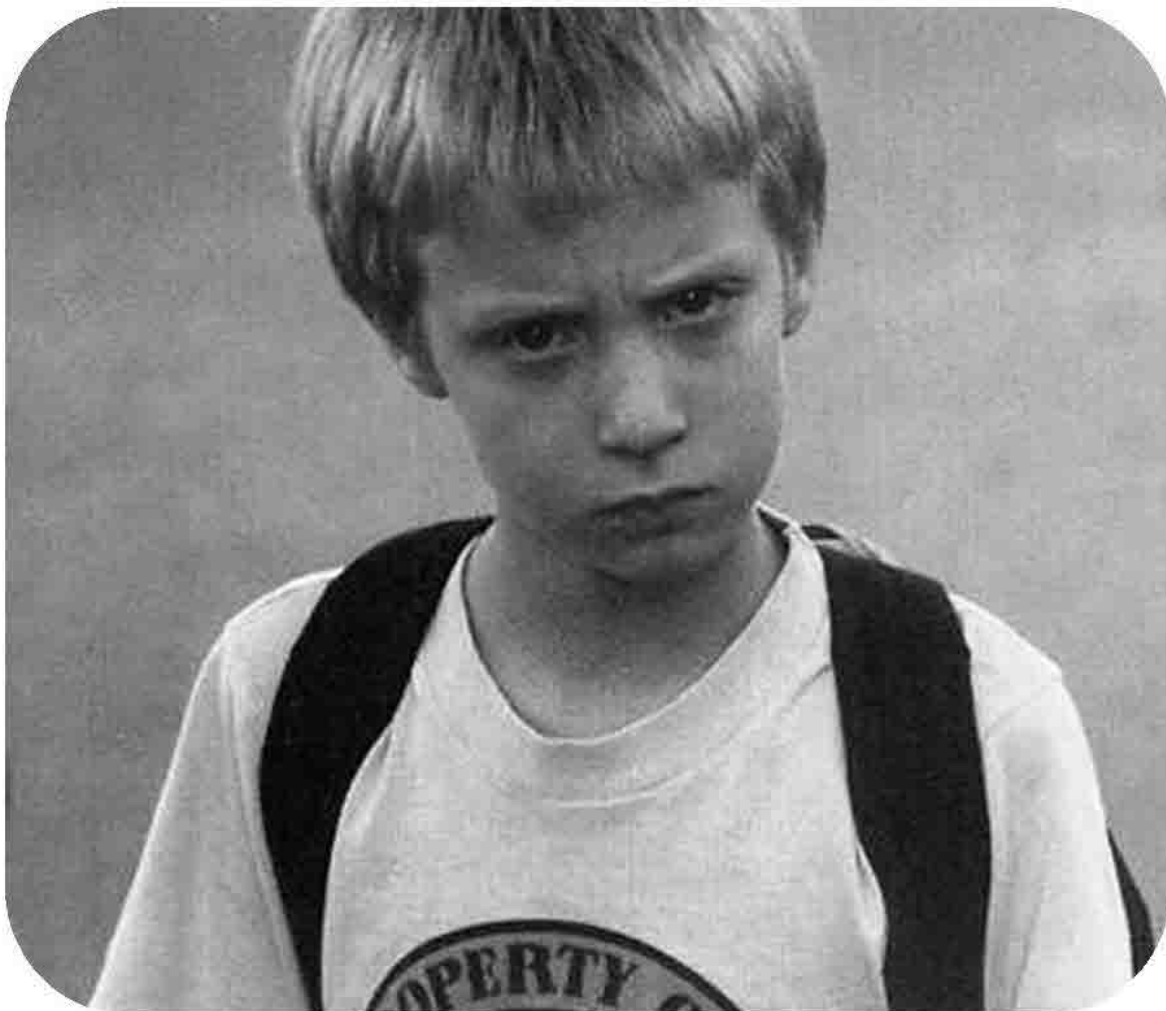


GLAD TIDINGS

SEPTEMBER 2010



BACK TO SCHOOL!

