



DECEMBER 2023

CHRIST OUR SAVIOR NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year!

BY PASTOR ANNA SILCO

Happy new year!! You may be wondering... Happy New Year? It is December 1st, not January 1st...and yet, it is a new CHURCH year. My husband says that I make this joke every year when advent starts, and it has become predictable and not very funny anymore. It is, though, a new church year and a beginning of a new season! Some of you may even have new calendars (Advent Calendars). So Happy New Year to you all! In this new year, we take time to slow down, wait for Christ, and light candles in the darkness. We talk about Hope, Faith, Joy, and Love. We talk about how we are waiting for Christ, to keep awake and see where Christ showing up in our midst. During our midweek Advent services on Wednesday evening, we will gather for a meal, and time to sing Holden Evening Prayer, where we hear the beauty of

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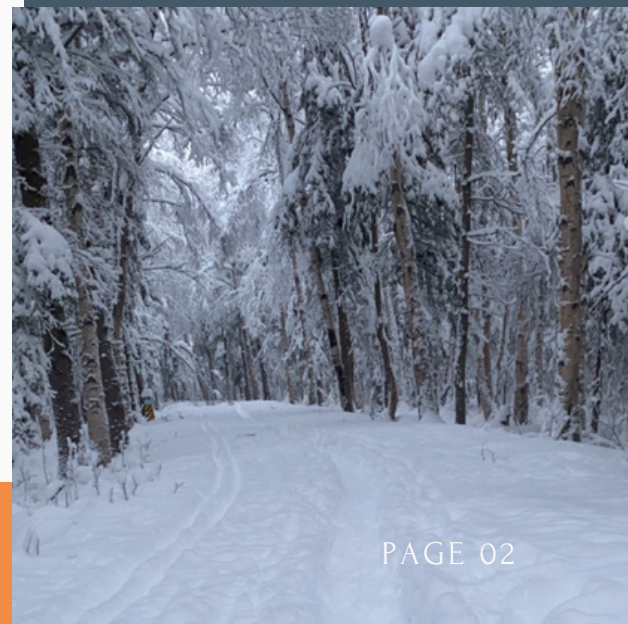
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the Magnificat, Mary's song of praise where she shares her witness of how God is at work in the world and in her life. We will focus on this scripture as we together spend time thinking of how God is at work in our lives and in the life of the church. We will lift up thanksgiving and praise for the ways that we as a community Praise, Nurture, and Serve, as well as seek out inspiration on how we will continue to live out that mission and calling. It is a good time of year to reflect on what we have done, and what we are going to do in the new year. With God guiding us along the way, may we be guided by Christ's light, to praise, nurture, and serve this coming year and more. Happy New Year!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Anna

**““ And Mary said,
“My soul magnifies
the Lord, and my
spirit rejoices in God
my Savior, for he has
looked with favor on
the lowly state of his
servant.”
Luke 1:46-48**



ANNOUNCEMENTS



GATHER BIBLE STUDY

We will meet December 7th from 10:30am-12pm for Bible Study. We will be using the Gather magazine, which has published Bible Studies for small group use. The topic for is "Holy Places." You can subscribe to receive your own copies, or pick up extra copies at the church. Pastor Anna will lead discussion and conversation, your voice and stories are always welcome!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP & MUSIC



We give thanks for our new pianist, Erin Pesznecker who has been with us since the beginning of November. We are grateful she is willing to share you musical talent with us. Our next Worship and Music Meeting is December 14th at 10am.

OVERFLOW WITH HOPE



Check out the Alaska Synod Advent Devotional titled: Overflow with Hope. Print copies available at church, or check the Alaska Synod Facebook page each day in Advent to read reflections from leaders across our synod.

COUNCIL NEWS

Be sure to check out the minutes from the last meeting, which can be found on the website under "Council Corner". Council President Jessica Morrison is taking on the admin role in a remote setting, and we thank her for all the work she does! Feel free to reach out to any council member with your questions, comments, and concerns at any time! Our next Council Meeting is Sunday December 10th at 11:30am





PASTOR'S CORNER

My family had a great time at Camp Lutherhaven in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho for a week of First Call Theological Education! We also traveled to Chicago to see family, attended my Grandma's 90th birthday party in Ohio, and also my sister's baby shower! Thanks for all who filled in while I was out of town, it was good to see family, but it is also good to be back.



KIDS CORNER

Glacier Bible Camp is in Juneau, AK for those entering 5th-9th grade and will be July 22nd-27th. Let Pastor Anna know you are interested, as she will be the adult companion who flies.



The Winter Confirmation session starts January 7th and is meeting at Lutheran Church of Hope on Sundays from 4:30-6pm for 6 weeks. We are in partnership with Central Lutheran Church, Lutheran Church of Hope, and Gloria Dei.



MERCY THE WATER BUFFALO

Mercy has transformed into a water buffalo as we raise money for a water buffalo through the Heifer international project! We are at \$100 out of \$250 so far.

SUNDAY school

We will be having Sunday School on the 3rd Sunday this month (December 17th) during fellowship hour (11:15-11:45am).