

# The Dove

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



NOVEMBER  
2020

Rev. Kyle Mietzner, Pastor

## The Perfect Church

We recently began a study of the Book of Revelation. People are interested in this book because it seems mysterious, and it still speaks to us today in a way that others might not. The book is also open to wide interpretation, which makes it kind of fun. It has dragons, plagues, fire, horsemen, and all sorts of chaos. What's not to like?

The Revelation starts out with seven letters to seven churches in Asia Minor. It is worth noting that none of these churches exist today. They were destroyed and dispersed long ago. Zion will not last forever either, yet the Church of Christ will not, and cannot, die. Jesus, through St. John, writes these letters, giving thanks for their faithfulness, and also rebuking them when needed. These seven churches all have significant flaws, even though they also have incredible strengths. There is no perfect church, not even in the time of the apostles. There has never been a perfect church. Zion is not a perfect church. In fact, one of the devil's great temptations is to make you think that there is a more perfect church out there, but you just haven't found it.

There are no perfect churches, because there are no perfect people. Every single one of us has things worth praising and things worth rebuking. You are *simul justus et peccator*! You are at the same time a saint and sinner. So it goes with these churches. Yet, Christ dwells in and among them, patrolling about them as a protector. That is how it will be for Zion, too. With all of our weird flaws and great faithfulness, Christ is here with us. He does not abandon the church, but sticks with her.

Why doesn't Jesus just run away from the church? Because the church is His bride. He's pledged Himself to the church. Sure, we deserve to be forsaken. Who among us actually deserves love? We've all sinned in thought, word, and deed, in ways that should have us completely alone and unloved, but here we are, surrounded by other people who are also loved unconditionally. That's the thing about true love; it is unearned and unconditional. It doesn't even really make sense! This is not a perfect church, just as you are not a perfect husband, wife, daughter, or son. Yet, you are loved, and your imperfections will be turned into beauty. Jesus does not leave, even though we are not perfect.

I recently found a booklet from 1976 detailing all the Lutheran congregations in Alaska. Zion had 658 members at the time. In fact, most of the churches around the state were about six to ten times larger than they are now. What happened? I do not know. It can certainly be discouraging though. Every church has shrunk in almost unbelievable numbers. But then I read about these seven churches in the Revelation, and see ourselves in them. What does the future hold? You can either hold fast to what you've been given, or forget about it and find something else. One thing is for sure though, Christ does not leave His church. He hasn't, and He will not. In fact, He will return and be with us again, when the church witnesses, and takes part in, the resurrection. And on that day, and only on that day, will we finally find our perfect church with perfect people.

Imperfectly yours,  
+Pastor Kyle Mietzner

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# CHURCH NOTES . . . . .

## Christian Education Opportunities

*Our schedules are changing constantly due to Covid.  
Check for updates in the bulletin, during  
announcements and in weekly emails.*

Children's Sunday School—on hold

Adult Bible Study—Sundays @ 11am  
—Wednesdays @ 7pm via Zoom

Women's Study—Tuesdays @ 11am and 6:30pm

Youth Catechesis—on hold

## 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.

## 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

Irene Mietzner	11/2
LaTanya Wateland	11/5
Christian Dickerson	11/8
Lillian Anderson	11/12
Darlene Bonar	11/18
Ron Breiler	11/18
Lynn Transue	11/19
Liam McBride	11/20
Ember Rawlins	11/21
Janet McCullough	11/27



## Anniversaries

Rev. Kyle & Ellee Mietzner	11/24
Christopher & LaTanya Wateland	11/24



## 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/>. There is an order of service PDF for each service posted on our website, [ZionAnchorage.org](http://ZionAnchorage.org). You will need a Lutheran Service Book for hymns and liturgy.

## *Letter from the Executive Director*

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### **We Are Called**

In Luther's Works on 1st Timothy he writes "It is the intention of Paul that we should be rich in the Word of God, because our adversary, the devil, prowls around. Therefore it is not only pleasing to God but also necessary for us that we abide in the Word of God, and we have no other weapons. Lest we become lazy, then, we want to devote ourselves to our food, and while we have the light, we want to give attention to the light; because the time will come when we would be glad to study if we could."

