

# July 2010 Glad Tidings



## A LETTER FROM PASTOR DAVID

Dear Friends Through Christ:

You may have not seen much of me on Sunday morning during the month of June, yet it may well have been one of the busiest times of my life—physically and emotionally.

First of all, our oldest daughter Lindsey graduated from high school and will be leaving to attend Ball State in August. I was so proud of my little girl for being ranked in the top ten and accepted in the Honors Program, but it is heartbreaking to know she will no longer be a regular part of our daily routine. We as parents do the best we can to raise our most precious gifts in a godly manner, and then at some point, like now, we turn them over to the world and pray we have instilled the foundations of faith which will hopefully guide them the rest of the way. Yes, it is tough, but God promises to watch over those who love Him, and as far as I know God has not lied to us yet.

Second of all, I attended Synod Convention (a mandatory event for all pastors) in Covington Kentucky where Bill Gafkjen was elected as the new bishop of the Indiana Kentucky Synod. Rev. Gafkjen will succeed the Rev. James Stuck, the synod's bishop for 12 years. Bill has been committed to the synod the past eight years serving as 'assistant to the bishop' in charge of candidacy and global mission. He is a man with a deep pastoral heart centered in prayer and a passion for sharing the good news.

However, Rev Gafkjen has his work cut out for him. It was emotionally difficult to hear about so many churches in the midst of struggle and conflict along with churches who have opted to leave the synod because of 'grey' areas of disagreement. Now is not the time to separate but the time to unite, reaching out into the world with the best theology the world has ever known, because as a synod (which means walking together), as a synod in the body of the ELCA we can make a difference in the world. One of the ways we make those differences is bonding with other denominations and faiths throughout the world, joining together to bring healing and justice throughout the world. This year the ELCA is launching an unprecedented collaborative effort with Lutheran World Relief to mobilize Christians throughout the world to join the battle against malaria—a preventable and treatable disease that kills more than one million people a year. You will be hearing much more in the future about this expression of our faith in action and God's love for all.

Finally, I had the opportunity to travel to Carbaballo in the Dominican Republic with four members of our congregation and twelve from 1<sup>st</sup> Christian Reform in Highland. Here we poured our heart and soul, our sweat and blood into serving a people who have absolutely nothing! Yes, I worked as hard as I have ever worked physically, but emotionally it tore my heart in two seeing the way these children had to live, with very little hope of experiencing the kind of life we all sometimes take for granted. The school we helped build may be a ray of hope that carries them through. The experience taught me that I should never, and I mean never overlook the many blessings I have so freely been given, simply because of where I was born. It too reminds me constantly of the undeserved grace of God also given ever so freely through the life, death and resurrection of Christ Jesus—the heart and soul of my existence—physically and emotionally.

In Christian Love,  
Pastor David Trexler

## A LETTER FROM VICAR DAN

Greetings yall,

Every so often, something happens that gets me to thinking about all the issues surrounding a certain theological stance that I may have. It can come in the form of a question one of you might have or it may present itself in an event that happens. Whichever the case, it gets me to thinking about what it is that God has me doing here and why I'm here in the first place. It's kind of like, have you ever thought about what would have happened if you had left the house just 5 minutes earlier or later? Maybe you would have been the one in the car wreck instead of the other person. All of it is theological in nature. Does God have my life in His control or does stuff just happen. Most of the time, though, my days just sort of go on about much like, I would imagine, yours does. Yet, there are those times.

Recently, while visiting the hospital, there was a young family standing by the elevator in certain distress. The mother's sister had just died a few minutes ago. They saw me, with my cleric and all and asked which church I belonged to. I gave a lame response like, "I'm Lutheran" and then the elevator opened and I got on. When I stepped off the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, I kept thinking to myself that I should not have gotten on that elevator. That here was an opportunity to show the love that Jesus shows to us. That I was, after all, called to help the poor and the sick and the hurting. And I kept thinking to myself that I should have just taken the next elevator. So I went back down the stairs to the first floor, but they were gone. Missed opportunity. Missed chance. Missed calling. Period. I kept thinking that you only get one chance to make a difference. One chance to reach a person at their most vulnerable and fill them with the same sort of kindness that I have been given. One chance to do God's work in the lives of those folks. Missed opportunity. Missed chance. Missed calling. So I went back up and went to see the person that I came there for.

However, on my way out of the hospital, I ran into these very same people. Another chance. Another opportunity. So I stopped and apologized for walking out of their lives. Apologized for not following my calling. Apologized for being me instead of the child of God we all are. They were very gracious and assured me that they were all right. After a while, I left them to come back to church. And I kept thinking.

