



LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF HOPE

HOPE HAPPENINGS

FEBRUARY 2025

Save the Date!

March 2:
Transfiguration

March 5: Ash
Wednesday

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Region 1
Bishop's Letter



From Pastor Liz

People of Hope,

In [her letter](#) regarding the President's recent executive orders concerning immigration, Bishop Eaton encourages us to join four callings: a call to prayer, a call to learning, a call to personal witness, and a call to public witness. (Bishop Tim of the Alaska Synod joined other Region 1 bishops in a similar statement found on page 5). In truth, these are always our callings, but they do indeed feel pressing for us during this moment in our country. Because of this, I wish to raise them again for us, and perhaps add a fifth call.

Maybe you were like me in the past couple weeks and felt flooded by the news. I am greatly concerned for our neighbors who are Trans and immigrants/refugees, as well as the legalities of actions being taken at the federal level. And as I am flooded by the news, and by my emotions, the call to prayer becomes even more important. When we're feeling flooded by events, it's time to flood our lives in prayer! For me that looked like lighting candles and spending more time praying. For you, that might mean using your minutes in your commute or while washing the dishes. Perhaps it's taking an extra time while first waking up, or just before you go to bed. Perhaps it's logging off your phone earlier than usual, or taking that walk through creation. For all of us, it will look like gathering together in worship or in small groups and praying together. Where two or three are gathered, Christ is there.

And then we must pray with our feet.

We are called to stay informed and learn so that we can move with wisdom and truth. We are called to be a personal witness in our relationships and encounters - to speak against dehumanization and speak truth. We are called to be [a public witness](#) by calling our representatives (Sen. Lisa Murkowski 202-224-6665, Sen. Dan Sullivan 202-224-3004, Rep. Nick Begich III 202-225-5765), and coordinating with others to address our government. This may mean we also need to connect with other organizations who have more knowledge and expertise. Amidst the flood of news, we may need to decide on a particular

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concern we feel God is calling us to learn and respond to, and trust that others are stepping forward in their callings in regards to other issues. All of this stems from our primary call to love God and to love our neighbor.

Finally, I would add a fifth calling for this moment and that is a call to community. This call is interwoven through each of the others. We do not do this alone. We do not do this as only the Lutheran Church of Hope. It is also a call to connect with one another, within our congregation and beyond, and to be reminded that the joy of the Lord is our strength.

Connect with someone in the congregation. Invite a neighbor to dinner. Play! Join us in our singing and our praying. Now is the time to lean in. The joy of the Lord is our strength, and the Spirit of the Lord is upon us.

With you in peace and love,
Pastor Liz

PRAYER FOR A TIME OF CONFLICT, CRISIS, DISASTER

○ ————— ○
O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted,
grant courage and hope.

Where anxiety is infectious and widening,
grant peace and reassurance.

Where impossibilities close every door and window,
grant imagination and resistance.

Where distrust twists our thinking,
grant healing and illumination.

Where spirits are daunted and weakened,
grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams.

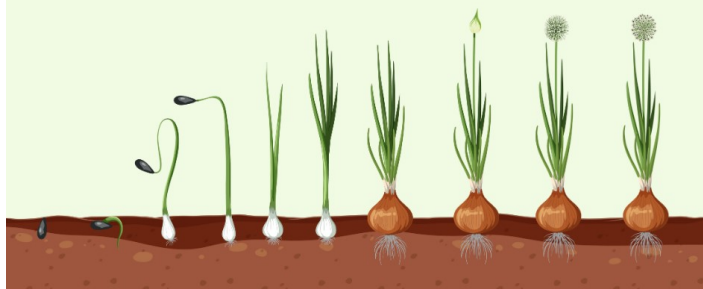
ELW, P. 76

ALL THESE THINGS WE ASK IN THE NAME OF
JESUS CHRIST, OUR SAVIOR AND LORD. AMEN.



