



ALC

November 2024

Newsletter



Overcoming Uncertainty

Dear Children of God at ALC,

Since our national election is just days away, I wanted to use this space this month to share a few thoughts. Over the past year leading up to the election, I think I have felt all of the possible human emotions. Right now, I'm feeling a strong mixture of anxiety and anticipation of feeling relieved that this election is almost over. A vast majority of people in the US have been feeling lots of anxiety and fear leading up to the election. There is a lot of uncertainty and a lot to potentially fear. So how are we to respond as Christians? What are we called to do?

First, VOTE!!! If you haven't already voted, be sure to do so ASAP! Voting is one of the most important ways that we can be involved in our government. Furthermore, voting is one of the ways that we as Christians can live out our baptismal call to serve all people like Jesus did and to work for justice and peace. Scripture tells us that God is present in all realms of life, including in our political life. Working through the government is one way that God works in our world. So, we have a responsibility and a call from God to add our vote and our voice to the political process so that all God's children have a chance at the sort of world that God intended.

In October the Spiritual Practices group gathered to pray in the midst of this election cycle. As we have prayed together, my perspective shifted away from the uncertainty, fear, and anxiety and toward God and the promises that God has made to us.

What I have found most helpful lately is to remind myself of this truth: no matter what happens in this election, God will still be in control and God will still be with us. We are called to respond to everything happening in our country right now with love for our neighbors and trust in God.

Let us pray:

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, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.
(ELW, p. 76)

Peace,
Pastor Melissa



Electronic Giving

Thank you to those of you who have already given their offering online! Please take a few minutes this week to set up your profile and schedule your giving. Check out the GIVE tab on our website or click on this QR code. If 20 people sign up for recurring giving before the end of November, an anonymous donor will donate \$1000!

You may also give now at this link:

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZNAK>

Whether you choose to give online or in person, your support is vital to the continued success of our church community. We are so grateful for your generosity and commitment to our shared mission.

Thank you for your continued support of ALC!



Spiritual Practices

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES has been reformatted with monthly themes and will meet at different times and days. Join us on Tuesdays at **noon** during November. For November the theme will be “Giving thanks”. No meeting November 5, Election Day.

Remember In Prayer

Randy and Linda Holland
Mike and Vicky Ryles
Mollie Waldum
Holly Happe
Carole Fagerli
Anita Bueling
Lynnette Evanson
Bea Huber
Larry Lovely
Denice Harris
Lana Sheen
Gary Hart



Appreciating God’s Patience

I wonder why I don’t have more patience at times. Certain things will cause me to test my patience, and one such event is when the bridge to our cabin was washed away during the massive flooding that occurred in June of 2022. We had an older wooden bridge that we knew had to be replaced one day; however, we did not anticipate that the fateful day of losing our bridge would happen so dramatically. I remember going up to our cabin and looking at where our bridge once was and then realizing that we obviously needed a new bridge to gain access to our cabin. So began the long and arduous journey of trying to get our bridge replaced. I won’t bore you with the details, but needless to say there were permits to get, difficult bureaucracies that our family had to deal with, and the

endless setbacks to getting the project completed. During this time, I keep thinking why can't this get done! I must admit that my patience seemed to be tested to the limit. And now that our bridge has recently been completed, I marvel at the bridge and my memory of me losing my patience seemed to completely fade away.

How many times in my life have I repeated this same thing, of not having patience, only to have my memory of such a time fade away after the event has happened. In the midst of such events, did I turn it over to God and then snatch it back when it didn't go as I thought it should? Did I give thanks to God for the process that was occurring and for the people involved helping to get it completed? I often think about this and know that my timing is not always God's timing. I also know that I need to let GO and let God work. I am thankful that I can recognize when I am not so patient and that I can work on letting God work in ways that I may not understand now. I know for me this comes down to trusting God. The good news is that God is patient with me, and He is not done with me!

