

OCTOBER 2023

CHRIST OUR SAVIOR NEWSLETTER

Changing Seasons

BY PASTOR ANNA SILCO

I was talking to one of my friends who is originally from the East Coast, but lives in Guatemala right now. She shared how at this time of year in Guatemala they have a kind of second spring, where new things are blooming. She, however, misses home, and said "It doesn't feel right to see new things blooming, I miss the cold air of fall and I am used to everything dying... I want things to die!!" We both laughed, but I understood the feeling, when living abroad, I missed the usual changing of seasons that I grew up with. There is a beauty in seeing the landscape change around you, the cycle of death and life that is present in our lives, as well as the natural world. We are nearing the end of a church season here soon, with some special times of remembrance at the close of the Pentecost season. We have a time (October 8th) where we

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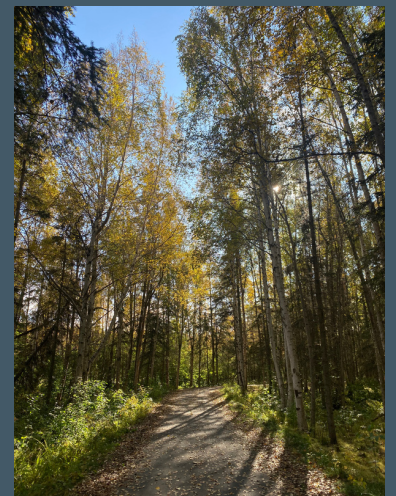
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remember and bless our animal companions! Remembering too that they are apart of this cycle of death and life, are blessed, and are a blessing to us in our lives. We also will have a time to remember all who have died this past year the and years before on All Saint's Sunday. (November 2nd). Remembering them, and assured of God's promise of resurrection, we gather together with care for one another as we name our loved ones who are now in God's eternal embrace. There is a blessing in the changing of seasons, in having a time to marvel at the changing colors, the crunch and rustle of the dying leaves, knowing that they will bring nutrients to the earth that will bring about new life. God too knows death, and new life. Blessings this Fall.

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”
Ecclesiastes 3:1-2**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANIMAL BLESSING

Bring your animals (or picture of animal, or collar/tags) to the church Sunday October 8th so we can bless them!



GATHER BIBLE STUDY

Beginning in October, we will meet on the 1st Thursday 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 the next three months 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!



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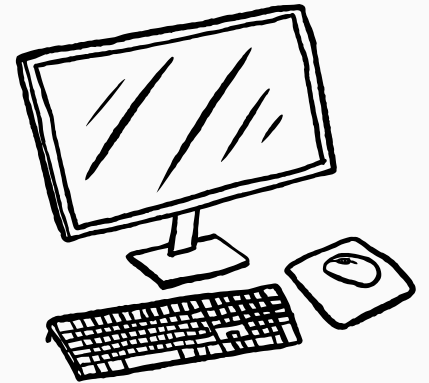


WORSHIP & MUSIC

We will be welcoming a Pianist, Erin Pesznecker, who plans on regularly playing for us in worship beginning on October 29th. We are grateful she is willing to share you musical talent with us. Our next Worship and Music Meeting is October 24th at 7pm.

COUNCIL NEWS

Be sure to check out the minutes from the last meeting, which can be found on the website under "Council Corner". We are still discussing the future of the admin position. Feel free to reach out to any council member with your questions, comments, and concerns at any time!



VALUE'S DISCERNMENT

What are the values and guiding principles of the Alaska Synod? Each congregation of the Alaska Synod is being asked to discern our core values, as we prepare to elect a new Bishop at the Synod Assembly next year. Please consider joining after the church potluck on October 1st (11:30-12:30pm) to help compile our list of values for the synod.



PASTOR'S CORNER



We had a fun time at the church hike, and *mostly* stayed dry from the rain! This next month, Lutheran pastors from around the area will gather for a few days for continuing education, community, and reflection. COSLC was chosen as our meeting space and we will be gathering there October 17-19th.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is starting up again for youth in 6th-8th grade. We will have three six week sessions at three different churches led by different pastors. We are in partnership with Central Lutheran Church, Lutheran Church of Hope, and Gloria Dei. The Fall Session starts October 1st, and is meeting at Gloria Dei on Sundays from 4:30-6pm.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

We will be having Sunday School on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month during fellowship hour (11:15-11:45am)

Newsletter Article
October 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.

The annual Harvest of Hope Auction was another great success. Thank you to everyone who donated items for the live and silent auction, those who attended, and to those who left with new possessions or new adventures. We are happy to report that we raised over \$100,000 at this event. Plans are already under way for the 2024 Harvest of Hope Auction which will again be in the middle of September.

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. This trend tells us that things are getting harder for households in Anchorage. 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 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 3:30pm. If you can help please call Lauren at the LSSA office.

Plans are under way for Thanksgiving Blessing that will take place on Monday, November 20th at Central Lutheran Church. The format will remain the same as the last few years where our guests will remain in their vehicles and drive by in the parking lot to pick up their turkeys and fixings. We again will be asking congregations to help collect cans of corn, green beans, gravy mixes, and boxes of stuffing. We plan to build the boxes of dry goods on Saturday, November 18th and add the frozen items on Monday as we distribute between 1pm and 7pm. We will also be sending you a link in November to sign up to volunteer.

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

The mission of LSSA resonates with the core Lutheran value of loving our neighbor.

Together caring for others,
Alan Budahl,
Executive Director - LSSA
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