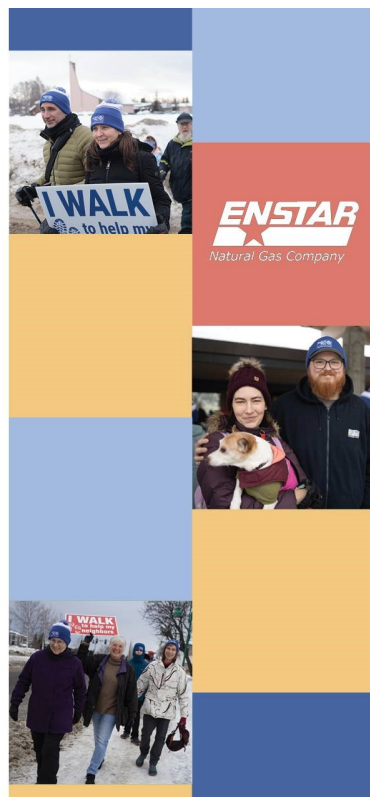
COMING UP

Gardening season has started!
Join us at church to plant onions and leeks
Friday, February 7 at 6:00 pm



WALK FOR WARMTH

Saturday, Feb. 15
11 a.m.
First Presbyterian Church
616 W. 10th Ave.



Golden Connections

February Events

FEB 12TH **WHAT: VALENTINES DAY PARTY**
WHERE: CENTRAL LUTHERAN
Wednesday 11:30AM
1420 Cordova St, Anchorage, AK 99501

FEB 22ND **WHAT: INTERNATIONAL DAY: CELEBRATE THE MANY CULTURES THRU FOOD AND DANCE**
WHERE: CENTRAL LUTHERAN
Saturday 11:30AM
1420 Cordova St, Anchorage, AK 99501

Lutheran Social Services of Alaska



Confirmation continues until Sunday, February 16 at
4:00 pm at Lutheran Church of Hope

What can help us thrive?

As part of our council's promise to meet with our working groups in the church, we would like to invite worship volunteers to meet with us so we can listen to your thoughts, ideas, suggestions, and concerns with the roles of Communion Preparation, Ushering, and Fellowship. We would like to meet **this Saturday, February 8th around noon.**

If you are not able to attend, we would still like to hear from you! Feel free to reach out to Beaty or myself to share your thoughts with us. Our goal is to bring this information back to the council and hear what you feel will be helpful moving forward.

Thank You,
Patty Bryant & Beaty Graves, LCOH Council Members



HOPE HIGHLIGHTS



Congratulations to Pastor Va'a Alaelua on his ordination into the United Church of Christ!



Region 1 of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

The statement below was prepared by the bishops of Region 1 of the ELCA -- the Alaska Synod, the Northwest Washington Synod, the Southwestern Washington Synod, the Oregon Synod, the Northwest Intermountain Synod, and the Montana Synod. It reflects how the teachings of the Bible and the Lutheran tradition can inform how we think about immigration and the individuals who are immigrants. If you would like to talk with me about these issues, please contact me.

Peace, Bishop Tim
aksynodbishop@gmail.com

A Statement on Immigration

As Lutherans, we are called to live out the teachings of Jesus Christ, who welcomed strangers and emphasized love, mercy, and justice for all people. We believe that every human being, regardless of their country of origin or legal status, is created in the image of God and has inherent dignity and worth. This foundational truth compels us to approach the issue of immigration with compassion and a commitment to the common good.

Scripture repeatedly instructs us to love our neighbor and show the stranger hospitality. God commands the people of Israel, "The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself" (Leviticus 19:34). Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) shows us that caring for people in need is central to who we are as Christians. The parable also challenges us to acknowledge the goodness in all people because the "foreigner" in the story is the one who acts in the most Christlike way. In light of these teachings, we advocate for an immigration policy that reflects Christ's love, recognizing that all people deserve respect and protection.