Thank you God for giving me another chance. For redeeming me through faith in you. For allowing me the opportunity to reach to another person when they were in pain. In suffering. For allowing me to follow along your footsteps. Thank you God for allowing me a second chance. And then it hit me.

That's exactly what this faith thing is all about. A second chance.

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

Vicar Dan Kerr

## CAMP LUTHERAN HILLS

### CALLING ALL YOUTH!!!



Monday July 5th thru Saturday July 10th

All young people going into the 7th thru 12th Grade are invited to join us for Camp at beautiful Lutheran Hills in Brown County.

7th-9th Graders will participate in "Trail Blazers"

10-12 Graders will participate in "Servant Camp"

As always—Bring a Friend!

It is a week you won't forget. It is place to make life-long friends and grow closer to God.

Cost is normally \$295 However, for our members through the youth fund and making a deal with the camp we are able to lower the cost to \$200.

Such a deal for what your child will gain!

Brochures are in the Narthex with more information.

PS—If your child is younger than the 7th grade there are also plenty of opportunities for wonderful events and nearby Lutherwald. See brochure for info.

## YOUTH TRIP

### HOLIDAY WORLD



Mark your calendars for July 28nd and 29rd!

We will be leaving the Church at 4:00AM Wednesday July 28nd via Bus and traveling to Santa Clause Indiana to spend two days at Holiday World.

(Voted the # 1 Theme Park in the country!)

We will return around 9:00 PM Thursday.

The trip is open to those entering the 7th grade through 12th grade.

Everyone is welcome to bring a friend.

The Cost for Gloria Dei members is only \$50.00 and for guest only \$70.00.

The trip includes transportation, two days of fun and rides at Holiday World, breakfast and supper, and lodging at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Jasper.

All you need to bring is your sleeping bag, \$ for lunch at the park, and your swim suit

Sign up is in the rear of the Narthex!



## PRAYER MINISTRY

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

For further information contact Elaine Von Almen.



## july birthdays

Day	Name	Day	Name
3	Brandon Vates	12	Mary Street
5	David Markley	13	Brittany Choate
6	Frances Danner	15	Rhonda Courtright
8	Anne Hennig	20	Carol Lynn Brechner
8	Jean Plusch	22	Charles Talabay
9	Pam Hawkins	24	Isabelle Geiger
9	Molly Novak	31	Haley Greep

VISIT OUR WEB SITE: [gloriadeiluth.com](http://gloriadeiluth.com)

Dial A Story: (219) 838-2576

**Note:** This years council meeting minutes are archived including all financial and committee reports. They are available for view on our church Web site.



## NEW ITEMS PURCHASED

New items purchased with balance of money left over from our 2009 garage sale went toward purchase of kitchen items;

- 1) Rolling shelving stand
- 2) New sparkling white coffee carafes
- 3) Stainless steel mixing bowl set
- 4) Stainless steel pot for hot water
- 5) Coffee pots for our coffee maker

Dorcas will not meet again till August - but please join the Grace notes as they continue to meet to prepare items for the Bazaar in November. Call Elaine VonAlmen or Sandy Trexler if you need any information.

Enjoy the summer - God's blessing  
Your sister in Christ Elaine van Proyen

## SERVICE COMMITTEE NEWS



A big THANK YOU in advance to all who helped provide a meal for the needy on July 5th! Those who will be fed are always very appreciative!

## SCHOOL SUPPLIES

It is time to begin collecting school supplies for the annual collection. Please purchase only the items on the list. Look for the collection box in the glass hallway.

## NEEDED SCHOOL SUPPLIES ITEMS LIST

- Notebooks of Ruled Paper
- Blunt Tip Scissors
- Rulers (centimeters and inches)
- Pencil Sharpeners
- Erasers (approx. 2 1/2 in.)
- No.2 Pencils (unsharpened)
- Colored Construction Paper (9 x 12 assorted)
- Crayons (16 or 24 count box)

## A THANK YOU NOTE

A big THANK YOU to everyone who participated in making the rummage and bake sale a huge success, including all those who donated items for the sale. The hard work resulted in a profit of \$1800 plus. We also were able to donate items to 'Haven House', 'The Salvation Army' and Julie Glenn's Sorority Group who will pass out children's books to encourage reading. The ladies group will be having a meeting at a later date to determine how the money will be spent. It will be announced in the bulletin.

