

AUGUST 2023

# CHRIST OUR SAVIOR NEWSLETTER

## The Community of Camp

BY PASTOR ANNA SILCO

There is something special about camp. I grew up going to camp as a camper, and I could not wait to be on staff and spend a whole summer, rather than just one week, at one of my favorite places in the world. I ended up being on staff for 5 summers, starting in the kitchen, then counselor, then director. I do not think I would be a Pastor today if I had not had that experience. There is something special in the pattern, of being in community and schedule where worship, camp songs, campfires, skits, and bible study are part of daily life. Where you talk with one another about God, and also laugh and run around like crazy during games. Where you eat together, make crafts, and spend more time outside than inside. I got the chance to fill up my cup with a dose of camp this past month at Glacier Bible Camp in Juneau.

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I played guitar, and helped lead bible study, and watch my son play in the sand as the youngest camper among us. The best part for me was hearing one of the directors who just graduated college, (who was a counselor and a camper at this camp) share her story of how formational the camp community was to her and her faith and how she still has lots of questions, but camp was a place where it felt like God was giving her a big hug. It was so moving, because it was putting words to my own story, and I was so grateful that God was stirring up other people's lives in the same way, and showing up at camp. All this is to say, outdoor ministry is such a powerful ministry to witness and support! My hope is that you also know of a place, community, or ministry that fills up your cup, and you too witness God giving you a big hug- refreshed, renewed, redeemed, beloved.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Anna

"Camp was a place where it felt like God was giving her a big hug"





# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## GARDEN WORSHIP

On Sunday, August 20th, we will be moving worship to the garden outside! Same time as always at 10am.



## GAME NIGHT

The Silcos have an abundance of board games they would like to share and teach to others for a fun family friendly night! Mark your calendar for Tuesday August 22nd at 7pm

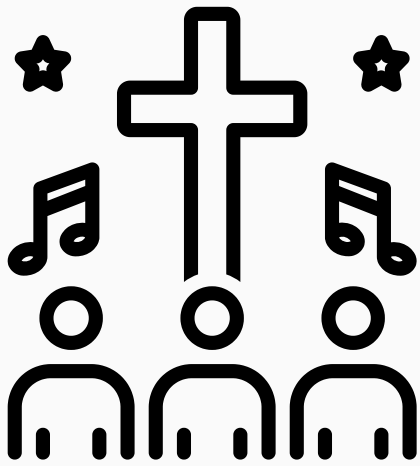


## CHURCH HIKE

Let's enjoy some Fall Foliage on the Turnagain Arm Trail on September 6th from 5:30-7pm for a hike (2 miles, easy/moderate incline) and a short devotion. Meet at the church to carpool, and feel free to head over to Gallos afterwards for a well earned meal!



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## WORSHIP & MUSIC

We are excited to host an outdoor worship in August! We also have been in discussion about changing liturgy and singing some newer hymns. Feel free to suggest some hymns so we can fit them into our schedule! Our next Worship and Music Meeting is August 15 at 7pm.

## COUNCIL NEWS

This past month we chatted about the future admin position, the church phone, getting and AED, and synod assembly report. The minutes from the last meetings 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!



## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Payton and Kayda H. (August 17th)





# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ALASKA SYNOD WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION GATHERING

Ladies are invited from every Alaskan ELCA congregation to come together in Fairbanks this fall, September 8-9, for a retreat and convention. We'll gather at Fairbanks Lutheran Church to share a meal on Friday evening and spend Saturday together to worship, sing, serve, share meals, and focus on the fruits of the spirit. See the flyer below for more details!

*Women of the ELCA & friends – you're invited to*

**Craft** **Meet** **Connect** **Worship** **Study**

**Workshops** **Rest** **Galatians 5:22-23** **Visit** **Share Meals**

**The Fruit of the Spirit**

**Women of the ELCA Retreat in Fairbanks**  
**Friday & Saturday, September 8 & 9, 2023**

Activities on fruits of the spirit: kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.  
Friday 5 - 7:30pm and Saturday 9:30 am - late afternoon, at Fairbanks Lutheran Church. Event organized and led by Alaska Synodical Women's Organization board members. \$20. RSVP by Friday 9/1 to AlaskaSynodicalWomensOrg@gmail.com and we can recommend a hotel or seek a guest room invitation.

## PASTOR'S CORNER



Aaron, Aidan and I attended Glacier Bible Camp in Juneau on July 17-21st. We had a wonderful time, and I hope to take a group of kids from the church with me next year. Mark your calendars for the 3rd week in July!

You may have also had a chance to meet my husband in worship now with our Summer Silco Swap! He was at COSLC on July 16th and 30th, and will be one more time August 13th.



## KIDS CORNER

Can you find the bear hidden in one of the pictures of this newsletter?





Newsletter Article  
August 2023  
Lutheran Social Services of Alaska

The numbers of new clients visiting the Food Pantry is continuing to increase this summer. Anything you can do to help us stock our shelves will be greatly appreciated.

Items like canned meats (especially tuna), soups, mini ravioli, peanut butter and jelly, canned fruits (especially peaches), cereals, oatmeal or hamburger helpers are in high demand. Also if you have rhubarb growing in your gardens that you would like to share please drop it off at the Food Pantry.

HUGSS (Help Us Give School Supplies) distribution will be August 9th at Bettye Davis East High School. This will be our 22nd year and we anticipate serving over 3,500 students.

We will be back to distributing at East High from 10am to 6pm. You can help us by purchasing school supplies and dropping them off at your congregation or here at LSSA. Also you can make a financial contribution and we will do the shopping for you. We will need volunteers to fill backpacks with school supplies on August 8th from 10am to 12noon or 1pm to 3pm. Volunteer opportunities the day of distribution are from 9:30 am to 12:30pm, 12pm to 3:30pm, or 4pm to 6:30pm. You can sign up on-line by going to our website [www.lssalaska.org](http://www.lssalaska.org) and click on volunteer.

The Harvest of Hope Auction is scheduled for Friday, September 15, 2023 at the Sheraton Anchorage. Tickets can be purchased on-line on the website listed above and clicking the Seeds of Hope Auction tab to RSVP. We are still looking for silent and live auction items as well. We will need some volunteers the day of the auction to help move auction items from our office to the hotel and then help with set-up. Please call the office to let us know if you can help.

Mark your calendars for the next Beer and Hymns that will take place October 8th from 6pm to 8pm at O'Brady's Burgers and Brew located in the Carrs Mall on Huffman.

Let your heart shine with the warmth of summer.

Together caring for others,

Alan Budahl,  
Executive Director  
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