



JANUARY 2024

CHRIST OUR SAVIOR NEWSLETTER

A time for Everything

BY PASTOR ANNA SILCO

I write this in the inbetween of Christmas and the New Year. This year was unique in that both Christmas Eve and New Years Eve fall on Sundays. Which have made for some unique services, where Christmas Eve morning we had a Christmas Pageant, following by a traditional Christmas Eve service that evening. On Sunday, New Years Eve, we will have a hymn sing where people can request their favorite Christmas hymns to ring out the year. We will also have, some reflections and scriptures interspersed through the service as well. One of those scriptures is Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 "for everything there is a season." This text is chosen specifically as a new years eve text, and one that many are familiar with. "A time to be born, a time to die, a time to plant, a time to pluck up...a time to mourn, a time to dance" It names the highs and

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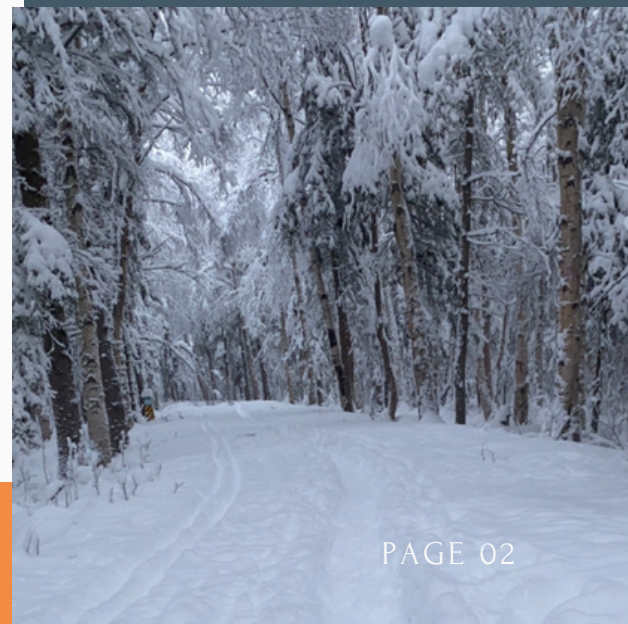
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the lows. It is a good scripture to hear at the end of the year, a time in which we often reflect over our past year, both the highs and the lows. The good news is that God is with us both during the high points, and through the lows. We can't avoid the lows, we can't "resolution" them away, no matter how hard we try. We do know that we will not be alone through them, God is with us, and we take the promise with us through the new year, knowing it will be there for us our whole life long. God is with us- that is the good news of Christmas, Christ being born to us, God incarnate, here with us. Thanks be to God. Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Anna

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted”

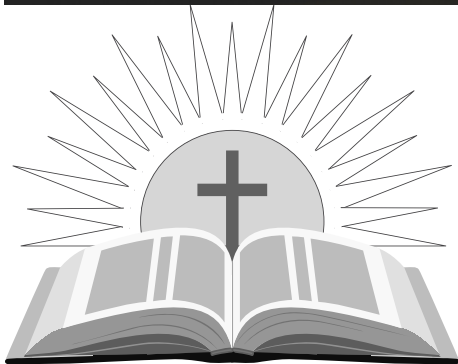


ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL MEETING INFO



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 are trying out the ELW liturgy setting 4 starting in January! Our Worship and Music Meetings will be every 3rd Tuesday at 10:00am. The next one is January 16th at 10:00am.

COUNCIL NEWS

Be sure to check out the minutes from the last meeting, which can be found on the website under "Council Corner". Feel free to reach out to any council member with your questions, comments, and concerns at any time! Our next Council Meeting is Sunday January 14th at 11:30am.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Thanks for all who were apart of this beautiful service!



PASTOR'S CORNER

It was so wonderful to share my first Christmas Eve with this congregation! Thank you all for a beautiful and memorable Advent and Christmas. Hope you are finding ways to enjoy the snowy winter we are having. My husband and I are learning how to Cross country ski! Blessings to you this New Year.