THANK YOU again.  
Your sister in Christ,  
Deanna

# Gloria Dei July 2010 Events Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 9:00 am - 11:00 am Foster Parent Training	3 5:00 pm Worship Service with Communion
4 9:00 am Vicar Dan study class 10:00 am Sunday Worship with Communion 11:00 am Coffee Hour 7:30 pm N/A Meeting	5 7:30 pm AA Meeting	6	7 7:00 pm Bible Study / Worship with Communion	8 6:00 pm Finance Committee	9	10 5:00 pm Worship Service with Communion
11 9:00 am Vicar Dan study class 10:00 am Sunday Worship with Communion 11:00 am Coffee Hour 7:30 pm N/A Meeting	12 7:30 pm AA Meeting	13 7:00 pm Council Meeting	14 10:30 am Lady's Birthday Club 6:30 pm Grace Notes Fall Bazaar Workshop 7:00 pm Bible Study / Worship with Communion	15 10:00 am Prayer Ministry	16	17 5:00 pm Worship Service with Communion
18 9:00 am Vicar Dan study class 10:00 am Sunday Worship with Communion 11:00 am Coffee Hour 7:30 pm N/A Meeting	19 7:30 pm AA Meeting	20	21 7:00 pm Bible Study / Worship with Communion	22	23	24 5:00 pm Worship Service with Communion
25 9:00 am Vicar Dan study class 10:00 am Sunday Worship with Communion 11:00 am Coffee Hour 7:30 pm N/A Meeting	26 7:30 pm AA Meeting	27 6:30 pm Grace Notes Fall Bazaar Workshop	28 7:00 pm Bible Study / Worship with Communion	29	30	31 5:00 pm Worship Service with Communion



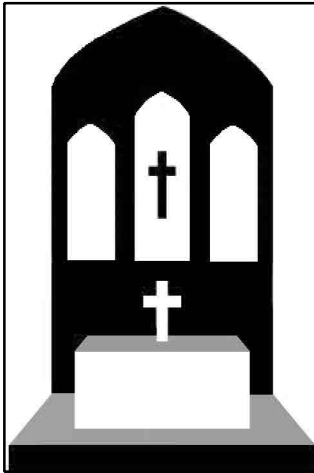
## Grace Notes

Grace Notes Bazaar Workshops:  
Wednesday, July 14 at 6:30 pm  
Tuesday, July 27 at 6:30 pm

Last year we had a great time getting together making items for the Fall Bazaar. The Bazaar was truly a success! Once again we need your help!

This year again, we'll be getting together to make jams, salsa, apple butter, pierogis, noodles, mixes, nut roll and any other ideas we come up with! It is not all work! We have fun and fellowship too! Join us!

If you have any questions contact Sandy Trexler or Elaine Von Almen.



### Serving in Worship Schedule

July	Liturgist	Reader	Greeter
4	Vicar Dan	Sandy Trexler	The Trexlers
11	David Adams	Lindsey Trexler	The Schillers
18	Doug Riddell	Don Pahr	The Adams
25	Becky Tutto	Karen Achor	The Vates
Aug	Liturgist	Reader	Greeter
1	Bev Arnold	Carole Fozkos	The Pahr's

### A LETTER FROM JOYCE PARTYKA

Dear Gloria Dei Family,

I cannot tell you what a joy it was to be able to preside over communion at my home church! However, I can tell you that as I left church Sunday morning I was thinking about all the plans that I have had for myself and which of them did not go the way I had planned, but turned out for the better and those that had gone the way I thought they should. Then I thought about this story! This story is entitled "The Three Trees"! The author is unknown. It has quickly become one of my favorites because it reminds me that the plans I have and the plans God has are two different plans, but God's ways are always better! I share it with you as I am packing up and moving to the next chapter in my life and beginning my journey through seminary! I ask that all of you keep me in your prayers and keep each other in your prayers as we are going through changes! Please pray that we remember to keep God as our focus and that we continue to know that God has a plan for each and every one of us! I am praying for all of you, love you, and miss you very much!

Love,

Joyce Partyka

THREE TREES CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

## THREE TREES - Submitted by Joyce Partyka

Once upon a mountain top, three little trees stood and dreamed of what they wanted to become when they grew up. The first little tree looked up at the stars and said: "I want to hold treasure. I want to be covered with gold and filled with precious stones. I'll be the most beautiful treasure chest in the world!" The second little tree looked out at the small stream trickling by on its way to the ocean. "I want to be traveling mighty waters and carrying powerful kings. I'll be the strongest ship in the world!" The third little tree looked down into the valley below where busy men and women worked in a busy town. "I don't want to leave the mountain top at all. I want to grow so tall that when people stop to look at me, they'll raise their eyes to heaven and think of God. I will be the tallest tree in the world." Years passed. The rain came, the sun shone, and the little trees grew tall. One day three woodcutters climbed the mountain.

