



Table Talk

Fairbanks Lutheran Church

March 2010

1012 Cowles (across from the public library)

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

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Email articles to: fairluth@gci.net

www.fairbankslutheranchurch.org

New Pastor Called



On Sunday, February 28 at a duly called congregational meeting it was voted to call Pastor Paul Bodin from Spokane, WA as our next pastor.

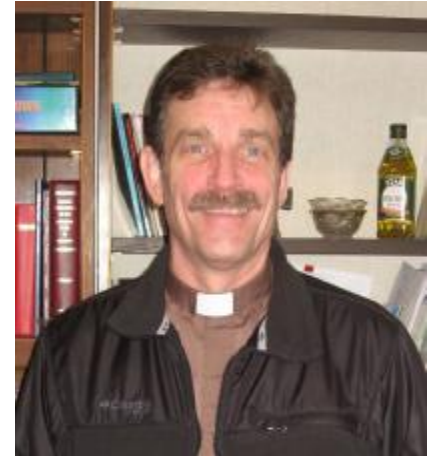
Pastor Bodin has accepted the call to serve Fairbanks Lutheran. He and wife, Cherie are looking forward to making Fairbanks their home.

Please keep both of our pastoral families, the Bodin's and the Ottum's in your prayers.

From the Pastor's Desk:

pastorfairluth@gci.net

A couple of years ago I read a very spiritually enlightening book by Parker Palmer entitled "A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey Toward An Undivided Life". Having lived for several years in a Quaker community, Palmer came to realize that most of us live divided lives. He suggests that what we are deep within ourselves, and what we project of ourselves outwardly as we live within society - are not the same. Hence, we live a lie. And the more we continue to live this way, the more confusion, anxiety, anger, and frustration we are apt to experience.



His insight led me to believe that we could also make the same criticism of the Church. For it, too, seems at times to be divided between what individuals say they truly believe, and what they actually live and practice in daily life.

Palmer suggests that the first step toward an "undivided life" is to recognize this condition for what it is. He then suggests the use of circles of trust - small groups committed to creating a trusting environment in which one's true self can come out. Many of us find these "circles of trust" among friends, or church community.

Palmer goes on to suggest another reason that the church is hypocritical at times, writing that we have lost the ability to hold the tension between the reality of the moment and the possibility that something better might emerge. Call it the tension between being another institution, and a faith-based community of people. In a sense, it's the position where "doubting" Thomas found himself when the other disciples told him that Jesus had resurrected and had appeared to them. He had not seen Jesus ... but somehow he hoped it was true.

Could he hold that tension and continue to believe?

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Not many churches can ... or many individuals, for that matter. Take, for example a church council meeting, or congregational meeting, where a decision must be made. As we talk, it becomes clear that people disagree on some matter, and our frustration grows as we listen to various options. Uncomfortable with holding the tension of conflicting viewpoints and wanting to "get on with it," we call the question, take a vote, and let the majority decide what course we should take.

The tension has been resolved, or so it appears. But in reality we've deprived ourselves of a chance to find a better way by allowing opposing ideas to enrich and enlarge each other until a new vision emerges. Palmer refers to this as "the third way". This "third way" resists the "fight or flight" dilemma, and lets go of having the majority making the decisions.

During this Lenten season, it is my prayer that each one of us might take steps toward undivided lives, so that we may be more honest with our selves and others. And I pray that the good news of Jesus' resurrection provides us the inspiration and strength from God to seek and to hold opposing ideas in tension within our congregation, until we open ourselves up to a new vision emerging.

Peace,
Pastor Bill Ottum



Congregational Annual Meeting Election Results

January 31, 2010

Executive Officers:

President: Ross Hansen
Vice President: Tom Alton
Secretary: Arlene Strandberg
Treasurer: Millie Dufseth

Council Member remaining – Second year of 1st term:

1. Warrack Willson

First year of 2nd term:

2. Arlene Strandberg
3. Trina Anderson
4. Ross Hansen

Second year of 2nd term:

5. Richard Comer
6. Matt McClurg

First year of 3rd term: *

7. Millie Dufseth *(Treasurer – no term limit)

New Council Members:

8. Paul Koop
9. Dawson Lewandoski
10. Tom Alton
11. Greg Higdon
12. Janelle Sweeney **

Alternate Council Member: Sharon Lockwood

Synod Assembly Convention - April 22-24, 2010 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Anchorage

Delegates: 1. Barbara Pierson 2. Ross Hansen **

Alternate Delegates: 1. Lavonne Gullickson 2. Dan Gullickson

Nominating Committee for 2010:

1. Steve Bainbridge 2. Sharon Cook 3. Eva Hansen **

*(**nominated at the 1.31.10 Annual Congregational Meeting)*



Adult Studies

Monday Women's Study at 6:30pm.

