

OCTOBER 2021

COSLC Nuggets & News

The scoop on how we, the hands of God at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church are praising, nurturing, and serving.



“CHANGE IN ‘CABIN PRESSURE’”

By Pastor Sandy VanZyl — August 2021

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, Anchorage

Mid-way during our flight back from Oregon [in August], our pilot put the seatbelt sign back on. We were encountering turbulence, and this is, of course, standard procedure as circumstances change on an airplane. It made me think about how circumstances had been changing with rising COVID cases and the Delta variant here in Alaska and all around the country. The CDC has signaled it is no longer safe to “move freely about the cabin.”

As many of you are aware, the CDC is now urging people in high-transmission areas (like Alaska) to again wear masks in public indoor spaces, regardless of their vaccination status. The announcement reversed the agency’s recommendation in May that vaccinated people could forgo masks. It feels like a step backward, discouraging and even maddening, but perhaps we should view it more like standard safety procedure for the journey. We’ve still got an uncertain “flight” ahead of us through this pandemic.

As COVID changes, so must we. Once again, we are encountering some turbulence and we need to continue to remember our call to “be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as Christ has forgiven you.” (Ephesians 4:32) As “cabin pressure” changes, let’s be gentle with one another – and ourselves – as we try to balance a sense of community and a need for safety. Thank you for showing the love of Christ in this way.



Newsletter Contents

PRAISING GOD

- “Change in ‘Cabin Pressure’”
- Worship Info
- Zoom tips
- Stewardship
- Choir

NURTURING FAITH

- Prayer List
- Faith + Learning Opportunities
- Home Visitation
- OUR NEIGHBORS

SERVING OTHERS

- Church & Council Updates
- We’re hiring!
- Community Garden
- Church Calendar

SYNOD AND CHURCHWIDE

- Shishmaref Luth.
- Rules for Children
- Bishop Eaton at the White House
- Afghan Refugee Resettlement
- ELCA & Vaccines
- ELCA & the Doctrine of Discovery

PRAISING GOD



WORSHIP INFORMATION

Sundays at 10am

Both in our sanctuary and on Zoom.

All are welcome!



If you need to or wish to join worship via Zoom, [click here](#) for the Zoom link. This link also has more information for in-person worship such as: our "masks on at all times!" policy and our communion practices during a pandemic.

FELLOWSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT:

On Sunday, September 19th, the Executive Committee of the Church Council (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Pastor) met and agreed that [based on the current strain to our hospitals from COVID-19 patients](#), we will be cancelling in-door/unmasked fellowship after worship until such time as the hospitals are no longer rationing life saving care. We must do our part to help our medical providers and our community get through this pandemic. After worship, visiting is still encouraged in the narthex, fellowship hall, or outside. But masks must remain on and shared food will not be consumed.

Still learning Zoom? Here's some tips!

Are you, like many of us, still struggling with Zoom? [Here's some helpful tips](#) on how to use Zoom to view more or fewer people from your computer.



STEWARDSHIP

October's Worship

Focus



During the month of October, we will be exploring the theme of Stewardship during worship. What does it mean to be put on this earth to "steward" God's creation? Stewardship is something that encompasses our entire lives as Christians. Ranging from caring for the earth through recycling, packing out, respecting burn bans, and carpooling; to more private ways of caring for those around us with our words or actions, our money, our skills, and our time.



CHOIR

Start Date Postponed

Gary and other church leaders had hoped that choir practices could resume on October 6th. However, on Sunday, September 19th, Gary and other choir members decided it would be best to postpone. Keep singing in your showers, cars, and at your dinner tables and choir will resume as soon as it's safer!

NURTURING FAITH

PRESENTING: OUR NEIGHBORS + “OLIVER TWIST”

OUR NEIGHBORS Children's Theatre and Music Ministry is excited to announce that we are in the midst of a fall ministry of theatre and music, with the performance on November 19th of the musical, “Oliver Twist.” We consider this ministry to be an extension of COSLC's ministry, and we invite all young people in grades 3-8 to participate. Do you have neighbors or family members whose kids might be interested?

Starting September 2 from 4-5 pm, kids have been meeting at Christ Our Savior to play, sing, see, act, move and have fun learning about live Broadway musicals, leading into rehearsals for “Oliver Twist.” Every child is treasured and welcomed.

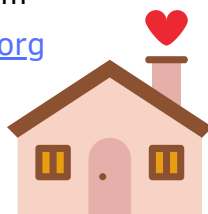
(Masks are mandatory in the church building.)

For more information, contact Sister Annette.

