
Saints' Alive!

July 1, 2025

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Volume 106, Issue 7



Greetings All Saints,

In St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians (2:10), the Apostle uses a peculiar word to describe God's sanctifying work in Christian believers. The English Standard Version of the Bible describes this action—applied to us—as God's "workmanship." Yet a quick word study of the actual Greek word "poiēma" reveals a much richer and fuller idea than one might at first grasp.

Poiēma connotes a creativity of expression that has an artistic impulse to it—not like a workmanship that merely repairs something, but rather creates something new, expressive, and alive. I think it is especially poignant to know that "poiēma" is exactly where we get our English word "poem" from. Seen from this vantage point, I think it is safe to say that St. Paul is telling his readers that God is writing an expressive story, a masterpiece, out of the lives of believers—now fashioned to respond with good works as a result of God's mercy and grace in their lives. And in this, I think the Apostle is reassuring us that somehow, someway, God's purposes for our lives will not only prevail but fully define everything about us someday—a day in His keeping when that poem is fully written.

Now, it is true we all have our own stories of life—our lives before and during God's intervention in them. And it is important that we recognize and discern not only our own stories but others' within our fellowship and also those outside of it. The reason it is important to do this is that it helps us develop a spiritual sensitivity toward God's hand in this workmanship He desires to accomplish in us and this world of His. But learning, telling, and sharing in each other's stories requires careful listening, intentional transparency, and receptivity with grace and gentleness.

Last month Lisa and I went to an event called "Stories at the Cemetery." No, it was not a Halloween-like gathering. It was a tour through the Anchorage Cemetery, stopping at various grave markers and being read a biography of each individual highlighted for that tour. Hundreds of people came to listen to these stories. They were fascinating, each and every one of them. But what struck me the most was looking around at the eager audience and seeing on their faces the reality that they too, each, have a story that yearns to be told, heard, and received in graciousness by others. The art of listening is an act that we—as people in whom God is writing a story—must be willing to exercise, hone, and offer to others if we wish to show them God's own intervention and creativity in our lives.

So I think it is an important spiritual discipline worthy of our attention and efforts. Anchorage is full of stories, and not just with those already written whose place of interment is given a marker with birth and death dates. There are many stories—indeed poems still being written—all around us that we do well to listen to, learn, and share in. For in doing so, we might find God's hand at work in unexpected ways, and win the opportunity to share with others His hand at work in us, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



July 2025 Special Dates

- Independence Day, July 4



July Stories at the Cemetery

Event Date

From: 7/13/2025 6:00PM - 8:00 PM

Anchorage Memorial Park Cemetery

535 E 9th Avenue

Anchorage, AK 99501

The Stories at the Cemetery July edition will feature 10 selected gravesites by costumed actors from the Cemetery Players acting troupe. All presentations are based on public records, known facts and family memoirs. This is a self-guided tour with different biographies than the June Solstice tour.

Rain or shine, Free parking is available on Cordova Street and the side streets. Please don't park in the cemetery. No pets. There is no charge for the tour, but donations are appreciated.

**July Vestry Meeting Is
Sunday, July 13th
At 12:00 p.m. following the Service**





July 5th, JN Kendall
July 7th, Danelle Shellikoff
July 8th, Casey Knight
July 12th, Tara Bertmaring
July 14th, Paula MacDonald
July 20, Jake Lambers
July 21st, Mike Geraghty
July 24th, Peggy Fisher



July 3rd, Carolin & Ray Wells
July 6th, Marguerite & Mark Iverson
July 22nd, Paula & Greg MacDonald

A Change for Altar Flowers!



Altar Flowers

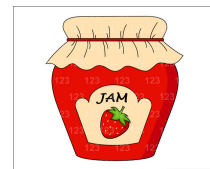
The Flower Calendar for 2025 is located in the church narthex. All Saints' will be purchasing flowers for all of the Feast Days (Christmas/Easter season, All Saints' Day, Pentecost, etc.) If you would like to have flowers on any of the other Sundays, please sign up at least two weeks in advance and let Judy know either in person, by email [all-saintsanchorage@gmail.com](mailto:allsaintsanchorage@gmail.com), or by calling the office at 907-279-3924. If you would like to make a donation, All Saints' is charged \$93 for the flowers.



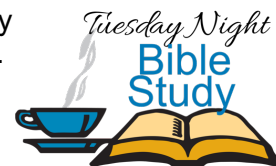
The "Saint's Alive" newsletter is posted every month on our website at allsaintsalaska.org. If you prefer to receive a paper copy by mail, please email the office at: allsaintsanchorage@gmail.com or call 907-279-3924.

"Jelly July"

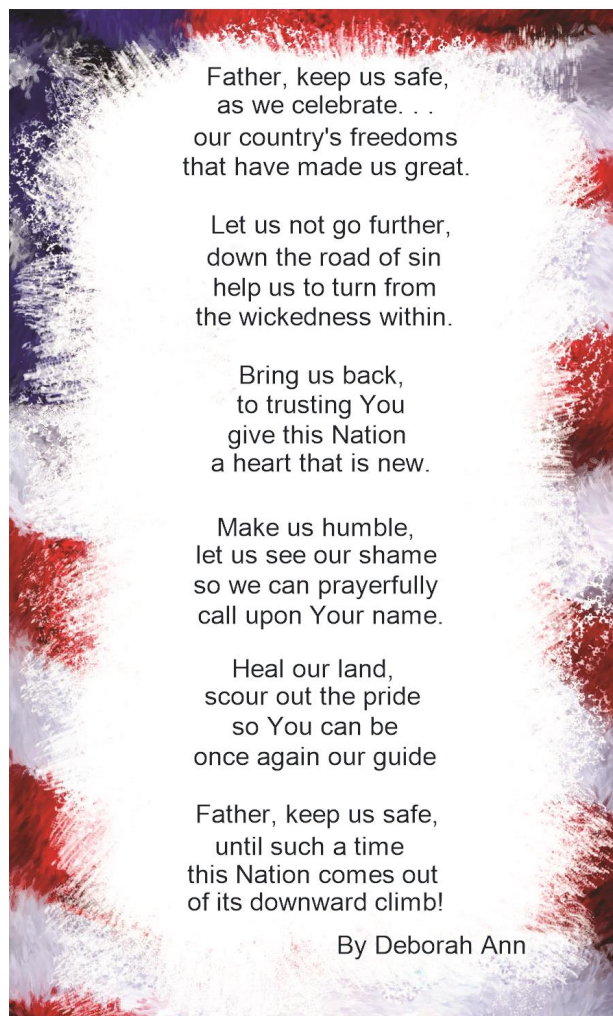
To benefit the food pantry at **New Hope Compassionate Ministries**. Please bring your donations of jelly, jam, peanut butter or other condiments or any other canned goods to church each.



The Tuesday Night Bible Study will be taking a summer break. Please stay tuned to bulletins and newsletters for further information.



Question: Are you cleaning out your closets this summer? If so, you can bring the clothes you no longer need to All Saints', in benefit to the clothing ministry at The Church of the Nations. You may drop off your items in the collection box located in the Elliott room.



Father, keep us safe,
as we celebrate. . .
our country's freedoms
that have made us great.

Let us not go further,
down the road of sin
help us to turn from
the wickedness within.

Bring us back,
to trusting You
give this Nation
a heart that is new.

Make us humble,
let us see our shame
so we can prayerfully
call upon Your name.

Heal our land,
scour out the pride
so You can be
once again our guide

Father, keep us safe,
until such a time
this Nation comes out
of its downward climb!

By Deborah Ann

