



Fishing With Nets

Our Lord Jesus Christ lived His entire life around fish and fishing. The Sea of Galilee was home to a thriving fishing industry, though much of the product was seized by the occupying Roman population, depriving the native population of one of their primary food sources. Galilean commercial fishing has declined recently due to a near collapse of fish stocks, but it was enough of an industry in the 1st century that it received the attention of the exploitative Roman Empire. Jesus uses fish, and fishing, to teach us about the Kingdom of God.

Jesus called the first disciples, Peter and Andrew, as they were fishing, and taught them that they would now be fishers of men. One of the earliest mentions of a fish hook is found in Job 41, but this is not the method by which men fished in Galilee. They fished with nets. Alaskans are unique, in that we also fish with nets. I've worked a few days on a commercial boat, and finally dipped my toes into the world of dipnetting this year. Jesus' words about fishing develop further as I've been either quietly standing in the river or watching the net from the stern while the diesel engine chugs along.

Everyone has different advice for fishing, but the best advice seems to be to keep your net in the water. You can't catch fish if your net isn't out. I received all sorts of different advice regarding when and where to go, sometimes in conflict with one another. At the end of the day, none of it mattered unless I had my net in the water. So it goes with the church. The Word of God is the net which catches people. It is cast through the work of the church; which goes for our collective activity, as well as our own personal lives. The Word of God is spread through preaching and teaching, through the giving of the Sacraments, and through lives lived in the love of God and neighbor.

Your life is the life of the church is the life of Christ. There is no time when your life is not the life of the church and the life of Christ. From your baptism to your death, your life is lived with Christ. It may happen that no one notices. You can stand in the river all day long with your net in the water, and catch zero fish. It may happen that the Word finds all sorts of people. You can stand in the river for an hour and haul in so many fish that you lose count. Go here or there, at this time or that, the only thing that really matters is that the Word of God continues to be held out, spoken, and given. We have zero control over what actually happens or who will hear. The fish are there or they aren't. All we can do is continue to hear, preach, forgive, baptize, and feed. The Lord and His Word are faithful! He's the one who drives the fish here or there.

Jesus knew what He was talking about when He told us about fishing for men. How did the Word come to you? Were you a child? Were you an adult? Were you looking for it or did it find you? My guess is that all of these things are true. Today (August 28) is St. Augustine's Day. He claimed that the saving Word of the Lord finally came to him at the prompting of some children singing a song on the other side of a wall! Our life together, as a church and in your own households, is lived in and through the Word of God. Whether we fail or succeed, live or die, all shall be well, for it is the Lord's Word. Happy fishing, and now it's on to hunting, which is a metaphor that Jesus doesn't use.

+Pastor Kyle Mietzner

IN THIS EDITION

Pastor's Letter	1
Church Notes	2
Worship Services	2
The Rite Stuff	3
Stewardship	4
LSSA Food Drive	5
Calendar	6

CHURCH NOTES

Christian Education Opportunities

We have resumed bible study in person following worship service on Sunday. The Wednesday 7pm bible study can also be attended in person or via Zoom. If you aren't included on the Zoom email invitation list, please contact the office or Pastor to be added to the distribution list.

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

Ralph Erickson	9/11
Emma Fish	9/13
David Mills	9/13
Christian Davila	9/15
JoAnn Beary	9/16
Adam Wabrowetz	9/17
Jaide Snyder	9/19
Caleb Rawlins	9/20
Marion Anderson	9/22
Vicki Gallegos-Randel	9/22



Anniversaries

Tom & Leah Rawlins	9/1
Robert & Sue Wilkens	9/16



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

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. You will need a Lutheran Service Book for hymns and liturgy.

The **R**ite Stuff

Starting on August 30—11AM Bible Study—At church and Facebook Live

What do I do now that I'm a godparent?

What will my funeral look like?

Can I get married at the courthouse, but still have something in church?

Can we renew our vows?

Do Lutherans do exorcisms?

