

Glad Tidings

May 2010

Gloria Dei Anniversary



A Letter from Pastor Trexler

Dear Friends Through Christ:

“Being a pastor has got to be the easiest job on the planet! After all, they only work one day a week for about an hour and it takes four grown men to carry up their salary!”

Each month I submit a report to council detailing some of the tasks during the month. During the past month here are some of my duties:

- Presided at Sunday worship
- Presided at Saturday worship
- Presided at Lenten worship
- Presided at Maundy Thursday worship
- Presided at Good Friday worship
- Presided at Easter Vigil
- Presided at weekly Wednesday Bible Study/Worship
- Presided at Seven Baptisms for Landon, Lily, Dylan, Avery, Brandon, Kaitlyn, and Payton
- Presided at two funerals and attended wakes for: James Bures and Betty Miller
- Presided at Saturday worship service at Brentwood nursing home
- Presided at Highland Centennial Celebration with short message and dinner prayer
- Prayed for the church, the world, and individuals daily
- Taught Confirmation
- Attended conference council
- Attended annual ‘Chrism Mass’ with Bishop Stuck
- Attended two meetings in regards to trip to the Dominican Republic with 1st Christian Reformed
- Attended meeting with pastors Dan/Larry/Laura regarding starting back up a Highland ministerium
- Attended men’s breakfast
- Attended church council
- Attended 50th anniversary committee meeting
- Wrote monthly newsletter, letter for 50th anniversary, letter for Spring assembly and multiple correspondence
- Met with two couples regarding baptism
- Met with one couple regarding wedding
- Applied to Wabash Leadership Training Program
- Made 10 hospital visits
- Fellowship with various members
- Worked with Tate Publishing regarding “Revealed Knowledge”

- Worked on lighting in sanctuary and outside grounds—cleaning and weeding Schaller’s garden and rock garden in back of the church
- Stripped and waxed floors
- Worked with Vicar Dan regarding upcoming projects

I share this report with you in hopes of awaking the hearts and minds that being a pastor may not be the easiest job on the planet, and it takes each and every one of us committing our **time, talent and treasure** to make certain this Lampstand not only stays lit but grows brighter.

For the most part I don’t mind, especially when I see the results of the Holy Spirit active in the lives of those who come to church. I am overjoyed with the saints here that also give generously and devote their time back to God’s Church. However, when attendance begins to drop for seemingly no reason and funds to run God’s Church begin to slowly disappear, then it is only natural to ask Why? What am I doing wrong?

I truly don’t know what to say!

Did you know that during Easter week we worshipped almost 400 Saints and Sinners? (397 to be exact) More than this Church has seen in a long time. Did you also know that two weeks later there were only 65 at Sunday worship? Wht?

Did you also realize Gloria Dei is currently behind its budget by almost \$7000? Which means, if we stay on the current course our Lampstand will fall \$25,000 short of paying its bills, meaning we will need to cut many of our ministries (such as the internship program and giving to the ELCA) just to keep our doors open, at a time when more outreach and more ministries are needed? Why?

But I am smart enough to realize when the majority of our membership no longer attends worship on a regular basis and its people begins to hoard God’s gifts of time, talent, and treasure — then it is only a matter of time before that particular church ceases to exist.

I truly don’t know what to say!

I realize economic conditions have put a drain on all our finances, but God desires first fruits, not the leftovers, and once we begin to live out this practice of setting aside first, not last, and giving even when we don’t worship, we will soon discover God will provide more than the rest. That my friends is a promise from God, and as far as I know, God hasn’t lied to us yet!

Of course we are all busy, but are we too busy to give a little of our time back to God? Are we too busy to at least worship once a week for one messy hour to hear the life-giving, life-saving Word and thank God for all the blessings given to us freely? I don’t know about you, but it would scare the hell of out of me to stand before the pearly gates and have to say, “Lord, I just couldn’t find the time.” I would rather be one of the committed to the Lord and hear, “Well done my good and faithful servant.” How about you?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

We are approaching the 50th anniversary of this Lampstand we call Gloria Dei. She has touched the lives and served families of this community in more ways than you can imagine. She has been the focal point of life’s most memorable moments — from baptisms, to confirmation, weddings, and eventually funerals. She has offered hope, comfort, forgiveness and healing to thousands throughout region. She has provided a gathering place for youth functions, social events and any groups seeking to promote good will. She has promoted hop comfort, forgiveness and healing to thousands throughout the region. She has been a place where the Word of God is truly spoken and the Holy Sacraments rightly administered. She has in fact been a bright and shining Lamp to the community now for **50 years!**

The question I raise is has Gloria Dei completed her task as a beacon of hope? Or is she just getting started? If you feel she is just getting started then I will continue donating my time and effort doing all within my limited ability to see that Gloria Dei’s wonderful ministries continue for the next 50 years. However, I cannot do it alone! It also means each of you, **each of you** needs to step out in faith and become an **active and contributing** part of God’s ministry.