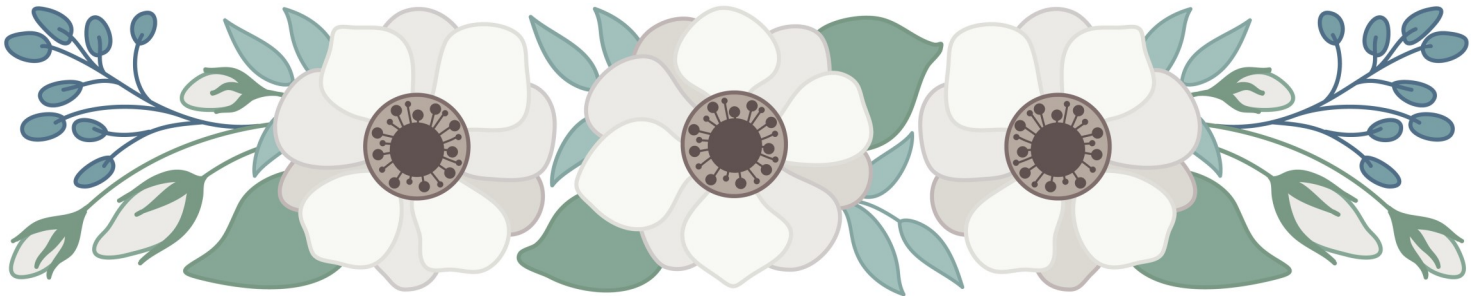
The Lutheran tradition emphasizes both mercy and justice. Justice requires everyone, including immigrants, to be treated fairly and equitably. While upholding the rule of law is important, it must not be done in ways that dehumanize or exploit vulnerable people. We are especially concerned about the possibility that places of worship, hospitals, and schools could be the target of deportation raids. A policy that allowed such raids would increase the suffering not only of undocumented people but also of many people who would fear being unjustly targeted and thus avoid those places. Denying people the opportunity to attend worship, be educated, or receive medical treatment violates individuals' fundamental rights. We urge those in government and law enforcement who are responsible for the detention or deportation of undocumented persons to consider how their actions might be seen in the eyes of God.

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We are all members of the same human family. Therefore, we approach immigration not merely as a political or legal issue but as a matter of human solidarity. The health and prosperity of the United States are intertwined with the contributions and lives of immigrants. Immigrants bring diverse gifts and play an essential role in our communities and economies. Our immigration policies should reflect a commitment to the welfare of all, especially the most vulnerable.

As people who have received God's mercy and grace, we are called to extend that same mercy and grace to others. This means offering opportunities for new beginnings, particularly for those already present in the United States without legal documentation. A just immigration policy would provide pathways to citizenship for those who have lived in the U.S. for years, contributing to the country and integrating into our communities. It should also guarantee protection for those fleeing violence or persecution, ensure that immigrant families remain united, and make sure that children are not punished for their parents' actions. We are called, as individuals and as a society, to remember that the immigrants among us are not intruders or enemies but bearers of the image of God, deserving of our care, respect, and advocacy.

The Rev. Shelley Bryan Wee, Bishop, Northwest Washington Synod
The Rev. Richard Jaech, Bishop, Southwestern Washington Synod
The Rev. Dr. Laurie Jungling, Bishop, Montana Synod
The Rev. Laurie Larson Caesar, Bishop, Oregon Synod
The Rev. Dr. Meggan Manlove, Bishop, Northwest Intermountain Synod
The Rev. Timothy Oslovich, Bishop, Alaska Synod



Our February prayer partner is Petersburg Lutheran Church in Petersburg, AK.



Thank you for continuing your financial support of our church. Check out our website for more information, www.hopeak.org/give



Happy Birthday!

Erin A., Alice H., Anders H., Ginger R., Val B., Dottie H., Ann R., Sam H., Scott H.

Happy Anniversary!

Gretta & Jeff G. & Bryan and Joyce H.

SERVE



LSSA Mobile Food Pantry is every Tuesday at 4:30 pm. Line up starts at 3:30 pm. You do not need an appointment to receive food. If you would like to volunteer, contact 272-0643 option 14. Distribution is drive-thru.



Worship Team They meet regularly to plan and discuss ideas for Sunday morning worship and special services. Interested in helping us? Talk to Pastor Liz.

Property Team helps us take care of the building and the grounds by discerning what needs to be done and how best to do it. Please talk with Don Bladow or Todd Bryant if interested in helping.

Council will meet on **Thursday, February 20 at 6 PM** to discern and make decisions on behalf of the congregation regarding ministry, mission and stewardship of our resources. Please pray for our council leaders.

Art Team: Notice different signs on the fence? Art on the windows? Art around the garden? These were brought together by the art team! Would you like to help or have an idea? Contact Heather at the church office.



Lutheran Church of Hope
1847 W. Northern Lights Blvd
Anchorage, AK 99517
www.hopeak.org

