

Zion Lutheran Church • Fairbanks, Alaska

Pastor's Monday • June 18, 2007

Monday morning again! To some that's bad news, because it means we're back to the nitty-gritty of life, the hum-drum details of making a living – for some that's distasteful because they don't like what they're doing, and I am deeply sorry for them. But when you walk into the church doors on Monday morning there is a difference. No, it's not exactly like yesterday when the halls were full of men and women and children, each looking for their place of participation in worship, Sunday School or Bible Study. But the place is buzzing! The machinery is cranking out newsletters, the phones are ringing, we're looking forward to Dan Treakle's arrival from the remote villages of Alaska with more excitement and catching up on details left from the weekend.

We had a special treat during the Offertory in our 8:30 service yesterday! Three students in Jaunelle Cellaire's Summer Music Academy at UAF offered to play a piece composed by one of them entitled "Psalm 27: Whom Shall I Fear?" They were absolutely wonderful and their music was so moving and uplifting. The young people were: Hannah Bjornstad, trumpet; James Smaby, cello; and Murphy McCaleb, piano. Thank you so much, Jaunelle – and thanks to your special 'trio'.

As announced in yesterday's services, we're planning for VBS – a special ministry aimed at sharing the Gospel with children. Tia is looking for help in various areas (you can call her anytime to volunteer!) and getting all the materials arranged. This year's session is more exciting than ever: each day the children will go on a 'QUEST FOR TRUTH' (and find it in Jesus) and each day they will be learning some new and very 'singable' songs. Our hope is that many new children will be touched with the Good News of Jesus and be enabled to follow Him.

Last Thursday evening several of our Zion families gathered to plant more than 60 new trees and shrubs on our property. Even with the failure of the mechanical auger, we were able to get them all in – along our property line on the north side of the building and in front of "the Mound" along Davis Road. Our thanks especially to Karl and Radene Schroeder for supplying the trees and shrubs and Hank and Wyan Grant and Jim and Kathy Gappert for supplying the equipment and topsoil, and for lining out the place for each new tree, and a team of genuine "dirt-devils" who dug, planted, watered and staked the new trees! A job well done and appreciated for years to come!

This week is Summer Solstice – an annual festival in Fairbanks celebrating the longest day of the year. Many activities are planned for the community including street fairs, sports activities of every sort including the Midnight Sun Soccer Tournament. Don't miss the many opportunities you will have to share and demonstrate your faith and what makes you "different."

And coming soon is our "Golden Days" celebration. In preparation for that event, we are again collecting and distributing bottled water for all who line the streets of downtown Fairbanks during the parade. The bottled water will all be marked with our special "Witness" labels so that people who receive them will be introduced to "The Water Of Life". Your help is needed in collecting enough bottled water, helping re-label them, and then distributing them. And if that is not something you can do, how about helping us construct our float for the parade? There's no end of places you can 'plug in' to help us share Christ in our community during this time! Just call Pam and volunteer! (She's prepared for the surprise!)

Exciting things are happening in our church body at large: The Lutheran Women's Missionary League will hold their national Convention in Sioux Falls, SD this week; the LCMS will be holding their triennial convention in Houston, TX in July; and the National Lutheran Youth Gathering will be in Orlando, FL at the end of July. Twenty eight youth from Zion will be participating in the Youth Gathering. Pastor Kuehnert will be attending the LCMS Convention! Please keep these events and participants in your prayers!

Pastor K(uehnert) and Judy will be returning tomorrow, and he will be back in the office on Wednesday, so he will be sending out this email next week.

Have a great day in Jesus!

Pastor K(auth)

IN YOUR PRAYERS, REMEMBER...

the Mahlen family: Jeannie's niece Cailyn fell and seriously broke her arm requiring surgery to repair;
and for Rae Ann Mahlen, diagnosed with a blood clot while traveling in Wisconsin;

those who have unsuccessfully tried to rescue the young people recently drowned in Harding Lake; and
for the families who mourn the losses in this tragedy;

Susan Labrenz, wife of Jeff Labrenz, preparing for cancer surgery in Seattle on July 2