

Pastor's Monday  
April 14, 2008

Fellowship.... That was the theme today. Our mission statement: "The Purpose of ministry at Zion Lutheran Church is to proclaim Christ's Gospel to all people, nurturing faith and making disciples through Worship, Education, FELLOWSHIP and Service."

The early church did it.... And we do it in so many wonderful ways. And the primary way is the way we as a community WALK TOGETHER in prayer....

Services at Zion – they are never boring. Birthdays --- Ed Gillen was 50 Sunday, Arnold Greise was 87. Prayer concerns – for Rudy Domke who was diagnosed with Lymphoma on Friday – he faces up to six months of chemo – and we still don't know what kind it is, a biopsy on Wednesday will tell us more. Prayers please. We supported the Doug Blankenship family in prayers and in a private memorial service on Sunday afternoon for his mother, Lorna who passed away at the Denali Center Friday night. She had moved to Fairbanks from Ohio six months ago when she received her diagnosis of cancer. Here she was surrounded by her two sons and their families. Prayers... for Bob Mursch who is recovering from oral surgery, and once again, Susan Phillips is back in the hospital with complications from her surgery late last month. For Merlin Barkdull, one of our older members, who goes in for surgery on Wednesday.

Walking together in Prayer.... Please pray for our Confirmands as they prepare for their public profession of faith on the 27<sup>th</sup>. And also for our families that have husbands deployed (6) and one that is on the verge of being deployed.

We are on our way to St. Louis. I write this during our layover Sunday evening in Anchorage, waiting for our flight to Minneapolis...then on to St. Louis by 9:00 AM. Another through-the-night flight. I know how I'll feel tomorrow and pledge that I will not do this again.... But here we are again. This time Judy is with me; it is our anniversary trip combined with my meeting with the Board for Mission Services in St. Louis. I'm on the education subcommittee... which meets Monday afternoon. Tuesday we meet at the International Center of the LCMS, then we wrap up on Wednesday. On our anniversary. Wednesday evening we will be the guests of Professor Ed and Marie Schroeder, dear friends who through the years have stayed in touch. Michael and Kathy Steckel will join us for the evening. They and family will be back in Fairbanks this summer for eight weeks – Michael will be joining our staff working on a variety of projects. Thursday we fly to Norfolk to spend four days with three of our children. Cynthia and family live in Virginia. Beach... Rachel and family as well as Seth live in Williamsburg. It will be the first time we get to see Rachel's new home.... And worship with them.

It was quite a weekend. The Guiding Team met for the last time on Saturday morning. It was a great time of celebrating a great piece of work by people who are committed to looking at the future of our congregation. Doug Schroeder, Loren Dobberpuhl, Eddie Packee and Kerry Gronewold were part of the Team from their first meeting last

February; Karl Schroeder joined later. All were present to talk about what they had done, committing it to the Lord as seeds that were planted.

Then I was off to the University to run in the Beat Beethoven – and “ran into” all kinds of parishioners. Next year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fairbanks Symphony Orchestra – this year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our congregation. Why not gather 50 members of Zion to participate in the Midnight Sun Run! Everyone I spoke to thought it was a great idea... we'll see. Running is one of those things when after a race you will usually get positive responses to any idea you offer. We just need a costume theme.....

Four hours Saturday afternoon were spent with the School Development Task Force as they worked with Charlie Wells, a facilitator who helped the group get a clear statement of purpose, assessed the level of commitment of the people on the Task Force, and defined the scope of the project. It was exhausting, but for me, an exhilarating experience. Within this group there is a commitment for quality education in a Christian context from a Lutheran Perspective.

Blessings.... Pastor K

PS, do drop by on Saturday, April 26, and take part in the TRUCK TOUCH.