



God Does Not Hate You

“You have mercy on all, O Lord, and abhor nothing you have made. You look past the sins of men that they may repent. You spare them all because you are our Lord, our God.”

- Introit for Ash Wednesday

It is easy to think of God as angry. Plenty of art shows Jesus frowning at us. The Father is shown as a cranky old man with a huge beard, ready to shout “get off my lawn!” at all of us children who are just trying to have fun. Additionally, we might think that because we can’t really do what He’s given us to do, particularly in the Ten Commandments, that God must be perpetually angry at us, and even might hate us. And so, every year, on Ash Wednesday, we are reminded that the Lord despises nothing that He has made. Ashes are placed upon your forehead, and you are reminded of who you actually are. You are dust, and dust is created. The Lord does not hate the things that He has created. He does not hate you. God does not hate you.

So why do we feel so badly about God? That’s your sin. Your sin does not turn God against you, but it turns you against God. He does not hate you, but your sin causes you to hate Him. Adam and Eve hid themselves from the Lord after they’d realized what they’d done. The Lord did not initiate this hiddenness. He walked plainly in the cool of the garden! Yet, they hid. Their sin caused them to hide from the Lord. Their arrogance caused them to hate their Creator. And yet, the Lord did not hate them. The curses of Genesis 3 are not even so much given from the Lord, but are the consequence of man turning his back upon the Lord and His ways. What is the Lord’s solution to man’s sin? He will put enmity between the serpent and Eve’s Child. Eve’s child will crush the serpent’s head, putting an end to the rebellion of all mankind. In the promise given, the serpent’s ancient power is already stripped.

The next time you feel anger towards the Lord, ask yourself whether or not your particular affliction is a result of our general fallenness or your own sin, or of His anger and hatred. Our world can be a tremendous spiral of suffering, and much of it is brought on by our own bad behavior. Something that someone else does can cause immense pain and grief for you, even though you may have done nothing. That is how the world is. Yet, He still loves it. He does not hate the world. God does not hate you. Instead, He is redeeming the whole thing, and has done so in the death and resurrection of Jesus. God is love. Our repentance does not earn His favor or love, but rather returns us to where He has always been, waiting for all of His children to come home again.

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+Pastor Kyle Mietzner

CHURCH NOTES

Christian Education Opportunities

Children's Sunday School—Sundays @ 11am
 Adult Bible Study—Sundays @ 11am
 Wednesday study resumes after Easter
 Women's Study—Mondays 10-11:30am and
 Thursdays 6:30-8pm
 Men's Study—Date & Location TBD
 Youth Catechesis— Tuesdays @ 4pm

Birthdays

Sarah Mills	3/8
Anika Wabrowetz	3/19
Martha Wabrowetz	3/26
William Lampert	3/28
Tami Castleberry	3/29



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

Adam & Martha Wabrowetz
 3/17



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

The Season of Lent

Wednesday Evening Prayer will take place at 7pm.

Sundays always begin at 9am with Matins, and 9:30 for the Divine Service.

February 29	Ash Wednesday
March 1	Invocabit Sunday
March 4	Noon Eucharist and Evening Prayer
March 8	Reminiscere Sunday
March 11	Noon Eucharist and Evening Prayer
March 15	Oculi Sunday
March 18	Noon Eucharist and Evening Prayer
March 22	Laetare Sunday
March 25	<i>Annunciation of Our Lord</i> Noon Eucharist and Evening Prayer
March 29	Judica Sunday
April 1	Noon Eucharist and Evening Prayer
April 5	Palm Sunday

Holy Week	
April 6	Noon Eucharist
April 7	Noon Eucharist
April 8	Noon Eucharist
April 9	Maundy Thursday
April 10	Good Friday Noon Chief Service Tenebrae Vespers
April 11	The Great Vigil of the Resurrection





Zion Lutheran Preschool

Ash Wednesday is said to be a day of repentance for the things done wrong. In Psalm 51, David confesses his sin that he had covered up committing adultery with Bathsheba. He speaks of accepting responsibility for the sin, and asks God for mercy and forgiveness of his sins. "Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge".

David puts everything out in the open and asks God for a clean heart. "Create in me a pure heart, O God and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me". Psalm 51:10-12

Sweeping things under a rug isn't going to magically have them go away. When you go to God and ask for forgiveness and mercy, he will restore you and put you back on the right path. David is transformed by God's forgiveness, thus leading him to teach others about mercy. He then went on to do great things. Why not you?

Gloria Vuocolo



STEWARDSHIP

We are at the beginning of Lent. During the Lenten season, the church calls to our attention the sufficiency of what God gives. It points to the sufficiency of God's grace in the atoning work of Jesus. It shows us the sufficiency of faith in Jesus' work for us. It makes known the sufficiency of God's Word in faith and life.

But Lent doesn't just remind us of the sufficiency of God's spiritual gifts, the gifts that pertain to our redemption and salvation. Lent also reminds us of the sufficiency of the physical, temporal gifts of God, those that pertain to this body and life. In other words, it reminds us of the importance of godly contentment and of outward discipline and training of the body.

This outward training of the body teaches us not to give in to every desire of our flesh but to learn to say no to them. And it does this in such a way that if you fail, it is no sin. It is a way to practice without putting yourself into a compromising situation.

