, on the whole and for the most part, our God works through means. He does this not only for all of our earthly needs but also for all of our spiritual needs. And He does this for our benefit.

He provides for all our needs of this body and life through means. He gives us fathers and mothers to care for us when we are young. Through them, God provides house and home, food and clothing, education and training in the arts and work of this world.

He gives us good government to protect us from harm and danger; He gives us faithful neighbors and good friends to help in times of need and lack. He gives us employers who trade our work for income so that we may acquire the needs of the body. He gives us brains and brawn so that we will have something to trade with those employers for that needed income. This work, which we are able to do only because of what God has provided to us, redounds to the benefit of others. And so, the cycle of God giving through means continues.

He provides for all our needs of our souls. He sent His Son into the flesh to be our Savior. In that body, our Lord Jesus Christ lived the life that God demands of us all – a life we have failed to live because of our sins – and, in that body, He made payment for those sins on the cross, once and for all.

God delivers this forgiveness through the means of His Word and Sacraments. He calls pastors to proclaim, in His stead and by His command, that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Through these same pastors, God Himself claims us as His own in Holy Baptism, placing His own name on us in water and Word, igniting faith by the gift of the Holy Spirit. And He gives us His life-giving body and blood to nourish us in this same faith until the end. Our God is a God who works through means.

This is true also of stewardship. This is what St. Paul wrote in Philippians:

"I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:18–19).

The gift St. Paul received from the Philippian church is a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. They gave to God. God provided for St. Paul through the Philippians. And the God who loves both Paul and the Philippians will supply their every need according to the riches in Christ Jesus. Our God is a God who works through means.

"For all the promises of God find their Yes in [Jesus Christ]," St. Paul tells us in 2 Cor. 1:20. This is true also of you. Trust in the God who provides for all that we need in body and soul through means. And not only will you find His "yes" to you, but others will find it, too, through you. "But as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you – see that you excel in this act of grace also" (2 Cor. 8:7).

# Lutheran Social Services of Alaska

Happy New Year! Our ministry has been blessed with the many donations of your time, talents, treasures and prayers. It is because of your concern and care that we were able to touch the lives of over 40,000 of our neighbors in need during 2019.

A great big thank you to everyone who supplied Christmas stockings that we distributed to the children of clients in the Food Pantry. These stockings are so well received from the parents, and it helps us bring the Christmas message to over 700 children.

Thank you to all who attended the Lutheran Women's Advent Brunch last month. We received an offering of \$2,004 and close to \$800 in diapers and baby wipes for distribution in the Food Pantry. What a blessing this program is to our ministry.

The shelves at the Food Bank of Alaska have been full this holiday season, and we have also been blessed in the amount of food donated through congregations and individuals. However, we are going into the first quarter of the new year, which is when the Food Bank donations decrease. We can use your help in keeping our shelves full. Things like chili, soups, canned fruit, cereals, oatmeal, Spam, tuna, and packages of ramen, or potato mixes are some of the food items most requested.

Mark your calendars for the first annual Trivia Night fundraiser for LSSA. It is scheduled for Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup> from 7pm to 9:30pm at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church/Anchor Lutheran School located at 8100 Arctic Boulevard. Tickets are \$30, and you are encouraged to put together a team of up to 8 individuals. Heavy snacks will be provided and beer and wine can be purchased. Start asking your friends and family to be part of your team, and you can purchase tickets by calling the LSSA office at 272-0643 or email [lssa@gci.net](mailto:lssa@gci.net).

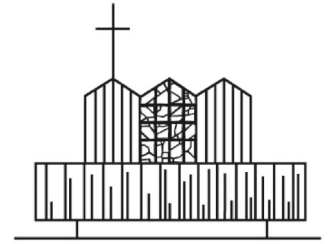
Beginning January 1<sup>st</sup> you will again have the opportunity to contribute to our ministry through Pick.Click.Give. when you apply for your Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend. When applying on-line, you will have an option called "the Gift of Giving." Simply follow the instructions to make a donation. In 2019, LSSA received \$13,475 in donations through this program from 189 donors. The on-line Permanent Fund Dividend application for 2020 will be available beginning January 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:00am.

Together Caring for Others,

Alan Budahl, Executive Director  
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# JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>29</b> 9am Matins Service 9:30am Divine Service 11am Sunday School & Bible Study	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1-Jan</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 9am Matins Service 9:30am Divine Service 11am Sunday School & Bible Study	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 10am Prayers & Squares 4pm Youth Catechesis 6pm Pioneer Home Christian Fellowship	<b>8</b> 6:30pm Bible Study 7:30pm Choir	<b>9</b> 7pm Men's Study @ Cynosure Brewing	<b>10</b> 10am Helping Hands Meal Prep	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 7:45am Elders Meeting 9am Matins Service 9:30am Divine Service 11am Sunday School & Bible Study	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 10am Prayers & Squares 4pm Youth Catechesis 7pm Council Meeting	<b>15</b> 6:30pm Bible Study 7:30pm Choir	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 9am Matins Service 9:30am Divine Service 11am Sunday School & Bible Study 12pm Zion Birthday Party	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 10am Prayers & Squares 4pm Youth Catechesis	<b>22</b> 6:30pm Bible Study 7:30pm Choir	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9am Matins Service 9:30am Divine Service 11am Sunday School & Bible Study	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10am Prayers & Squares 4pm Youth Catechesis 7pm Stewardship Meeting	<b>29</b> 6:30pm Bible Study 7:30pm Choir	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1-Feb</b>