

Kunéix Hídi Northern Light United Church

No matter who you are, no matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Sunday Worship

10:00 am in person and via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/398434443>

By phone +1 253 215-8782 Meeting ID: 398 434 443

Scan this code to donate now



*The mission of Kunéix
Hídi Northern Light
United Church is to
make disciples of Jesus
Christ through
God-centered worship
and people-centered
ministry.*

400 West 11th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1512
(907) 586-3131
office@khnLuc.org
Christina's office hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 3:00 pm
Minus lunch hour

Rev. Dr. Charles Ensminger, Pastor
pastor@khnLuc.org
khnLuc.org
(907)586-3131

This Isn't and Is Us

On October 27th, 2018, Robert Bowers drove up to Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh and opened fire on the building. Then, upon entering, he continued shooting for approximately 20 minutes, killing 11.

The next day, I attended a multi-faith vigil in Chattanooga, Tennessee. During that vigil, one of the speakers, addressing the growing sense of violence across the country at that time, said, "This is not who we are as a country."

His point was that this shooting, fostered by racism, hostile rhetoric, and an abundance of rage, did not reflect the populace of the country.

Unfortunately, it did.

This is not to say that everyone in the country felt that way. Instead, it just points out that there were those who did and, unfortunately, still do.

continued on next page

Inside this issue

Sermon Series	2
Online & In Person Study	2
Summer Lunch Program.....	4
KHNLUC Prayer Chain.....	4
Committee Members, 2026	5
Instant Church Directory App.....	6
Chamber Music Night.....	10

Special points of interest

- Church Fellowship Potluck & Visioning Plan
- Sunday Volunteers Sought
- 2025 Anderson Endowment Grant Report for Juneau String Ensemble
- Matching Challenge Opportunity to Support Heat Pump Installation!
- Food Security & Glory Hall
- Have You Noticed?

Sermon Series

I will be continuing the series from Paul's letter to the Galatians in February. At the end of the month, we will be moving into the Season of Lent.

2/1 Galatians 3:28-29
Who Sits With Us?

2/8 Galatians 4:16-19
Family Ties

2/15 Galatians 5:13-26
The Galatian Mandate

2/22 1st Sunday in Lent

In Person and Online Study

We are going to begin our study of Dietrich Bonhoeffer on Sunday, February 8th at 4:00 (and at 6:30 on Wednesday, February 11th online). There is a lot to talk about and plenty to read! I have created collection of readings for the class. If you would like to have a copy, they can be picked up prior to the class in person, or they can be sent to you online.

This Isn't and Is Us, continued

This kind of behavior, this violent, "solve things with bullets" mentality *exists*. The fact of the shooting proves that point. The fact of the shooting meant that among the American populace there were ideologies that justified that kind of action – that kind of murder.

If this kind of ideology that prompted the shooting *did not exist*, not only would the shooting in 2018 not have happened, but it would have been inconceivable.

The point that the gentleman was trying to make was this: good people, good Americans, do not condone this kind of atrocity.

However, there is something about that argument that requires some caution. In trying to establish that we are not a violent society, or that no good person could justify that level of violence, what often takes place is a defense through circular reasoning - best exemplified by the fictitious story of the "True Scotsman."

It goes like this: a Scotsman reads in the paper that a terrible murder took place in England. The Scotsman says, "No Scotsman would do such a thing." The next day he reads that the terrible murder that was committed by a Scotsman. The Scotsman says, "No true Scotsman would do such a thing."

The problem here is that by saying that no "true" Scotsman would do such a thing, the person speaking is simply moving the line of the argument. What defines a "true" Scotsman in this story is the moral or ethical definition of the individual speaking. It is a way of concluding that a statement hasn't been demonstrated as false when, in fact, it has.

Likewise, this argument can be used in the following way: An American wouldn't murder another human being. Then, when the paper says that it was an American that committed the murder, the response is "No *true* American would murder another human being."

However, as was the case in Pittsburgh, an American *did* murder others. And, morbidly, he believed he was doing so as a "true" American.

Was he, in fact, a true American?

To those gathered at the vigil who were stating that "this is not who we are as a country," the answer was most certainly "no."

