

February
2010

Glad Tidings



Lent

Thy Will
Be Done

Jesus At
Gethsamane

A LETTER FROM PASTOR DAVID

Dear Friends through Christ:

A few weeks ago we had our annual congregation meeting in which we approved a vision for the church in 2010. If you paid close attention the vision includes a lot of hard work. Such as adding a Wednesday night Bible/Worship Service, planning for two 50th anniversary celebrations (one on Pentecost May 23rd and the other sometime in late Summer), two worship services on Sunday, outreach galore with a new beautiful sign screaming Glory to God, all while increasing our efforts to provide care inside these walls.

It sort of makes me tired just reading over all the tasks we have set in front of us. Yet the vision is not quite as daunting if we tackle them one at a time. So let's start with the first vision of adding a Wednesday night Bible/Worship Service and see where each of us may lend a hand, becoming the Priesthood of all Believers.

Our heritage affords the opportunity to kick this ministry off through our Lenten tradition where we offer numerous meaningful worship experiences leading up to the Cross and the Resurrection. (Lent is an Old English word simply meaning Springtime—a time where the days stretch out and things begin to grow—therefore for us Lent becomes a time where we stretch our understanding of Scripture and begin to grow in Faith.)

- There's Shrove Tuesday on February 16th is more fun event where we offer up a free pancake supper celebrating the start of Lent. Here one might say we stretch our bellies.
- The next evening is Ash Wednesday, a powerful worship service reminding us the harsh reality that we are but "Dust and to Dust we shall Return," forcing each of us to start placing our trust in something greater than ourselves—God.
- Then each and every Wednesday (including Ash Wednesday) we hold a soup and sandwich supper for all people. Following the supper this year we will be learning, stretching, growing in knowledge by studying the basics of the Christian Faith, such as the books of the Bible, Creeds, and the 10 Commandments.
- This outreach will continue through Maundy Thursday—celebrating the new commands given at the Last Supper, with a prayer vigil continuing through the evening.
- Leading us to Good Friday—the crucifixion of our Lord and Savior.
- On Saturday, March April 3rd we remember all the promises of God through the Easter Vigil. Finally April 4th we celebrate the most important day in the history of the world—Easter Sunday!

As one can see, there are tons of opportunities to "grow in one's faith." The challenge in starting up a continual Wednesday night service is getting the word out into the community. Here's where the members of Gloria Dei come into play. First make sure you plan to stretch or grow **your** faith this Lenten Season. Then invite those around you—your family members, friends, co-workers, neighbors and simply say, "Come and See!" Finally take some the flyers that I will be drafting and pass them out at the various places in the community, and hopefully once they experience Christ in our midst they will return for more.

Like I said, our vision as a whole may seem overwhelming, but right now we must focus upon Lent starting up a new time and a new way of worship for the community where we may begin to grow our faith together. I pray that you will take this task seriously. After all, it is the command of our Lord and Savior who gives us everything!

Simply in Service of the Lord,

Pastor David Trexler

A LETTER FROM VICAR DAN

Greetings yall,

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church is going thru many changes and I'm excited to be a part of them. As I was in the loft during the annual church gathering, I watched as our new vision was being presented. I felt I was in an interesting place. Looking at all of you sitting there, not knowing what was about to occur, listening with an ear for what our church can do in the next 50 years ahead. This was something that I had never experienced and it was interesting to see the reactions and the excitement to the possibilities.

At the same time, I felt there was a sense of how do we do this. How do we get all of this done? I get the same feelings most days. When I know about upcoming events, such as a couple of new classes that I'll be tasked with putting on, wondering if what I'm about to impart to you will be what you are in most need of, anticipating the reactions as to whether these classes were even worth your time, I'm struck with a sense of fear and anxiety. After all, just like the messages that I'm privileged to give to you on Saturdays and Sundays, I want you to go away enriched and better for the time that you have given to me. This is why I'm always asking you how you perceived the message and I'll continuously be asking you how you feel you have benefited from the classes.

