

April 2010

Glad Tidings

A LETTER FROM PASTOR DAVID

Dear Friends through Christ:

Easter is upon us and signs of resurrection and new life are springing forth from the earth. Through all the wonderful events taking place at Gloria Dei (Glory to God) we can see the ground is not the only thing showing signs of life and resurrection. So are we!

In this letter I will attempt to inform you of many wonderful opportunities, so you also may grow and blossom.

Our well attended Lenten observance has come to end. Now we gather with Christians around the world to begin the Three Days of celebrating Jesus' passing over from death to life.

Maundy Thursday 7:00PM—Where Jesus gives us a New Command. "To Love One Another." He washes his disciple's feet and offers to us his life-giving, life-saving body and blood. The evening closes with the betrayal of Jesus and the "Stripping of the Altar."

Good Friday 7:00PM—Odd name for the night Christ was crucified? Yet we celebrate Christ's Passion (suffering) because through the Cross we find strength and hope in the tree of life.

Easter Vigil Saturday 5:00PM—Here we relive some of the wonderful true stories of the Scripture, leading to our Baptism. Where this year **four** young ones will be named as Children of the Most High!

These Three Days are meant to be one service, climaxing with Easter Sunday. Please find the time to attend these meaningful services and bring someone with you! PS—Don't forget the most important date in the church year—**Easter Sunday at 10:00AM.**

While the Wednesday Lenten Worship has ended, **Wednesday evening Bible Study/ Worship will continue!** That's right! **Each and every Wednesday at 7:00PM** Glory to God will offer another opportunity to worship and learn more about a God who gives us everything. The service will include the confessions, prayers of the church, and Holy Communion. We will also dive head first into the wonderful stories of the Bible, learning what these Words from God mean to us today.

If you find yourself not able to attend worship on Saturday or Sunday for whatever reason, now you have another option, and for many of us who crave knowledge of the Holy Scriptures this service will provide what will hopefully be an interesting and eye opening experience. Once again please make the time to attend and bring someone with you!

On **Sunday April 25th at 2:00PM** Gloria Dei will be hosting the annual Spring Conference Council. In the past I have felt the gatherings were rather boring and did not address the needs of the congregations, so I have taken the lead this year in securing Dr. Rev. Kurt Hendel, one of the most interesting and knowledgeable professors regarding our Lutheran Heritage. Dr. Hendel will be speaking about the beauty of our tradition and how we might use our Lutheran foundations to regain our excitement and passion for ministry in the world.

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For your information the gathering has been made mandatory for your council members, and I would enthusiastically recommend that all our members and guest make plans to attend. Like I said, the event starts with the gathering and fellowship of other pastors and members throughout the conference at 2:00PM. There will be displays of various ministries throughout the conference located in the fellowship hall. The lecture/teaching will start at 2:30ish and run to about 4:00PM, followed by more fellowship and conversation. Once again please make plans to attend and bring someone with you!

Another date to mark on your calendar is **May 23—Pentecost Sunday!** Pentecost is Latin for 50th and here Gloria Dei will celebrate its **50th anniversary!** The service will include bringing into membership 7 young souls through confirmation. Then we will head over to Teibel's for a gathering with wonderful food, fellowship, and presentation honoring the past 50 years of service to the Lord and gratefully looking forward to the next 50. Because of the long day and the availability of the Teibel's the committee decided to move this glorious worship service to **9:00AM**. More details are forthcoming. Once again please mark this date on your calendar! **May 23—Pentecost—9:00AM!**

We have a tentative drawing for our new sign reading, "**Glory to God—A House of Worship and Prayer Where ALL People Are Welcome!**" It is bigger, brighter, and offers the ability to inform the community of our many opportunities through a message board. No longer will Dave VonAlmen be forced to stand in cold and rain to change a few lines, but now simply type as many messages as we like. How cool is that? Once all the pricing and details are worked out, I will be sharing with you this exciting outreach project.

For your info...I have submitted the book of Revelation entitled, "**Revealed Knowledge—By God—A True Story of our Past, Present, and Future**" to Tate Publishing where they now begin a two month long editing process, maybe longer with as many mistakes as I make. Once again as I learn more I will keep you in the loop.

Gloria Dei is hoping and planning to start a **Food Ministry**. We are looking for people willing to occasionally prepare a meal for members and/or their family member who is or has been hospitalized. As a Christian family we are called to care for one another in times of need, and this is a fairly easy and much appreciated way to share God's love. If you are interested or willing, please contact Sandy Trexler @924-1604, and if you know someone who might benefit from this ministry please let me know. After all, I do not read minds.

Finally, a few upcoming events regarding our youth.

On **Friday May 7th** immediately following school the kids who are being confirmed will be heading to Lutherwald Church camp for the weekend for a cram and test session to prepare for their confirmation later that month. So parents with children in that group, please make plans for you child to attend!

