



HOPE HAPPENINGS

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF HOPE

MARCH
2026

What's Inside

- PAGE 1:
From Pastor
Liz
- PAGE 2: Hope
Highlights
- PAGE 3:
Council Article
- PAGE 4-5, 7:
Coming Up
- PAGE 5:
Ministries of
Hope



From Pastor Liz God, whose steadfast love endures forever,
For the people of Iran, neighboring countries, U.S.
service members, and all people under the shadow
of war today, we pray.

For the health, healing and well-being of beloved in our
congregation and families, we pray.

For the days when we don't know what to do, when we're so angry
we cannot speak, when we're so grieved we cannot move, when
we're so afraid we are numb, for the days when we don't know
what to do, we pray.

For the people who gather to bear witness together, and for the
faithful who seek to love their neighbors in word and deed, we
give thanks.

For the first steps and persistent acts; for the soft voices that
speak up, and the weak hands that give and receive; for the care
and attention that endures; for the courage that inspires, we give
thanks.

For the wonder and awe that we experience in your presence, and
the beauty of all creation, we give thanks.

For the days when we know exactly what you call us to do; when
our faith compels us, when we give and receive small graces,
tender mercies and surprising joys, when wisdom lights our path
and our voices grow strong; for the days when we know exactly
what you call us to do, we give thanks.

To you, O God, whose steadfast love endures forever, we place our
whole selves - every bit of our lives - under your care. Lead us,
guide us, along your way.
Let the Church say: Amen.



**As you know, we
have a new logo!!!**

Where can you find it?

Our front sign!

A new banner in the welcome area!

We've got pens!

Check out our new and constantly improving website!

And starting Sunday, March 8 until Sunday March 22, you
can order a t-shirt or hoodie!

Order forms will be available on Sundays or contact the
church office to get your order options.



Please take a look at the worship
volunteer sign-up sheets posted in the
welcome area.

Our volunteers help prepare communion,
bring refreshments for fellowship, and
usher.



**OFFICE
SCHEDULE**

The church office will be
closed March 6-13 while
our office manager is out
of town.



As we navigate this season of lent, I've been considering the dark.

We, as Alaskans, are experts of the dark. We go to school in the dark. We go to work in the dark. We come home in the dark. In the height of winter, we can spend most of our daylight hours trapped inside—longing for the sun.

Life can feel like that some days. You spend so much of your time in the muck of the trenches that you can forget to watch for the sun. As I attended the vigil for the Arriaga family, I was stunned by how many people came out to show support. The sanctuary was full to brim, with its doors flung wide so that those of us in the narthex could still see. When we each lit our candle and held them high, all the shadows were chased away.

We are the light for each other. Clouds fade, justice prevails, and little by little, the sun returns.

A light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Yours in faith,
Katrina Eldred, Council Member

Find the article [here](#).



ICE defends detention, deportation of Soldotna family as vigils held and lawmakers probe agency actions

By Michelle Theriault Boots
Published: 1 day ago



An overflow crowd joined a prayer service and candlelight vigil for the family of Sonia Espinoza Arriaga and Alexander Sanchez-Ramos at St. John United Methodist Church in South Anchorage on Monday. (Marc Lester / ADN)

"We call upon Alaska's elected leaders, local, state, and federal, to advocate for the wellbeing of families and children and for immigration enforcement practices that reflect both justice and mercy. And we call upon our congregations to pray, to advocate peacefully, and to accompany those who are afraid.

There is a moral crisis when children are placed behind locked doors without clear necessity and without facilities designed for their care. There is a moral crisis when fear eclipses compassion. There is a moral crisis when we grow accustomed to scenes that should trouble our conscience.

The Church must be neither the chaplain of the status quo nor the echo of political talking points. We are called to be witnesses to the dignity of every human being, created in the image of God."

Excerpt from ["An Open Letter to the People of Alaska and to Our Elected Leaders"](#) signed by Bishop Tim Oslovich among other local faith leaders, dated February 19, 2026

COMING UP

GAME



NIGHT

March 7



5:00 PM



Giving Up **BAD THEOLOGY...**

Picking Up *Living Faith*

A Lent Series

6:00pm Dinner

6:30pm Class

Starting February 25



THE OTHER 4H GROUP

The next book is The Correspondent: A Novel by Virginia Evans. Join us in person at Lutheran Church of Hope and on Zoom for a discussion of this book on Thursday, April 9, 2026 at 7 PM.