There are many firsts for me that I've both experienced and will be experiencing that expands what I'll be taking with me. Advent and Christmas was new and I thought it was great how things got done. Maybe the verse by Paul in Philippians that I try to keep in mind has some merit after all. "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made know to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus". I know that Jane and I pray every morning to do the things which Jesus needs for us to do to serve others thru Him. I know that the verse I memorized and remember when things don't go just right helps in just the right way. With the upcoming Lent and Easter seasons and the 50th year anniversary, it will be more important than ever for me to keep what Paul says at the forefront of my mind as each season has its own challenges and opportunities.

One of the greatest enjoyments that I had was delivering cookies to some of you. I enjoyed sitting there talking with you and always leave feeling uplifted in my spirit. I don't know if it's because I'm doing the work of Christ or that Christ was with us during our meeting. Maybe both. I hope to get more opportunities in the near future so be on the look-out for a visit.

For any of you who were here the Sunday after the youth trip, the number of times that I landed on my face in the snow was not the same as was shown in the Powerpoint slide show. I'm not gonna tell you if it was more or less but I'll continue to assert that they gave me faulty skis. There were not any brakes as well as I thought they should have included a parachute or at least an anchor that you could deploy in the rear to slow you down. Seeing as how there was neither, I think this whole down-hill ski thing might need to be rethought. After my partial 3rd trip down the hill and after perfecting the 3 point stance (2 skis down and my rear dragging behind), I think I had more fun sitting by the fire with my feet being toasted, drinking a hot coffee, than falling on my face in the freezing snow. Next time, I think I'll stay on the beginners (bunny) slope. Oh well, the youth had a great time anyways.

Once again, as far as the two classes are concerned, one will be over Luther's Heidelberg Disputation and the other will be a computer class. Both should be an opportunity to gain knowledge in their respective areas. Be sure to ask me for additional information or, if you are like me and don't know what "Disputation" means, be sure to ask and we will both walk down that path together.

Till next time. Keep the front porch light on and the dogs on the leash.

Vicar Dan Kerr

A Letter to Gloria Dei from John Kocian

Dear Church Family

Pastor David

I thank you for all the days and hours you were at the hospital during my hospitalization and surgery. Your concern, giving us strength with your many, many prayers lifted our spirits and gave us hope.

Vicar Dan

Thank you for your visits, your prayers and sharing your sense of humor with me. It made my day brighter

Last but certainly not least, thank you to all the great people here at Gloria Dei. You have said many prayers, sent cards, and always welcomed me warmly.

You all have my heartfelt thanks and appreciation.

I am Blessed
John Kocian

I/K Synod News

The I/K Synod News can be subscribed to via email. The first electronic issue is included in our newsletter this month on pages 10 and 11. This newsletter can also be viewed on line. Go to our Web site's "Glory to God Home Page". View the drop down menu tab for "Explore More Pages" and select "I/K Synod Newsletter PDF". The viewed file gives instructions and email link to subscribe.

WOMEN OF GLORIA DEI



All women of the congregation and guests are invited to the Friendship Tea on Sunday, February 7 at 2 pm. Come and enjoy an afternoon of fellowship, food and fun. We will also be revealing the identity of Prayer Sisters of the past year and new one given. Hope you can join us!

PS—A Prayer Sister is one you remember throughout the year and keep her in mind on special dates such as: Birthdays, Anniversaries, Easter, Christmas by perhaps sending a card or small gift to remember. But the most important aspect of a Prayer Sister is that not only are you praying for that person, you too know that some one is praying for you. At the end of the year one learns the identity of her Prayer Sister.

If you are interested in participating in this wonderful ministry, even if you cannot make the fellowship tea, please see Nancy Talabay, or Elaine VanProyen.

february bir thdays			
Day	Name	Day	Name
1	Mary Riddell	15	Matthew Radolak
4	Linda Clark	16	Kyle Scherer
8	Diane Heintzman	20	Richard Concialdi Jr.
9	Nancy Riddell	20	Jack Hawkins
10	Dorothy Bodenhofer	21	Alexander Novak
10	Bonnie Abatie	22	Carol Dickerhoff
14	Jacob Danner	26	Adrienne Baker
15	Eloise Schaller	27	John Popka



Souper Bowl Sunday is Coming!!!