In Christian Love,
Pastor David Trexler

National Day of Prayer

A Community Prayer Service will be held on Thursday May 6, at 6:30PM at Main Square in Highland

Let’s come together as a town and

- Pay tribute to our veterans
- Pray for our community
- Pray for our families
- Pray for our police and fire departments
- Pray for our country
- Praise God for His blessing

In case of inclement weather, the service will be held at First Church

Adopt-a-Plot

There is still room and time to sign up to take care of a section of the grounds around the church. Plant flowers, pull weeds and make your section shows the glory of God’s good creation!

See chart in the narthex or talk to Don Heintzman or Pastor Trexler

Wednesday Night Worship/Bible Study

Don’t forget every **Wednesday Night at 7:00 PM** there is a **New Worship/Bible Study** available! If you desire to dive deeper into the Bible here is a wonderful opportunity. If you can’t make it Saturday or Sunday here is another chance to worship a God who gives you everything.

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.

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.

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.



May Birthdays

Day	Name	Day	Name
02	Merle Cox	17	John Plusch
03	David Von Almen	18	Roland Jahnke
05	David Trexler	22	Florence Covault
07	Gail Larsen	23	Christyne Novak
07	Steve kocian	23	Florence Marsh
10	Tm Schiller	23	Douglas Schwartz
11	Kyle Sellers	23	Alissa Crowel
12	Sarah Gaines	24	David Adams
13	Kevin Schwartz	28	Kimberly Partyka
15	Carol Zandstra	29	Lucas Schiller
16	Janet Dorschel	30	Amy Radolak

Serving in Worship Schedule

May	Liturgist	Reader	Greeter	Acolyte
2	Doug Riddell	Kaylee Trexler	Carol & Olga	Kyle Polster
9	Donna Antal	Charity Riddell	The Adams	Cody Novak
16	Becky Tutto	Bev Arnold	The Tallabays	Jonathan Armstrong
23	David Adams	Sandy Trexler	The Schillers	Jonathan Armstrong
30	Bev Arnold	Donna Antal	The Vates	Sam Evanoff
June	Liturgist	Reader	Greeter	Acolyte
2	Doug Riddell	Lauri Novak	The Pahrs	Kyle Polster

VISIT OUR WEB SITE: gloriadeiluth.com

Dial A Story: (219) 838-2576

Gloria Dei May 2010 Events Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 8:00 am Men's Breakfast 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Kairos 5:00 pm Worship Service with Communion
2 10:00 am Sunday Worship with Communion Youth Education during Worship 11:00 am Coffee Hour 7:30 pm N/A Meeting	3 7:30 pm AA Meeting	4 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm Confirmand Class Election Day Gloria Dei designated Election site	5 7:00 pm Bible Study / Worship with Communion 6:00 pm to 9 pm Foster Parent Training	6 6:30 pm Highland Main Square National Day of Prayer	7 Confirmation Retreat Friday thru Sunday	8 5:00 pm Worship Service with Communion
9 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	10 7:30 pm AA Meeting 7:00 pm Vicar Dan's Computer Class	11 7:00 pm Council Meeting	12 9:30 am Dorcas Meeting 6:30 pm Grace Notes 7:00 pm Bible Study / Worship 6:00 pm to 9 pm Foster Parent Training	13 6:30 pm to 10:00 pm Tri-Kappa	14	15 5:00 pm Worship Service with Communion
16 9:00 am Vicar Dan study class 10:00 am Sunday Worship with Communion Youth Education during Worship 11:30 Dominican Feast at Christ Church (Highland) 7:30 pm N/A Meeting	17 7:30 pm AA Meeting	18 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm Confirmand Class	19 7:00 pm Bible Study / Worship	20 10:00 am Prayer Ministry	21	22 5:00 pm Worship Service with Communion
23 PENTECOST / CONFIRMATION / 50TH 9:00 am Sunday Worship with Communion Youth Education during Worship 11:30 am at Teibels Restaurant 50th Anniversary Celebration 7:30 pm N/A Meeting	24 7:30 pm AA Meeting 7:00 pm Vicar Dan's Computer Class	25	26 7:00 pm Bible Study / Worship	27	28	29 8:00 am to 11:00 am Community Pancake Breakfast 5:00 pm Worship Service with Communion
30 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	31					

SERVICE COMMITTEE NEWS

May is the month to turn in the contents of your coin banks! Your donation will be sent to the ELCA Hunger Appeal. A special container will be displayed in the narthex. Banks are also available and will be collected in May and November.

