



# Upper Tanana Valley Mission News

Alaska Mission for Christ

September 2014

Volume 1, Issue 1

## Schedule of Events:

- Sept. 14 @ Holy Cross in Warda,, TX.
- Sept 17 @ Immanuel Lutheran School in Giddings, TX.
- Sept. 18 @ Administrators Conf. in Giddings, TX.
- Oct. 5 @ Zion Lutheran in Schulenburg, TX
- Oct. 8 @ St. Paul Lutheran School in Austin, TX.
- Oct. 26 @ St. Peter Lutheran Church in St. Peter, IL
- Nov. 2 @ Zion Lutheran in Litchfield, IL
- Nov. 9 @ Salem Lutheran in Salem, IL.

## In this issue:

Giftedness 1

Be Fearless 1

Transitions 2

## Giftedness—Is that even a word?

Scripture assures us that God has a plan and purpose for each of us. Maybe you have wondered how it is that God is to use you. I am not sure if giftedness is really a word, but I know it is something we all have! So what do you think your special giftedness is?

If you have trouble coming up with an answer, then maybe you are looking in the wrong place. Giftedness comes in all shapes and sizes. And it never looks the same for each person. Giftedness can be a story in your life and experience through which God sustained or blessed you. Your giftedness might be a particular ability you have: are you good with numbers and accounting? Are you a very detailed and organized person? Are you artistic and think outside the box? Are you a motivator? Do you keep people grounded in reality? Are you strong in your prayer life? Or in service to others? Mechanical? A good cook?

Of course the list can go on and on and on and on. In our decision to move to Alaska one of the gifts that we recognized God gave us was a love for the outdoors. It's not a grand and great gift in the way some people would expect, but for someone living in Alaska it is very necessary.



Homes in the Athabascan Indian village of Tetlin

One gift that God has not given us is the desire to live in the city, yet others have this gift. We often look for some great and grand ability and forget that our giftedness might be somewhat normal looking. But, God's promise is to use those things that are lowly or unassuming. So maybe your gift is a love of gardening, athletics, or music.

God calls us all and equips us all. But he does so uniquely and to varying degrees. SO what is your giftedness and how can it be used to give witness to Christ?

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church a variety of offices and gifts. Do all have the same office or the same gift?

(cf. I Corinthians 12:27-31)

## Be Fearless Faithful Followers (cf. Matthew 6:25-34)

"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. ...Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ...And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ...O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the [unbelievers] seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

"Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

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NEW BEGINNINGS  
CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

## **In the Midst of Transition**

Country music star Tracy Lawrence in his song titled *Time Marches On* repeats the chorus, “The only thing that stays the same is that everything changes everything changes.”

It really doesn't matter whether you stay at the same address your whole life, or if you move around every few years nothing stays the same. And if the older someone or something gets, the faster things seem to change.

Change can come suddenly or creep along like the slow

advance of rust on the fender. But no matter how change comes, it always requires more change. Adapting, transitioning, evolving any way you call it the only same that stays the same is that everything changes everything changes.

When change does come, how we approach it is a major part about how we will handle it. The Apostle Paul learned the secret of being content. A secret we are well to learn ourselves. It really wasn't all that big of a secret though.

In his letter to the Philippians

Paul tells us that no matter how much change comes that we can be content in any and every difficulty—for we can endure all things through Christ; He strengthens us! (cf. 4:12-13)

Please keep all of us in your prayers as we personally go through a number of extreme changes. And be assured that whatever change you are going through Christ has overcome through His victory on the cross!