

The Dove

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



OCTOBER
2021

Rev. Kyle Mietzner, Pastor

“When Christians engage in the practices of hospitality and Sabbath keeping, singing and forgiveness, simplicity and fasting, they are engaging in a way of life that is formative and constitutive of Christian discipleship.” - James K.A. Smith

The primary act of worship in this church is called the Divine Service. It is called this because this is where, and when, God serves you. Many Christians think of worship as an act of appeasing God or sending our prayers up to Him. Some are taught that going to church is an act of our service for God or that it somehow accrues points which we can redeem when we die so we get to go to heaven... or something like that. You come to church to be served by God. This is His will. He is most pleased with you when you delight in receiving His gifts of Word and Sacrament. This is how He calls, gathers, and enlightens you, the church.

Philosopher James K.A. Smith has made a career of talking and teaching about how worship forms Christians. His main idea is that Christian worship is a pedagogical practice that trains our love. Through Christian worship, you are formed to love the things that God loves. Think about it, if the Divine Service has no bearing on the rest of your life, what good is it? Spending an hour with fellow Christians, in the Name of the Lord, being surrounded and filled with the Word coming into your ears, and flowing from your singing and confessing mouths, being given into your hands and lips, rejoicing in the forgiveness of all sins has to change you. You can reject it and go back to your cold and selfish life, or you can continue what has been done to you in the Divine Service by the Lord God Himself.

If you love the things that God loves, what will you love? You will love forgiveness, both your own and that which you give. You will love generosity. You will love beauty. You will love community. You will love love. You must face the truth that God is forming you. This is called “sanctification.” He shapes you into who He wants you to be. He puts all sorts of people in your life to bring you into increased holiness. Children and spouses, friends and coworkers all are gifts of the Lord. This church is a gift from God to you. Tend it well.

I know that this is a challenge for many of you. How often do I forget what has happened to us on Sunday mornings? How often do you forget that the person behind you has also been forgiven, and that this has not worn off or expired? How often do you forget that this forgiveness and joy has been given to you? This is why you come back. We forget so quickly! This promise is for you and your children, and those who are near and those who are far off. Come and receive the great gifts of God, in this, His great Divine Service. Do this, in remembrance of Him. Come, follow Jesus. Be a disciple.

IN THIS EDITION

Pastor's Letter	1
Church Notes	2
Alaska Mission for Christ	2
From the Music Director	3
Stewardship	4
LSSA	5
Calendar	6

+Pastor Kyle Mietzner

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CHURCH NOTES

Christian Education Opportunities

Children's Sunday School—Sundays @ 11am
Adult Bible Study—Sundays @ 11am
Wednesdays @ 6pm

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.

Birthdays

Nora Wateland	10/10
Erik McBride	10/13
Gene Murphy	10/18
Jacque Dickerson	10/24
Logan Wilkens	10/28
Steven Randel	10/31



Anniversaries

Casey & Pedro Davila	10/7
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Church Contacts

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PRAY FOR GUIDANCE

as all ministry partners continue to abide in our 2021 theme:
Follow His Lead!



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Join us in praying for guidance as all ministry partners continue to abide in our 2021 theme:
Follow His Lead!

Isaiah 63:14: "So you led your people, to make for yourself a glorious name."

For more information about the ministry and how you can be a part of God's work in Alaska, please visit our website at www.alaskamissionforchrist.org.

FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

Janet McCullough

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As mentioned here last month, we will be singing Martin Luther's Catechism hymns in a type of "Hymn of the Month" feature this year, following the order of the Small Catechism which can be found at page 321 in the front of LSB. We begin this month with #581 – *These Are the Holy Ten Commands*. The following information on this hymn comes primarily from volume one of the *LSB Companion to the Hymns*.

Luther published his hymn on the Ten Commandments in 1524, prior to the 1529 completion of his two Catechisms. There is some evidence that the hymn was first published in a circulating pamphlet, not a hymn book. The hymn's first recorded use was during Lent of 1525. The text consists of 12 stanzas – an introduction, followed by the individual commandments, finishing with summary verses that include a prayer for God's mercy as we attempt to obey His Law. In each of the verses dealing directly with a commandment, Luther gives not only the "Thou shalt not" edict, but also includes positive approaches a Christian should adopt in keeping the commandment. Luther often included a *Kyrie eleison*, (Have mercy, Lord), especially when the subject matter was our struggle to live earthly lives in accord with God's Holy Law, (i.e. – #s 617 & 758.)

Luther was very aware of the impact of melody on a person's memorization of text. In addition to composing original tunes, he excelled in the art of arranging and re-purposing already-existing tunes. This guaranteed a short "learning curve" for the congregation regarding the melodies he chose to accompany his texts. The tune for *These Are the Holy Ten Commands*, IN GOTTES NAMEN FAHREN WIR, (In God's Name We Journey), accompanied a popular pilgrimage song. The original tune dates from the 13th century and was first attached to a line from the poem, "Tristan und Isolt." There are indications that the tune was associated with a Ten Commandments text prior to the Reformation. Because this is the only hymn of Luther's written in this particular poetic meter, some scholars posit that Luther wrote the text specifically for this tune. (In my organ voluntary titles, I've chosen to list the tune's name as DIES SIND DIE HEILGEN ZEHN GEBOT, following the practice of Baroque Lutheran musicians such as Bach and Walther.)

Next month: The Creed – #954 *We All Believe in One True God*



SOLI DEO GLORIA

STEWARDSHIP

Why do we give? Is it simply because God commands us to? Or is there more to it? To be sure, the Word and instruction of God in the Bible says we should give, and this is sufficient to encourage us to give (Luke 6:38; Acts 20:35; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8:7; Gal. 6:6).