Here's the problem: By claiming who is or is not a "true" American we de-Americanize him. That is just a small ideological step away from de-humanizing him.

continued on next page

This Isn't and Is Us, continued

Let me be clear: I am in no way defending that man. What that man did was barbaric.

My point here is a cautionary one. This language subtly avoids some very pertinent and terrible questions: why is extreme violence viewed as acceptable to a portion of our society? Why are assumedly fringe ideologies now mainstream in politics and media? What allowed hatred to gain such a foothold? Has it always been there or is this something new?

Secondly, if we draw the line and exclude him from what it means to be an "American," we are playing a dangerous game that can easily be reversed. Imagine that someone wished to *justify* the shooting at Tree of Life by declaring that birth certificates or religious practices hold no validity. How could that take place? By arguing that a "True American" was, in fact, the shooter.

This would lead to the argument that those who failed to support the *shooter* were, in fact,

the ones in the wrong.

So, if we argue that "this" isn't us, what we are really saying is that we aren't "that." It is a rhetorical device, to be sure, but one that can be used to defame or defend anyone.

I will say that when the speaker made that statement in 2018, it was true because no one in that room was the shooter. No one in that room condoned such racism, hate, or murder.

The problem, though? That shooter *was* a part of the larger "us" that was America.

I find great sadness in that conclusion because it points to a larger problem of which we do not really wish to be aware. Yet, by being aware of it, like learning of a great illness, we *can* begin to work on the problem rather than simply addressing the symptoms.

If we will.

Peace.

Pastor Charles



Visioning Together

On February 15th, I will be sharing something of an outline for where we will be heading in the future based on our visioning meetings and conversations. I hope you will join us!

Sunday Volunteers Sought

Liturgists are needed February 1, 15 and 22. If you can help, please sign up on the sheet in the Memorial Hall or let Christina in the office know. Ushers are sought February 1, 8 and 22. Flower providers are sought February 15 and 22. if you can be an usher or provide flowers, please sign up on the church website, khnLuc.org or contact Christina in the office, (907)586-3131 or office@khnLuc.org.

Ash Wednesday

Lent begins with the celebration of Ash Wednesday on February 18th. We will be having a special Ash Wednesday service that evening at 6:30 in the sanctuary. I hope you will be able to join us for this poignant beginning to the Lenten Season.

Summer Lunch Program

Here's a thank-you note from the Geneva Woods Housing Complex on our Summer Lunch program last summer. We're beginning to prepare for this summer's program.



Volunteer opportunity for our summer lunch program. If you've helped out before cooking, prepping on the day of service, or helping serve meals at the Geneva Woods Housing Complex, or think you might enjoy spending time with friends engaged in these tasks, it soon will be time to sign up again. Keep an eye out for announcements and keep some time in your summer schedule open to help out! Some training is required, but it can be done online.

The food preparers help from 10-12 and the servers from 11:45-1.

KHNLUC Prayer Chain

FYI - We have a prayer chain at KHNLUC and if you would like to join and/or have your prayer put on the prayer chain, please contact Janet Kussart at kussartdonjan@msn.com. Our present prayer chain has 31 people and not all attend KHNLUC, but have been on the prayer chain long before I became its coordinator. It's one thing to ask for prayers at our KHNLUC service, but to expand that request is to also put it on the prayer chain.

Prayer Chain Coordinator,
Jan/Janet Kussart

Wish to join KHNLUC?

If you are interested in joining with our congregation, you are welcome to do so at any time by speaking with Pastor Charles. We would also point out that the season of Lent has historically been the time when people would study the beliefs of the church and then join with the congregation to become part of the community of faith officially on Easter Sunday.

Therefore, if you would like to be a part of KHNLUC, we would like you to consider being baptized, transferring your membership, or joining the church by profession of faith on Easter Sunday (April 5th)! If you're not available to join on Easter Sunday, we can schedule another Sunday for you to join.

