



SEPTEMBER 2023

# CHRIST OUR SAVIOR NEWSLETTER

## Transformation in the Garden

BY PASTOR ANNA SILCO

This past month, we were blessed with a sunny morning to spend outside for our first worship service in the Lemp Memorial Garden! It was a joy to see everything come together. A true group effort in making the worship space to outdoors. With fresh flowers brought out, a pulpit carried by two, a cross stabled with rocks, chairs arranged, a generator fired up for the piano, and communion elements carried out in a basket. As my faith and calling from God first sprouted during my time in outdoor ministry, it was deeply moving to worship together outside. The garden has also been a beautiful place to witness the transforming power of community at work, and what a transformation it has been! With the assembly of the new beds this spring, along with another water tank, seeing the beds filled

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up with wood and leaves at their base, then soil, then seeds... then WOW, what beauty to see the creativity of the gardeners growing an array of vegetables and flowers that truly transform the space. As I shared in my children sermon that morning in the garden, I love looking around at creation and imagining it all as God's paints, painting a beautiful picture of creation.. What I love about the garden is that we too get to share in God's paints and co-create together something beautiful and sustaining for our community and to share with one another. What a wonderful ministry to celebrate and be a part of! God's work, our hands. May we continue to celebrate, experience God in creation, and worship together anew as we celebrate this beautiful ministry and space. Thanks be to God!  
Grace and peace,  
Pastor Anna

**"We too get to share in God's paints and co-create together"**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 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!



## 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!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

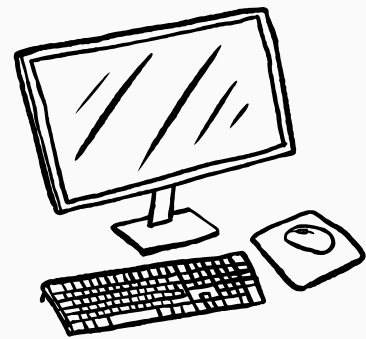


## WORSHIP & MUSIC

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 September 26th.

## COUNCIL NEWS

Be sure to check out the minutes from the last meeting, which can be found on the website under "Council Corner". We did not meet in August, but will meet again September 10th to talk about the future admin position, getting an AED, and suggestions for Mercy the Pig! Feel free to reach out to any council member with your questions, comments, and concerns at any time!



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jessica M. (September 1st)





## PASTOR'S CORNER

Thanks for all who came out for game night this past month! It was fun to become bean farmers with you all, and if you missed it, another game night may come around to cheer up the dark days of winter. If you have other activity ideas you would like to see the church have, please feel free to reach out!

## KIDS CORNER

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.



Pastor Anna is currently brainstorming some ideas for Sunday School, when to meet etc., so stay tuned!

Newsletter Article  
September 2023  
Lutheran Social Services of Alaska

The numbers of new clients visiting the Food Pantry has continued throughout August.

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. Also, if you have plentiful harvest from your gardens that you would like to share, please drop it off at the Food Pantry.

Thank you to everyone who donated funds, school supplies, or volunteered your time at this year's HUGSS (Help Us Give School Supplies). This was the first year that we distributed in person after a 3-year Covid model of delivering the supplies directly to the schools. We are still tallying the registration forms, but it looks like we served 2,261 students from the Anchorage School District.

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 will need some volunteers on the day of the auction to help move auction items from our office to the hotel and then help with set-up or at the event itself. Please call the office to let us know if you can help.

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 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, and boxes of stuffing. We plan to build the boxes of dry goods on Saturday, November 18th and add the cooler items on Monday as we distribute. 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 O'Brady's Burgers and Brew located in the Carr's Mall on Huffman.

Let your heart shine with the warmth of summer.

Together caring for others,

Alan Budahl,  
Executive Director - LSSA  
1303 W, 33rd Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
907-272-0643