

Ministry of the LCMS Congregations in Alaska

Into the Darkness the Light Shines!

Christmas Eve in Tanacross brought the light of Christ to many! Late that evening there would be at least 65 a the candlelight service who would witness two baptisms, who would hear the Good News of Christ, and who would witness 18 children participating in the Nativity scene. It was wonderful watching and hearing the children sing "Jesus Loves Me" in the Athabascan language.

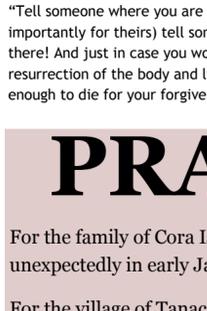
No one knew that the joy of Christmas would be shattered a couple weeks later. The grandmother of one of the boys baptized would be called to her eternal home without warning. The light of Christ broke through the darkness of sin, death, and Satan and carried her to her eternal home.

We are often shocked by death, but in reality we shouldn't be! Christ has promised to come back for those whom he loves and who have faith in Him. For those who die in Christ, death is not something to be feared or sorrowful about. Instead it is a reason to rejoice!

One thing I really like about the Athabascan culture is the potlatch. After the funeral and meal there is a time of singing and dancing that is filled with sorrow and mourning. The evening then turns to rejoicing and celebrating and ends with the giving of gifts.

The Christian life is quite similar. Now is the time for sorrow and mourning as we reside in the darkness of sin. And even though we live in this world filled with darkness we rejoice and celebrate as we look forward to the gift of eternal life which is ours in Christ.

Little Lessons for Christian Living...



"Travel...Not Recommended", "Expect Extreme cold/heavy snow": The road of life traveled by Christians is not easy! If that is what you are looking for, then it is highly recommended you look for a different route! (Please note that the easy road leads to destruction.)

"Carry Cold Weather Survival Gear": Jesus has equipped you with the Armor of God to protect you! It is your survival gear for eternal life!

"Tell someone where you are going!": This last one is often forgotten. For Christ's sake (and more importantly for theirs) tell someone where you are going, why you are going, and how you will get there! And just in case you wonder about the answer to those questions...You are headed to the resurrection of the body and life everlasting prepared for you by Jesus Christ all because He loved you enough to die for your forgiveness!



Rev. Keith Aschenbeck

Newsletter Spotlight

Into the Darkness the Light Shines!

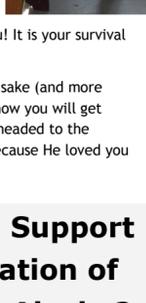
Little Lessons for Christian Living...

Pray, Participate, Provide

Family Update

Photos

Ray Thomas leads our prayer time on a Sunday morning



PRAY

For the family of Cora Isaac who died unexpectedly in early January.

For the village of Tanacross and all its people who have been struggling greatly over the past months.

For the AMC volunteer in-service taking place near Chicago in January.

For Keith as he plans a trip to the Mid-West in April.

For AMC Volunteer teams who are now preparing for the summer of 2016 and the work God has in store for them.

Contact Pastor Keith at

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E-mail: revkeithamc@gmail.com

Address:

537 Musersh Way

Tok, AK 99780-0537

How Can You Support the Proclamation of the Gospel in Alaska?

PARTICIPATE

Contact Ruth Zellar (AMC Volunteer Coordinator) for more info:

907-232-3823

ruthzellar@alaskamissionforchrist.org

PROVIDE

Our Ministry in Alaska is made possible only by DONORS LIKE YOU!

Donate online at: www.alaskamissionforchrist.org

Mail donations to: Alaska Mission for Christ 8100 Arctic Blvd. Anchorage AK 99518

Note "Keith Aschenbeck" in the memo section and 100% of your donation will go to directly support his ministry.

Donations are tax deductible. Statements are sent out after the end of the year.

Thank you for your support!

FAMILY UPDATE!

The last quarter of 2015 has been a very busy time for our family! We finally moved into a larger house and property in early October. We are working to make it into our permanent base of operations here in Alaska! There is lots of room so be sure to come visit! We were able to share Thanksgiving in our new home with several friends from the Tok community watching football and eating the amazing food prepared by Stacey! (Although Keith cooked the turkey!)

Anna has gotten her hair cut. In Keith's opinion it is short, though it is past her shoulders still. She also received a perm with tight curls and is cute as a button. She continues to grow like a weed.

Micah's hair has been buzzed with the exception of a long "rat tail" in the back. He wears it the same as many of the natives, neatly braided and generally hidden under his shirt. He is still as energetic as always though he has made great leaps and bounds in his school achievement. Much of that success is owed to his amazing teacher who conducts her classroom in a very unique way.

With the snow and now a dog sled Kaleb has been busy running his dogs. He and Keith were finally able to get a trail cut through the woods so he doesn't have to cross any roads. When it comes to dancing and singing in the village, Kaleb is always in the middle of it.

Trey continues to mature into a wonderful young man. He has a servant attitude when he is in the village and has impressed many of the elders with his respect and attentive nature.

Stacey continues to work to keep the kids on track with all their school work. She also picks up substituting opportunities in the villages as they arise. Lately she has been serving as hostess to the guests we have had. She has so enjoyed being in a house where there is room for people to visit.

Stacey and all the kids went to Illinois for a couple of weeks to visit family. They left Keith to fend for himself, though he had little time to rest with all the happenings of ministry and doing some repair work around the house.

Keith found an old snow machine (1989 Ski Doo) for sell quite cheap. A little work on it and the kids have been having a blast being towed around. Mom is also much happier with a decent way to keep up with Kaleb as he runs the dogs.

Birthdays:

Anna - 11/2/2007

Micah - 2/7/2006

Kaleb - 1/11/2005

Trey - 6/10/2002

Stacey - 10/24/1979

Keith - 3/31/1973

Check out the Photos!

Getting ready to swing at the Christmas piñata!



Kaleb and Dad made a dogsled (below right). He loves giving his siblings rides on the sled (left top). Even Mom got involved in the fun (left middle).



Baptisms of Kayden and Ashton



Roy and Betty Denny blessed Keith with a Native Hand Beaded Cross made by Clara from Tetlin.



Candlelight Service



Memorial Potlatch for Kenny Thomas Sr.



Memorial Potlatch for Kenny Thomas Sr.

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Questions or comments? Email me at revkeithamc@gmail.com or call 979-716-9910

Go and Make disciples...