Text or call (907) 885-8750, or email
ourneighborsanchorage@gmail.com

Website: our-neighbors-anchorage.org

HOME VISITATION



Home Visitations to bring Holy Communion to our home bound members and friends will be resuming soon. If you know of someone who could use a visit, please let Pastor Erika know. If you are feeling a pull to bring some joy and friendship into someone's isolation, we welcome your saying “yes” to that pull and joining us. Contact Pastor Erika for more information. We will be observing very strict COVID precautions when visiting.

FAITH + LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

THE BLESSED MESSIES

- *First Tuesdays from 5:30-7pm*
- Begins October 5th

Being a parent or a primary care giver to a child or children is hard and messy work but also so very holy. The Blessed Messies is a parent support and faith learning group where we will share our joys and our sorrows, our love and our frustration. Bring your dinner! Childcare will be provided. Zoom-in option is available.



BIBLE BABBLERS

- *Wednesdays from 6-7pm*
- Begins October 6th

Let's babble and learn about God's Word together! We'll be reading books about the Bible and the Bible itself while talking about how God is at work through it all. All ages are welcome! Bring your dinner, your Bible, and a heart to learn!

NURTURING FAITH

Please pray with us for those on our Prayer List:



Holy and Gracious God,

You forget no one and you accompany the lonely.

Be present with those on our prayer list who are sick, suffering, or in need of support:

Amber and her son Barrett; Michael Hartsfield & family; Pastor Karin Albaugh; Joy Vaughn; Erik Gullickson; Faye H.; Bill Kennedy; Faye & Walter McCrumb; Kathleen Gregg; Kay Hall; Inge Hallum; Greg Oyler, Sheryl Collum & Kylie Hellmich; Ronda Hughes; and all those we name now (*silently or aloud*):

Provide for those needing homes or medical care and point us towards life-changing responses to these needs in our own communities. Bless the ministries already providing that much needed assistance. Be with the ministries of our church and our building and synod partners:

Rabbit Creek Preschool, Boy Scouts Troop #209, Turning Point Community Church, Redeemer URC, the OUR NEIGHBORS Program, & Lord of Life Lutheran Church, North Pole. Support us in our missions of spreading your love in the world.

Amen.

How can we pray for you?



Your church family at Christ Our Savior, is here for you! We want to extend prayers, phone calls, and encouragement to you when you need them.

Please contact the church office as soon as possible when:

- A member of your family or a friend dies;
- Hospital or home visitation would be a blessing;
- You or someone you know is having surgery;
- You or someone you know wants to plan a baptism or wedding;
- You or someone you know is ill or grieving;
- You move or change your telephone numbers or email.



Pastor Erika and / or our Home Visitation Team will

visit, pray, and support you – whatever feels most appropriate to you. We are family.

You are not alone.



CHURCH AND COUNCIL UPDATES

- October 2nd from 1-5pm the Church Council will be having their annual retreat. We invite your prayers as we dream, reflect, plan, and pray for the coming year of ministry.
- Mercy the Pig donations are going to the OUR NEIGHBORS program
- Council has approved up to \$800 to purchase a new computer for the office – the current one is slower than a turtle walking on a glacier.
- We are working on updating the church's membership roster. According to "the books" we have over 300 active members. In reality we have between 90 and 100. We will soon begin contacting people who haven't been active in the church for at least two years and removing people as appropriate or requested.
- If you have questions or concerns about the hiring process for our new Administrative Assistant or Dallas' resignation, please email council@coslc.ws



COMMUNITY GARDEN

Raised beds are built! People are emailing us (at garden@coslc.ws) asking if they can reserve a bed in the garden! And the Planning Team is wrapping up their work. Soon a new team will be created to take over from the Planning Team with the new focus of organizing, leading, and maintaining the garden. Know of someone who could be good on a Leadership Team for the garden? Or do you have an interest in helping lead the garden forth into reality? Email us at garden@coslc.ws and let us know! It's very exciting to see it all coming together.

The Planning Team will be meeting in early October to finalize a design for the layout of the garden. Email garden@coslc.ws if you want to be part of that conversation!

WE'RE HIRING!

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church is seeking candidates for a part time Administrative Assistant to be filled as soon as possible. This position supports the mission of the congregation by providing clerical and administrative services and assistance to the pastor, congregation members, visitors, and church partners. Applications (cover letter and resume) should be sent to our main email address: office@coslc.ws by Tuesday, October 5th. A complete job description of essential functions and minimum qualifications is available upon request. For more information visit: coslc.ws/job-opportunity



UPCOMING EVENTS + THE CHURCH CALENDAR

FIRST FRUITS SUNDAY

Sunday, November 14, 2021



First Fruits is an ancient practice in which people gave a religious offering of the first agricultural produce of the harvest. In classical Greek, Roman, and Hebrew religions, the first fruits were given to priests as an offering to deity.

