

# The Dove

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



**MAY  
2021**

Rev. Kyle Mietzner, Pastor

## Prayer Might Work

“If frequent troubles drive us to frequent prayer, surely we will taste and see how gracious the Lord is.”  
- Bernard of Clairvaux

My dad is still alive. The odds were against him. Most of you know that he was diagnosed with an extremely rare blood cancer a few years ago. There'd only been a few known cases of it, and it was discovered only after the individual had died. I was not optimistic, and figured that I was about to join the ranks of the fatherless. But, he's still alive. Not only is he alive, he is thriving. The cancer has come back a few times, and he's had some other problems with it, but has recently had very good test/scan results. He attributes his continued survival to prayer.

Doctors help, of course. The Lord normally takes care of us through the hands of other humans who have callings and skills. One of the things I love about being Lutheran is that everything is objective. If you want to know whether or not you are saved, all you need to do is look to what the Lord has done to you. Baptism. Absolution. Communion. There is no doubt. Christ has united Himself to you, and this was all His own doing. I've done nothing to earn it. His word stands eternal.

I probably should trust that this same Lord who called me by the Gospel, and urges me to pray, might actually be listening, and might also be interested in answering my prayers. Indeed, I can look throughout my whole life and see a continual strain of answered prayers, such as my dad's unlikely survival. I've prayed for all of you too, and seen particular situations which have been remedied by nothing more than the Lord's grace. It is frightening to imagine a world without prayer!

But what about prayers that seem to be unanswered, or even rejected? We sometimes do not know what is best for us. You can be certain that the Lord loves you, in light of what He has done for you, and that He will not do anything that is bad for you. He will always give you what you ask for, or something better for you. Seen in the light of the cross, this too can be a frightening idea. Jesus' life did not end at the cross, but was rekindled in the tomb, early in the morning, before anyone thought to check on Him. Your cross is Jesus' cross. His resurrection is your resurrection. The things that we see as afflictions may be so, but they will also lead to your resurrection.

This is why the church has always celebrated the martyrs. These men and women were faithful, even to the point of death, confident that what the Lord has for them is better than anything they would earn if they denied Him to save their life. We will all suffer, and it may seem that our prayers have been ignored. Do not forget the prayers that have been answered as you have asked! The Lord will not cast you off and leave you as orphans. You are His. He loves you. My dad is still alive. Thank you for your prayers.

+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

## 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

Sam Erickson	5/3
Matthew Mills	5/7
Keagan Wisroth	5/7
Christina Lanz	5/9
Jillian Erickson	5/10
Agnes Mietzner	5/12
Zachary Davila	5/14
Georgia Glowinski	5/15
Tristan Wisroth	5/27
Stephanie Anderson	5/31



## Anniversaries

Gene & Richard Murphy	5/16
Susan & Al Lively	5/22
Brooke & Craig Hartman	5/29



## Church Contacts

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

## Spring Voters Assembly Meeting — Rescheduled —

**Update:** Zion's spring voters meeting originally scheduled for Sunday, April 18th will now be held Sunday, May 2nd at 12pm here at the church.

The nominating committee is currently seeking candidates for the council positions of Recording Secretary, as well as Elders.

**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

During the Sundays of Easter, we have been hearing variations on the *Te Deum* as postlude. The *Te Deum* is one of the early praise hymns of the church and has been used as the basis of vocal and instrumental compositions for centuries. The medieval church credited the work to St. Ambrose and St. Augustine on the occasion of the latter's baptism. The latest scholarship, however, agrees that the *Te Deum* was written by an unknown author prior to the middle of the 4<sup>th</sup> century and used in the Easter Vigil Mass, replacing the Preface, the Sanctus and the prayer immediately following the Sanctus. The *Te Deum* as we know it today is a work of several centuries and compilers, incorporating sections of the Mass, doxologies, prayer petitions and psalm verses. In various periods of history, it has been sung during Matins on Sundays and feast days, as a processional for celebratory liturgies and as a song of thanksgiving.

The original text of the *Te Deum* consists of 29 verses, (or 30, depending on the numbering of the last verse.) Three contemporary settings of the *Te Deum* can be found at LSB #s 939, 940 and 941. The Sunday of the church year most often associated with the *Te Deum* is Holy Trinity Sunday. Martin Luther's *Te Deum* setting, *Herr Gott, dich loben wir*, is, most unfortunately, not often included in contemporary hymnals.