Picture from the Readers Digest

MUSIC MATTERS

From David Markley

JOYFUL NOISERS!

Greetings and salutations! I am busily preparing the schedule of special music for worship for this fall and winter. I understand that many of you have difficulty with scheduling or life at home but I am hoping that you will continue to make singing in choir a meaningful part of your weekly routine. We will continue to practice after church and will commence rehearsals on September 26, 2010 following worship and will sing in worship on October 3, 2010 with Lauren Brechner playing clarinet. I was asked if we would sing an Advent cantata this year and I have decided that we will NOT; however, we will have a special offering of our own in December. We will present a Service of Lessons and Carols on the evening of December 19, 2010 – so mark your calendars. I hope to have some students from the high school join us as well as community members. Hopefully our evening will be reminiscent of Valparaiso University's service or that of the world renown King's College service in England on which ours will be based. I also would like to plan a group outing for us to see a concert of some type. So I hope it is going to be an exciting time again making a Joyful Noise! See you soon! - David



KEEP THIS DATE

December 19, 2010

A Service of Lessons and Carols

At Gloria Dei – 6PM

Sing all your favorite Christmas Carols.

KEEP THE GOSPEL OF LUKE IN MIND.

During the month of November – we will collect a different food pantry item for each Sunday! **FILL THE PANTRY MONTH!**

ADVENT! ALREADY?!?

No better time like the present when preparing for the Lord's coming. We will have a special thematic Advent season culminating in the Service of Lessons and Carols on December 19th. Our themes for the season include: God Comes to Us; Saved by Grace Through Faith; The Priesthood of All Believers/Simultaneously Saint and Sinner; Focus Upon the Cross. Come worship with us during the Advent Season.

With Christian Love
David Markley

Bible Study - "PRAY ALWAYS"

"Pray Always" is a three-session study written by the Rev. Gladys Moore. We will study the importance of being persistent in prayer, explore the relationship between prayer & waiting, and the power of prayer to change us & perhaps also to change our circumstances.

Moore writes, "The goal of this study is to deepen our relationships with God, ourselves and one another by attending to the word and will of God for our lives and our world. As we bring our authentic selves to these studies--our hopes and dreams, our fears and failures, our histories and cultural heritages--may we be reminded that each of our lives is indeed a prayer, as Jesus lives and serves through us."

Dates: Sundays September 26, October 3 & 10 at 9:00 am before worship services. The study will be led by Elaine Von Almen.

Serving in Worship Schedule

Sep	Liturgist	Reader	Acolyte	Greeter
5	Bev Arnold	Greg Reed	Parker Danner	The Schillers
12	Sandy Trexler	Elaine Von Almen	Jonathan Armstrong	The Adams
19	David Adams	Bev Arnold	Sam Evanoff	The Vates
26	Donna Antal	Donna Antal	Kyle Polster	The Glens
Oct	Liturgist	Reader	Acolyte	Greeter
3	Vicar Zach	Lauri Novak	Raymond Pollalis	The Abaties

Annual Holiday Bazaar and Bake Sale

November 6
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

We have been hard at work preparing for the HOLIDAY BAZAAR, have you? We are looking for crafts donated by ALL our members to make this the best bazaar yet. Homemade food items, bake sale, cookies by the pound, handmade items, Attic Treasures and Best Sellers (books). Lunch will be served at the Cafe at Gloria Dei. The raffle this year is a Laptop Computer. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.



Men's Breakfast Club

Calling all men to the resumption of our tradition and practice of culinary art called "breakfast".
Wonderful fellowship and fun. Bring a friend!
First Saturday of every month in the church kitchen at 8:00 am .

Exciting Updates!

New Sign Coming

Our new digital sign reading "Glory to God—A House of Worship and Prayer Where ALL People Are Welcome" has been officially approved by the city of Highland and the order has been placed. It will take about 8-12 weeks before the sign arrives.

