

The Dove

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



**JUNE
2021**

Rev. Kyle Mietzner, Pastor

Lifted Up and Bowed Down

There are many advantages to being part of a church which uses a historic liturgical form of worship. The Lord gave the instructions for how to worship in Exodus 24-31, and these words were full of actions. These forms have certainly changed over the years, but the Lord remains the same. The faith that He gives to you is a tactile faith. There are things that you do which embody the faith. The Sacraments are given bodily; baptismal water is poured upon your head and Holy Communion placed into your mouth. Words of absolution are spoken into your ears and given with a blessing of touch. Even marriage is given with the stole wrapped around the husband and wife's hands newly clasped together. You do things with your body which both receive and reinforce the faith.

The sign of the cross is given to you in Holy Baptism, and you take this with you throughout your life. The Small Catechism instructs us to make the sign of the cross when we wake up and before we go to bed. Your hymnal has a little red + in the liturgy when you might make the sign of the cross.

If you grew up in the LCMS and are about my age or older, you probably weren't taught to do this in your childhood. I wasn't. It was only in my mid 20's that I began to make use of this ancient gift that was given me in my own baptism. I do not know the exact reason why this fell out of practice, but it did. I'm happy to see it being brought back. What a wonderful sign and defense against the devil!

There are other embodied gestures that we make, as well. A friend recently asked me what all the stuff up at the altar during the Lord's Supper means. The host and chalice are elevated, and the pastor might genuflect or bow. Everything teaches, so everything matters. Nothing is done in the Divine Service which does not have meaning. What does this particular action teach us? The body and blood of Christ are lifted up so that you might see the One who is lifted up to deliver you from your sins. Look upon Jesus Christ and receive eternal life. Quite simply, He is lifted up so that you can see Him and receive eternal life. This is also why the host and chalice are held up during the Pax Domini, when the pastor says "the peace of the Lord be with you always." This is the peace of the Lord, and you will receive it.

The celebrant, and whoever else would like, bows or kneels at the consecration of the Lord's Supper in recognition that the Lord of Lords and King of Kings has come among us. Every knee will bow at the Name of Jesus when He returns in glory, and He does so in a small way among us today. Our pews don't really allow for much kneeling, but acknowledging the presence of Christ with your body will help you believe what has been given. This all prepares us to receive this gift of life, fully realizing the miracle that has been given in front of our own eyes.

Everyone knows that actions have meaning. We place our hand over our heart to say the pledge or during the national anthem. A friendly wave or a handshake can mean so much to us. These sorts of actions in the church also have great significance. What other sorts of gestures or positions help you receive and reinforce the faith?

+Pastor Kyle Mietzner

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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

Birthdays

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



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.

Anniversaries

Darrell & Brigitte Lampert
6/7

Philip & Marilyn Freitag
6/29



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 Contacts

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



Congratulations to Rev. James Glowinski who was installed here at Zion as Assistant Pastor on Sunday, May 23rd. The installation service was well attended by Alaska District pastors, as well as LCMS NW District President Rev. Dr. Paul A. Linnemann. An outdoor barbeque dinner was held after the service.

AROUND ALASKA

KALEIDOSCOPE

A Six-Day Spiritual Growth & Learning Experience for Christian Youth

LaVerne Griffin Youth Camp

Wasilla, AK

July 18—23, 2021

Brochures/Applications available at Zion.



Lutheran Hour

Ministries Rally

With Dr. Michael Zeigler

Faith Lutheran Church, Homer, AK

Thursday, August 26, 2021

5pm Supper, 6:30pm Celebration Rally

More details to follow.

FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

Janet McCullough

zionlcmsmusic@yahoo.com

One of the conversations bouncing around the music world as we continue to emerge from COVID is – when is it time to return to in-person music groups? Singers and instrumentalists have attempted to maintain musical fellowships over the web, but everyone agrees that Zoom music just doesn't cut it. Not only does the musical result not satisfy, but the comradery of the group is absent when one is singing or playing alone facing a computer. This applies to everything that is normally congregate in nature, not only musical endeavors.