On another note, I have so many things I am thankful for right now. Around ALC, I am thankful for the new multi-purpose room. We had a blessing for this transformed space, and I encourage you to stop by and look at the room if you haven't seen it yet or better yet, sit down and relax with a friend for a little while. I am thankful for our recent council retreats that have allowed us to take a journey to learn more about each other, our fears, our hopes, how we can work together in a productive way and finally how we can better listen to what God has in store for us at ALC. I am thankful for our potluck and conversations that we have had this fall. So far, we have had two separate times of eating good food and having some relaxed conversations. If you haven't attended one you still have a chance. We will be having one more in November, on the 19th at 5:30pm. Finally, I am thankful that we have the opportunity for online giving. I encourage you to consider using this process for your own convenience. And if we get 20 different giving units to sign up by the end of November, an anonymous donor will give \$1,000 dollars to ALC!

Outside of ALC, I am thankful for our community. There is so much good happening in this place we call home. I am also thankful for our incredible country that we live in. Despite some of the rhetoric one hears about regarding all the differences that we have with each other; we live in a place where we can vote. I am indeed thankful for the right to vote! I encourage you to find a moment or two and reflect on all that you have and give God thanks. We all have so much to be thankful for! And let us not forget that God is ALWAYS with us.

Yours in Christ,

Randy Mogen



- 5 Tena Versland
- 9 Larry Hildebrandt
- 13 Cooper Johnson
- 20 Billie Kaye Harms
- 22 Randy Mogen
- 25 Gus Bueling
- 28 Ruth Flatgard

Benevolence

OCTOBER BENEVOLENCE: Our October benevolence will go to support the purchase of gloves and possibly also snowpants for the students at Winans Elementary School.

NOVEMBER BENEVOLENCE: Our November benevolence will go to support Disaster/Flood/Fire Relief. This may include helping those who were affected by the Elk River Fire and Hurricanes Milton and Helene.

Christikon appreciates your generosity for the September benevolence of \$1520.



Focusing on Gratitude

The topic of recent conversations lately seems to involve our

upcoming national and state elections. We choose sides and frequently notice our closest friends tend to be on the opposing sides and we must be very careful with expressing our opinions. There are definitely times when we need to be cagey and tactful as "this too shall pass." My opinion is to restrict our screen time on national news sources and also to walk away from potential confrontations. You can't change my mind, and I'll probably not change yours!

Think of other ways to occupy your focus: read a book, listen to music, partake in a hobby, or maybe turn to a sports channel. Get outside! Watch the birds that are preparing to start on their southward journey. Put up some Halloween or Thanksgiving decorations. Take a back country ride. In the last 2 weeks, we have traveled Convict Grade to Springdale, gone up the Boulder Road, Flathead Creek, Brackett Creek, Trail Creek and many others. The autumn colors have been phenomenal, and in spite of the marginal precipitation, the fields remain beautiful and lush! There is a lot of singing of "How Great Thou Art" in our vehicle, sometimes even in tune.

Driving back and forth on the highways and byways, it's amazing how many out of state license plates you see. The tourists love it here so much they don't seem to want to leave. Now, mind you, I don't care if they stay, but I'd love to teach them to drive carefully, and maybe be a little more courteous to our store clerks. Let's invite them to church, it might be good for all of us!

May the Lord Bless Us All!

Dale & Gloria Guidi

Snow Shoveling

Sign up for your chance to shovel snow for a month! The volunteer sheet is on the sign up board.



Women ^{of the} ELCA 

WELCA is looking forward to you making this year's



Norwegian Goodies a success!

Thursday, Nov 7. 9am Meatball Making

Thursday, Nov. 14, 9am Salad Making

Thursday, Nov. 21 9am Lefse Making

Friday, Nov. 22, 9am Packaging

Saturday, Nov. 23 9-noon Pick-up

Thanks for all your help. We couldn't do this without YOU!!

Shout Outs!!

Shout Out and thank you to those who are making a difference in our community and church! These people and their stewardship are examples of God's loving grace. (Remember you can submit something for the shout outs at any time to alclivingston@gmail.com).



Shout out to...