Committee Members, 2026

Council

Mary Becker, 2026
Monica Buettel, 2026
Karen Glass, 2026
Marianne Mills, 2026
Susan Bus, 2027
B.G. Loper, 2027
Sherrie Myers, 2027
Maxine Richert, 2027
Karen Lipson, 2028
Margaret Pugh, 2028
Margie Thomson, 2028
Patsy Wright, 2028

Staff Parish Relations Committee

Nico Bus, 2026
Freda Westman, 2026
Jim Alter, 2027
Don Gotschall, 2027
Carol Burrows, 2028
Sharon Denton, 2028
Carol Barril, 2028
Mary Becker, ex officio

Deacons

Geoff Alter, 2026
Hazel LeCount/Todd, 2026
Peggy Metcalf, 2026
Denise Carroll, 2027
Nancy Jones, 2027
Melody Millard, 2027

Rosemarie Alexander-Isett, 2028
Laura Doogan, 2028
Elizabeth Wheeler, 2028

Committee on Property Management

Karen Dillon, 2026
Mike Story, 2026
Jane Ginter, 2027
Steve White, 2027
Natalie Norberg, 2028
Randy Peterson, 2028

Social Justice & Service Committee

Marion Gotschall, 2026
Linda Miller, 2026
Nola Lamken, 2027
George Partlow, 2027
Mariah Offer, 2027
Jean Ann Alter, 2028
Deb Reifenstein, 2028

Nominating Committee: Jim Alter, Nico Bus, Karen Dillon, Jane Ginter, Barbara Searls, Charles Ensminger, two members selected from Council

You can view the details on Committee Members on Instant Church Directory under STAFF or Groups.

Updated January 19, 2026

RLC Food Pantry
Open Tuesdays 1:00 to 4:30 pm
SE Alaska's Largest Food Pantry
100 ft of Patron Selectable Food
Fresh, Frozen, Shelf-Stable Foods
Breakfast, Lunch and Snacks
Best Coffee in Juneau!
Back downstairs off Glacier St.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Resurrection Lutheran Church

Assist with Resurrection Lutheran Church Food Pantry.
Help collect food from the Food Bank on Monday. Assist with Food Bank on Tuesday.

Logging into the Instant Church Directory Member App

Welcome! This shows you how to sign in to the *Instant Church Directory* member app.

Before You Start

Make sure your email address is listed correctly in your church's directory.

Not sure? Ask Jane Ginter, ginteralaska@gmail.com, to confirm.

Step-by-Step: Sign In Using the App

1. Download the Instant Church Directory App

- For iPhone/iPad: [Download on the App Store](#)
- For Android devices: [Get it on Google Play](#)

For more details on downloading the mobile app, [check out this help doc](#).

2. Open the App

Enter your email address exactly as listed in your church's directory.

Tap Continue.

3. Check Your Email

Look for a message from no-reply@instantchurchdirectory.com.

You now have two options:

o Option 1: Tap the Link

Tap the sign-in link in the email.

The app will automatically open and sign you in.

OR

o Option 2: Enter the Code Manually

Still in the app, you'll see a place to enter a 6-digit code.

Copy the code from your email and paste it into the app.

Don't see the email? Be sure to check your Spam or Junk folder.

4. You're In!

Once you tap the link or enter the code from the email, you'll be signed in and can view your church's directory.

You can also access Instant Church Directory on the web:

<https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/>

If you prefer a printed copy of the directory please ask Jane Ginter, ginteralaska@gmail.com.



VIEW OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE!

FREE App for iPhone, iPad & Android

Our church directory is a great resource tool that allows you to get to know our church family better!

Simply go to the App Store, search for *Instant Church Directory* and download the FREE app to begin.

Enter your email listed in the directory, and click "Send Secure Sign-In Link." Check your email, and click the "Log in to Instant Church Directory" button.

If you're not listed in the directory, OR if you have trouble logging into the app, please contact the church office.

Available on the App Store | Get it on Google play

2025 Anderson Endowment Grant Report for Juneau String Ensembles

Juneau String Ensembles (JSE) serves over 40 middle and high school aged musicians from all across Juneau providing advanced-level ensembles where they grow their musicianship and repertoire under the direction of Guohua Xia. Last spring, Juneau String Ensembles received a \$2500 grant from The Ruth and Louis Eugene Anderson Music Education Endowment.