Mail Flyer

In the meantime, myself along with counsel have been working on a flyer that will announce these new beginnings. The flyer I hope will be sent to each and every household in Highland, Griffith, and Munster, teaching them the core of our Lutheran Heritage; that of "**How our Focus is Upon the Cross** and that we are **Saved by Grace through Faith**, where **God Comes to Us through Word and Sacrament**, through **The Priesthood of All Believers**, who are at the same time **Saint and Sinner**." You got to admit those beliefs are some great stuff! Still the sign and the flyer are not enough! It will take all of us inviting our family, friends, and neighbors—it will take all of us giving up a little of our time, talent and treasure if we are truly to grow to the Glory of God. Start thinking about where God is calling you to serve.



Book Publication

Also for your memory banks, we are moving along with the publication of the book on Revelation--slowly. The first two steps of editing are complete, and we have moved into the process of what is called conceptual editing, where they begin to look at how the entire book comes together and what changes are needed to make it more readable and appeal to more people. We go through this process a total of three times to get it right! The next step in about two months will be the cover design with artwork and title, and then finally layout design or how the book actually appears on the pages. So, if you get right down to it we are probable looking at six to seven months till the book rolls off the press—giving us at that time yet another opportunity to spread the gospel and promote the work of this Lampstand.



FALL RETREAT October 2 at 8:30 am

Northwest Women of the ELCA Fall Retreat
 Theme: Listen, God is Calling
 Time: Registration 8:30 am
 Place: Gloria Dei
 Cost: \$10:00 Breakfast and Lunch

Diane Master from Lutheran Deaconess Association will present the 2 morning sessions. Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon with lively entertainment in the afternoon. Lots of great fellowship. We will need help to set up and clean up. The food will be catered. Call Nancy Talabay at _____ and/or Elaine Van Proyen at _____ to volunteer or to have any questions answered.

DORCAS

Dorcas will be meeting on September 8th in the church kitchen at 9:30 am. All women are welcome. We will have our first planning session with great refreshments. Call Fran Abatie at _____ with any questions.

FAREWELL LUNCHEON AUGUST 29

As we are all aware Vicar Dan's last day will be on August 29th. The women of Gloria Dei are planning a farewell pot luck luncheon to follow directly after the church service on the Sunday of August 29th! Meat will be provided. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to pass.

Vicar Dan has been a great asset and we wish him the best in his future endeavors. Let us all show our appreciation with great attendance and fellowship.

Please call Fran Abatie at _____ and/or Elaine Van Proyen at _____ with any questions or for further information.

W/ELCA Nominations

We are still looking for officers to serve a 2 year term on the Gloria Dei W/ELCA board. If interested please call Nancy Talabay at _____ and/or Elaine Van Proyen at _____. Hopefully installation of officers will be on W/ELCA Sunday, November 14th 2010.

Submitted by
 Your Sister in Christ
 Elaine Van Proyen



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sept	Name	Sept	Name
1	Brenda Pollalis	17	Jonathan Armstrong
2	Sally Fry	19	David Burgess
2	Mitchell Kocian	23	Ronald Riddell
3	Noah Trexler	23	Joyce Partyka
5	Charles Biesen	26	Jan Vargo
5	Stuart Kocian	28	Helen Little
7	Frances Abatie	28	Robin Carlascio
10	Deborah Thinnis	29	Walter Abatie
14	Sandra Danner	29	Natalie Kindt
17	Betty Samples		

SERVICE COMMITTEE NEWS

Blood Drive

A reminder that the Red Cross Blood Mobile will be coming to Gloria Dei on Wednesday, **September 1 from 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm.** You can make an appointment in the narthex. Ask your friends and neighbors to join you!



Crop Walk

The CROP WALK is scheduled for Sunday **September 26.** Support this worthwhile cause by walking or supporting a walker with your monetary donation. Details can be found in the narthex.



VISIT OUR NEW WEB SITE: GloryToGodHighland.com

Dial A Story: (219) 838-2576

Note: This years Council Meeting and Special Congregation Meetings minutes are all archived including all financial and committee reports. They are all available for view on our church Web site.

