

Zion Lutheran Church • Fairbanks, Alaska

Pastor's Monday • June 4, 2007

They go.... And they come back!

This is the time when they come back... Larry and Wanda Martin, faithful members – educators – parents of Laurie and Jonathan – now retired and living on San Juan Island, worshipped with us at Saturday Night Alive. Pastor and Le Kauth are back with us for 7 weeks. Pastor Kauth will be serving as Pastor to help out in the coming weeks until Pastor Baumgarten arrives. Pastor Kauth was my predecessor serving Zion as Pastor from 1982-1993. He has been back many times in the past 13 years, often to help out during the summer – and we are delighted to have them back again!

They Come... They Go... and may never come this way again! The previous weekend, Bob Fowls, Principal of Trinity Lutheran School in Bend, OR was with us to consult with the School Development Task Force. This weekend, Dick Weniger, Director of Education Services for the NW District of the LCMS, was with us, again to consult with the School Development Task Force and to attend the congregational meeting yesterday after the late service. We hope they will be with us again. Their affirmation of the work done by our Task Force was very encouraging. We should all be proud of the work they have done.

The Big Meeting (with low attendance) about the Lutheran School went very well. The presentation from the Guiding Team working on facilities to stay ahead of growth in ministry was breath taking. Eddie Packee, Doug Schroeder, Loren Dobberpuhl and Kerry Gronewold have done an outstanding job of gathering information and presenting a vision of what additional facilities could mean for our congregation. Lori Packee made the presentation for the School Task Force. The meeting was designed to be informational in nature and no decisions were made. The School Task Force will continue to work toward having a First Grade class for the fall. Great progress has been made. Dick Weniger has given us his enthusiastic blessing. Several major challenges remain, but at the present time, the first grade class for the fall is a go. While the commitment of the Task Force is for a K through 8, major decisions will need to be made for the continuance of the school beyond the first year. Those decisions will be influenced heavily by the success of the first year. So registrations are currently being accepted.

Pastor's Conference in Homer was again a wonderful time of prayer, study, sharing, encouragement and fishing. Dr Hank Rowald, former missionary to Taiwan and currently professor at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, was our presenter. Again, Faith Lutheran Church in Homer was the host – and they do such a great job. My only regret is that our new Pastor, Joe Baumgarten, was not able to be with us. Cyndi, his wife, was in town this weekend and was successful in finding a home! My gratitude to so many in the congregation who assisted in her visit: Dr. Fred and Colleen Schramm provided a place for her to stay and much sage advice about buying a home in Fairbanks. Anita Goetz loaned her a car for the weekend! And Kelly Gill met her at the airport when she came in! They are due in the middle of July – installation will be July 22 – Pastor Kauth will be the preacher for the installation service!

News from our family - first Judy and I will be leaving early Thursday morning for New Orleans where we will pick up a car and drive to Alabama for a Kuehnert Family Reunion. You may remember three years ago, Judy and I hosted the reunion which gathered about 30 folks from all over the country. This reunion will be very special as many of us were unexpectedly together for oldest brother Richard's funeral three weeks ago. His absence will be a major factor. Then Judy and I will head to Pass Christian for our first (of what we hope will be an annual) Grand Kids Week at Judy's family home in Pass

Christian, Mississippi. We will have four grand daughters from age two through age 7! We can't wait. And Judy and I are proud to announce the engagement of our daughter Jill (St. Louis) to Glenn Wright (Singapore). They are planning a wedding in Cape Town, South Africa between Christmas and New Year.

The garage sale was a huge success this past Saturday. The proceeds benefit the Africa Mission trip planned for early next year.

AND CELEBRATE RECOVERY is one year old. Their birthday celebration was a wonderful event held on the grounds here on Saturday.

Pastor and Le's apartment phone number is 374-0335.

Blessings to all of you in The Savior's Name!

Pastor Kuehnert