The grant specified:
\$1000 - scholarships
\$1500 - fall retreat

Scholarships:

Fourteen musicians received a 25% or 50% tuition scholarship for the fall semester. Ursa Major tuition is \$400/yr, Aurora Strings tuition is \$450/yr. \$1000 of the Anderson grant was allocated to this, along with additional funding from individual donors.

Juneau String Ensembles is proud to provide high quality ensemble experiences to all advanced string students in Juneau, regardless of ability to pay. Our ensembles serve a diverse group of young musicians who come from families at different income levels. We work to lower the barriers to the upper levels of classical music participation by providing scholarships with simple paperwork, and walking alongside families to support them, especially immigrant families with limited English language proficiency.

All of our scholarshipped students participated throughout the fall semester, attending rehearsals, the retreat, and multiple performances, improving their string technique and musicianship, and connecting with other musicians.

Fall Retreat

Twenty-six musicians attended the 2025 retreat at Eagle River United Methodist Camp

The grant covered overnight accommodation, meals, large and small ensemble rehearsals, community building activities and fellowship. All adult coaches and chaperones volunteered their time.

\$750 Camp rental: We rented the entire camp for Youth Safeguarding reasons

\$650 Food: Parents volunteered to cook and serve four meals during the camp with help from the musicians. Endowment money paid for the food for meals and snacks.

\$100 Music: New repertoire was identified by our music director and purchased to start to be rehearsed during camp and performed later in the semester.

This retreat was attended by almost all of our younger orchestra, Ursa Major, with a number of Aurora Strings musicians also attending. Removing any financial barrier to participation allows all musicians to attend.

Students join Ursa Major from different backgrounds and walks of life, and we know that taking time away together at this wonderful facility "out the road" helps build relationships

continued on next page

2025 Anderson Grant, continued

amongst our young musicians and fosters a sense of belonging within our group, creating higher engagement in our year-long programming, and ultimately stronger string players who love to make music together.

At camp, the students enjoyed large ensemble and chamber music rehearsals, along with hikes, games and camp fire smores. Having extended rehearsals over a weekend away from the distractions of phones and other "town" responsibilities helps kick-start our

fall rehearsals, allowing our ensembles to be ready to perform earlier in the semester and tackle more challenging music to build their technical string playing skill and ensemble musicality. Students also appreciate the opportunity to rehearse in small groups, often with just one player per part, and to perform for each other in the supportive, low-pressure environment of our Saturday evening talent show.

Matching Challenge Opportunity to Support Heat Pumps Installation!

As you may have noticed, the installation of heat pumps has begun. The Council approved the project in December 2025 with a budget of \$217,040 for 4 phases of installation which may extend beyond one year. The first phase includes heat pumps in the wall above the Skuse Room and one in Soboleff Memorial Hall. See the pictures below showing the first installation.



Complete information on the project was provided in the packet for the January 18, 2026, annual meeting. The Council approved the 2026 Capital Projects budget with the plan to raise at least 1/3 of the funding for the heat pumps project. We are hoping to raise at least \$75,000 from donations. The Akiyama family has generously pledged \$37,500 as matching funds for this campaign. Please consider donating or pledging a donation to the fund for heat pumps by this spring, if possible.

Sincerely,
Margaret MacKinnon, Treasurer

Food Security and the Glory Hall



We buy some food from SYSCO and from COSTCO. Your Food Security donations help!

You can drop food off at the new Glory Hall, 8715 Teal St, or at the church kitchen before 3 pm on either of the Tuesdays. The church may be locked during the day and may not be accessible if no one is in the office. Please contact Christina in the office if you need keypad code for A Street door. Please put a label on food so that people know it's for Kunéix Hídi NLUC Tuesday Glory Hall. Please let Carol know if you are dropping food off at the church: Carol Barril: 907 586-1002, 907 723-2755, barril-carol638@gmail.com We purchase some products from SYSCO and COSTCO. You can donate to fund these purchases instead of buying the food. You can donate to Kunéix Hídi NLUC Food Security on our website: <https://khnluc.org/give/> To donate, select donate now through VANCO, then select Food Security. You can donate one time or recurring.

