



Table Talk

Fairbanks Lutheran Church

January 2010

1012 Cowles (across from the public library)

Sunday Service Times: 8:30 & 11:00am, Sunday School 9:45

What's Inside:

Pastor	1
Bishop Hanson	2
Congregational Meeting	2
Pictures	2-3
Youth, Sunday School	4-5

Email articles to: fairluth@gci.net

www.fairbankslutheranchurch.org



From the Pastor's Desk:

pastorfairluth@gci.net

"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones." (Proverbs 17:22, KJV)

A good sense of humor is essential to one's health – both physically and spiritually. Sometimes I have to remind myself that being serious, miserable, defeated, is sometimes a choice. We can often choose to be the opposite – happy.

Better still, we can believe that God is there to help lift our spirits. According to the apostle Paul, "...the fruit of the Spirit is love, JOY, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." (Galatians 5:22-23)

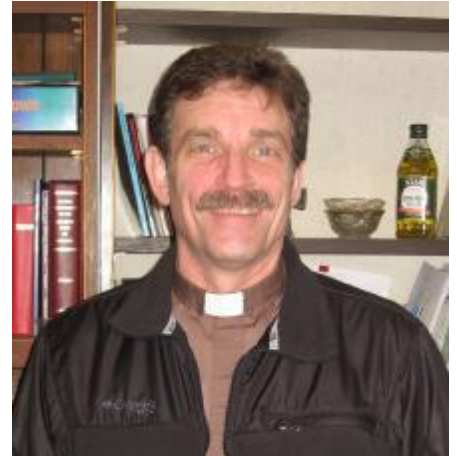
Since there's no law against it, let me tell you a few I've just heard ... like the one about the Lutheran who attended a luncheon where the speaker talked about the importance of forgiveness. The speaker said, "The Lord has given me the command to forgive the wrongs of others, but has not given me the ability to forget them." From the back of the room, an older man interrupted the speaker: "Just wait a few years!" (So age CAN be a blessing!)

Or did you hear about the one about the hot church service one Sunday in Fresno? Apparently the air conditioner had quit. The pastor walked to the pulpit, looked out at the sweltering congregation, and gave this ten-word sermon: "Hot, isn't it? Hell's like that. Don't go there! Amen." Reminds me of a line from The Muppets Christmas Carol, where the two old gentlemen muppets comment on a speech saying ... "It was dumb. It was pointless. It was short. WE LOVED IT!"

The very word "gospel" means "good news, glad tidings." Joy is something released from within, not acquired from without. Whether it has been placed there by circumstances, other people or our own responses to the trials of life, let us allow God-given joy to be born in us and tap into its life-giving and healing.

Check out the following passages: Psalms 118:24, 65:8, 98 (especially verses 3-4); Proverbs 15:13 & 15; 2 Corinthians 9:7; Philippians 4:4-5

Peace and JOY! Pastor Ottum





Christmas Message 2009
from Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us..(Titus 3:4-5a)

Into this shadowed world light shines and joyous voices sing. Glad tidings cheer the heart and liberate hope. "A child has been born for us, a son given to us" (Isaiah 9:6). God our Savior has appeared!

God's saving goodness and loving-kindness have arrived in Jesus, the Word made flesh. Though hidden in the humility of a manger, and later in the scandal of the cross, God's promise is being made good in plain sight for all to see, in a life of generous mercy, richly poured out for all.

"See, your salvation comes," the prophet wrote (Isaiah 62:11). God's faithfulness to God's promises calls us to a new hope, for the hope of eternal life is an inheritance that we can enjoy today in lives of generosity and compassion, joy and peace.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On Sunday, January 31st, Fairbanks Lutheran will hold its annual meeting after the 11 am worship service.

New Council members, Alaska Synod Delegates and Nominating Committee members will be elected. The 2010 budget will be presented for approval.

All of this will follow a potluck meal served in the Fellowship Hall.

Christmas Program 2009



A Night in Bethlehem



January Youth Group News 2010



Sunday, January 10th 6:00 – 7:30 pm Let's bake a cake! Each of us will have the opportunity to bake a cake and decorate it too! Please bring one 8" or 9" round cake pan to bake your cake in. You will have a choice of carrot, chocolate or vanilla cakes to bake, and cream cheese, chocolate or vanilla frosting to make. Please sign up on the bulletin board outside Sharon's office by noon on January 10th with the type of cake and frosting you would like to make.

Sunday, January 17th 5:00 – 7:00 pm Our Youth Group will be hosting **Bingo and Dinner for All Ages**. We will have hot dogs, bratwurst, chips and lemonade available to eat while you play. (Donations are welcome!) We will be playing regular Bingo AND all sorts of other patterns. We will have prizes for each winner. (If your Uncle Pete gave you the same gift as he did last year, please think about donating it as one of the prizes.)

Sunday, January 24th 6:00 – 7:30 pm Calling all Youth!! Tonight we will plan and prepare with Pastor Bill for a Youth Sunday to be held on February 7th. This is also Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday! Learn more about Souper Bowl at www.souperbowl.org. We will be

collecting food and money for a local non-profit organization. If you have an idea of who you would like to see benefit, please contact Sharon at 452-3425. We would like everyone to have a meaningful part of this service, so please put this date on your calendar! We will also be discussing our Mission Trip for Summer 2010.