- ✓ Don, Jerry, and Randy for assembling the furniture in the hospitality room. Thank you for your careful work so that we can offer welcome, rest, and refreshment to the Elevate Montessori staff and parents, and others who happen to stop by.
- ✓ Jane and Diane for cleaning the carpet in one of the classrooms. Thank you for helping to take care of our church building.
- ✓ Jane and Dana for swapping out the paraments and banners in the sanctuary. Thank you for helping to make our worship space a space that reminds us of God's beauty.
- ✓ Lana for assembling the school kits for LWR and everyone who donated school supplies for these kits. Thank you for helping to make sure kids around the world have a chance to go to school and learn.
- ✓ Everyone who has jumped on board with online giving. Thank you for your generosity to ALC (and thank you to all those who continue to give with paper checks).

- ✓ The council members who have attended a series of retreats to discern the future God is calling ALC to. Thank you for your dedication, time, and input to help the congregation answer God's call to share the good news of God's love and presence with our community.
- ✓ Leslie who provided treats for the hospitality room for a week. Thank you for nourishing the people who came into our church building. The treats were delicious!
- ✓ to Dale & Gloria Guidi and Dale Siegle for your dedication to feeding our seniors in need through Meals on Wheels.
- ✓ to Cookie, Jane, Dana, Karla, and Joan for helping to feed hungry souls in our community through Loaves & Fishes.
- ✓ To everyone who has contributed and supped at the potlucks. The food, fun, and fellowship were awesome. We are looking forward to the next one on Tuesday, November 19 at 5:30pm.

Council Minutes, October 6

Pastor's report: Annette will be on vacation November 6-17. Spiritual Practices met on Tuesday mornings in October. One Wednesday a month Pastor is attending LCM dinner/church meeting. The Hunger Team is applying for a grant that Pastor is writing. The cluster meeting of pastor was held here. ALC should start working on a Child Protection Policy and the Personnel Committee will work on this.

Local Benevolence: October's donation will be possibly for insulated gloves for the School District. November benevolence will go to Disaster Relief/Response, Lutheran Disaster Response for flood victims will be considered. The Synod may possibly have relief for fire relief victims of the Elk River Fire on the Wyoming/Montana border.

Newsletter articles are due October 24. Others are encouraged to write articles.

Building & Grounds: how stable is the chimney?

Building Committee: some questions remain regarding the heating and cooling of the rooms that Elevate uses.

Finance Committee: Vanco online giving is moving forward.

Building Task Force: Members have met and divided into subgroups to make suggestions on timelines and expenses for the council to consider in November. Ideas will be presented at the annual meeting in January. correction

Other business

- A lower table for the coffee area has been approved.
- Discussion was started at the council retreat that needs to be finished. Pastor is working on finding a time that most council members can attend.
- Future council meetings will not be held on the first or second of the month. See the monthly calendar for dates. If financial reports are not available, they will be presented at the following month's meeting.

New business:

- WELCA is doing Norwegian Goodies in November
- Organ tuning was on October 10
- Livingston Fire Rescue did a fire inspection. Issues have been rectified.
- \$5000 was moved from the Money Market account to checking to help cover expenses.

Addendum: Heating and cooling units for the Montessori rooms were approved on October 14.

Agape Circle is a women's Bible study that meets monthly either at church or in a group member's home. The group uses the Bible study out of the Gather magazine. The November gathering will be Thursday, December 5 at 7pm at the church with Diane Mueller hosting. The meeting date was changed to avoid being on the same day as making Norwegian Goodies.





Jesus and Pizza

Our Tuesday pizza and bible study group is currently going through the Gospel John with the help of material written by biblical commentator, Amy Jill-Levine. Last Tuesday we read the first part of John chapter 9, the story about a blind man healed on the Sabbath and the fallout in the community and in his own family from this encounter with Jesus. It's a story about restored physical sight. It's a story about how people, even those in the same family, don't see eye to eye. Mostly, it's a story about how one man, who through his interaction with Jesus, comes to see life in a radically different way. Amy Jill-Levine writes, the man emerges as moving from darkness to light, from ignorance to knowledge, and from his own family to the family of Jesus.