The easiest example of this is fasting. When you fast, you are practicing saying no to the desires of your body. But if you fail in this, if you break your fast, you have not sinned. You have, though, learned something about how your flesh works, how difficult it is to fight against it, and how you need help from above in order to do it.

There is another example of this. It is alms-giving. This is an increase in giving to the church and its mission during this time. We all know that our flesh finds security in money and stuff. By committing to give more to the church, you are training your flesh. You are, by this outward discipline, training yourself to be content with what God gives. You are practicing saying "no" to your desires. Again, if you fail, you have not sinned. But you've learned just how powerful your flesh is in leading you instead of you leading it. You've learned how you need help from above in being content with what God gives.

This is why St. Paul instructs young Pastor Timothy in this way:

"But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs." (1 Tim 6:6–10)

Our sufficiency is not of ourselves; it is in God. Let us learn this without sin by training our flesh this Lenten season.

lcms.org

Lutheran Social Services of Alaska

The Food Pantry continues to serve many new households each month. New changes to SNAP (Food Stamps) is cutting benefits to some households this the needs to find help in the local food pantries. We find our shelves especially empty of cereals, canned fruits, oatmeal, chili and soups- especially Ramen- at this time. But any food items donated are greatly appreciated.

Have you been looking for an opportunity to volunteer? We need volunteers to help shop with clients in the Food Pantry on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 12:45pm to 4:15pm and Wednesdays from 3:45pm to 7:15pm. There are also opportunities at our Mobile Food Pantry on Tuesdays at Lutheran Church of Hope from 4:30pm to 6:00pm. If interested, please let us know.

Lent is starting soon, and that means it is time for us to think about Easter Baskets. It has become a tradition at the LSSA Food Pantry that we distribute Easter Baskets to children of our clients. Last year, we distributed over 800 baskets that included sweets, a small toy and a story or activity book telling the Easter story. Thank you for your continued support of this project. We will begin distribution on March 17th.

Many thanks to Lou Creager, a member of Central Lutheran, for volunteering his time and skills to help clients with automobile problems. Lou came to us with this desire to help people with car troubles, and could we refer names to him. Our first case for Lou was from the Child in Transition Program of the Anchorage School District - a working mom whose father wasn't able to get her son to special classes because his vehicle wasn't working. We hear from CIT that this young student hasn't missed a day since Lou replaced a fuel shut off switch that cost \$59.00. So we now have a list of vehicles needing fixing, and Lou is looking for anyone that would be able to help. If interested, please let us know and we will get you in touch with Lou. Also, many thanks to those who have donated financial help for auto parts.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to LSSA through the Pick.Click.Give. campaign on the Alaska PFD application. If you haven't completed your 2020 PFD application, remember you have until March 31st to apply, and please consider making a donation to LSSA.

Planning for the 2020 Harvest of Hope Auction is underway, and if you would like to be a part of the committee, please let me know. The event is scheduled for Friday, September 18th at the Sheraton Anchorage beginning at 6pm. Presently, we are working to secure silent and live auction items. So if you have anything to donate, please drop it off at the LSSA office.

Together Caring for Others,

Alan Budahl, Executive Director
Lutheran Social Services of Alaska
1303 W. 33rd Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99503
907-272-0643



Save the Date!

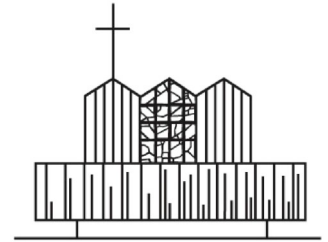
2020 LWML Joy Shop
“Alive in Christ”

Saturday, April 25th

Star of the North LCMS
216 N. Forest Drive
Kenai, AK



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



MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1-Mar 9am Matins Service 9:30am Divine Service 11am Sunday School & Bible Study	2 10am Women's Study	3 10am Prayers & Squares 4pm Youth Catechesis 6pm Pioneer Home Christian Fellowship	4 12pm Noon Eucharist 6pm Lenten Potluck 7pm Lenten Service 8pm Choir	5 6:30pm Women's Study	6	7
8 7:45am Elders Meeting 9am Matins Service 9:30am Divine Service 11am Sunday School & Bible Study	9 Pastor on Vacation	10 10am Prayers & Squares 7pm Council Meeting	11 12pm Noon Eucharist 6pm Lenten Potluck 7pm Lenten Service 7:30pm Choir	12	13 10am Helping Hands Meal Prep	14
15 Pastor on Vacation	16	17 10am Prayers & Squares	18 12pm Noon Eucharist 6pm Lenten Potluck 7pm Lenten Service 7:30pm Choir	19	20	21
22 9am Matins Service 9:30am Divine Service 11am Sunday School & Bible Study	23 10am Women's Study	24 10am Prayers & Squares 4pm Youth Catechesis	25 12pm Noon Eucharist 6pm Lenten Potluck 7pm Lenten Service 8pm Choir	26 6:30pm Women's Study	27	28
29 Member recognition 9am Matins Service 9:30am Divine Service 11am Sunday School & Bible Study	30 10am Women's Study	31 10am Prayers & Squares 4pm Youth Catechesis	1-Apr	2	3	4