Sunday, January 31st 6:00 – 7:30 pm We are invited over to First United Methodist at 2nd Ave and Cowles to play some games! Please get your homework done before tonight so we can have lots of us attend. It is so much fun when we get together. If you haven't come to one of our combined Youth Group nights, this is the time! We will meet in their church basement at 6:00 pm, and have your parents pick you up from there. As always, Sharon is happy to give you a ride! Just call her at 452-3425.

Many Thanks to all who helped share the Good News at A Night in Bethlehem on Saturday, December 19th!

Important Dates to Remember

January 24 – February 7 Souper Bowl of Caring Food Collection

March 5 – 7 All Alaska Lutheran Youth Gathering (For High School Youth)

Sunday School - January 2010

PowerLab

Pre-K – 3rd Grade

January 10 – January 31

Main Idea – We will discover Jesus’ miraculous power! We will have a lesson each week including at least one of the following: science experiments, cooking, art or games.

*** Jesus gives us the power to be thankful.**

“Always be thankful.” Colossians 3:15

*** Jesus gives us the power to help others.**

*“When God’s people are in need, be ready to help them.”
Romans 12:13*

*** Jesus gives us the power to be brave.**

“I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me.” Psalm 23:4

*** Jesus gives us the power to live forever.**

“Since I live you also will live.” John 14:19

*** Jesus gives us the power to tell others about God.**

*“Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.”
Mark 16:15*

Godly Play Worship Center

4th – 6th grades

Stories

January 10	Boy Jesus and the Temple
January 17	Jesus is Baptized
January 24	Jesus Calls the Disciples
January 31	Student Stories

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER’S MEETING

WHEN: Saturday, January 9th at 1:00 pm

WHAT: To discuss the Spring Semester

WHO: All Sunday School Teachers

WHERE: FLC Narthex

WHY: For Fellowship and to enhance God’s Team Spirit!



Lutheran Social Services of Alaska

Happy New Year! I hope this article finds all of you as excited as I am for the new year. As I look over the accomplishments of LSSA in 2009, I am encouraged and motivated as your new Executive Director to build on the work of this ministry.

We continue to serve many individuals through our Neighbor to Neighbor program that provides vouchers for people to receive clothing, identification cards, bus passes or gasoline. We have seen a marked increase in the number of families visiting our food pantry in 2009. Our Association for Stranded Rural Alaskans which provides transportation and/or housing for rural Alaskans, received a gift of \$25,000 from Cook Inlet Tribal Council in October. Each month we assist many individuals in our Medical Transportation program with rides to and from medical appointments. We continue to help homeless men in our transitional living program and Roosevelt House assists women with chronic behavioral health issues with a place to live.

Through collaborations with Catholic Social Services, The Salvation Army, The Food Bank of Alaska and other faith based organizations we have served the Anchorage community in our HUGSS/Coats for Kids, Thanksgiving Blessing and Neighborhood Gift programs.

We could not accomplish this without the tremendous support that we receive from our donors and volunteers. To you, I give a great big **thank you!** Our donor list is filled with names of individuals, families, congregations, corporations and foundations that have given finances and/or time to our ministry. We even have donations from individuals whom we have helped in the past. They are now able to give back and want us to continue helping others.

I am motivated by listening to the stories from people that LSSA has assisted over the years. I opened a letter last month that included a check from an individual that we helped with transportation through our Association for Stranded Rural Alaskans many years ago. He wrote, "...sorry it has taken me so long to repay this money, but I will never forget what you did for me." I have become acquainted with a 16 year old young man who has been working off community service hours assisting the food pantry and now that he has finished his hours he has the spirit to serve and continues to volunteer in the food pantry.

These are just a few of the stories from people we have served and I promise to continue to share other stories from individuals in the future. My hope is that all of you will feel the pride in our accomplishments in this ministry we call **Lutheran Social Services of Alaska.**

Reminder of another way to help our ministry.

Again this year you have the opportunity to contribute to charities through your Alaskan Permanent Fund Dividend. When applying on-line, you will have an option called "the Gift of Giving." Simply follow the instructions to make a donation. In 2009 LSSA received \$5,275 in donations through this program.

Yours faithfully,

Alan Budahl
Executive Director



To All Members and Friends of FLC:

I wish to thank each and every one of you for your generous Christmas gifts. I am especially grateful for all your prayers and the faith conversations we've had.

I truly thank God for the opportunity to be a part of such a loving and caring community of believers.

A very merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Pastor Bill Ottum



Call Committee Notes:

The Alaska Synod office continues to tell us that pastor mobility throughout the ELCA is slow at this time with economics having a lot to do with it. We know – Pastor Carol George who handles pastor recruiting for our Synod emails us about the many pastors she has asked about a Fairbanks position who have said no.

At this writing there is one candidate with whom the committee is discussing a visit with us. He is Pastor Glen Bickford who is currently an interim pastor at Bear Creek Lutheran Church in Grand Meadow, Minnesota, about 25 miles from Rochester where he owns a house near the Mayo Clinic. He is a single parent with a 13 year old son who lives with him.

Tentatively a February 4 to 7, 2010 visit for the two of them is being considered. Should the plans firm up, airline miles will be needed for two along with a schedule of Fairbanks tours and congregational events.

The committee looks forward to a successful call process and appreciates the patience of the congregation.

Fairbanks Lutheran Church
1012 Cowles Street
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
FAIRBANKS AK
PERMIT NO. 24

(We are across from the public library.)

ph: 907-452-3425

fax: 907-452-3422

email: fairluth@gci.net

<http://www.fairbankslutheranchurch.org>