On February 6 & 7th we will be taking a collection to fund the cooking ministry to help the needy throughout the year. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Grace Notes:

At the January 13 meeting, it was decided to disburse the Bazaar Funds to:

- Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Indiana-Kentucky \$500.00
- God's Global Barnyard/ELCA World Hunger \$500.00
- Stephen Ministry \$1400.00
- Banners/Christmas Decorations for Church Sanctuary \$500.00
- Bazaar 2010 Supplies \$500.00
- Raffle Item \$300.00

In December, \$500.00 was also sent to ELCA Benevolence
Thank you for supporting the 2009 Bazaar!

Important future dates:

Grace Note Meeting, **Wednesday, February 10 at 6:30 pm.**

Church Kitchen Shower, **Sunday, February 28**, immediately following the morning worship service. Everyone is invited! Tie one on....an apron that is! Wear your favorite apron! Shower gifts are items that are needed in our church kitchen. Food, fun & fellowship! Hope to see you there! If you have any questions, contact Sandy Trexler or Elaine VonAlmen.



Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
3711 Ridge Road
Highland IN 46322

January 19, 2010

Office Phone - 838-5313
Dial a Story - 838-2576
Email - gdic3711@sbcglobal.net
Web site - GloriaDeiLuth.com

Church Council and Staff Contact List

STAFF	NAME	PHONE	CELL PHONE	EMAIL
Presiding Pastor	Rev. David Trexler			
Vicar	Dan Kerr			
Minister of Music	David Markley			
Bookkeeper	Carole Fozkos			
<u>COUNCIL / OFFICER</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>CELL PHONE</u>	<u>EMAIL</u>
Council President	Dave Adams			
Vice President	Douglas Riddell			
Treasurer	Pam Daniels			
Recording Secretary	Eric Socin			
	Don Heintzman			
	Debbie Thines			
	Barry Fry			
	Tom Schiller			
	Sandy Trexler			
	Donora Gard			
	Randy Vates			
	Lauri Novak			
	Fran Abatie			

Private
Phone numbers and
email addresses
are not posted on line!

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Gloria Dei February 2010 Events Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 7:30 pm AA Meeting	2 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm Confirmation Class	3	4 7:00 pm Creeds and Confessions	5	6 5:00 pm Worship Service with Communion
7 "SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY" 10:00 am Sunday Worship with Communion 11:00 am Coffee Hour Youth Education during Worship 7:30 pm N/A Meeting 2:00 pm Friendship Tea	8 10:00 am 50th Anniversary Planning Meeting 7:30 pm AA Meeting	9 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm Confirmation Class 7:00 pm Council Meeting	10 9:30 am Dorcas Circle 6:30 pm Grace Notes Meeting	11	12	13 5:00 pm Worship Service with Communion
14 9:00 am Vicar Dan study class 10:00 am Sunday Worship with Communion Youth Education during Worship 11:00 am Coffee Hour 7:30 pm N/A Meeting	15 7:30 pm AA Meeting	16 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	17 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm Confirmation Class 6:00 pm Soup and Sandwich 7:00 pm Ash Wed. Service	18 10:00 am Prayer Ministry	19	20 5:00 pm Worship Service with Communion
21 9:00 am Vicar Dan study class 10:00 am Sunday Worship with Communion Youth Education during Worship 11:00 am Coffee Hour 7:30 pm N/A Meeting	22 7:30 pm AA Meeting	23	24 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm Confirmation Class 6:00 pm Soup and Sandwich 7:00 pm Lenten Service	25	26	27 5:00 pm Worship Service with Communion
28 9:00 am Vicar Dan study class 10:00 am Sunday Worship with Communion Youth Education during Worship 11:00 am Church kitchen Shower 7:30 pm N/A Meeting						

Feb. 2010

I-K Lutheran

Where mission meets the road

From Bishop Jim Stuck

Dear Friends in Christ,

We have celebrated the birth of the Christ Child and now we are in the season of Epiphany when we celebrate Christ being made known to us and to the world. The light of Christ shines in the midst of darkness, bringing us peace and comfort, hope and joy.