KIDS CORNER

Glacier Bible Camp is in Juneau, AK for those entering 5th-9th grade and will be July 29th-August 3rd. 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 GOAT

Mercy has transformed into a goat as we raise money for a goat through the Heifer international project!

SUNDAY school

We will be starting up Sunday School again on the 2nd and 4th Sundays in February.



ELCA Alaska Youth Groups

Sledding & Cocoa Party

Thursday, January 4

2-4 pm @ Kincaid Chalet

No cost to attend, you bring the sled and dress for the weather and we'll bring the cocoa. 5th-12th graders may carpool or get dropped off; younger kids welcome with a parent or adult on site. Friends welcome. Please sign an emergency contact form with your Congregation; we'll have forms available on site.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE FOR JANUARY 2024
LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF ALASKA

AS WE STAND AT THE THRESHOLD OF A NEW YEAR, I AM FILLED WITH GRATITUDE AND JOY FOR THE UNWAVERING SUPPORT AND COMMITMENT THAT HAS BEEN SHOWN TO LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF ALASKA. YOUR GENEROSITY, COMPASSION, AND DEDICATION HAVE TRULY MADE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF COUNTLESS INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES, ECHOING THE TEACHINGS OF LOVE AND SERVICES THAT DEFINE OUR FAITH.

A BIG THANK YOU TO THE WONDERFUL ORGANIZERS AND ATTENDEES OF THE LUTHERAN WOMEN ADVENT BRUNCH. THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND THE THOUGHTFUL OFFERING OF DIAPERS AND WIPES HAVE HAD A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE WELL-BEING OF THE FAMILIES WE SERVE. YOUR GENEROSITY HAS LEFT AN INDELIBLE MARK ON THE LIVES OF THESE CLIENTS.

WE AGAIN THANK MANY FOR THE HELP WITH DISTRIBUTING CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS TO THE CHILDREN OF OUR FOOD PANTRY CLIENTS. WE MUST THANK JANET FRANKLIN AND ROSEMARY PERRY WHO HAVE FOR YEARS CONTINUED TO SEW THESE STOCKINGS AND SEND THEM OUR WAY FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE LOWER 48. THAT IS WHY WE HAVEN'T HAD TO ASK FOR AS MANY STOCKINGS IN THE LAST TWO YEARS. IF ANYONE KNOWS THESE LADIES, PLEASE GIVE ME A CALL AS I WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THEM. THE COLLABORATIVE EFFORT TO PROVIDE CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS FILLED WITH A NATIVITY STORY BOOK, CANDY AND A TOY DEMONSTRATES THE SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AND CARE.

AS WE APPROACH THE 2024 ALASKA PERMANENT DIVIDEND APPLICATION PERIOD, I AM REACHING OUT TO YOU ON BEHALF OF LSSA WITH A HUMBLE REQUEST FOR YOUR SUPPORT. WE ARE EXCITED TO SHARE THAT LAST YEAR, THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF DONORS, WE RECEIVED CLOSE TO \$12,000 IN DONATIONS VIA THE PICK, CLICK, GIVE CAMPAIGN. THESE CONTRIBUTIONS PLAYED A PIVOTAL ROLE IN FURTHERING OUR MISSION TO "PROVIDING HOPE BY RESPONDING TO HUMAN NEED THROUGH SERVICES THAT SUSTAIN AND TRANSFORM LIVES". TO MAKE A DONATION THROUGH THE PICK, CLICK, GIVE CAMPAIGN, SIMPLY VISIT THE PFD OFFICIAL REGISTRATION SITE DURING THE APPLICATION PERIOD THAT ENDS MARCH 31, 2024, AND SELECT LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF ALASKA AS YOUR CHOSEN NONPROFIT RECIPIENT.

TOGETHER, LET US MAKE 2024 A YEAR OF COMPASSION, UNITY, AND TRANSFORMATIVE LOVE. MAY THE LORD'S BLESSINGS BE UPON EACH ONE OF YOU, AND MAY OUR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS CONTINUE TO BE A TESTAMENT TO THE POWER OF FAITH IN ACTION.

WISHING YOU A JOYOUS AND BLESSED NEW YEAR!

ALAN BUDAHL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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