

# The Dove

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



SEPTEMBER  
2021

Rev. Kyle Mietzner, Pastor

In the world you will have tribulation.  
But take heart; I have overcome the world.  
John 16:33

There is no end to the tribulation which you face in this world. These things ebb and flow, looking different from age to age. Trials and suffering will come and go. You may find yourself on the receiving end of persecution by invading pagans or some sort of government crackdown. You may find your body riddled with cancer or in an abusive relationship. Now or later, there will always be plenty of trials.

I love how realistic Jesus is about all of this sort of stuff. He does not guarantee a unicorn moonbeam fairytale life for you. He knows that the world is going to inflict pain upon you. He knows this because it happened to Him. He's the one who put it all into order in the first place. He's the one who sustains it today. He knows that the rebellion of the world is real. He came to love this world and was nailed to a cross for it.

Your suffering is real. All suffering is real. You do not need to ignore it or pretend like it isn't that bad. It is bad. Do not lose sight of Christ. Do not lose sight of the cross. Your Lord hung there, placed there by a world who knew Him not. The darkness closed in and surrounded Him. That is all real. His death is real. His mother cradled Him at the foot of the cross, and placed Him into a grave. If it ended there, then you should be given over to despair.

Your suffering is real, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ is also real. He has overcome the world in His death and resurrection. We did our best to get rid of Him, and yet, He is raised from the dead. There is literally nothing that can keep you down. There is no amount of suffering that can destroy you. Your pain will not prevail. The light of the world shines, even in the darkness, even when we tried to extinguish Him.

Baptized into Jesus Christ's death and resurrection, you are invincible. Keep this in mind in the midst of your tribulations. You belong to one who is greater than this often miserable world. You belong to a world that is being redeemed. The Word of the Lord continues to be breathed upon this world, and the Eucharist gathers us all from the four corners of creation for the purpose of restoration. Yes, you will have tribulation in this world in one way or the other. Keep in mind that Christ has overcome this world though. We will live with one another, in Christ, now, and forevermore.

+Pastor Kyle Mietzner

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# CHURCH NOTES . . . . .

## Christian Education Opportunities

- Children's Sunday School—Sundays @ 11am
- Adult Bible Study—Sundays @ 11am

## **Restful Wednesdays**

- Youth Catechesis @ 4pm
- Dinner hour @ 5pm
- Bible Study @ 6pm
- Adult Choir @ 7pm-8:30

## **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 Contacts**

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

## **Birthdays**

James Anderson	9/1
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
Vicky Gallegos-Randal	9/22
Sue Wilkens	9/22
Austin Wabrowetz	9/28



## **Anniversaries**

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



# Deaconess Ellee Mietzner . . . . .

## Connect the DOTS

Do you remember doing “connect the dots”? As a child, it is so fun to find the numbers, draw the lines, and finish with a picture you probably couldn’t have drawn on your own. Of course, if you look at just a small segment of the picture, all you see is a few dots with numbers, but the connected picture as a whole is the purpose of the puzzle. I remember graduating from the super simple ones to pictures with hundreds of dots that produced intricate drawings, and how exciting it was to see the final picture.



You might think I am making an analogy here. I am. Today I want you to think about “connect the DOTS”. The **DOT** I would like you to think of is yourself, and how you can **Do One Thing**. For our church to operate well, we all need to **Do One Thing**. Decide now that you are going to **Do One Thing** at Zion that you haven’t done before (or maybe just haven’t done in a while). Here are some ideas:

- Go to a Bible study
- Mow the lawn
- Teach or help with Sunday School
- Clean the church
- Buy flowers for Sunday or give money for flowers
- Join the altar guild
- Make phone calls to inactive members
- Check on shut-ins
- Weed the flower bed
- Shovel snow (yes, it’s coming!)
- Give a ride to someone who needs one
- Bring a snack for after church (a few dozen homemade or store bought cookies is enough!)
- Greet a new person at church and help them during the service if they need it
- Help with a church project like new ramp, painting, lighting, etc.
- Volunteer to help seasonally (Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter)

This list can go on (and on!). The work of the church is never “done,” and just as your housework at your own home needs continual attention from the whole family, so it also is at your church home. It is our joy as the body of Christ to help one another and to take care of the church home that we all share.

When you decide to **Do One Thing**, your **DOT\*** will connect with someone else’s. Theirs will connect with someone else’s, and when we all connect, a beautiful picture of the church will emerge.

\*If you want to share, I’d love to hear about the **DOT** you have decided on!