During Lent we are studying Psalms, focusing on human trials and triumphs. Meet at church.

Wednesdays at noon.

Studies on the Psalms.

This lively group meets in the narthex.

Sundays at 9:45am.

Study on I Peter.

Conveniently scheduled after services, we gather in the library downstairs.

Sunday School

There is a class for everyone!

The Sunday school hour is held between the 1st and 2nd services from 9:45 – 10:45 am each Sunday!

Power Xpress for Pre-K-3rd grade

Godly Play Worship Center for 4th – 6th grades

Junior/Senior High Class

Adult Class



FLC Sewing Group Fellowship & Work Day

We'll be working on projects for the Christmas Bazaar along with spending time fellowshiping together.

Join us at the church on **TUESDAY MARCH 9TH** from 5 to 6 p.m. for a light dinner and fellowship.

We'll begin working on the sewing projects at 6pm, finishing up by 8pm. We will learn how to make bags, book covers and more. Feel free to make one for yourself and one to sell at the Christmas Bazaar this coming fall.

Bring yourself and your sewing machine or your "stash" of material. Invite a friend, too!

See Arlene Orbeck or Arlene Strandberg for more details.

FLC Softball

Fairbanks Lutheran is again sponsoring a team to play in the church coed softball league. Anyone 16 or over is eligible to play.

Interested in playing, see **Jerry Zellmer** after church or give him a call at 479-6389. Games are once a week and begin the 1st or 2nd week in May.

It's a great way to have fun, meet members of our church & other churches.





Wednesdays Evenings thru March 24th

6pm Soup Supper, 6:30pm Worship
using "Unfailing Light" by Marty Haugen
(*"Holden Evening Prayer"*)

Pastor Ottum will be sharing reflections on Isaac Watt's hymn, "*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross.*"

Sign up to bring soup/bread in the narthex.



Psalm Sunday Lenten Fair & Coat Drive

Fairbanks Lutheran will once again be collecting coats for people within our community who need them on **Palm Sunday March 28**. So....when you are doing your spring cleaning, please set aside the coats and jackets that you are no longer wearing, and bring them on Palm Sunday to lay at the altar.



Maundy Thursday Service
April 1, 7:00pm

Ecumenical Good Friday Service
April 2, 12pm
at First Methodist Church

FLC Good Friday Service
April 2, 7:00pm

Easter Sunday
7:00am Sunrise Service
*at Cushman Street Centennial Footbridge
near Immaculate Conception Church*
*(sponsored by Fairbanks Lutheran &
True Victory Missionary churches)*

8:30am & 11am Easter Services
(at Fairbanks Lutheran)

7:30am - 10am Breakfast
(at Fairbanks Lutheran)



5th ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND GARAGE SALE - May 7TH AND 8TH

Our church budget for this year includes the proceeds from the garage sale as a source of income. We want to have an even more successful sale than in previous years and we can do it with your help! Read on below to see how you can help.

STRONG BODIES NEEDED: Help is needed after the second service on **May 2nd** to carry tables up to the narthex from the basemen. We also have quite a few items already donated that need to be brought up from the basement. The more volunteers we have the easier it will be.

SIGN UP TO HELP: Young and those who feel younger in age are encouraged to sign up to help with the garage sale. Most of the labor from previous years has been completed by those who are getting up there in age and need help in covering the 10 – 12 hour work days. People are needed to work in the evenings at the church on the **4th, 5th & 6th of May from 5 to 9 p.m.** Our “retired people” are willing to work the daytime shifts. If you are able to give some help to this project, please leave your name in the church office.

DONATIONS: Start collecting items around your house, we will store your items a few weeks before the sale. If anyone has an enclosed trailer we can use for storage, please let us know.

CANOPIES NEEDED: We would like to borrow freestanding canopies to use in the parking lot to cover large items.

AN HOUR OR TWO worked by many people will assure us to once again have a successful sale!

WANT MORE DETAILS? Talk to Arlene Orbeck or Sharon Richards.

SAVE THE DATE: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

June 7 – 11, 2010 “EGYPT – Joseph’s Journey from Prison to Palace”



Next Step Ministries is returning to Fairbanks this summer! Fairbanks Lutheran will once again team up with Next Step Ministries to serve the Fairbanks community and help spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our church will host students from Next Step Ministries (a student missions ministry from Wisconsin) for five weeks starting the **beginning of July**.