I am grateful to you who shared the "light of Christ

with me these past few months. Your prayers and cards have lifted me and given me peace and comfort, hope and joy. I am back in the office and on the trail again because of the love and grace of God shown to me. I have experienced the Epiphany of God.

As we continue this journey together of making Christ known to the world, may the



Bishop Jim Stuck wore his Colts blue and Pr. Charles Strietelmeier brought Longfellow to the January deans meeting at the Lutheran Center.

light of Christ lead us so that all may know of God's love for them in Jesus Christ, crucified and risen from the dead.

ELCA News

CHICAGO (ELCA) Individuals and ELCA congregations have contributed more than \$1.2 million to fund relief efforts of partner organizations working in Haiti, said the Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla, ELCA Global Mission.

Malpica Padilla said the figure includes gifts sent to the ELCA through the Web and by callers using credit cards. Checks that have been sent to the ELCA

are not yet included in the total. These funds are being channeled through three partner organizations for earthquake relief. Recipients include:
+ The Lutheran World Federation, Geneva, working through Action by Churches Together to provide shelter for people left homeless by the earthquake
+ Lutheran World Relief, Baltimore, providing material aid such

as hygiene kits and materials to be used to care for babies.
+ Church World Service, NY, for construction of temporary water systems and distribution of water purification materials.

Financial contributions to support relief efforts in Haiti can be made at by calling 800-638-3522 or visiting:

<http://www.ELCA.org/haitiearthquake>

Around the I-K Synod

Lutheran World Relief has issued an urgent appeal for donations of hygiene kits to survivors of the Haiti earthquake. Information about this project can be found at www.churchworldservice.org.

Several I-K Synod congregations are serving as drop-off sites for these kits. New Joy Lutheran Church, 15651 Spring Mill Rd., Westfield, IN 46074, and St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, 6118 Crawfordville Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46224 are participating in this project. Contact them before bringing kits. If your congregation chooses to participate in this ministry, email dburrus@iksynod.org and I will include it in the weekly email.



"The Book of Faith 40-Day Lenten Journey" is a devotional resource connecting 40 personal daily readings and weekly worship with the study of Scripture. Devotional readings are structured around seven petitions of The Lord's Prayer. Publisher: Augsburg Fortress
Item No: 9780806680699 \$9.99
www.augsburgfortress.org

About Your Synod: What is a synod?

The word synod is a combination of two Greek words: "syn" which means "together," and "hodos," which means "path."



As Lutherans, we walk together to carry out the mission of the ELCA. We join together as baptized children of God to develop an understanding of the gifts that the Holy Spirit has given us so that together, we can build up the whole body of Christ.

In the I-K Synod, we gather together as God's children in ten conferences, five campus ministries, and three camps.

We worship in 220 congregations with 403 pastors and rostered lay leaders.

- We are Christ centered.
- We are mission focused.
- We are ministry focused.
- We are committed to collaboration.
- We are open to taking risks.
- We are committed to excellence.
- We are people focused.
- We are open to resources.
- We share decisions.
- We share accountability.

To Subscribe Contact: dburrus@iksynod.org

Upcoming Event: Worship for Mission

- Have you thought about different styles of music in worship?
- Have you wondered "Can we be both contemporary and liturgical?"

The I-K Synod interested in learning more about Evangelical Lutheran Worship and participating in conversations about worship renewal.

March 13, 2010
Faith Lutheran Church
Jeffersonville, IN

or
April 24, 2010
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Lafayette, IN

Address these questions and explore the use of technology in worship at the I-K Synod "Worship for Mission" event. This event is for any member of

Registration Fee: Pre-registration \$15; \$20 registration at the door; covers lunch, material.

