

Zion Lutheran Church • Fairbanks, Alaska

Pastor's Monday • March 26, 2007

The Last Weekend before Holy Week! Everything seems so overwhelming at this point of the Lenten Season. The 40 days are beginning to feel like F O R T Y days! Yet the promises hold us. The words from St. Paul, who in his exhaustion, exclaims in yesterday's Epistle: "Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me." Thank you Jesus for taking hold of me... and so we "press on."

Pressing on as we continue to say good byes -- yesterday to Dan and Bethany Threlkeld who are off to Fort Sill, OK. They are one of our military couples who were separated by the deployment. They grew spiritually during that time -- daily contact in prayer through electronic means, Bethany was faithful every Sunday in worship, along with the desire that she would be baptized when Dan returned. Her baptism took place on December 31st. We wish them well as we send them to continue their growth and their work in the harvest in another place.

Pressing on with egg on my face! Embarrassments are sure to happen, but when they happen so blatantly and publicly, they are really humbling. So here sit I, eating humble pie. (where did these metaphors come from in the first place?) As you know, we just had our annual congregational meeting. About a month ago, long before the meeting, Tia and I considered the steps that needed to take place for her commissioning as a "Commissioned Minister" -- Director of Christian Education in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. She has completed her course work, passed her certification orals and is ready. We planned her commissioning the Sunday after Easter, April 15. Her parents from WI and sister from CA bought their tickets. In conversation last Monday (the day after the congregational meeting!), Tia and I discovered that we had read the constitution wrong and that a formal call from the congregation was necessary. There are three players in the process: the University -- who certifies her, the District, who authorizes the certification, and the Congregation who calls her. The University has done its part, the District stand eager to do their part; Zion needs to do its part -- calling her before the Commissioning. I suggested Easter, between services! Fortunately, wiser heads prevailed and we will have the call meeting the Wednesday after Easter (April 11), at 7:30 in the Evening. And with this you are notified and invited.

Pressing on without Judy, my wife! We received word from New Orleans this past Tuesday that Judy's mother would have a heart catheterization on Thursday. We found a ticket and Judy flew out to be with her mother on Wednesday evening. The results indicated that there are a limited number of options which are currently being explored. As I write this, the heart team from Oschner Foundation Hospital is consulting with Judy and her mother about a possible valve replacement. Many prayers please -- and all this with Seth and two friends who are here for Spring Break from college. Chester and Ollie, my friends from Texas left this morning. We had a great visit with them and hope that the time Seth and friends spend here will be great also.

Pressing on with plans for Holy Week! I hope that you will be joining us this Wednesday for our final mid-week Lenten Service "The Sounds of Lent -- Pounding Hammers". And then, of course, the Holy Week Services.

Blessings to all of you as we press on to take hold of that for which Christ took hold of us!

Pastor K

Holy Week Schedule:

Palm Sunday (April 1) – Regular worship schedule

Maundy Thursday – Seder Meal (Christian Passover Meal) w/Holy Communion – 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday – Meditation of Words from the Cross – Noon
Tenebrae Service – 7:30 p.m.

SNA on April 7 is an Easter Vigil – regular 5:00 p.m. time

Easter Sunday -- Sunrise traditional service – 7:00 a.m.
Blended traditional & contemporary – 9:00 a.m.
Contemporary – 11:00 a.m.

Easter Morning breakfast – 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. – free will donations for Zion Youth Ministry

Other Holy Week notes of interest:

No Wednesday night dinner and studies

Zion & community Easter egg hunt: Saturday, April 7 – 12:30 p.m. Lunch followed by egg hunt

Weekly Prayer Concerns

Cancer

Eva Lose (Mr. Gary's wife)

Linda Yeakley (Bill Fisher's sister)

Russell Paju (Marty Paju's father)

Other Illnesses

Nancy Waydig (Judy Kuehnert's mother)

Shirley Scott

Sharon Wilson

J. Bradley Pagel

Continued Recovery

Doug Campbell

Richard Wright

Butch Schrum (Prayer request from a Seminarian who is friends with Mike Steckel)

Steve Eldridge

Merlin Barkdull

Surgeries

Chares McGonegal

Deaths

Family of Wayne Cooper

Family of Bev Olsen especially for Dick Olsen and the staff of KJNP

Family and co-workers of Genie Holtznagel-Leary