As our church's Executive Director, I'm called to help ensure our church is here and always available to provide our members true Word and Sacrament. Apart from this there is no greater purpose for what we do at Zion Lutheran Church. As the devil continues to prowl, we are continuously under attack and therefore I encourage you to spend more time with us in the service of our Lord, in His house. The Lord's house is our safe haven and place of peace. The Lord's house is here for us and a gift from our Lord. God calls us to him and each Sunday we are present with him.

I was encouraged by a good friend recently to stay in the word daily with my family. It was very helpful to hear it and have that reminder from him. In the same way I encourage you to read daily, pray often and attend church when you're able. The blessings we receive in Christ will always be our greatest gift.

Adam Wabrowetz  
Executive Director

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### **Fall Voters' Meeting**

Our annual fall voters' meeting will be held on Sunday, November 15th at noon. We are still not holding potluck meals, but you are welcome to bring your own lunch or snack.

# STEWARDSHIP

Our Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son's blood, His death for our sins, and His resurrection for our justification, God the Father has received us back into His family. By water – combined with His Word, promise, and Name – the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us. We belong to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is in us, and we are in Him. And, being in Him, all things are ours. In Him, we are richly and abundantly blessed.

Our true treasure is that we belong to the most Holy Trinity, and everything that is His – righteousness, peace, eternal life – also belongs to us. Even our temporal treasures are gifts from His fatherly divine goodness and mercy.

We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as good stewards of His varied grace, we manage them in such a way that they may be returned to Him. We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving and God's holy Word, as a sacrifice.

Thus, all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also sacrifices to Him. We eat to nourish our bodies. We share with our family, neighbors, fellow Christians, the poor, and even our enemies as holy things given by the holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and they bring blessings upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom.

Thus, we place all that we have into God's hands, and He never fails to remember us. He pours out the fullness of His promises upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing, and will continue to do. We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but, giving to all even as our heavenly Father has given to us.

As we prepare for the celebrations of Thanksgiving, may we all give thanks continually for all that we are and all that we have because of God's providential care. And may we be all the more diligent in bringing everything that we have received from God to Him, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all – even for us. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance.

*lcms.org*

## LSSA Thanksgiving Blessing

Lutheran Social Services Alaska annually provides Thanksgiving dinner to many, many area families. We can help them by bringing donations of the following food items:

**250 cans of green beans**

**200 cans of corn**

**100 boxes of stuffing mix**

We have not yet received an official request from LSSA, so these numbers are based on last year. Please leave your donations in the narthex no later than Sunday morning, **November 22nd**, when LSSA should be here to collect.

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On December 1, people all over the world will come together and harness the power of human connection to change our world. Will you join us in focusing this change on Jesus?

Alaska Mission for Christ will be participating in GivingTuesday 2020, and we need YOUR help!

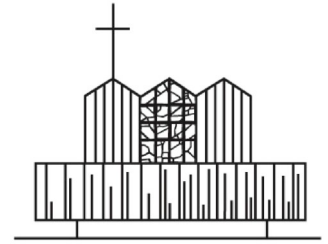
Here's how you can get ready to help:

1. **Mark your calendar.** GivingTuesday is December 1, 2020. Keep an eye on your inbox for more details as the day gets closer!
2. **Give.** On December 1, we will be kicking off a special campaign to amplify the spread of the Good News of Jesus throughout Alaska! You can also support the mission by praying for our staff, board of directors, and souls we serve.

**Spread the word!** Encourage friends, family, and colleagues to join you. Share on social media what our mission means to you. Use the special hashtag **#alaska4Jesus** so we can harness the power of social media and connection to help share your story of radical generosity!



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# NOVEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1-Nov</b> 9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 11am Women's Study 6:30pm Women's Study 7pm Elders' Meeting	<b>4</b> 7pm Bible Study via Zoom	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 11am Women's Study 6:30pm Women's Study 7pm Council Meeting	<b>11</b> 7pm Bible Study via Zoom	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study 12pm Voters' Meeting	<b>16</b> 7pm Mom's Night (TBD)	<b>17</b> 11am Women's Study 6:30pm Women's Study	<b>18</b> 7pm Bible Study via Zoom	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 11am Women's Study 6:30pm Women's Study	<b>25</b> 7pm Bible Study via Zoom	<b>26</b> Thanksgiving Day	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study	<b>30</b>	<b>1-Dec</b> 11am Women's Study 6:30pm Women's Study 7pm Elders' Meeting	<b>2</b> 7pm Advent Service	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>