

# Zion Lutheran Church • Fairbanks, Alaska

Pastor's Monday • July 2, 2007

What a great weekend! And life is good. God is good! And we continue to struggle with death in the midst of life. That is what makes being a Christian such a celebration. Hellos and Good Byes! Births and Memorial Services! Sickness and Healing. Sin and Forgiveness. It was all there.

The Baumgartens (new associate pastor and family) are making their way North. They called from Colorado with questions as the closing on their home (on Jack Street in Aurora) nears. Please set aside the afternoon of July 22 (Sunday) for our church picnic and the installation service at 7:00 PM that evening. The picnic is potluck....watch for more details.

Vacation Bible School begins a week from Monday – Tia, our DCE, is very excited about this opportunity to provide a special time of fun and learning for our children. Please pass the word to your neighbors.

I think those silly emails worked...Wednesday morning at 7:27 I sent out an e mail to the Leadership Council, the Committee of the Pastoral Office and the Staff saying that our water bottle count was 174! This was after two weeks of making announcements. And for a couple of days I just gave updates on the count...The Water Bottle Count is now 1,018! For the past two years we have handed out water bottles at the Golden Days Parade. This year's theme is Natural Resources ...and of course, Water! For life there is no more precious resource than water and for eternal life, the Water of Life. We will again put our label on the water bottles with a Christ-centered message and our church's name, etc. The first year we had a couple who came to church the next day because of that witness! We need help not just with gathering water, but also on parade day in handing out the bottles and also, help in building the float.

Pam Tacquard and Kevin Rice will be married in Colorado on Thursday! Pam has been our Director of Christian Outreach for the past two years. Kevin is a businessman here in Fairbanks and recently joined Zion by adult baptism. They have known each other for several years. Pam's family is gathering this week for a family reunion and it seemed right and good for them to celebrate their marriage with her family. The bride and groom will be returning to Fairbanks early next week. Keep them in your prayers.

Athena Sweetin gave birth to Christina on Friday morning and was in church yesterday. Jen Shelton was her coach. Athena is an employee at Open Arms and we pray that Open Arms and Zion will continue to be a supportive family for her.

Africa Trip Fundraiser. If you have either next Saturday or Sunday to be a monitor at a Motocross race here in Fairbanks – it will be worth \$1200 for the Africa Mission Trip. 24 people are needed, 12 each day. Contact Andy Ellis at 322 3418.

A big event in our community was our providing a place for Christ Lutheran Church to hold its memorial service for the youngest son of Dr. Marvin and Cindy Bergeson. Will was the young man who disappeared in November and was pulled from the river in April. The space was large enough and our technical equipment worked very well. Thanks to our Zion members and friends who lent themselves to help – Paul Lyle, organist; Dave Matz, tech person; Steve Goetz, traffic; and Hank and Wyan Grant for cutting the grass and getting the place looking so good, and others.

Have a wonderful 4<sup>th</sup> of July. God has blessed our country beyond all reasonable measure. Pray for our leaders both nationally and locally that the hard won freedoms that we so often take for granted will not be lost.

Good News – the offering for the general fund was over \$16,000 this weekend! Praise the Lord. We still have quite a ways to go, but this is a big step! Thank you! Please read carefully the financial newsletter that went out this past week and consider your stewardship of God's gifts to you.

Pastor K