



# The Light

Gloria Dei Evangelical Lutheran Church

## Pastor's Page ...

*The bridegroom comes! Awake; your lamps with gladness take!*

*Alleluia! Rise and prepare the feast to share;  
Go, meet the bridegroom who draws near." - Wake,  
Awake for Night is Flying ELW #436*

Wake, awake! This is the common refrain that we hear over and over throughout the church's season of Advent. The cycle of the church year orders our time in Christian community around the central mystery of our faith: the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our own experience of this, however, is filled with waiting, lament, and hope.

The season of Advent speaks to this "now-and-not-year" aspect of the Christian faith, as we gather around in word and sacrament and songs, all of which speak of preparation, of waiting, and of the coming King who will rule over all nations and peoples. The readings in Advent prepare us to receive not only a new baby, but a new world where God's grace, justice, and mercy reign.

The readings for the First Sunday of Advent (Nov 27<sup>th</sup>) begin with the "coming of the Son of Man" at an unexpected hour in Matthew 24. This text disrupts our sense of time by declaring that we don't, in fact, know what time it is – and need time to prepare. Despite that, we will all be changed.

The readings for the Second Sunday of Advent (Dec 4<sup>th</sup>) begin with readings that are full of reconciliations that are impossible without a drastic change in the world order. But the change at hand is directed and empowered by the "Spirit of the Lord," the same Holy Spirit given in baptism, and of which John the Baptist is a herald: "Repent! Be cleansed! Bear fruit worthy of the Gospel!"

The readings for the Third Sunday of Advent (Dec 11<sup>th</sup>) being with readings that speak of a deep longing for the coming Jesus Christ and then give way to joy and praise as we hear from Mary's great "Magnificat" hymn of praise in the Gospel of Luke.

The readings for the Fourth Sunday of Advent (Dec 18<sup>th</sup>) will prepare our hearts, our ears, and our minds to receive the Christ child. We are now ready to be changed and transformed and receive the gift of Christ himself, wholly and completely. The very sign embodied in flesh and bones that tells us "Emmanuel," or "God is with us."

Starting on November 30, our Midweek Advent Soup suppers (6pm) and worship (6:30pm) on Wednesdays will continue this exploration as we hear of angels coming to God's people to bring them good, and unexpected news. From Zechariah, to Joseph, to Mary, to the Shepherds in the field, we will hear and learn that even in the midst of fear and uncertainty of life, God is with us. (Oh, and did I mention that there will be yummy, hot soups and activities that we'll do together during supper!)

It's all here: hope, longing, fear, comfort, repentance, restoration, death, birth, endings, and beginnings. And like our own lives, it doesn't all come at us in a nice, and neat, and tidy package. But over the course of the next four weeks, the arc of the story is clear: the darkness is giving way to light, the world is being reborn, and Word is becoming flesh to live and dwell among us.

Join us this Advent season and may the Holy Spirit transform your hearts and your minds to receive the newborn Christ King.

*Advent Peace,*  
Pastor Martha

December  
2016



ELCA



2300 Florence Avenue  
Butte, MT 59701  
Pastor Martha  
McCreight  
Office: (406) 723-9182  
office@gloriadeibutte.org  
pastor@gloriadeibutte.org  
www.gloriadeibutte.org  
Worship: 10:30 a.m.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT GLORIA DEI

Dec. 6 – 7:00 PM – Worship and Music Committee meeting  
Dec. 7 – 6:00 Soup Supper  
6:30 Midweek Advent Service.  
Dec. 8 - 11:00 WELCA Christmas Potluck  
Dec. 13- 11:30 Altar Guild  
7:00 PM – Church Council meeting

Dec. 14 - 6:00 Soup Supper  
6:30 Midweek Advent Service  
Dec. 21- 6:00 Soup Supper  
6:30 Midweek Advent Service  
Dec. 24- Christmas Eve Worship 5:00 and 8:00  
Dec. 25 - Christmas Worship 10:30 am  
Dec. 27 Newsletter Articles Due  
Jan 1 New Year's Day Worship 10:30 am

## SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY TEXTS

December 4

Isaiah 11:1-10  
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19  
Romans 15:4-13  
Matthew 3: 1-12