Gloria Dei SEPTEMBER 2010 Events Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 7:00 pm Bible Study / Worship 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm BLOOD DRIVE	2	3	4 8:00 am Men's Breakfast Club 5:00 pm Worship Service with Communion
5 10:00 am Sunday Worship with Communion 11:00 am Coffee Hour 7:30 pm N/A Meeting	6 7:30 pm AA Meeting	7 6:30 pm Grace Notes Bazaar Workshop	8 7:00 pm Bible Study / Worship 9:30 am Dorcas	9 6:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting	10 9:00 am to 11:00 am Foster Parent Training	11 10:00 am to 12:00 pm From Me to We Thrivent Presentation 5:00 pm Worship Service with Communion
12 10:00 am Sunday Worship with Communion 11:00 am Welcome for Vicar Zach! 7:30 pm N/A Meeting	13 7:30 pm AA Meeting	14 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm Confirmation Class 7:00 pm Council Meeting 6:30 pm Grace Notes Bazaar Workshop	15 7:00 pm Bible Study / Worship 11:30 am Ladies Birthday Club	16 10:00 am Prayer Ministry	17	18 5:00 pm Worship Service with Communion
19 10:00 am Sunday Worship with Communion 11:00 am Coffee Hour 7:30 pm N/A Meeting	20 7:30 pm AA Meeting	21 6:30 pm W/ELCA Cluster Meeting 6:30 pm Grace Notes Bazaar Workshop	22 7:00 pm Bible Study / Worship	23	24 5:30 pm Schiller Wedding	25 5:00 pm Worship Service with Communion
26 9:00 am "Pray Always" Bible Study 10:00 am Sunday Worship with Communion 11:00 am Coffee Hour 12:45 pm Crop Walk 7:30 pm N/A Meeting	27 7:30 pm AA Meeting	28 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm Confirmation Class 6:30 pm Grace Notes Bazaar Workshop	29 7:00 pm Bible Study / Worship	30		

Leadership Conference

From Pastor David

Dear Friends through Christ Jesus:

About this time of the year churches all across the country begin to revamp their Sunday school programs. Personally, when I was a very young child I do not really remember anything about Sunday school other than coloring. When I became a little older, say 6-10 years, I still don't remember much, other than I couldn't stand it. I remember asking, "Why can't I stay in church like the rest of the people." Sure there were times where our church held Sunday school at different hours other than worship, but I promise you I learned a whole lot more about God and Jesus sitting through worship and then hearing it reinforced at home than I ever did in the 30-40 minutes the church always felt they needed to put us little ones through.



Well, forty-five years have passed and the church still feels the need to do the same ole thing year after year. Sure maybe they changed around the times, the teachers, even the programs, but I have to ask myself again, "Why can't they stay in church like the rest of the people and begin to learn about God and Jesus with their family, and then have these teachings reinforced at home?"

Teaching our youth about the nature of God and the stories of Jesus is the most important thing we can give our children, but again maybe the way we approach the task needs a second look.

I am fully convinced that the best Sunday school program **by far** is for our youth to learn first hand the importance of church and the worship of God by watching and learning from their parents and other adults on Sunday! If the parents and the rest of the congregation are committed to the weekly worship then the children will naturally begin to learn that God must be important. On the other hand, if the parents and rest of the congregation do not make worship a top priority then we are in fact teaching our young ones that church and God must not be too important. Maybe this is not what we mean to teach, but trust me our children learn best from our examples.

And this important teaching begins at the earliest of ages! Even a newborn! Think about it. They don't belong in a nursery, but a place where they are regularly introduced to a group of people where smiles and hugs are offered. They hear the beautiful organ and piano music with voices being lifted up. How does this experience shape their future?

As they get a little older, say 2-4, the same experiences are present, but now they begin to hear the Lord's Prayer, the Apostle's Creed, the Words of Institution each and every week, becoming a part of their little lives. They begin to learn something that the Psalmist writes about where he says, "Be Still and know that I am the Lord."

Once they reach school age they are again exposed to the same elements of worship, now starting to take hold, and they actually begin to hear, see, feel and taste something the world does not offer. They hold out their little hands and receive the

Body and Blood of our Lord and begin to hear the Word of God read on a weekly basis.