For more information about Next Step, check out their website at www.nextstepministries.com.

What’s the MV Christian UP to???



We are OUT & ABOUT! And we don’t take it for granted! A milder winter has allowed us great winter travel to each of the villages we visit.

- In KAKE...Stan preached & served communion at the Kake Memorial Presbyterian Church. We invited all down to the boat for lunch, & helped cheer kids from Hydaburg, Klawock & Kake on in basketball games throughout the week. We also visited & prepared dinner for an elder, helped her winterize, & spent time with her in prayer throughout the week.

- In HOONAH...we spent time with folks in their home, & on the boat. We met with members of the Hoonah Indian Assn. In the wake of social trauma, we are collaborating to take elders & community kids on the boat, to strengthen cultural identity & relationship while visiting pre-glacial Tlingit sites. Stan also preached at a crucial church meeting of the oldest church in the village, & we witnessed a re-birth of this body, it's new charter Sunday! Afterwards we fed them, & attended community BB games.
- In ANGOON, we have met & prayed with folks, working on village issues. We see the kids we know from VBS's in the summer at the BB games of the winter. A fun time to get re-acquainted & catch up on their lives. We invite them back to the boat for crafts & cookies. Coffee is always available on board for those who need a listening ear.
- Soon, we'll be on our way to KLAWOCK & HYDABURG, to meet with elders, & to coordinate our summer VBS's and visits with each village's rhythm.
- In March, Sharon will be taking a 2 wk Licensing class in Ketchikan, while Stan travels to Southeast cluster meeting in Juneau. Then, we HEAD OUT again, to visit the communities along the east coast of Prince of Wales Island.
- We thank GOD for the opportunity to ENCOURAGE individuals & church bodies, and WALK ALONGSIDE them in each of their faith journeys.

We look forward to seeing many of you again in April at Assembly in Anchorage to hug and share faith stories of another year, on a very sturdy boat.

SERVANTS & PARTNERS with YOU! Pastor/Skipper Stan Berntson & Sharon Geldaker RN



Lutheran Social Services of Alaska

We recently received the written report of a study conducted by Feeding America in conjunction with the Food Bank of Alaska in 2009. Feeding America is the nation's largest organization of emergency food providers. On February 24, 2010, LSSA hosted the Anti-Hunger Anchorage Coalition at Anchorage Lutheran Church where all the interested organizations that operate either an emergency food distribution site, soup kitchen or emergency shelters providing short-term housing, met to discuss the report findings and to share ideas of how we can better collaborate to address the needs of the hungry in

Anchorage and throughout Alaska. The survey reported demographics of household size, income and assistance received. However, the most shocking part of the report deals with the hard choices many individuals are making when deciding do I pay rent or the utilities, or do I go hungry. Many are reporting they are going hungry.

The Alaska Food Coalition is addressing this problem statewide and the Anti-Hunger Anchorage Coalition is addressing the problem in our city. In Alaska 74,000 individuals receive food assistance each year, and of that number 41,200 are living in Anchorage. Last year our Food Pantry was able to assist nearly 20,000 hungry people close to half of the hungry in Anchorage. Your continued support will help us provide food to many of the population of Anchorage who reported food insecurity in 2009. Unfortunately, that population is growing.

The report also highlighted that volunteers staff most of the food pantries around the state. One employee of LSSA and many volunteers staff our food pantry.

We appreciate our volunteers and all the hours they donate to our cause. Thank You!

We are distributing Easter baskets this month and want to thank everyone who has contributed to this ministry. We touch the lives of the children of our clients in the Food Pantry. It is not too late to donate. Whatever you would put in an Easter basket for your child or grandchild is appropriate. We do ask that you also include a children's story, activity or coloring book containing the message of Jesus' resurrection.

We are still in need of personal hygiene products for our clients. They are very happy to receive soap, shampoo, toothpaste and brushes, deodorants and combs. Please drop them off at our office or your church and we will come by and pick them up.

Please keep our ministry here at LSSA and all the hungry and homeless people we serve daily in your prayers.

Save the dates:

Saturday, May 1, 2010

Dinner and Fun at the Hilltop Ski Chalet

Friday, November 19, 2010

Harvest of Hope Auction – Anchorage Marriott



Call Committee



Fairbanks Lutheran Church
1012 Cowles Street
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

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