In Christian practices today, since many of us are not harvesting crops, we have adapted this ancient practice to fit into our holiday season of gift giving. On a Sunday prior to Thanksgiving (and Black Friday), we join thousands of other Christians in giving God our first fruits of the season. I invite you to consider what you can give to God as your first fruits – your first gift – of the holiday season.

— Pastor Erika

VIEW OUR FULL CALENDAR AT:

WWW.COSLC.WS/CHURCH-CALENDAR

PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY



The Second Sunday in October — This year: October 10th

Each year, the second Sunday in October is designated as a day to thank the clergy in our lives who help shape our faith and journey with us through the ups and downs of discipleship and life.

[This blog post](#) has some good ideas on how to appreciate the pastors in your life.

A note from Pastor Erika: I would like to shamelessly add that I'd love to: explore the outdoors with you (I've never ridden on an ATV and I've only been fishing once in middle school), attend your grandkid's sporting event with you, or enjoy a cup of tea with you (on opposite sides of your living room because of COVID, of course). But whatever it is that we do, most importantly I just really crave quality time spent getting to know you, your family, and your interests!

DAYS FOR CELEBRATION IN OCTOBER

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Graduations, Baptisms, etc.

3rd – Hyunjung (Sarah) Stockly

8th – Emily Organ

11th – Kris Kruse

21st – LaVonne Gullickson

31st – Reformation Sunday (wear RED!)



Do you have a date to celebrate? Email us so we can add you to our list! office@coslc.ws

Shishmaref Lutheran Church Calls New Pastors

Aaron Silco and Anna Silco were ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament Tuesday, Sept. 14, at 7 p.m. CST in the Augustana Chapel at LSTC.

Aaron and Anna have been called as pastors of Shishmaref Lutheran Church, Shishmaref, Alaska. Anna says she and Aaron are excited to learn from them and accompany them as they enter into ministry together.

Blessings on your ordination, Aaron and Anna, and on your ministry with and among the wonderful people of Shishmaref!



Rules for Children in the Worship Service

By CB Beal, Justice and Peace Consulting

1. If you find that you're sitting in front of a child and they can't see, lean to the side.
2. If the children seated behind you are rustling papers, hand them a crayon.
3. If there is a baby that is crying, offer to take the baby from their parent and walk to the back of the church and rock the child for a while. The parent really needs a break.
4. If the teenagers are whispering give them some Smarties. The rustling and crinkling will replace their whispering.
5. If an adult complains to an usher about the noisy children near them, offer to trade seats with that adult and then apologize to the parents of the children.
6. When a child is running around giving everyone high-fives during the time of passing the peace/greeting your neighbor make sure to give them an extra fun high-five, and then high-five the next five adults that you see.
7. If a child has worn tap shoes to church and is dancing on the wood portion of the floor, slip the sheet music for "The Entertainer" to the pianist and roll with it.
8. When the children can't hear because an adult around them won't take off their puffy jacket and it keeps squeaking and distracting the children, offer to help them off with their jacket and go hang it up for them where it goes.
9. When the three-year-old insists on standing on the front pew turned backwards looking at the rest of the people, give the child a pair of very dark glasses. That will prevent the child from catching any adult's eye, which would lead to distracting them. This will protect the adults who as we know have very short attention spans and are easily distracted.
10. When a child in front of you is very squirmy, and then they finally turn around and you realize suddenly, "Oh, it's Jesus!" take it in stride and play Got Your Nose till they turn around to the front again.

BISHOP EATON JOINS OTHER CHURCH LEADERS AT WHITE HOUSE MEETING ON PENDING ECONOMIC LEGISLATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Sept. 22, 2021) – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and other members of the Circle of Protection coalition will meet today with senior officials at the White House. Eaton and other heads of Christian denominations and organizations are working together to urge passage of the economic bills the U.S. Congress is considering now, along with voting rights legislation this fall. Today's meeting will focus on the family support bill currently being debated in Congress.



In a letter the Circle of Protection is presenting to President Joe Biden and Congress today, the coalition affirms that these pending bills "would strengthen the physical and social infrastructure of our society, cut family and child poverty more than any time in our lives, and ensure the precious right to vote for all people made in God's image."...

