

The Dove

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



MARCH
2021

Rev. Kyle Mietzner, Pastor

Sincerity and Truth

*It is truly meet right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth.
-Proper Preface for Lent*

I find it increasingly difficult to discern any sincerity or truth these days. Who is sincere and what is true? Are these extreme measures doing any good? Is it worth it? Does it make any difference to wear a mask or not? How many masks should I wear? How deadly is this virus? If relief is really needed, why are they spending months and months getting it passed? A cryptocurrency that was created as a joke among friends increased in value by some 1,430% in the past month. What is truth? Is truth simply true because I believe it?

The Lenten proper preface, a part of the Service of the Sacrament, has a tantalizing phrase about sincerity and truth. What does that mean? Taken from 1 Corinthians 5, we use it in relation to how we celebrate the Passover of Christ. He has passed from death to life. He is our Passover lamb who is sacrificed for the sins of the world, and your sin is taken away and put upon Him. He was slaughtered for us, and is raised from the dead for us. His blood has saved you from death and given you an exodus to new life. This is what we celebrate, not only on the day of Easter, but every Lord's Day, and indeed, it is our lifelong celebration.

Are you celebrating in sincerity and truth or are you lying to yourself? I can only judge based on your confession. I do not know your heart. I wonder whether or not to continue broadcasting our services, or if that is encouraging bad habits that will stick beyond the COVID era. We do not want this temporary substitute to become the permanent pattern of worship. You need your brothers and sisters in Christ, and they need you. Know that I assume that you sincerely and truly are being cautious. I'm required to do so by the 8th Commandment!

This month will mark a whole year since I first closed you out of your church. Some of you have not been back since then. Some of you have only feasted on Christ through the hearing of the Word. Be honest with yourself about this. You are free in Christ to be sincere and truthful. For those of you who have not been out of your house for a year and who long to come back to church, keep the faith and do not lose heart! For those of you who have been everywhere else but church, be honest with yourself about this. Don't lie to yourself or anyone else about this. We take this seriously at Zion, and provide a safe environment to receive the Word and Sacraments until this plague has been taken from us.

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On the other hand, many of you came back as soon as I would let you in the building, and have not missed anything. Christ has continued to nurture our church this whole time through marriage, baptism, confirmation, catechesis, education, liturgy, communion, and the Word. Don't give up. Times are tough, and they may not ever get any better. Christ is still the Lord of the universe and He has conquered on your behalf. This is what we celebrate throughout our Christian life. Do it all in sincerity and truth. Christ is risen.

+Pastor Kyle Mietzner

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CHURCH NOTES

Christian Education Opportunities

Children's Sunday School—Sundays @ 11am
 Adult Bible Study—Sundays @ 11am
 Women's Study — Tuesdays @ 11am & 6pm
 (select dates—see calendar for schedule)
 Youth Catechesis—Wednesdays @ 4pm via Zoom

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.

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 Keys

We recently changed the exterior locks on the church building. If you have an old key, you should toss it out.

Birthdays

Sarah Mills	3/8
James Glowinski	3/14
Augustine Glowinski	3/16
Anika Wabrowetz	3/19
Martha Wabrowetz	3/26
William Lampert	3/28
Tami Castleberry	3/29



Anniversaries

Adam & Martha Wabrowetz
 3/17



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.
 Sunday worship is 9:30am for the Divine Service.

February 17	Ash Wednesday
February 21	Invocabit Sunday
February 24	Noon Eucharist and Evening Prayer
February 28	Reminiscere Sunday
March 3	Evening Prayer
March 7	Oculi Sunday
March 10	Evening Prayer
March 14	Laetare Sunday
March 17	Noon Eucharist and Evening Prayer
March 21	Judica Sunday
March 24	Noon Eucharist and Evening Prayer
March 28	Palm Sunday

Holy Week	
March 29	Noon Eucharist
March 30	Noon Eucharist
March 31	Noon Eucharist
April 1	Maundy Thursday
April 2	Good Friday Noon Chief Service
	Tenebrae Vespers
April 3	The Great Vigil of the Resurrection



STEWARDSHIP

Hudson Taylor, a Nineteenth Century British missionary to China, is reported to have said, “God’s work, done in God’s way, will not lack God’s supply.” To know God’s way, we need to know His Holy Word. Or to say it another way: you need to know your Bible.

