

Zion Lutheran Church • Fairbanks, Alaska

Pastor's Monday • June 11, 2007

Special greetings to all from the 'substitute'! While Pastor Kuehnert is out of town, he asked me to write his Monday message – a job which I refused to do! So this is my Monday message, and he doesn't have to take the blame!

It's been just a little more than a week since we arrived and what a homecoming it has been! Every Sunday is like "old home week" for Le and me, greeting old friends and renewing our connections. What a lift it gives when we see those we remember from days (and years) gone by and get to greet them. And what mental anguish it creates when we see someone familiar and try to connect names and faces. Please pardon us if we have to ask your name! And thank you for taking such good physical care of us. Our apartment is great, and the distance between the apartment and church is just right. Three trips a day and I get my exercise in!

David Sternbeck was with us yesterday – he's a Makah (Indian) from northwestern Washington and is in the process of preparing for ministry. He shared a brief snapshot of his current ministry serving his native people and included some fascinating pictures of recent baptisms held in one of the (frigid) rivers that flow through the reservation. What a powerful testimony it was and what a joy to have him and his wife, Rosemary, at our worship services. We pray that God will continue to guide them in their ministry!

Last week I had the privilege of sharing God's Word and comfort with Ardel Pitcher, Sue Wilson's mother. Surgery was indicated, and because of other health concerns she was given only a 10% chance of healing. This morning (Monday) her struggle for life became more critical. Please keep them in your prayers. But yesterday brought good news from Almeda Witter. Her sister-in-law, Dolores Hardy, was given only 48 hours to live last week, and she seems to be improving. Keep them in your prayers as well.

Teams of volunteers continue to stream through Zion's doors in preparation for sharing the Gospel in remote Alaska or in celebration of having done so. Saturday morning while passing through the outer office to work in my office, one of the volunteers stopped me to thank Zion for the tremendous hospitality they feel while they are with us. Though you may not be aware of it, you and our congregation continue to share the Gospel of Christ's love in ways we hardly ever think about. Keep it up!

We received word from Jen Shelton that she and Ellen attended the wedding of Michael and Rachel Boothby down in Texas last week. (Michael assisted at Zion for six weeks last summer). Michael sends his greetings to the members of Zion!

In your prayers this week, remember:

Ardel Pitcher, mother of Sue Wilson, struggling for life;

Dolores Hardy, Almeda Witter's sister-in-law, responding to treatment;

Gus Roselius, undergoing ear surgery;

Mabel Cary and her family, as Mabel, a longtime Alaskan (1946) struggles with heart problems;

Heath Hilyard, seeking God's help in reconciling his marriage;

Jessie McLeod, struggling with heart concerns;

Scott Noel, for healing;

Kedrick Wallis and family, at the death of Estelle Wallis, the great-grandmother of Sydney Brown;

Kuehnerts, Domkes, Gillens, Ellen Axmear and Jen Shelton for safe travel;

Boothby's, that God will bless their marriage and their mutual ministry in His kingdom in the years ahead.

See you in Church – next weekend!

Pastor K(auth)