Read the full article at:

<https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/8117>

ALASKA REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

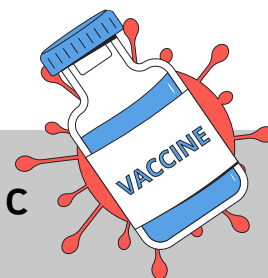
by Bishop Shelley Wickstrom



Thank you to everyone who has asked how to help Afghan refugees. Afghan refugees will need food, housing assistance, clothing and other basic needs. Right now, all agencies are asking for financial donations. Your support through household goods and accompaniment will be needed when refugees are in place.

- In Alaska, Catholic Social Services is coordinating the arrival and support of one hundred refugees. [Please [click here](#) for more information.]
- Lutheran Community Services Northwest is coordinating the support of forty Afghan allies with Special Immigration Visas in the Pacific Northwest. [Please [click here](#) for more information.]
- Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services has welcomed refugees and migrants to the United States for eighty years. [Please [click here](#) for more information.]

God's work. Our hands.



ELCA social teaching on vaccines during a Pandemic

Click here to learn more:

https://www.elcaalaska.net/uploads/2/4/9/1/24917993/talkingpoints-vaccinations_elcasoc_teaching.pdf

OCTOBER 2021

TELLING AND TEACHING THE TRUTH: THE CHURCH'S OBLIGATION TO EDUCATION ABOUT THE ONGOING LEGACY OF THE DOCTRINE OF DISCOVERY

From Churches Beyond Borders: Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, Anglican Church of Canada, The Episcopal Church, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

As another school year commences, we are reminded that the educational systems we have handed down to our children often teach national narratives that perpetuate white supremacy by deleting and ignoring the histories and contributions of Indigenous People and other marginalized communities and peoples in both Canada and the United States. The ongoing legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery and the sinful acts of racism in North America are rarely if ever taught in our school systems or churches with the fullness and import that is necessary and just.

When Christians engage history with honesty, humility and a spirit of confession, it is clear that the church was and is complicit:

- In the hunting and killing of Indigenous Peoples,
- In the dishonorable breaking of thousands of treaties that federal governments made with First Nations and Native nations,
- In the forced removal of Indigenous Peoples from their original homelands,
- In the relocation of Indigenous Peoples into reserves and reservations where poverty, starvation, desperation, missionization, addiction, and suicide were allowed to become the rule for generations of Indigenous people,
- In the making of long-term federal policies that enforced family separation,
- In the stealing of Indigenous children away to brutal assimilation camps known as Indian boarding schools in the US and residential schools in Canada,
- In the ongoing plight of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls,
- In the coverup of all of these evils, including through systemic efforts to erase Indigenous Peoples from our collective memory.

Scripture reminds us that the truth is costly. In Proverbs 23:23 we read, "Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding" (NRSV). Our churches' work to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery begins with the costly work of telling the truth.

Only then will we be able to start making good on our promises as churches and, together across borders, to seek truth and healing for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples by:

- Providing educational opportunities for all of our churches' people,
- Leading advocacy efforts for legally mandated inclusion of accurate and truthful history and narratives of Indigenous people in our educational systems at all learning levels,
- Standing in solidarity with residential and boarding school survivors and their descendants,
- Doing the necessary research to reveal as much truth about this shameful part of our churches' histories.

As a sign of our cross-border commitments to the work toward truth, healing, justice and accurate education, we invite all members of our churches to commemorate September 30, 2021 (www.orangeshirtday.org) as a day for truth and healing. We encourage you to learn about residential and boarding schools, honor survivors, and remember those who never made it home from the schools. On September 30, we invite you to wear orange as a sign of remembering, solidarity, and commitment to seeking healing. You may also choose to wear orange to Sunday worship on September 26.



Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



National Bishop Susan C. Johnson
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada



Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry
The Episcopal Church



Archbishop and Primate Linda Nicholls
Anglican Church of Canada

<https://elca.org/News-and-Events/8118>



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



CHRIST OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Where we are Inspired by God's Love to Praise, Nurture, and Serve

We Praise God in Worship, Song and Prayer
We Delight in the Diversity of All of God's Children
We Support & Nurture One Another through the Love of Christ
We Gather to Grow through God's Grace
We Reach Out, Serve, and Incite Miracles



1612 Oceanview Drive
Anchorage, AK 99515

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9am-1pm

office@coslc.ws | (907) 345-3858
Facebook & Instagram: @COSLCak | www.coslc.ws

Pastor Erika Bergh
(907) 717-5015 | pastor.erika@coslc.ws

If you need pastoral care or help with anything, please call or text Pastor Erika.
May you feel God's peace this month and always.