The Christian life is lived from font to the grave, and beyond. Throughout your life, you'll experience various rites, such as Holy Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Matrimony, and finally, your funeral. Join us on Sunday mornings during the 11o'clock Study Hour for a look at the many and various ways in which the church has given us to join our lives to the life of Christ through these rites. We'll look at some of the well known rites (marriage and baptism) as well as those which are hardly ever used (excommunication and laying of a cornerstone). This study will be held simultaneously in person and online.



ZION

2100 Boniface Parkway Anchorage AK 99504 zionanchorage.org

STEWARDSHIP

“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might” (Eccl 9:10).

God bids us to be faithful in the tasks He calls us to do. He calls us to be members of a family (husbands and wives; fathers and mothers; sons and daughters). He calls us to be members of society (those who govern and those who are governed). And He calls us to be members of His family, the Church (those who preach and teach and those who hear and learn). Each of these callings from God places a duty on us.

As members of a family, husbands are given the duty to die for their wives as Christ gave His life for His bride, the Church; while wives are given the duty to respect their husbands and submit themselves to them as the Church does to Christ. Fathers and mothers are to raise their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord, teaching them the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, and the Scriptures concerning Baptism, Confession, the Office of the Keys, and the Lord’s Supper. Children are to honor their parents throughout their lives, and even when their parents are no longer alive, serving and obeying them, loving and cherishing them, and speaking well of them.

As members of society, God calls those who govern to bear the sword, that is, to punish those who do evil (those who live contrary to God’s will) and to reward those who do good (those whose lives are lived in conformity with God’s will). Those who are governed are to obey their leaders as to the Lord Himself, for their leaders bear the sword of God’s temporal justice for a purpose.

As members of God’s own family, the Church, He calls those who preach and teach to do so in faithfulness to His holy Word. To preach and teach the Law of God to convict the hearts of hearers of their sin and to encourage, admonish, and exhort them to do good works in accordance with God’s will. They are to preach and teach the Gospel, the full forgiveness of their sins accomplished by Christ and received through faith, not by works. They are to administer the means of grace in accordance with the Gospel and the Word of God. They do all this for the young and old alike, for those who are near and far off. Those who hear and learn are to submit themselves to their preachers and teachers. They are to support them by their prayers and their gifts.

Each of these callings from God places a duty on us. They make a claim on our presence; on our prayers; and our time, talents, and treasures. So, “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might” (Eccl 9:10). Pray for your family, your government, and your church. Give of yourself by means of your time, your talents, and your treasures to your family, your government, and your Church. That is what it means to be faithful in the tasks that God has given us. That is what it means to do it with all your might.

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE

Drive-By Drop-Off

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH PARKING LOT

8427 Jewel Lake Road

to benefit

Lutheran Social Services of Alaska (LSSA)

Food Pantry

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

10:30 AM TO 2:00 PM

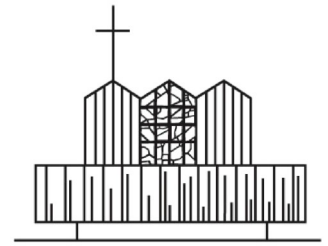
Canned items such Soups, Chili, Veggies and Fruits, Tuna, Chicken, and Spam; Macaroni and Cheese Mixes, Rice-a-Roni, Spaghetti Noodles and Sauces, Dried Potato Mixes, Individual Packets of Top Ramen, Jams and Jellies. Any non-perishable food items.

Let's Fill the LSSA Van!





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



SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study	31	1-Sep 7pm Elders' Meeting	2 4pm Youth Catechesis 7pm Bible Study	3	4	5
6 9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study	7	8 7pm Council Meeting	9 4pm Youth Catechesis 7pm Bible Study	10	11	12
13 9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study 10:30am - 2pm LSSA Food Drive at Gloria Dei Lutheran	14	15	16 4pm Youth Catechesis 7pm Bible Study	17	18	19
20 9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study	21	22	23 4pm Youth Catechesis 7pm Bible Study	24	25	26
27 9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study	28	29	30 4pm Youth Catechesis 7pm Bible Study	1-Oct	2	3