

# The Dove

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



JUNE  
2020

Rev. Kyle Mietzner, Pastor

## We Need Pentecost

Pentecost is one of the three great festivals of the church year. Christmas and Easter are already well known, but Pentecost seems to have faded from the ecclesiastical imagination of the public. In ancient times, Pentecost had just as much fanfare as the other great festivals celebrating the Lord's birth and resurrection. There are stories of elaborate Pentecost plays, in which burning pieces of hay would be dropped down through a hole in the ceiling, often taking the whole church with it in an attempt to recreate the very first Pentecost. At various times in history, it was as big of a deal as Christmas and Easter!

The good news of Pentecost is that when our Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven, He did not leave us behind as orphans, but sent to us His Spirit, the Helper. We are adopted, not abandoned. In the ancient world, adoption meant perhaps more than it sometimes does even today. A ruler would adopt a son in order to hand on his kingdom. You are adopted as heirs of God. What is His is yours. This deserves much celebration! Keeping all of these festivals reinforces our teachings of the Holy Trinity, and shows us a complete picture of the very being and essence of God. He is the God who comes to be with us, to redeem and rescue us from sin and death, and who gives Himself to us now, especially through the church's gifts of Word and Sacrament. Nothing is withheld from you, for you are adopted and loved. All of you!

This Holy Spirit is no new thing either. He hovered above the waters in the beginning, as Father, Son, and Spirit created all that is. The Spirit is breathed into Adam, literally making a new creation. So the Spirit is breathed into you, particularly through Holy Baptism and the hearing of the Word, and you too are a new creation. These are the things we celebrate at Pentecost.

This year is an extra special Pentecost, because it coincides with our congregational reunification, which is in cooperation with state and local guidelines. (This is the time when it is better to be a smaller congregation!) I'm certainly not thinking that everyone is going to come back immediately, but we will no longer have two smaller services. I'm confident that we can provide a safe environment here at Zion as we have been doing so far.

Not only are we coming back together during a worldwide health crisis, but we are also being united again during a time of ever growing division. I kind of thought we'd reached a tipping point for divisive issues, but we keep finding more things to fight about. I'm writing this as parts of Minneapolis burn after the death of George Floyd. Our country's long history of complicated racial divisions has come to the fore once again, and we are fighting about what to do. On one level, it's okay to disagree about things. You can fight with your brother, always remembering that he is still your brother. Your disagreement will be had out of love, rather than hate. On Pentecost, we especially see that all people from all nations and tribes, from the four corners of the earth are drawn together to Christ by the Holy Spirit, as children of the Father. Let us celebrate this now more than ever. Be gathered in. We need Pentecost!

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+Pastor Kyle Mietzner

# CHURCH NOTES . . . . .

## Christian Education Opportunities

Most Christian education activities are on hold. We have begun a Wednesday 7pm bible study via Zoom. If you, or someone you know, weren't included on the email invitation, please contact the Zion office and/or Pastor to be added to the distribution list.

## Helping Hands Meal Prep

Our outreach program to help feed residents at Brother Francis Shelter and Clare House is temporarily suspended.

## Pioneer Home Christian Fellowship

Suspended temporarily.

## 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.

## Birthdays

Casey Davila	6/2
Mya Dickerson	6/4
Karen Rakos	6/11
Lincoln Wisroth	6/15



## Anniversaries

Darrell & Brigitte Lampert  
6/7




Philip & Marilyn Freitag  
6/29

## 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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## Worship Services

We have returned to having in-person worship services at 9:30am Sundays. For those not yet comfortable with gathering together, Livestream video is also still available via Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/zionalaska/live/>. At the time of the service, look for the video with the  button. You do not need a Facebook account to view the services. Simply click 'Not now' if prompted to 'login or create an account'. In some instances, you may need to enter a 'type what you see' code (these are usually case-sensitive) but you should be directed after that. There is an order of service PDF for each service posted on our website, [ZionAnchorage.org](https://ZionAnchorage.org). These can be printed to follow along, or use a hymnal if you have one. There are also links from the website to the Facebook page now.

## "Spring" Voters' Meeting June 28th

Due to COVID-19, we had to cancel our spring voters' meeting which was scheduled in April. A date of June 28th has been set to reschedule this meeting. The time is yet to be determined and will be announced after the June council meeting.



# Zion Lutheran Preschool

Time to sail away again! Even though our last few months have not been together, it is time to close our school year. Thank you to all our parents for allowing me the opportunity to explore God's Wonderful World with your child this year. Our parents did an amazing job finishing our curriculum with their children at home and especially sharing the love of Jesus!