Questions?
Contact Pr. Rudy Mueller at (317) 253-3522 or rmueller@iksynod.org.

Learn more at : <http://www.iksynod.org/events/WorshipWkshops2010/wkshp10main.asp>

2010 I-K Synod Assembly News

2010 Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly
June 4-6, 2010
Northern Ky. Convention Center
Marriott Hotel/Embassy Suites Hotel
Covington, Ky.

God's work. Our hands.
Extraordinary Grace Through Ordinary People

A Few Dates to Keep in Mind
Feb. 10 - Assembly registration opens online
March 5 - Assembly reports, voting member names due
April 15 - Earlybird registration ends
May 13 - Last day of guaranteed rooms at Embassy Suites and Marriot Hotel
May 21 - Pre-assembly registration closes

2010 I-K Synod Assembly
Video Contest

God's work. Our hands. Extraordinary
Grace Through Ordinary People

- Create a 90-second video to visually demonstrate how God is at work through you or through your congregation.
- Each winner will receive a Flip Video Ultra HD Camcorder!

Learn more at :

<http://www.iksynod.org/events/Assembly10/videocontest2010main.asp>



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

A LETTER FROM DIANE ADAMS

Dear Gloria Dei Members,

I recently accepted the position of Activity Director at Brentwood at Hobart, Assisted Living Community. I'd like to thank so many of you who have kept me in your prayers during a difficult time I experienced prior to finding a "Hidden Treasure" in Brentwood. I feel very blessed to be a part of Brentwood and being given the opportunity to plan and implement Activity Programming for our residents there.

I would like to mention that if any of the Gloria Dei members have any hobbies, or talents that you would like to share with the Brentwood residents, I would be very happy to have you come out to Hobart to inform them on a topic or share something that you might have a passion for, whether it is playing Pinochle, a musical instrument, etc.

An example, Fran Danner is going to come out in January to do an Art project with our residents. The residents are very open and receptive to having visitors.

Thank you in advance for considering sharing some of your talents with our wonderful residents.

Sincerely,
Diane Adams



CHURCH FOOD REBATE PROGRAM

GORDON FOOD SERVICE (130 stores) selling to churches, schools, hospitals and the PUBLIC, offers a REBATE PROGRAM to churches. Rebates are given yearly in February (quarterly statements are mailed). They sell everything you eat - frozen/non-frozen, plus the utensils to cook with, serve food on (paper/metal), and clean up items. MUST SEE TO BELIEVE FOOD MARKET - spotless with excellent service.

When \$1000 is spent in a year by the church or ANYONE giving Gloria Dei's name, 1%-7% of yearly sales will be sent to the church. Just give the name of our church, or our church number (1023721) and your purchases will be applied to the rebate given to Gloria Dei.

Web Site: GFSMarketplace.com

LOCATIONS::

1. 1601 W 81st Ave. Merrillville, 219/756-4200 (off-set on Rt 30 past the Lake County Public Library & Schepel Buick-GMC)
2. 2330 173rd St. Lansing 708/474-7163 (near River Oaks)(Listing in phone book Cline Ave/ Hammond is truck station/not a store)

Great Savings Always - check out discounted section. If you can't use 100 olives or paper plates, split items and cost with your kids, parents or friends.

NOTE: Golden Opportunities Coupon Books have coupons every two months for discount on your purchase.

This article submitted for publication by Andrew and Gail Durro

Serving in Worship Schedule				
FEB	Liturgist	Reader	Greeter	Acolyte
7	Donna Antal	Don Pahr	The Pahr's	Ben Pahr
14	Becky Tutto	Donna Antal	The Trexlers	Michael Vates
21	David Adams	Charity Riddell	The Abaties	Britney Choate
28	Sandy Trexler	Bev Arnold	Carole and Olga	Christian Danner
MAR	Liturgist	Reader	Greeter	Acolyte
7	Bev Arnold	Greg Reed	The Adams	Cody Novak

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