

Fall – Christmas 2017



As we write this the wind is howling and there is a blizzard outside. This is a first since we have been in Alaska. Today after the school had their annual Thanksgiving dinner we were visited by two boys from the neighborhood. They had been sledding up the road but informed us that it was too slow because the snow is too soft. They made us a Thanksgiving card and then played on Elise's tablet. They were joined by two more boys and while Marc made popcorn Elise walked to the post office. At last 4 boxes we have been expecting arrived. The older boys came and helped get the boxes. We were so excited to find a box of children's DVDs from Mason City Covenant Church that we will add to the lending library.



The fall subsistence season has come to an end. The berries are covered by snow until next summer. We have plenty of moose meat and salmon in the freezer. The river is freezing and soon will be safe for ice fishing and travel.



The Mountain Village Covenant Choir has been invited to play and sing at several community events sponsored by tribe and native cooperation. We, as a church, are excited to have this outreach. The three churches in Mountain Village, St. Lawrence Catholic Church, St. Peter the Aleut Russian Orthodox Church and the Covenant Church held a community service on Thanksgiving Day. It was well attended and appreciated by all.

The new foundation under the church is wonderful and very strong. You can really feel the difference when the Western Alaskan winds howl across the tundra. The new building is almost complete, and the congregation is looking forward to using this space which was really needed. As usual everything in Alaska cost more than initially expected especially due to the cost of shipping. We can't just run down to Home Depot for supplies! We are so appreciative of the generosity of friends far and wide that helped with the cost of this project. Local workers are working hard to button it up before the snow is too deep to work outside.



A very big thank you to Trinity Covenant, Livingston, New Jersey, and Big Lake Bible Church, Big Lake, Alaska, for adopting the needy children and families for Christmas. This week the church will be decorated for Advent. Also, this week the GriefShare program will be presenting a special "Surviving the Holidays" event. This is a fitting ending for the GriefShare program that has been going on throughout the fall. We will have a new GriefShare group beginning in February.

Marc and Elise will be returning to Missouri for the month of January. We will be helping one of our daughters who is having surgery and attending the Midwinter Conference of the Covenant. We are looking forward to the possibility of meeting some of you and even visiting churches in the Midwest.

We thank you for your continued prayer and financial support as we minister at the "ends of the earth." Our prayer is that the presence of the Lord Jesus will be with you in this Advent season and the New Year.