Thank You

WOMEN OF GORIA DEI

On the occasion of our congregations golden anniversary, it seems an appropriate time to turn our thoughts to the women who have graciously served the church throughout the year. Many many names come to mind of women who have shown their faithfulness and fellowship in implementing countless banquets, teas, potlucks bazaars rummage sales, charity projects, etc., etc. As we anticipate the next 50 years we hope to honor the memory of those who have gone before us and carry on in His service with zeal and boldness!

All are invited to attend the Dorcas group meeting on Wednesday May 12 at 9:30 am in the kitchen.

Remember the upcoming rummage sale on June 17 & 18 when doing your Spring cleaning!

Nancy Talabay
Co-Convenor

Men's Breakfast Club

Come and join us for good food and fellowship. The breakfast club meets at 8:00 am the first Saturday of every month in the church kitchen.

A Grace Note!

Favors for 50th Anniversary Workshop **Wednesday, May 12 @ 6:30PM**
Not all Work! Expect fun & fellowship, too!

Dominican Republic Feasts!

Sunday May 16th immediately following the worship service, everyone is invited to First Christian Reformed Church in Highland at the corner of Grace and Ridge for a luncheon prepared by a group from Highland along with Kaylee Trexler and Dan Pahr who will be trying their hand at missionary work in the Dominican Republic.

The group will help to build a school and work with kid displaced from the Haitian Earthquake. Please let's make our presence known to others and support this project with enthusiasm!
Free Will Donations for the Meal!

Then on **Saturday May 29th** the same group will be hosting a pancake breakfast right here at Gloria Dei from 8:00AM-11:00AM. Once again let's show our support and have everyone turn out.

ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

June 17 and 18

Start cleaning your basements, attics, and garages for the annual rummage sale on June 17&18. Items to bring are furniture, electronics, exercise equipment, appliances, kitchen items, tools, fishing equipment, books, wall hangings, toys, games, baby items and clean clothing- no broken items please. You can begin placing these items in the prayer room. If you are able to help sort and price items starting on June 1, please call Deanna Jahnke at 923-1760. More info will follow in the weekly bulletins.

50th Anniversary Church Directory

Sign up to have your picture or family picture taken for the new directory!

Dates available are **May 14, 15 & 16**. Cost of the directory will be only \$10 and with this purchase you will receive an 8 x 10 portrait at no cost.

Additional family keepsakes may be ordered.

A letter from Joyce Partyka

“Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul. Rescue me from my enemies, O LORD, for I hide myself in you. Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.” Psalm 143:8b-10

Dearest Church Family,

As I write this I am about 2 ½ weeks away from graduation and it seems as if busyness just doesn't slow down. My class is in the midst of planning baccalaureate, a worship service for the graduating class and I have been helping with this planning and I am in the midst of finishing final projects and papers as well as preparing for finals. During one of the baccalaureate planning meetings the above verse came up and the verse seems to keep showing a purpose in my life and I thought I would share some thoughts about it with all of you.

As I prepare for graduation and going to seminary I am constantly thinking and praying about how I need to let God guide my every step. This is a difficult thing for me to do because I have grown up in a society in which things need to be planned. However, letting God guide often means going to some unexpected place. As I graduate and move out of the “Wittenberg bubble” there are a lot of uncertainties. Some of these uncertainties are: What will the professors and classes be like? What will the new community of students be like? What kinds of opportunities will I have? Where will God be guiding me next? And although I don't have the answers for all of this I do know that God will be by my side, leading me through every step.

This verse has also caused me to reflect a little bit. (It seems that a feeling of nostalgia comes with being a senior.) I have thought about how nervous and excited I was to come to Wittenberg in the first place. I thought about all the questions I had: Who am I going to hang out with? What activities will I be doing? How am I going to survive being far away from home? And then I thought about the friendships I made and the opportunities that arose with my time at Wittenberg and how God provided through it all.

All of the reflecting I have done thus far (I'm sure more is to come) has reminded me that part of growing up means that I have to be willing to give God the control of what is to happen because uncertainties lie outside of what I am thinking about and questioning. And I know that uncertainties lie outside the momentous occasion in life, but often happen in the midst of an ordinary day. I have continued to pray: “Lord, show me the way I should go; for to you I lift up my soul. Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.” And I think that it is a prayer that applies to all no matter where we are in our life's journey.

I am always thinking about and praying for all of you! I miss you all!

God Bless!

Love,

Joyce Partyka

NOTICE — CONGREGATION MEETING

Purpose: To approve and purchase new sign!

Date: June 29

Time: At start of normal Worship Service time — 10:00 am
(Worship service intended to finish at normal time)

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
Web site: www.gloriadeiluth.com
Email: gdlc3711@sbcglobal.net
Phone (219) 838-5313
Dial a Story (219) 838-2576
3711 Ridge Road
Highland Indiana 46322



GLORY TO GOD

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