Glory Hall Chili 2nd Tuesday

<https://signup.com/go/NkPGuUb>

Bread Italian 10 loaves
Butter 2#
Chili: Celery 2 bunches
Chili: Ground Meat 8#
Chili: Onions 5#
Chili: Pickled Jalapeños 2 28.2-oz cans
Fruit 70 – 80 servings
Grated Cheese 8#
Cook 4:00pm – 6:00pm
Serve 6:00pm – 6:45pm

Glory Hall Spaghetti 4th Tuesday

<https://signup.com/go/PYmXoHC>

Bread Italian 10 loaves
Butter 2#
Celery 3 bunches (2 sauce, 1 salad)
Grated Parmesan Cheese 2 Costco bags
Salad Dressing 2 16-oz bottles
Salad: Cucumbers 2
Salad: Lettuce 6 heads
Salad: Peppers 4
Salad: Tomatoes 6
Sauce: Ground Meat 8#
Sauce: Italian Sausage Bulk 3#
Sauce: Onions 5#
Cook 4:30pm – 6:00pm
Serve 6:00pm – 6:45pm

Come hear the Juneau Strings Ensembles who we've supported with the Anderson Music Endowment.



Juneau String Ensembles

Chamber Music Night

February 28th
7:00 pm
TMMS Auditorium

An evening of music by Bach, Beethoven, Copland, Vivaldi, He Zhanhao, and more!

Music Director:
Guohua Xia

Performing Ensembles:
Aurora Strings & Ursa Major

Tickets available now:
www.JuneauStringEnsembles.org

Have you noticed? continued

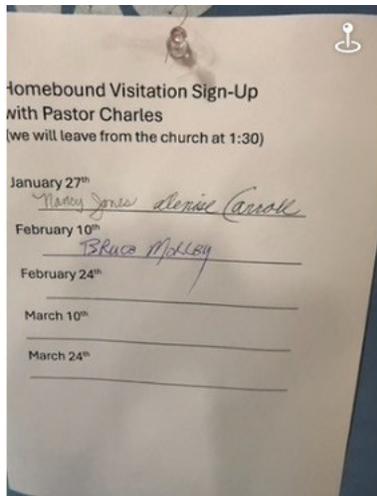
Signups at church



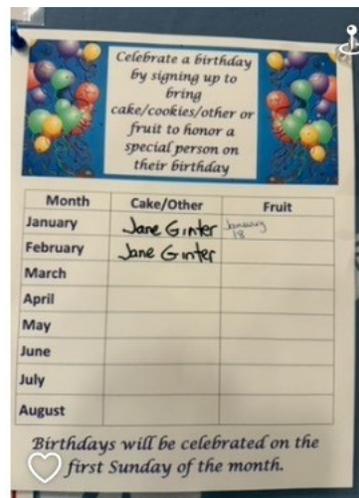
Signup to be liturgist. Sign up sheet on bulletin board or call Christina in the office (907 586-3131)



Signup to cook for the Youth Group! Sign up sheet on bulletin board or call Christina in the office (907 586-3131)



Signup to visit homebound folks on second and fourth Tuesdays with Pastor Charles. Sign up sheet on bulletin board or call Christina in the office (907 586-3131)



Signup to bring birthday cake/cookies/other on the Second Sunday

<https://signup.com/go/sHrzVBb>

The Southeast Mission U will be held February 7th from 9:00am till 5:00pm. Registration is \$20 and includes lunch. We ask you to bring a donation of food or money for the Aldersgate UMC food pantry. The food pantry provides hope for the hungry.



MISSION U 2025

**PRACTICING
HOPE
TOGETHER**

Join Jade Hayden at Mission U as she shares her experiences as the daughter of Hmong refugees and a first generation American. These experiences and the diverse challenges we all encounter in today's world will influence our conversations as we gather. Let us be inspired by our hope and faith.