The first woodcutter looked at the first tree and said, "This tree is beautiful. It is perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining axe, the first tree fell. "Now I shall be made into a beautiful chest, I shall hold wonderful treasure!", the first tree said. The second woodcutter looked at the second tree and said, "This tree is strong. It is perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining axe, the second tree fell. "Now I shall sail mighty waters!" thought the second tree. "I shall be a strong ship for mighty kings!" The third tree felt her heart sink when the last woodcutter looked her way. She stood straight and tall and pointed bravely to heaven. But the woodcutter never even looked up. "Any kind of tree will do for me" he muttered. With a swoop of his shining axe, the third tree fell.

The first tree rejoiced when the woodcutter brought her to a carpenter's shop. But the carpenter fashioned the tree into a feedbox for the animals. The once beautiful tree was not covered with gold, and not filled with treasure. She was coated with saw dust and filled with hay for hungry farm animals. The second tree smiled when the woodcutter took her to a shipyard, but no mighty sailing ship was made that day. Instead the once strong tree was hammered and sawed into a simple fishing boat. She was too small and too weak to sail to an ocean, or even a river, instead she was taken to a little lake. The third tree was confused when the woodcutter cut her into strong beams and left her in a lumberyard. "What happened?" the once tall tree wondered. "All I ever wanted was to stay on the mountain top and point to God..."

Many many days and nights passed. The three trees nearly forgot their dreams. But, one night, a golden starlight poured over the first tree as a young woman placed her newborn baby in the feedbox. "I wish I could make a cradle for him.", her husband whispered. The mother squeezed his hand and smiled as the starlight shone on the smooth and sturdy wood. "This manger is beautiful." she said. And suddenly the first tree knew he was holding the greatest treasure in the world.

One evening a tired traveler and his friends crowded into the old fishing boat. The traveler fell asleep as the second tree quietly sailed out into the lake. Soon a thundering and thrashing storm arose. The little tree shuddered. She knew that she did not have the strength to carry so many passengers safely through with the wind and the rain. The tired man awakened. He stood up, stretched out his hand, and said, "Peace." The storm

THREE TREES CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

stopped as quickly as it had begun. And suddenly the second tree knew he was carrying the King of heaven and earth.

One Friday morning, the third tree was startled when her beams were yanked from the forgotten woodpile. She flinched as she was carried through an angry jeering crowd. She shuddered when soldiers nailed a man's hands to her. She felt ugly and harsh and cruel. But, on Sunday morning, when the sun rose and the earth trembled with joy beneath her, the third tree knew that God's love had changed everything. It had made the third tree strong. And every time people thought of the third tree, they would think of God. That was better than being the tallest tree in the world.

## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

As you may have noticed, my communications regarding stewardship doesn't come every month. Actually they seem to come quite randomly. But it is really that random?

Sometimes events, a message I hear, or something I see come together and nudge me into relaying something regarding stewardship to my church family at Gloria Dei.

### **An Event**

It is now July and suddenly half of the year is over. It seems a good time to recall the financial commitments we each made to God at Christmastime. Let each of us self-evaluate: Are we ahead of the game? Keeping up with commitment? Or are we struggling to meet our goal?

### **A Message**

The message Vicar Dan delivered on June 6th contained a story he shared about sky-diving. In part, he talked about how scared he was about jumping out of the plane and the first few seconds into his jump. I feel that sometimes people are quite scared to commit and give of their first fruits. I know I felt that way when I first began my personal stewardship plan.

### **Something I See**

I saw an ad for Mission Investment Fund—Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. It was in the May-June 2010 issue of "Seeds for the Parish". The tag-line for the ad read "When faith and finance meet, amazing things happen." Wow! That could be the title of my personal experiences with stewardship! I've seen some pretty amazing things myself since I began giving of my "first fruits".

### **Something Else I See**

As I write this it is June 7. The devotion for today from "Christ in our Home" is Genesis 22: 1 - 14. It is the story of how Abraham was prepared to sacrifice his only son Isaac. In it Isaac asks "where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" God will provide himself the lamb.

My interpretation of this lesson is that if we commit to giving and take actions toward giving, God will provide what is needed to make the gift. I have found that to be oh-so-true in my personal giving.

Sometimes events, a message or something I see come together at random. Or is it?

In Christian Love  
Randy Vates

# Gloria Dei

## GLORY TO GOD

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

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