St. Paul, before he spends two chapters on giving, wrote that every thought is to be taken captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor 10:5). Doctrine matters. And doctrine matters because the Scriptures matter. And the Scriptures matter because this is where we learn the teaching of Christ. Our thoughts must be brought into line with the teaching of Scripture so that our work is what God wants done and so that we do this work in His way.

A good tree bears good fruit. A bad tree bears bad fruit. We have been made good trees in holy baptism. We are fertilized and pruned for bearing good fruit by constantly hearing God’s Word preached and taught in sermon and Bible Class and in receiving the life-giving, faith-sustaining food of the Lord’s Supper. Remember your doctrine, hold on to the Lord’s teaching, and your thoughts will be taken captive to the obedience of Christ.

Bringing every thought captive to the obedience of Christ is recognizing that God does provide. The Lord’s Prayer teaches us to pray for daily bread. Praying this day in and day out reminds us that the Lord is the giver of our daily bread, and that we are to give thanks for His daily provision of it. God is rarely early and never late in His work, as Abraham learned on the mount of the Lord, it will be provided. The Lord’s generosity forms our generosity in return.

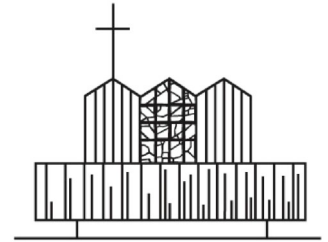
Thus, we set aside for the work of God a generous, first-fruits, proportion of the daily bread that God has given to us. This act of trust in the Lord’s provision is the working out of our faith in Him. When budgetary discussions pop up, our natural reaction is to point fingers. But remember your doctrine, and what your mother taught about pointing fingers. Our first natural reaction is not always right. In fact, when our thoughts are brought into captivity of Christ, our first reaction should be repentance. It should raise questions in our own lives. As good trees in Christ who are to bear good fruit, we should ask whether our thoughts have been taken captive by obedience to Christ. Have we given generously? Have we given our first-fruits? You know. And God knows. “For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him” (2 Chron 16:9).

God will provide. He always has and He always will. He gives His meat in due season. He has not left you as orphans but has grafted you into His own family. You belong to Him. Remember this, letting this thought dwell in you richly. And you will then be rich toward others.

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MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study & Sunday School	1-Mar	2	3 4pm Youth Catechesis via Zoom 7pm Lenten Service	4	5	6
Pastor on Vacation ----- Sue on Vacation -----						
7 9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study & Sunday School	8	9 7pm Council Meeting	10 4pm Youth Catechesis via Zoom 7pm Lenten Service	11	12	13
Pastor on Vacation ----- Sue on Vacation -----						
14 9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study & Sunday School	15 Sue back in office	16 11am Women's Study 6pm Women's Study	17 12pm Noon Eucharist 4pm Youth Catechesis via Zoom 7pm Lenten Service	18	19	20 10am Altar Guild Training
21 9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study & Sunday School	22	23 11am Women's Study 6pm Women's Study	24 12pm Noon Eucharist 4pm Youth Catechesis via Zoom 7pm Lenten Service	25	26	27 10am Acolyte Training
Palm Sunday 28 9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study & Sunday School	29 12pm Holy Monday Divine Service	30 12pm Holy Tuesday Divine Service	31 12pm Holy Wednesday Divine Service	1-Apr 7pm Maundy Thursday Service	2 12pm Good Friday Chief Service 7pm Tenebrae Vespers	3 7pm Easter Vigil w/ 1st Communion