June 10-19th myself along with pastors from 1st Christian Reformed and Suburban Bible church in Highland will be taking high school youth to the Dominican Republic for 10 days to lend a hand with the Haitian orphans and help to build/rebuild some of their facilities. Trips like this come about seldom. Yes, they require a great deal of work and effort, but they can be life changing for our young people. If you have a child/grandchild/niece/nephew whom you feel could benefit from this type of missionary work please come and talk with me.

July 5-10 all youth in middle and high school are invited and encouraged to attend Lutheran Hills. I have been able to negotiate the cost down to \$200 per kid, which includes everything! We desire good clean fun for our children, and here they receive that with an added touch of Christian education thrown in for good measure. Please make every effort to send your most precious gift to camp this year. If the money happens to be an issue, I will not let that stop you. Someway, somehow we will make it happen. Once again just come and speak with me.

So there you have it my dear Christian friends, an update on just some of the things going on at this Lampstand of God. Yes, Easter is upon and there are wonderful signs all around that new life and the resurrection are springing forth. Find a place where you can help things grow!

In Christian Love,

Pastor David Trexler

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF FELLOWSHIP

On Sunday, May 23, 2010 please join us as we celebrate 50 years of fellowship at Gloria De Lutheran Church.

The Sunday service will start at 9:00 am. Immediately after the service we will continue our celebration at a luncheon at Teibels Restaurant in Schererville. We will enjoy fellowship from 11:30 to 12 noon. Lunch will be served promptly at noon.

Tickets for the luncheon will be sold in the Narthex after services every Sunday beginning April 11th. You may purchase tickets through the church office. The cost is \$10.00 and \$7.00 for children 10 years and younger. Please contact the church office at 838-5313 with any questions.

Gloria Dei April 2010 Events Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 MAUDY THURSDAY 7:00 pm Worship Service Prayer Vigil from end of Maudy Thursday Service till beginning of Good Friday Service	2 GOOD FRIDAY 7:00 pm Worship Service	3 8:00 am Men's Breakfast 5:00 pm Easter Vigil Service
4 EASTER SUNDAY 10:00 am Sunday Worship with Communion Youth Education during Worship 11:00 am Coffee Hour 7:30 pm N/A Meeting	5 7:30 pm AA Meeting	6 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm Confirmand Class	7 7:00 pm Bible Study / Worship with Communion	8 10:00 am Prayer Ministry	9	10 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Kairos 5:00 pm Worship Service with Communion
11 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	12 7:30 pm AA Meeting 7:00 pm Vicar Dan's Computer Class	13 7:00 pm Council Meeting	14 7:00 pm Bible Study / Worship with Communion 6:00 pm to 9 pm Foster Parent Training	15	16	17 5:00 pm Worship Service with Communion
18 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	19 7:30 pm AA Meeting	20 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm Confirmand Class	21 7:00 pm Bible Study / Worship with Communion 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Foster Parent Training	22	23	24 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Kairos 11:00 am to 12:00 pm Easter Story Hour 5:00 pm Worship Service with Communion
25 9:00 am Vicar Dan study class 10:00 am Sunday Worship with Communion Youth Education during Worship 7:30 pm N/A Meeting	26 7:30 pm AA Meeting 7:00 pm Vicar Dan's Computer Class	27	28 7:00 pm Bible Study / Worship with Communion 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Foster Parent Training	29	30	



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

On March 5, 2010, World Day of prayer, CWU of Greater Hammond gathered at Immanuel United Church of Christ in Highland. The program and worship was designed by the women of Cameroon, Africa to be celebrated worldwide.. The theme was "Let Everything That Has Breath Praise God".

CWU supports programs for women and children throughout the world including the USA.

Next year's World Day of Prayer celebration will be developed by the women of Chile. The theme will be "How Many Loves have you?" .. Just as Jesus asked.

All women are invited to attend any CW meetings and services.

Clea McLeod
Gloria Dei CWU representative



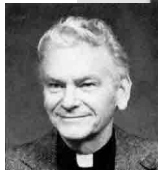
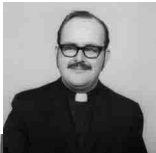
APRIL birthdays	
Day	Name
9	Richard Schwartz
10	Michael Vates
15	Daniel Kerr
15	Stephen Fry
16	Michelle Weaver
19	Donald Gordon
23	Dennis Radolak
24	Richard Evett



PRAYER MINISTRY

The Prayer Ministry meets the second Thursday of every month at 10:00 am. All are welcome to join.

For further information contact Elaine Von Almen.



Wanted

We are seeking any old photographs, old Glad Tidings issues, old service bulletins etc. to scan and archive for our records.

Also anyone with current addresses and or phone numbers for past members not on our current roll please provide this information for us to contact past members about possibly attending our 50th Anniversary celebration.