As readers we get to go on the journey with this formerly blind man while some people respond to him in wonder, the Pharisees question him, and his parents throw him under the bus for fear of the religious establishment. As a campus pastor I get to go on similar journeys with students as they encounter or re-encounter Jesus, consider what other people have to say about this towering 1st century figure, and try to discern who they are in relation to their family of origin while seriously considering who Jesus is to them now. For most, this journey with Jesus is filled with twists and turns including moments of clarity and periods of doubt.

LCM provides a space for students to work out their relationship with Jesus without forcing decisions or prescribing particular practices. Jim Finley, an incredibly wise spiritual director, is fond of saying, that which is essential never imposes itself for love is always offered, it's never imposed Love,

especially the kind Jesus offers, may not impose itself, but when received it changes everything. It certainly changed everything for the man in this story. I see it changing the lives of our students. I pray this love changes you as well.

Yours in Christ,

JP Carlson, Campus Pastor

Thank you to everyone who supported our Fall Fundraising Dinner featuring author, Heather White. The evening was a success and we raised over \$12,000 in support of LCM Campus Ministry. If you were unable to attend the event and would still like to make a donation, it's not too late! You can still make a donation!

November Worship Teams

November 3 Diana Mueller & Annette Hart

November 10 Don & Lana Sheen

November 17 Tena Versland, Dale & Gloria Guidi

November 24 Randy & Joan Mogen

December

December 1 Diane Mueller, Ian & Jenna Flatgard

December 8 Jane Haugen & Dana Latsch

December 15 Doug & Cookie Linstead

December 22 Jim & Bonnie Evanson

December 29 John & Diane West



**LIVINGSTON
MEALS on WHEELS**

American Lutheran Church is assigned one week (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday) to deliver Meals on Wheels about every other month. Our dedicated crew is struggling and would like some additional volunteers. Please see Dale or Gloria if you are feeling nudge to help with this ministry.

Christikon Clips

November 2024

Information for our Congregations

Our **2025 summer calendar** is set and, on our website, (christikon.org). If you have questions about the 2025 season or would like to register, give us a call or do so online. It was a powerful summer of ministry this year, and we look forward to welcoming you to camp in the new year.



The 2024 Annual Meeting will be on Sunday November 17th at 3:30pm. We'll tell stories from the summer and share plans for the 2025 season, construction, and much more. Our meeting will be a hybrid – meaning that we would love for you to come in person but if you cannot attend, you can join on Zoom. The in-person meeting will be at the Big Timber Lutheran Church.

We ask for prayers for our **Executive Director Call Committee** as they do their work and as we prepare to welcome a new director. We trust that God is present in this process.

We continue to hold you in prayer as together we navigate these uncertain times. We also trust in, and give thanks for, a God who promises to never let us go, no matter what life throws our way. May God bless you and yours as we move through fall and towards the holiday season and the new year.

Thank you as always for all the ways you support Christikon.

It is the mission of Christikon to awaken and nurture faith in Christ— exploring God's creation and the adventure of life together.

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We continue to serve the evening meal at Loaves and Fishes on the third Monday of each month (that's **November 18th** this month). 44 meals were served on October 21st. If you would be willing to help, please let

Pastor Melissa or Cookie Linsted know or just come down to Loaves & Fishes at 10am and/or 3:30pm.

September & October Potlucks

Join us for the November 19th Potluck at 5:30 pm. We are thankful that we are able to share fellowship with each other. Join us!



The holidays are
challenging when you're
grieving a loss.

Grief & Share

Surviving the *Holidays*

provides encouragement, support, and valuable
tools to navigate the season.

Join us for this 2-hour seminar

Location

Living Hope Church
226 S. 3rd Street
Livingston, MT 59047

Date & time

Sunday, November 10th
2-4 p.m.

Contact info

livingstongriefshare@gmail.com
To Register:
griefshare.org/holidays



[griefshare.org/holidays](https://www.griefshare.org/holidays)

Direct link: <https://www.griefshare.org/events/248570>