**Juneau, Alaska
Aldersgate UMC on Cinema Dr
February 7, 9am till 5pm**

Thank yous

Many people and groups are involved in making sure things happen at KHNLUC. Each month we would like to recognize some of those individuals and groups for their special services. Special thanks to:

*those who served as Liturgists: Sherrie Myers, Sharon Denton, Kristy Germain, David Brabaw

*those who served as Greeters/ushers: Jane Ginter

*Those who provided flowers: Nico & Susan Bus, Elizabeth Wheeler, Jean Ann Alter

*Those who cooked and served at the Glory Hall during the year of 2025: Bruce & Judy Morley, Carol Barril, Deb Reifenstein, Denise Carroll, Jean Ann Alter, Karen Dillon, Patsy Wright, Peggy & KJ Metcalf, Susan Bus, Ellie Wall & Corey Wall

*Those who provided birthday cake/cookies/other or fruit to honor birthdays on the second Sunday of the month during 2025: Denise Carroll, Don & Janet Kussart, Hazel LeCount/Todd, Jane Ginter, Kristy Germain, Meg Rosson, Melody Millard, Nancy Jones, Patsy Wright, Peggy & KJ Metcalf

*Mary Borthwick, Karen Dillon, Marianne Mills, John Pugh, Carol Barril, Pat Gorman, Jan and Don Kussart, April Rezendes, Patsy Wright and Jim Alter for their help in counting and recording financial gifts received by KHNLUC.

If you have a suggestion for a thank you, call Christina at the church office, 586-3131 or e-mail her at office@khnLuc.org.

Sign Up!

You can be apart of what makes our worship together a good experience.

Our web site, <https://khnLuc.org/>, has a section to help with worship. You can also tell Christina to sign you up if you prefer not to use the computer.

Everyone is invited to be part of our worship service.

The liturgist reads the scripture and helps lead the service with the pastor. Sign up to be a liturgist on the sign-up sheet in Memorial Hall or call the office. You can serve as liturgist even if you worship with us via Zoom.

The ushers greet people before the service, pass out bulletins, pass the offering plate, and assist with the prayers and announcements from the congregation. [Sign up to be an usher.](#)

The altar flowers are provided by the congregation. [Sign up to provide flowers for worship.](#)

You can provide flowers even if you worship via Zoom. Flowers can be brought to the church before Sunday if that is more convenient for you. Ask Christina for the new key code to enter the side door on A Street.

We encourage you to think ahead and plan to help out. Pick a special day for providing flowers to honor a loved one. Maybe sign up once a month to be liturgist or usher.



1	Bobi Trani
	Rachel Galambush
3	Jason Hope
5	Rob Becker
	Tim Lash
7	Jean Ann Alter
	Louis Keller
9	Henry Akiyama
10	Olivia Miller
15	Sue Deems
	Chloe Likins
16	Edith McHenry
18	Dori Germain
22	La Creatia Wilson
25	Leon Shaul
28	Frank Coenraad

FEBRUARY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 10:00 Worship 5:15 Youth Group	2	3 12:00 Al-Anon 2:30 Violin Lessons	4 5:30 Chancel Choir	5 6:00 Mudrooms Rehearsal	6 7:30 Men's Breakfast 2:30 Violin Lessons 7:30 Theater Alaska	7 8:00 Vets for Peace 7:30 Theater Alaska
8 10:00 Worship 4:00 Bible Study 5:15 Youth Group	9	10 10:00 Finance Committee via Zoom 12:00 Al-Anon 2:30 Violin Lessons Glory Hall Chili 7:00 Mudrooms	11 5:30 Chancel Choir 6:30 Online Bible Study	12 5:30 Church Council	13 7:30 Men's Breakfast 2:30 Violin Lessons	14
15 10:00 Worship Church Potluck sponsored by the Deacons, to cele- brate Valen- tine's Day 4:00 Bible Study 5:15 Youth Group	16 Church Office Closed Elizabeth Peratro- vich Day President's Day 5:30 Gospel Choir Workshop	17 12:00 Al-Anon 2:30 Violin Lessons 5:30 Gospel Choir Workshop	18 5:30 Chancel Choir 6:30 Ash Wednes- day Service	19 5:00 Commit- tee on Property Management	20 7:30 Men's Breakfast 2:30 Violin Lessons	21
22 10:00 Worship 4:00 Bible Study 5:15 Youth Group	23	24 Newsletter Deadline 12:00 Al-Anon 2:30 Violin Lessons Glory Hall Spa- ghetti	25 12:00 Endow- ment/Investment committee 5:30 Chancel Choir 6:30 Online Bible Study	26	27 7:30 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Healing Task Force 2:30 Violin Lessons	28