Sure they may not understand my messages, as many of the adults don't seem to understand, but they are actually hearing God's Word spoken week after week, and whether we understand or not the heart of our faith claims, "God promises to come to us through Word and Sacrament."

Therefore, beginning Sunday September 5th, I will be making a strong effort to include in the worship service "children friendly moments," with short messages teaching our youth and adults small elements of our faith during our weekly commitment to God Almighty. I simply ask that parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, all members of this lampstand — at least do their part in teaching our youth with their simple presence showing them that Worship and Praise of God is the most important one hour they will experience during the week. From you they will learn. That is what I call Sunday school!

In Christian Love,
Rev David Trexler

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

As our youth grow they become able to ask all kinds of questions about the nature of God and religion. Who do you want answering those questions? So here at Gloria Dei (Glory to God) starting from grade six and up we offer confirmation. Confirmation simple means that myself and the church confirm that these questions have been addressed through our Biblical tradition. I teach them the history of the Church and elements of the Lutheran Faith, focusing upon Word and Sacrament. We learn the Apostle's Creed, Lord's Prayer, Ten Commandments and what they mean to us today. We learn about the church year calendar and why the lectionary is important. We learn the books of the Bible and what major teaching is found in each book.



So once again, starting on Tuesday September 14th from 4:00PM to 7:00PM we will kick off a new year of confirming that our youth will learn and understand the basic elements of the Christian faith. I, along with the help of the congregation will feed them supper. Each one of the kids are more than welcome to bring friends. We will meet every other Tuesday (09/14; 09/28; 10/12; 10/26; 11/9; 11/23; and finally 12/7). We will start the second half of the year sometime in January. Folks, there are not many days that I have to reach the youth with some of the most important things they will learn in their lifetime. Therefore it is so very important that each family make the commitment to see that your youth attend each class and do the work that is asked of them.

I have spent a great deal of time and brain cells coming up with a program that offers this knowledge in a way that doesn't put our young ones to sleep - which is very difficult in this day and age. Basically, I'm trying to prepare our youth for a time when Jesus asks them, "**Who do You say I am?**"

ADULT EDUCATION

For the adults the best Christian Education by far is to attend worship weekly. Not only is your regular participation in worship teaching our youth what is important, weekly attendance allows each of us the opportunity to experience the entire life of the Christian Church. Because we use a lectionary, over a three year period one basically hears most of the Bible read out loud and talked about. Yet there are other opportunities here at Glory to God to grow in one's faith. There is a Wednesday night Worship/Bible study each week at 7:00PM in which we are slowly walking through the stories of the Bible. If you desire more or find yourself not being able to attend Sat/Sun worship here is a wonderful opportunity. Also beginning in mid-September Elaine VonAlmen will be leading a Sunday morning Bible Study entitled "Pray Always." Pray Always is a three session study in which the importance of prayer will be explored. The study will begin Sunday morning at 9:00AM September 26th and will continue for the next two weeks (Oct. 3rd and Oct 10th) Then one October 17th Vicar Zachary Ostrem will be leading a Sunday morning class on a topic he feels passionate about.



So you see, if one truly desires to grow in faith, no matter what age, it can be found right here. Glory to God! Hope to see ya grow!

A THANK YOU NOTE

Dear Pastor David, Vicar Dan, and Church Family,

To just say "Thank You" does not begin to express my gratitude to those of you here at Gloria Dei who have diligently kept my Mother Lillian Paolucci and our family in your hearts and prayers these past years and months. Your ongoing support has been uplifting and given strength to us during the difficult times. These times were not all difficult and you shared the joyful times with us too. Now Mother has passed to be with the Lord. What a joyous day for her. You are here again helping me with your personal condolences and many cards of sympathy.

My Love and Thanks go out to you all
Barbara Kocian

The New Vicar is Coming! The New Vicar is Coming!

Join us for worship September 12th as we welcome into our community Zachary Ostrem and his wife Abigail. Immediately following worship the Witness Committee will host a gathering to meet and greet the new Vicar. Please make plans to attend and show our support for their ministry and sacrifice

Gloria Dei

GLORY TO GOD

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

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