Several of you have asked regarding the plans for resumption of the adult choir here at Zion. As of this writing, we hope to begin choir rehearsals in the fall. Since I am new to the parish, I'd like some input from choir members – both past and potential – regarding the function and structure of an adult choir here. Please either write your answers on this page and return it to me at church, or email me with the answers by listing the numbers of the questions and your responses. I very much appreciate both your time and your consideration.

1. *What schedule would you prefer for rehearsal and worship participation?*
a. weekly_____ b. once a month_____ c. feast seasons/days only_____
2. *What day of the week is best for rehearsal?*
a. Wednesdays around the other scheduled church activities_____
b. Thursdays_____ c. Sundays following Sunday School_____
3. *What time of the day is best for rehearsal?*
a. 5 – 6:30pm_____ b. 7 – 8:30pm_____ c. mid-day/early afternoon_____
4. *How many years have you sung in choral groups?*
a. one to five_____ b. six to twenty_____ c. more than twenty_____
5. *What vocal part do you sing?*
a. bass_____ b. tenor_____ c. alto_____ d. soprano_____
6. *Do you play any instruments? If so, which ones and how many years have you played?*

7. *Is there anything else you'd like me to know as we plan the resumption of choir?*

8. *Your name* _____
email address _____ *phone number* _____



STEWARDSHIP

“There are three conversions necessary to every man: the head, the heart, and the purse.”
Attributed to Luther, though yet to be located in his vast writings, this statement echoes what Jesus taught about hearts and treasures. He said, “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Matthew 6:21; Luke 12:34)

But which conversion comes first? I submit that the order is this: first the head, then the purse, then the heart. Let’s explore this topic.

Our Lord Jesus Christ dwelt among us to save us. He took on our flesh, fulfilled the demands of the law in our place, became sin for us, and suffered torture and death on our behalf. He did this in order that we would be free from sin, death, and hell. He gives us what He accomplished through Baptism, Absolution, and the Lord’s Supper. And so, He doesn’t just do it for us but gives it to us. He makes what He did ours by making us His. Thus, we are called by His name: Christians. We have a new life in Him.

Through the preaching of Law and Gospel, God grants us repentance, a changing of our minds. It is a conversion of the mind. We are called to turn away from our sins and turn toward Him for forgiveness, life, and salvation. For when God calls us away from something, He is, at the same time, calling us to something.

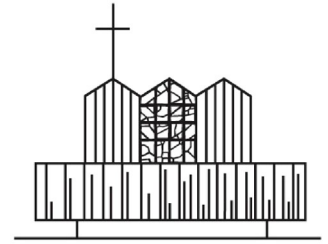
And thus, He calls us to a new life, with new deeds. This is the conversion of the purse. Jesus said that “it is easier for a camel to enter through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” (Matthew 19:24) “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Notice that our hearts follow our treasures, not the other way around. As Christians, God calls us to invest our treasures in His Kingdom to ensure that the gospel is preached and the sacraments are administered. He calls us to share all good things with the one who teaches us the doctrines of Christ. He calls us to be generous in giving to the church, for it is more blessed to give than to receive.

So where is your treasure? If it is not invested in the kingdom of God, then the only response is repentance – a conversion of the heart – and to begin doing just that. And as our Lord promised, where your treasure is there your heart will be also.

This is not to say that you earn your way into heaven. It is simply to say that as Christians, those who have been made to be temples of the Holy Spirit, who have been given a new life in Christ, who are dead to sin and now alive in Him, we are actually to live – think (conversion of the mind), do (conversion of the purse), and be (conversion of the heart) – a new life in Him. And when you fail, know that God in Christ loves and forgives you and still calls you away from that and to Himself.



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



JUNE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study & Sunday School	31	1-Jun 7:30pm Elders Meeting	2 7pm Bible Study	3	4	5
6 9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study & Sunday School	7	8 7pm Council Meeting	9 6:30pm Russian Jack Community Council Mtg 7pm Bible Study	10	11	12
13 9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study & Sunday School	14	15	16 7pm Bible Study	17	18	19
Father's Day 20 9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study & Sunday School	21	22	23 7pm Bible Study	24	25	26
27 9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study & Sunday School	28	29	30 7pm Bible Study	1-Jul	2	3