ANCHORAGE
GOSPEL RESCUE MISSION
More Than a Meal. A Life Made New.

November 2026

2823 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99507
907-563-5603
Nightly Services 6:30-7:30pm

www.anchoragerescue.org

FROM GLEANER TO GIVER

> **A generous person will prosper, whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.**
> ***-Proverbs 11:25***

It was a crisp Fall afternoon recently on my day off and Kathy and I were settled into a booth in a Midtown restaurant for lunch. We were about half-way finished with our lunch when I spotted him coming through the door. He settled himself alone and placed his order when the waitress approached. He didn't need the menu. Looking up he smiled and waved. I got up and went over to shake his hand and exchange a few words.

The last time we had spoken had been some time ago outside my office door at the Mission where he had been staying in our overnight shelter. He had been our guest on and off for a few years. He was doing better now and that was good to see. I determined that when I paid my own lunch tab I would pay his.

I returned to our table, finished eating and walked to the register to find my own bill had been paid in full. Shocked and touched I went back to thank him. He would not consider letting me reimburse him. "Pastor, the Bible says whatsoever you do to others you do for Him. You have done so many 'whatsoevers' for me, now I am doing for you and for Him." There was the dessert, humbling, but sweeter than I could have imagined.

I have been reading about a small dimly lit room in the ancient Temple. It was both public and private. Visited by rich and poor alike. One hand unobtrusively deposited something in an alcove and another hand picked it up. All accomplished in secret in the Chamber of Secrets.

This Chamber of Secrets did not owe its fame to a Harry Potter movie by the same name. Its existence was birthed by the idea that God is a giver and we were made in His image. In God's economy there is enough and gifts come with wings not strings.

It was the ancient custom for those with a little more than they needed to visit the room and leave coins for those who had less than they needed. This was not gathered by the priests to be distributed to whoever they deemed deserving of charity. This was an unguarded mini-bank without a lock on the door. Whoever was in need, or was a stranger without funds, could visit the room and take a little. Today you may be a gleaner but tomorrow a giver.



Open hearts and open hands in an atmosphere of honor, the Chamber of Secrets kept its secrets as much as possible. The identity of the giver was as guarded as the humility of the poor was regarded. The Jewish custom of tzedakah (charity) has its origins in the Chamber of Secrets.

Giving is an art because it has the possibility to create beauty as it reveals Christ. Paul encourages us, among other things, to get the giving thing right. To "...excel in the grace of giving." To laugh-out-loud-love-it but don't get caught doing it in public. "...since you excel in everything, in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you, see that you also excel in this grace of giving." 2 Corinthians 8

In this season of Thanksgiving I am deeply grateful for a man who became a giver and who got there because your hands quietly dropped what he needed in a Chamber of Secrets of sorts here on Tudor Road. Your generosity gave my lunch benefactor the opportunity to bless me and in doing so, to lay a gift at the feet of his Savior. Wherever his life takes him, may the Lord richly bless.

May that same God, who is Lord and Father to us all, who has blessed us and cared for us and planted us here to show the world His marvelous gift of life through His Son, bless you and all whom you care for.

Happy Thanksgiving.



Gratefully,

Rev. John T. LaMantia
Executive Director/Chaplain

Pastor John

MEET THE DOUBLE-DANIELS

Round of applause for our own "Double-Daniels," the talented and committed cooks who make it happen in the kitchen.

These two catered a delicious graduation lunch for our new graduates featuring beef, baked potatoes, roasted corn and shrimp. Daniel (on the left) even made beef and chicken empanadas from his Puerto Rican family recipe.

This is always a happy event and these two made it even more special for our graduates. They are now gearing up to plan our Thanksgiving celebration.







ART IS A HOOT!

We had an art project built around a special field trip to learn more about owls and other birds. First the class saw a movie on Prime called Owl's Odyssey that featured owls in the wild and taught them about habits and habitat. After that we took the class to the Bird Treatment & Learning Center near Rabbit Creek for a live presentation.

What a great experience it was! Mary, the Education Co-ordinator, and Lisa, our speaker, were a wealth of knowledge. We bombarded them with questions and were unable to stump them. Seeing live birds was exciting. In our next art class we drew owl characterizations using acrylic markers on black cardstock. One of the finished pieces is shown here.

Our thanks goes out to Mary Halcro and Bob Collins for helping to support this project.

PARTNER WITH US

Anchorage Gospel Rescue Mission takes no city, state, or federal funding. Not a dollar. Everything that happens here happens because someone decided it should. You do not have to solve homelessness in Anchorage to change what happens to one person tonight.

WAYS TO GIVE:

One time gift:
Thirty-five dollars is a bed for a night. Two hundred forty-five is a full week indoors.

Recurring Monthly gift:
Recovery here takes twelve to eighteen months, and a program that long cannot be built on gifts that arrive by surprise.

Give today:
anchoragerescue.org/give

The Anchorage Gospel Rescue Mission makes every effort to honor the wishes of our donors who have directed contributions to a specific area. We do, however, reserve the right to redirect the monies received over and above a specific need, into whatever areas they may best be useful.

CALLING ALL COATS!

Is there a coat you no longer use taking up space in your closet? The Mission will re-home that for you and turn it into a blessing for one of our neighbors. Cold weather is upon us. Any winter coats and warm gear would be so welcome as would gloves, hats and hand warmers. Drop off 7AM-9PM at the front desk, 2823 E. Tudor Rd.



THANKSGIVING AT THE MISSION

The Mission Thanksgiving Meal Service is always a joyful time. If you would like to help us provide a nourishing meal for our neighbors who need that encouragement, **the following items would be helpful:**

Frozen turkey (10-12 pounds), canned corn, canned green beans, canned sweet potatoes, instant mashed potatoes, mushroom soup, pumpkin and apple pies, Cool Whip, rolls, butter

Drop off at the Front Desk from 7am-9pm daily. Turkeys should arrive by 11/20/2026. Thank you.



REDEEMED

A feather fallen
does not ground the bird
nor one dead bee
pronounce the summer's end

On my mistakes
such pardon Christ conferred
that I may climb
into the sky again!

-Kat Cavanaugh LaMantia

"He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge." -Psalm 91:4

NOVEMBER MEMORIALS

"Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near, still loved, still missed and very dear."

Gifts in Memory of:

Kent Lindsey by: Carol Lindsey

Herbert Eckmann by: Kathryn Eckmann





HONORING OUR VETERANS

Veterans are always welcome at the Mission. To all who have served, thank you and God bless you.



Mary and Frost,
Bird Treatment & Learning Center

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RETURN SERVICE REQEUSTED

Nonprofit org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Anchorage, AK
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CELEBRATING RECOVERY

Staff members, Terri and Derek, represented the Mission at Recover Alaska's Recoveree celebration at the Nave in honor of Recovery Month. Good food and encouraging stories of hard won victories.

Opt-In to Our Online Newsletter and Go Paperless

Get our newsletter in your inbox, sooner! Going digital also frees up printing and postage dollars for meals, shelter, and programs that change lives.

To switch, email info@anchoragerescue.org or call 907-563-5603.

Thank you for helping us do more with every gift.