JUSTICE ORGANIZING INTERFAITH NETWORK

ASSEMBLY CANDIDATE FORUM

You are invited to hear 2026 Anchorage Assembly candidates speak on the issues that affect our congregations, neighborhoods, and city.



Thursday,
March 12th
6:30 to 8 p.m.
Central Lutheran Church
1420 Cordova St.

Save the Date Holy Week Worship

Palm Sunday
March 29

Maundy Thursday
April 2
at Turnagain United Methodist Church

Good Friday
April 3

Easter Sunday
April 5

A reception will follow with refreshments and the opportunity to meet Assembly candidates.

Free Parking available.

Sponsored by:



JOIN is a 501(c)(3) civic organization that mobilizes Alaska's faith and local communities to address the quality of life issues that affect them.

The Alaska Synodical Women's Organization (ASWO) will host a retreat on Saturday, March 28, from 10 am to 2 pm. This event for ELCA Alaska ladies will be both via zoom link and in person in a few churches.

We'll be celebrating bold women, both historically and today, in faith and in life, and asking you to find your bold. The event will include singing, study with Pastor Shelley Wickstrom, a service project and a meal at the in-person sites.

This event has no cost to participate. However, we will invite participants to make an offering that can support the Women of the ELCA and ASWO in future events and programs.

Meet in person at:

- Gloria Dei Lutheran in Anchorage, potluck lunch of salad, soup, and bread. RSVP to Holly Karjala at 907-350-1599

Or, log in to zoom.us, Meeting ID: 996 903 5845 and password: allwelcome from wherever you are.



Ministries of Hope

What would you like to do?

Learn?

- Join our **Sunday morning Bible study at 8:30 am** in the church library. Current study: Book of Amos.
- Discuss the latest book in the **Other 4H Book Club!** Currently reading: The Correspondent by Virginia Evans The club will meet to discuss this book on **Thursday, April 9, 2026 at 7 pm** at Lutheran Church of Hope in person and on Zoom.

Feed the hungry?

- We host a **Mobile Food Pantry every Tuesday at 3:30 pm** with Lutheran Social Services. [All volunteers are welcome](#) to help give food to anyone who needs it in Anchorage.
- The **Harvest of Hope Memorial Garden needs you!** Help plant, weed, and harvest!

Are you interested in a ministry not listed here? Tell us!
Please speak to a council member, Pastor Liz, or contact the church office.

Serve our community?

- We are a member of **JOIN-Justice Organizing Interfaith Network**, a broad-based alliance of churches, nonprofits, and civic groups that helps ordinary citizens solve community issues they care about.
- Consider serving on our **Church Council** - members discuss and make decisions on behalf of the congregation regarding ministry, mission and stewardship of our resources.

Help with worship?

- Volunteer to prepare communion! Sign up to bring refreshments for fellowship! Be an usher! Sign up in the welcome area.
- Join our **Worship Team** and help plan Sunday morning worship and special services. Contact Patty B.

Be creative?

- Our **Quilting Group** meets every **Thursday at 11 am**, but all kinds of crafters are welcome! Bring your knitting, crochet, or sewing projects to craft together. Contact Barb M. or Carolyn C.
- Join our **Art Team!** Decorate our fence, paint the front windows, make some art! Contact Beaty G.

Fix things?

- There are lots of building improvements to help with if you're handy! Our **Property Team** works on what needs to be done and how best to do it. Contact Todd B or Tom M.



Our prayer partner for this month is Christ Lutheran Church in Soldotna, AK.



Altar Flowers

The 2026 Flower Chart is posted in the welcome area!

Sign up to sponsor the altar flowers on a Sunday in celebration of a special day, in memory of a loved one, or just because!

Flowers are \$25.

GOLDEN CONNECTIONS PRESENTS

LIMITED TICKETS! **MUST REGISTER!**

FUR RONDY

Octoberrfest Party

**SAT
MAR
7**

**AT
5:30
PM**

Shuttle leaves 5:30PM @ Central Lutheran Church
1420 Cordova St, Anchorage, AK 99501
Call or scan QR code to register! 907-272-0643

Shuttle returns to Central Lutheran about 8:00pm

55+ ONLY!

If you are not riding the shuttle we will meet at The Eagan Center!

Lutheran Social Services of Alaska



Happy Birthday!

John H., Nancy F., Katrina E., Betsy E., Meredith H., Dan B., Brad S., Jennie W.



Lutheran Church of Hope

1847 W. Northern Lights Blvd

Anchorage, AK 99517

(907) 279-7714 lcohope@gmail.com

hopeak.org

YOU ARE
LOVED