-Deaconess Ellee Mietzner

# **FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR**

Janet McCullough

zionlcmsmusic@yahoo.com

As of this writing, we are still on for the resumption of Wednesday evening activities at Zion. The Wednesday evening schedule beginning September 8 is:

4pm ó Confirmation      5pm - Dinner

6pm ó Bible Study      7 to 8:30pm ó Choir Practice

I've had some questions about the age parameters for the choir. After giving the issue some thought, I am opening the choir up to any singer who has reached their tenth birthday. There are two caveats ó the first is that any young man interested in singing should be past his voice change. Choral technique for boy sopranos and young men undergoing their voice change is different from that utilized in adult church choirs. Second ó young singers will not be treated as if they need special accommodation due to their age. They must comport themselves in as disciplined a fashion as the adult choir members. (Insert your favorite witty and/or sarcastic comment regarding the discipline of adult choir members here!)

With the start of Sunday School, the children will again be participating in a choral program on Sunday mornings. Mrs. Glowinski is considering two separate groups based on age so as to give the older students greater opportunity for more advanced choral work. More information will be coming from her in the next few weeks.

Beginning in the month of October, the parish will be focusing on Martin Luther's Catechism hymns as a type of "Hymn of the Month" feature. The hymns, in the order of the sections of the Small Catechism, will be taught in Sunday School music sessions, sung every Sunday of the month in Divine Service and highlighted during Confirmation class. If you'd like to look ahead at these hymns, here is the list:

1. The Ten Commandments ó #581 *These are the Holy Ten Commands* OCT
2. The Creed ó #954 *We All Believe in One True God* NOV
3. The Lord's Prayer ó #766 *Our Father, Who from Heaven Above* DEC
4. Baptism ó #406 *To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord* JAN
5. Confession ó #607 *From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee* FEB
6. Holy Communion ó #627 *Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior* MAR

## **SOLI DEO GLORIA**



# STEWARDSHIP

## LCMS Stewardship Ministry

### Newsletter article – September 2021

At the end of the first of his chapters on the virtue of faith in *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis provides a helpful reminder, by way of analogy, for the foundation of stewardship. He wrote:

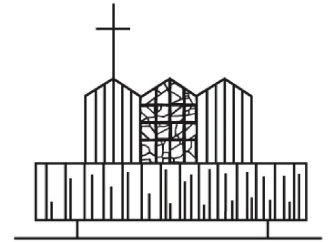
“Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already. So then, when we talk of a man doing anything for God or giving anything to God, I will tell you what it is really like. It is like a small child going to its father and saying, ‘Daddy, give me sixpence to buy you a birthday present.’ Of course, the father does, and he is pleased with the child’s present. It is all very nice and proper, but only an idiot would think that the father is sixpence to the good on the transaction. When a man has made these two discoveries God can really get to work. It is after this that real life begins. (1286129).”

This is the first thing we are given to confess about stewardship, and it has to do with ownership. God owns everything, and we are simply managers or stewards or acting on His behalf. This is true not only of all that we have in this life (Deut. 8:17618) but also all that we are in this life (1 Cor. 6:20).

The rest flows from here. Since we are stewards, or managers, of what belongs to God, entrusted to make use of it according to His will, there is an expectation of responsibility and accountability. For the Lord said, “Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more” (Luke 12:48b). And from this comes blessing and reward: “Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master” (Matt. 25:21).

We have everything we need to support this body and life from our God’s fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. We have everything we need for our spiritual life also from His merciful hands. On account of the sacrifice of His Son, our Lord Jesus, through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, we have the forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and everlasting salvation delivered to us with absolute certainty that it is ours or not as stewards but as sons (Gal. 4:167). Let us then, as His own sons, press all that He gives to us into the service of His church and to His glory.

[lcms.org](http://lcms.org)



# September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			7pm Bible Study			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study		7:30 Elder's Meeting Via Zoom	4pm Youth Catechesis 5pm Dinner Hour 6pm Trivia Night 7-8:30pm Adult Choir		10am Helping Hands	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study and Children's Sunday School		7pm Council Meeting	4pm Youth Catechesis 5pm Dinner Hour 6pm Bible Study 7-8:30pm Adult Choir			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:30am Divine Service <b>10:45am Special Congregational Meet- ing</b>  11am Bible Study and Children's Sunday School 12 pm Bicycle Jambo-			4pm Youth Catechesis  5pm Dinner Hour  6pm Bible Study 7-8:30pm Adult Choir			
26	27	28	29	30	1-Oct	2-Oct
9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study and Children's Sunday School 12pm Oktober Fest			4pm Youth Catechesis 5pm Dinner Hour 6pm Bible Study 7-8:30pm Adult Choir			