Who knew this pandemic would close all the schools here in Anchorage to keep our children and our families safe. It has been very hard for all of us to social distance, wear masks, and stay home to stay safe from this COVID-19 virus. The state is opening up and the municipality will allow businesses to open with certain restrictions.

Currently, I am working on mitigation plans, reopening plans, health/safety plans, staff and child contactless entry to the school, and other required protocols. Hopefully our summer safari camp will be able to open mid June. If you are interested in sending your child, please let me know, as attendance depends on whether we can run the program effectively. Also, enrollment for the fall is now open. If you have any questions you can contact me by email at [zlbs2010@yahoo.com](mailto:zlbs2010@yahoo.com) or by my cell, 907-250-5055.

Thank you all for everything you have done to make this year a successful one for our preschool. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the families of Zion! God bless you!

Ms. Gloria



# STEWARDSHIP

The sin of the world is paid for. God's Law has been kept perfectly on our behalf. The prophecies have all been fulfilled. Jesus Christ has finished it all! And that, dear Christians, should fill us with complete confidence in our salvation. Since Jesus has finished all these things in His self-sacrifice, we can be fully certain our sins are forgiven, and we have everlasting life!

St. Paul wrote: "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." (Rom. 12:1)

We hear the same teaching in 1 Peter. "As you come to him, a living stone, rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves, like living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 2:4-5)

It's the very thing Malachi foretold of the Lord, that He would come and purify His priestly people, that they may offer to Him an offering in righteousness. (Mal. 3:3)

So, what does this mean? In view of God's mercies – that is, because Jesus sacrificed Himself to make us pure, giving His entire self into death – Paul said that we are to sacrifice ourselves entirely to God, offering Him our whole lives. For our Savior did not give Himself for us in part. So, we do not give back to Him in part.

We don't offer ourselves to God just on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings, for example. Rather, we give Him our whole selves, all the time. We understand that offering ourselves to God as living sacrifices involves the giving of our time. It requires us to be faithful stewards of the time He has given us. Yes, it means we devote to our Savior all our time. Otherwise, we are not sacrificing our whole lives.

You see, God both teaches us, and has graciously qualified us, to present ourselves to Him as living sacrifices – to live as His holy priests, who offer Him acceptable sacrifices through Jesus Christ, all day, every day, in our various callings.

In the passages from Romans and 1 Peter, we hear several examples of Christian self-sacrifice: serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, showing mercy, living peaceably with others, submitting to governing authorities and those over us in the workplace, wives submitting to husbands, husbands honoring wives, showing compassion, and suffering patiently in doing good.

In all these things, and in all our other everyday activities, we sacrifice ourselves by using our time, not just for our own benefit, but also and especially for the well-being of others. Work time, school time, exercise time, study time, mealtime, chore time, recreation and relaxation time, even sleep time – it's all God's gift to us to use for purposes that please and honor Him.

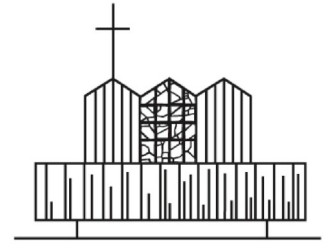
This challenges us to think about the way we spend our time, how we utilize our talents, and the way we spend our treasures. Whatever it is I'm doing, am I doing it "for the Lord"? (Col. 3:23) Am I presenting God a living sacrifice? Am I conducting myself as a holy priest, whose sacrifice is acceptable to God?

Because our Lord sacrificed Himself wholly for us, we offer ourselves wholly to Him as living sacrifices. This is following Jesus in self-sacrifice. By His saving mercy, yes, our sacrifice is acceptable to God. For the sake of Jesus' finished work, God is pleased with us.

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# JUNE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study via Zoom	1-Jun 7pm Pentecost Monday	2 7pm Pentecost Tuesday	3 7pm Zoom Bible Study	4	5	6
7 9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study via Zoom	8 7pm Elders Meeting	9 7pm Council Meeting	10 7pm Zoom Bible Study	11	12	13
14 9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study via Zoom	15	16 7pm Zoom Bible Study	17	18	19	20
<b>Father's Day</b> 21 9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study via Zoom	22	23 7pm Zoom Bible Study	24	25	26	27
28 9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study via Zoom Voters' Assembly Meeting (time TBD)	29	30	1-Jul 7pm Zoom Bible Study	2	3	4