



NOVEMBER 2023

# CHRIST OUR SAVIOR NEWSLETTER

## Gratitude and Generosity

BY PASTOR ANNA SILCO

When thinking about the month of November, and what to write about in this newsletter, these two “G” words came to mind: gratitude and generosity. It’s nice to tie these together as a pair, but it’s even BETTER if you can get a triple (trinity) “G” combo- so we will throw in God for a solid trinity of G’s! Now these words came to mind, as November is a time in which we Americans celebrate Thanksgiving, so it is often a time we reflect on gratitude. In the past, I have had a gratitude journal in which I wrote three things I was grateful for each day. This helped me a lot in getting through the dark winter months, and something I am thinking about starting again this November. I can definitely notice the way it changes my perspective partaking in the practice, and I even see it as a spiritual practice, as it feeds my spirit and a way .

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I give thanks to God each day. Now generosity also came to mind, as this coming month we will have some scriptures that talk about generosity, and Pastor Lisa Smith Fiegler will be guest preaching and sharing about generosity and stewardship this coming month on the 19th. We also will be having a generosity gathering at the end of the month to talk about generosity together and enjoy some food! Generosity also came to mind though, as I learned about the generosity of this congregation who has a history of providing 1200 cans of corn for LSSA for their thanksgiving blessing! This is a time of year for gratitude, and generosity, which can go hand and hand and both be a part of our ministry and spiritual practice, which deepens our relationship with God.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Anna

**““And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.””  
Colossians 3:17**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## GENEROSITY GATHERING

On Wednesday November 29th, at 5:30pm we will gather for a pizza party followed by some fun intergenerational generosity learning and activities! This gathering will kick off our Wednesday evening Advent potluck and services which will begin the following Wednesday at 5:30pm



## WOMEN'S ADVENT BRUNCH

Join other Lutheran women at an advent brunch on Saturday December 2nd at 9:00 AM at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, tickets are \$30. Let Pastor Anna know if you are interested.



## GATHER BIBLE STUDY

We will meet on November 2nd, and 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 welcomed a new pianist, Erin Pesznecker, who plans on regularly playing for us in worship starting this month of November! We are grateful she is willing to share you musical talent with us. Our next Worship and Music Meeting is November 7th at 10am.

## 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 November 12th at 11:45am



## COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The choir has been invited to sing in a community thanksgiving service at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church on Tuesday evening November 21st at 7pm. Other churches involved are: Jewel Lake Parish, St. Benedict Catholic Church, and Amazing Grace Lutheran Church. Join in attending this service with our wider community!



## PASTOR'S CORNER



This next month, my family will be headed to Camp Lutherhaven in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho for a week of First Call Theological Education. This is my last year of FCTE, which is done in your first 3 years as a Pastor. As many people do when they travel from Alaska, we are adding on a week of vacation to see my family in Chicago, attend my Grandma's 90th birthday party in Ohio, and also my sister's baby shower! I will be gone from November 13th-27th.

## KIDS CORNER



We will be concluding our Fall Confirmation (6th-8th grades) this coming Sunday evening. We are in partnership with Central Lutheran Church, Lutheran Church of Hope, and Gloria Dei. The Winter Confirmation session starts January 7th and is meeting at Lutheran Church of Hope on Sundays from 4:30-6pm for 6 weeks.

## 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 2nd Sunday this month (November 12th) during fellowship hour (11:15-11:45am), but not on the 4th as Pastor will be on vacation

Newsletter Article  
November 2023  
Lutheran Social Services of Alaska

As we embrace another month of blessing and challenges, we are pleased to share with you what is happening at LSSA.

We are busy preparing for the annual Thanksgiving Blessing and asking that you let this be a reminder of the strength and solidarity that binds us as a community. The Lutheran faith has always emphasized the profound gratitude we owe to God, not only for the gift of salvation through Christ but for the daily provisions and blessings that sustain our lives. It's also a time to remember our neighbors.

We ask that you help bring Thanksgiving to our community by donating green beans, corn, turkey stuffing and gravy mixes to reach our goal of serving 1400 food boxes. Distribution will be on Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at Central Lutheran Church from 2pm to 7pm. The format will remain the same as in the last few years when our guests will remain in their vehicles and drive by in the parking lot to pick up their turkeys and fixings. We plan to build the boxes of dry goods on Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, from 10am to 12noon and again from 1pm to 3pm. If you wish to volunteer, please call the office. If you sign up for distribution on Monday, please dress warmly as all work will be outside.

The number of visitors to the food pantry is still increasing and the alarming trend that concerns us is the number of households who are visiting for the first time. Clients are feeling the effects of delay with their SNAP benefits. Anything you can do to help us stock our shelves is 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.

We are also looking for volunteers to help pre-bag food for the Mobile Food Pantry. This is an indoor opportunity for the winter months at the Food Bank of Alaska every Tuesday from 1:30pm to 3:00pm. If you can help, please call Lauren at the LSSA office.

May God's boundless grace continue to illuminate your path, and may the spirit of Thanksgiving fill your hearts, homes, and congregations. In this season and always, may you find countless reasons to give thanks.

Together caring for others,  
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