

Zion Lutheran Church • Fairbanks, Alaska

Pastor's Monday • July 9, 2007

The Martinez and Gray families gathered yesterday with son Francisco and daughter Jeanette to celebrate Isabella Renee's baptism. What a thrill to see grandparents and great grandparents come from all over the country to support young parents. What a joy to meet with them on Saturday and hear such support for Isabella's life in God's family. What a responsibility we have as grandparents and great grandparents as they leave Francisco and Jeanette and little Isabella today in our care. For you 11:00 AM folk, I hope you will find this young couple, welcome them and support them.

And lots and lots of visitors yesterday from Michigan, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Texas...and that's where I lost track. Then there were at least four Lutheran Association of Missionary Pilots teams in and out (I think there were actually six!), and they came from Minnesota, North Carolina and other places. Dan Treakle, our Missionary Pilot has been going non stop flying these teams in and out. My wife Judy is back in Chalkyitsik for the 11th year with team mates Karen Milne (14th year) and Aja (fifth year). If Judy and her team are typical – and I am sure they are, there is an incredibly amount of planning, praying and preparation before they ever leave. And for teams that come up from the lower 48, the planning is even that much more. Weather is sometime a factor in flying and it certainly was early in the weekend. I was in the office last night at 10:30 when a very weary Dan Treakle came in and announced joyfully that all teams had been retrieved and all new teams were out in their villages. Our part is to pray that God will continue to bless this effort to share the Gospel. We are privileged to have these teams deploy through Zion – and when they worship with us, we are doubly blessed.

Please continue to keep Linda Mae Scolman in your prayers as her summer in Honduras continues. The last report we had from her was filled with exciting news of how God is blessing that outreach. Amber Gross is back from her annual trip down to help with the bike tour.

Vacation Bible School week – always an exciting time and this year is no exception! You are invited to the closing program Friday at noon. Tia Pugh and her volunteers have done a great job in preparation, now we will see how God blesses us with students. The theme – Search for the Truth -- is a great spin off of yesterday's John's text; "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the TRUTH, and the TRUTH will set you free." (Monday update – 76 eager children joined us this morning; we hope to see even more tomorrow.)

Golden Days Parade – Natural Resources – WATER BOTTLE COUNT – 2,024!!! Now we need help with the float – if you can help, call the church office for times. Next week we will begin to organize distribution teams for the water.

THE BAUMGARTENS are headed this way! They should arrive, Tuesday, July 17th, a week from tomorrow. The welcoming committee met yesterday and a wonderfully warm welcome is being planned. If you would like to help, please call Kathy in the church office. There are a variety of things that can be done...we are interested in your ideas. The "If I had only known..." ideas are slow in coming in. So here are a couple of mine – If I had only known that I would wind up staying 13 years, we would have bought/.built our home much sooner than we did.

If I had only known that winters are not as bad as they say, I wouldn't have spent all that money on the artic wear that I only used a couple of times.

If I had only known that the light would effect me more than the dark, we would have put up total light blocking curtains the first summer.

....these are not very good, so you've got to have better ones.....

I'm off to Houston tomorrow for the meeting of the Board for Mission Services of the LCMS. The meeting is held in conjunction with the reunion of all the missionaries from around the world that are brought in once every three years for encouragement and blessing. I look forward to meeting them! Then Synod's convention begins Saturday. In between the meeting and the convention, I will be flying to Oklahoma on Friday evening to visit my cousin Thomas Saturday morning who is incarcerated in Sayre, OK. I'll be back in Houston Saturday afternoon for the opening service of the convention. During the convention, I will be helping with the Open Arms Institute's display. I'll be home Wednesday evening, the 18th. Pastor Jonathan is planning to pick me up from the airport Tuesday evening. I'm delivering a box of salmon to them. He and Sara and children are doing well!

Blessings.

Pastor Kuehnert

In Your prayers, remember...

Heather Church, seriously injured in a car accident last week;

Ellie Raulston, surgery this week in Anchorage;

Ruthe Peterson - recovering from surgery;

Dennis Peterson, being refitted for prosthesis;

James Davis, recovering from leg surgery (bone graft);

Bill Whitesel, Seamus' grandfather, seriously ill and hospitalized;

Ardell Pitcher, Sue Wilson's mother, recovering from surgery;

Phil Gronewold and Irene Lutterman, Kerry and Linda's parents, for continued healing;

Kirstin Stolz, sister of Karla O'Donoghue, with lymphoma.

Kevin and Pam Rice, safety in travel as they return from their wedding;

the Baumgartens as they continue their journey to Alaska and ministry at Zion.