But there's more to it than just obligation. We're not just trying to fulfill a work of the law. We are bearing fruits of the Spirit given to us by our Father in heaven through His Son our Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, we're not just doing what our Father said, we're also doing what He did.

Children emulate their parents. When they grow up, they often carry many of the same mannerisms and characteristics as their parents. But there is more to it than that. Children copy their parents even on a more mundane level. They watch how their parents cross their legs, how they fold their hands, how they stand and sit and walk, and how they do and say most everything. Then children try to copy it.

This can be quite humorous when caught in the act. They do this even when parents don't want them to. Everyone has been in the uncomfortable – and embarrassing situation – where a child does or says something one of their parents have done or said that is less than polite. Sitcoms thrive on these. It only works because of the truth that children emulate their parents, and they do it because they want to be like them.

We are the children of God – by grace through faith. In Holy Baptism, God the Father declares of us what He declared of Jesus at His Baptism in the Jordan, “You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” God the Father claims us as His own. He takes away all our sins. In exchange, He gives us His righteousness, His purity, His holiness, and His Spirit – by which we cry out, “Abba, Father.”

We are born again – born from above, born of water and the Spirit – to a new life in Christ as His children. We are sons of God in Christ through Baptism. Since we are sons, we are heirs who share in the glory of the Son of God. The inheritance is ours because of the Father's grace, mercy, and generosity in sending His Son in time to save us for all eternity.

This is why we give generously of our income to the work of the church. We want to be like our heavenly Father. We want to emulate His generosity by being generous ourselves. We give to the work of the church because we have witnessed the generous giving of our Father in heaven.

More than that, we are recipients of it. It is because we have received our Father's gifts that we desire to give ourselves. His gifts are not just spiritual. They are temporal and earthly as well. As *Luther's Small Catechism* teaches in the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer:

Give us this day our daily bread.

What does this mean? God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

What is meant by daily bread? Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

In other words, He gives us everything that we need for the care of both body and soul. His generosity knows no bounds.

Therefore, we sit down at the beginning of the year, the beginning of the month, or the beginning of the week and set aside a generous portion of God's daily bread for His work in the church. This is not done because He has commanded us so to do but rather because we, as His children by grace, want to emulate His generosity in our own lives. He is our Father; we are His children. And children want to be like their parents.

Lutheran Social Services of Alaska

The Food Pantry continues to see large numbers of households seeking assistance and still a lot of first time families that have never had to navigate the social service network. We continue to have need for food items such as chili, soups, Ramen, Spam, tuna, canned fruit and vegetables, spaghetti sauce, oatmeal, cereal and jelly. Food distribution will be changing as the colder weather comes and we will have people wait in their cars until their number is called before coming into the Food Pantry to continue social distancing. We are working on going to a digital client choice food pantry later this year.

In the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2021, the Food Pantry distributed 815,001 pounds of food to 17,407 households in our community. This is an increase of close to 100,000 pounds of food and 2,00 households over FY2020. We have also seen a large increase in the number of seniors visiting the Food Pantry. Three years ago, we had 150 seniors enrolled in the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), which gives an extra box of food to seniors who qualify by being over age 60 and income under \$1743.00 a month. Today we have 532 seniors enrolled.

The Mobile Food Pantry (MFP) continues to see large numbers every Tuesday where we distribute food in the parking lot of Lutheran Church of Hope. In FY2021 that ended June 30, 2021, we distributed 356,714 pounds of food to 9,368 households, which are large increases over last year. A large thank you to the faithful volunteers who work the MFP each week.

The preparations for the annual Thanksgiving Blessing are underway, and we will again be asking for your help in collecting green beans, corn, gravy mix and turkey stuffing. We are planning on serving 1,550 families from our site at Central Lutheran Church on Monday, November 22nd. This year's distribution will be exactly like last year. All dry foods will be pre-boxed on Saturday, and then on Monday we will add the frozen and fresh items. The clients will not leave their cars and drive by in a continuous line. More information on volunteer opportunities will be coming shortly as we finalize the details.

We are planning to continue the tradition of Christmas Stockings to young children of our Food Pantry clients, so we ask for your help in supplying stockings filled with a Nativity story book and goodies. Distribution of the stocking will begin December 1st.

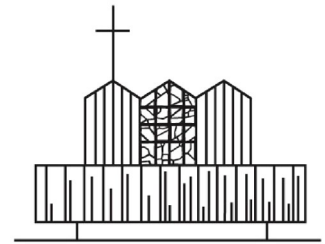
Please keep our ministry and staff in your prayers.

Together caring for others,

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OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study & Sunday School	27	28	29 4pm Youth Catechesis 5pm Dinner Hour 6pm Bible Study 7pm Adult Choir	30	1-Oct	2
3 9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study & Sunday School	4	5 7:30pm Elders' Meeting via Zoom	6 4pm Youth Catechesis 5pm Dinner Hour 6pm Bible Study 7pm Adult Choir	7	8 10am Helping Hands Meal Prep	9
10 9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study & Sunday School	11	12 7pm Council Meeting	13 4pm Youth Catechesis 5pm Dinner Hour 6pm Bible Study 6:30pm Russian Jack Community Council 7pm Adult Choir	14	15	16
17 9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study & Sunday School	18 12pm Judy McSharry Funeral	19	20 4pm Youth Catechesis 5pm Dinner Hour 6pm Bible Study 7pm Adult Choir	21	22	23
24 9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study & Sunday School	25	26	27 4pm Youth Catechesis 5pm Dinner Hour 6pm Bible Study 7pm Adult Choir	28	29	30
Reformation Sunday 31 9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study & Sunday School	1-Nov	2 7:30pm Elders' Meeting	3 4pm Youth Catechesis 5pm Dinner Hour 6pm Bible Study 7pm Adult Choir	4	5	6