The postlude selections for the Sundays of Easter began April 11 with sections of the earliest organ accompaniment of the *Te Deum* known to us, found in *The D'Attaignant Collection*, a 15<sup>th</sup> century, (perhaps early 16<sup>th</sup> century), organ book. Pierre D'Attaignant was the first French citizen to print music using movable type. April 18 featured an organ arrangement of the prelude to a *Te Deum* for choir by the French composer, Marc-Antoine Charpentier, (1634 – 1704). April 25 we heard my organ arrangement of the first section of Handel's, (1685 – 1759), *Dettingen Te Deum*, which he wrote to celebrate a military victory. May 2 features a *Te Deum* composed for organ by the Czech composer, Václav Nelhýbel, (1919 – 1996). May 9 we sing the *Te Deum* hymn, *Holy God, We Praise Thy Name*, as recessional, then hear an organ arrangement of that tune by Heinrich Fleischer, (1912 – 2006), who was an organ professor at Valparaiso for many years.

HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED, ALLELUIA!



# STEWARDSHIP

St. Paul teaches us: “Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches” (Gal. 6:6). And again, he says: “Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:13–14). In other words, ministers of the Gospel are supported by the offerings of those who are served by them.

And this is how the church lives even now. It is standard practice. But this deserves closer examination. For it instructs us not just *that* we are to give but also *what* we are to give. And it does so with four little words: “In the same way ...”

St. Paul is building his case for supporting the preachers of the Gospel with the sacrificial giving of individual members on the example of the Old Testament people who supported the Levites with their offerings and sacrifices. We’re to support the Gospel ministry “in the same way.” But how did the Old Testament people support the Levites?

Moses records this: “You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always” (Deut. 14:22–23). The Levites were supported by the tithe, 10 percent of all the yearly yield of that which was harvested.

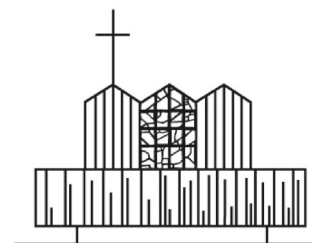
Does that seem like a lot? Does it surprise you that St. Paul instructs us that we are to support the New Testament Gospel ministry “in the same way?” If it does, ask yourself: Is the church’s job in the New Testament bigger or smaller than the Levites’ job in the Old Testament? Back then, there was one Temple, and the ministry was almost exclusively located in one nation among the descendants of Abraham. In Matthew 28, Jesus calls us to teach and baptize all nations, and there are churches and ministries all around the world! How could we support this new Gospel ministry with anything less than the Israelites supported the Old Testament ministry?

Of course, we are free to give more, for we have received more than those in the Old Testament. We have received the fullness of God’s revelation, the fullness of His salvation, and the fulfillment of everything that God promised to do. For we have received Christ, God’s own Son, in the flesh, who took upon himself our sins and in exchange gave us his righteousness. The Father claimed us as his own in Holy Baptism. He gathers us together in the place where his name dwells to feast on the first fruits of the resurrection, the risen and living body and blood of His Son – our Lord Jesus. He reminds us that we are His, that all things are ours because we belong to Him. He blesses us here in time with physical and spiritual gifts.

In the same way – and in response to His fatherly divine goodness and mercy – we gladly give to those who proclaim to us “the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness and into his marvelous light.” For once we were not a people, but now we are God’s people; once we had not received mercy, but now we have indeed (1 Peter 2:9–10).



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# MAY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>25</b> 9:30am Divine Service  11am Bible Study & Sunday School	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 11am Women's Study  6:30pm Women's Study	<b>28</b> 4pm Youth Catechesis-at church  7pm Bible Study	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1-May</b> 10am New Members Class
<b>2</b> 9:30am Divine Service  11am Bible Study & Sunday School  12pm Voters Meeting	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 11am Women's Study  6:30pm Women's Study  7:30pm Elders' Meeting	<b>5</b> 4pm Youth Catechesis-at church  7pm Bible Study	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 10am New Members Class
<b>9</b> 9:30am Divine Service  11am Bible Study & Sunday School	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 11am Women's Study  6:30pm Women's Study  7pm Council Meeting	<b>12</b> 4pm Youth Catechesis-at church  6:30pm Russian Jack Community Council Mtg  7pm Bible Study	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 10am New Members Class
<b>16</b> 9:30am Divine Service  11am Bible Study & Sunday School	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 11am Women's Study  6:30pm Women's Study	<b>19</b> 4pm Youth Catechesis-at church  7pm Bible Study	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>PENTECOST EVE 22</b> 10am New Members Class  7pm Vigil of Pentecost Service
<b>PENTECOST 23</b> 9:30am Divine Service  11am Bible Study & Sunday School	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 11am Women's Study  6:30pm Women's Study	<b>26</b> 4pm Youth Catechesis-at church  7pm Bible Study	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 10am New Members Class
<b>30</b> 9:30am Divine Service  11am Bible Study & Sunday School	<b>MEMORIAL DAY 31</b>	<b>1-Jun</b> 7:30pm Elders' Meeting	<b>2</b> 4pm Youth Catechesis-at church  7pm Bible Study	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 10am New Members Class