Serving in Worship Schedule

April	Liturgist	Reader	Greeter	Acolyte
4	David Adams	Lindsey Trexler	The Trexlers	Cody Novak, Noah & Kaylee Trexler
11	Bev Arnold	Don Pahr	The Pahrs	Sam Evanoff
18	Becky Tutto	Karen Achor	The Glenns	Michael Vates
25	Sandy Trexler	Carole Fozkos	The Abaties	Bethany Riddell
May	Liturgist	Reader	Greeter	Acolyte
2	Doug Riddell	Kaylee Trexler	Carole & Olga	Kyle Polster

VISIT OUR WEB SITE: gloriadeiluth.com

Dial A Story: (219) 838-2576

A Letter From Joyce Partyka

To My Family at Gloria Dei,

I am finally back to a normal schedule after spring break. This past week I ordered my cap and gown, gave my senior thesis presentation, and sang in the final concert not only as a Wittenberg choir member, but the final concert of our director after 28 years. It's been a very bittersweet week as I have realized the graduation is getting closer and closer. I am excited for the new opportunities that await me after graduation, but am sad to be leaving the Wittenberg campus, professors, and friends. I've really enjoyed my time at Wittenberg. I have literally traveled from one end of the country to the other, have met people I would not have otherwise met, and have experienced things that were not possible anywhere else.

During choir tour, the choir travels from city to city singing one concert every night in a different church every night. One of the songs we sang was a song entitled "Our Island Barque" by Phil Coulter. One of the lines in the text is as follows;

"As we paddle through God's ocean
We are pilgrims following His plan.
Every wave and wind and ocean
He controls in the hollow of his hand."

As I have thought about the past four years and earlier in my life I have been able to really reflect on where God has been through it all. We are all pilgrims on a journey in God's world, hopefully, letting God work through our lives. As I reflected I remembered times when I didn't always feel God's presence, but now that I look back on it I know that God was there and has continued to stay by my side through it all. You have all been a special part of that journey and I feel very blessed to know you all and can't wait to see what God will continue to do with our lives!

With all my love!
God Bless,
Joyce Partyka

Women of Gloria Dei

Dorcas Circle has been an active part of Gloria Dei ministry for many years. You may not be familiar, though, with Dorcas' role in the Bible (Acts 9). This woman of Joppa is known for her kindness, generosity and compassion in doing charitable works. Also called Tabitha (her Jewish name) she was revived from her deathbed by Peter when he commanded, "Tabatha, get up!" (Acts 9: 40). As you can see, this caring woman is someone to be admired as a role model!

Spring Gathering

The Spring gathering of our cluster (ELCA churches of our region) will be held on April 17 at Griffith Lutheran Church from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm. Please sign up on the sheet posted in the Narthex by April 11th. We pay at the door, but will call in the number from Gloria Dei who are planning to attend.

God Bless!
Nancy Talabay
Convenor

A LETTER FROM VICAR DAN

Greetings yall,

This year has been moving quite rapidly. It's already the next six months and there is so much more to do. With the anniversary coming-up, we are in the planning for quite a bash. It seems that there are so many things to get done simultaneously that it would appear to be overwhelming. However, taking things one day at a time generally helps to put things in perspective. As I thought about this, I got to thinking that this is what happens too many times for many of us, myself being the major culprit. With all the demands, it gets so easy to get overwhelmed. But I have to stop and just take each task one at a time and I find that most of what needs to get done gets done. Sometimes when I get too busy, Jane quietly reminds me of the important times that we both need to do, prayer in the morning, sitting with each other and rediscovering what makes us both tick. Somehow, the other stuff just seems to work themselves out when I find time to put priorities in order. Sometimes that can be tough.

I have been very excited by the turn-out for the Sunday morning bible study. Actually, it has been more of a walk through some of the issues that Luther faced and how that raises questions about the issues that are happening in our times. The journey has brought many, many questions as to what we truly believe and what do we hold dear in the church that has meaning. I have been surprised on more than one occasion on the responses to the questions that are asked. Since we all come from different backgrounds, it seems that there are new insights that are shared. It is still time for anyone who wants to come to join us. We start at 9 AM on Sunday mornings and go to about 9:40 AM. Still plenty of time to get a cup of coffee and join in the choir or visit with others.

As you have probably already heard, we will be starting-up a computer class that will take us from the actual inner workings of a computer to programs and data. I think that this may help to alleviate some of the mystery of that machine that hums and beeps at you. At the very least, when you go to a computer store, you will be able to understand computereeze, at least a little more than you did. We are shooting for the start to be the second Monday in April, so look, and listen for updates. Also, we are asking that any of you who would like to attend and have laptops; please bring them as learning on your own stuff is probably a bit more comfortable. The rest of us will huddle around you or go to one of the other machines that we will have. I know that many of you have expressed serious interest to me about attending, so I hope that we can have a good turn-out.

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

Committee Contact Information

Redacted



GLORY TO GOD

A New Kind of Church With an Old Message!
A Loving Congregation That Welcomes All People.

GLORIA DEI MISSION STATEMENT

To Live Life Abundantly Through the Worship of God and Service to Others.

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