December 11

Isaiah 35 1-10  
Psalm 146: 5-10  
James 5:7-10  
Matthew 11: 2-11

December 18

Isaiah 7: 10-16  
Psalm 80:1-7  
Romans 1:1-7  
Matthew 1:18-25

December 24

Isaiah 9:2-7  
Psalm 96  
Titus 2:11-14  
Luke 2:1-14



**Men's Bible Study** Thursday at 7:00 AM at Perkins.

**Women's Bible Study** is held every Tuesday morning at 9:00 AM at Gamers.

**WELCA** Bible study, every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, is a video series called "Loved by God."

## Sunday School Notes

The date of the Sunday School Christmas program has been moved up to Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. The program will feature traditional Christmas hymns and readings from the gospels of Luke and Matthew. Rehearsals begin THIS SUNDAY, November 27<sup>th</sup>. Parents, please make every effort to ensure your child is there, as there will be only three practices. Thank you for all you do!



2.

## FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Can you feel it? Christmas is in the air! If you're like me, the anticipation of Christmas is an exciting one. Maybe it's the decorations, the lights of the tree, listening to Christmas music, or the glow of the advent wreath, but most of all it's the excitement knowing that Christmas, my favorite day of the entire year is almost here! At church we will soon be celebrating Advent, the "coming" of Christmas. Please join us on Wednesday night for soup supper at 6:00 p.m. and worship at 6:30 p.m.

These days it seems that Christmas is all about decorating your house and shopping for that perfect gift. Let's take time to think about what Christmas really is. It's about celebrating the birth of Jesus. As you gather with friends and family, enjoy good food, and open presents, let's remember the meaning of Christmas, the gift of Jesus.

Wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas!

*Janel*

The Service Committee invites you to bring new and "Gently Used" coats to the church for the community coat collection! Coats for younger children are most needed! There will be a container available for the coats in the Narthex.



## SERVICE COMMITTEE PROJECTS



Chad & Rhonda Cebulski Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>  
 Travis and Josie Trudgeon Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>  
 Ken & Paula Morgan Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>



Lura Nuthak	Dec. 4 <sup>th</sup>
Isabel Yates	Dec. 5 <sup>th</sup>
Diane Delaney	Dec. 7 <sup>th</sup>
Bev Becker	Dec. 9 <sup>th</sup>
J.J. Perusich	Dec. 9 <sup>th</sup>
Hayley Boyd	Dec. 10 <sup>th</sup>
Lynn Perusich	Dec. 13 <sup>th</sup>
Tony Trudnowski	Dec. 14 <sup>th</sup>
Joseph Rich	Dec. 16 <sup>th</sup>
Diana Trudnowski	Dec. 17 <sup>th</sup>
Pastor Martha	Dec. 18 <sup>th</sup>
Jake Bentley	Dec. 19 <sup>th</sup>
Rita Ronning	Dec. 20 <sup>th</sup>
Wilma Shupe	Dec. 21 <sup>st</sup>
Ray Petersen	Dec. 28 <sup>th</sup>
Joe Sagar	Dec. 28 <sup>th</sup>
Cortney Franklin	Dec. 29 <sup>th</sup>
Steve Abraham	Dec. 31 <sup>st</sup>
Charles Fligel	Dec. 31 <sup>st</sup>

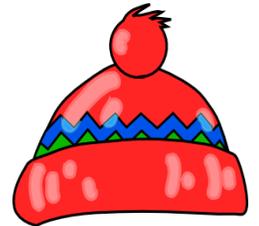
*Please let the church office know whenever a birthday or anniversary is missed or needs to be taken off the list. Thank you!*



Names of the children in the families and their “wish lists” will be available at the church by December 1st. *If you take a name, please purchase a complete outfit, including shoes and a toy or other nice gift for the child to open.* The gifts should be at the church no later than Wednesday, December 14 so we can make sure we have gifts for all of the children. We will wrap the gifts that are not wrapped on Thursday. If you would like to join us on Friday, December 16 at 1:00 PM, we will deliver to the families we have adopted. Thanks for your help! If you have questions, please talk to Paula Morgan or Betty McDaniel!

### MITTENS, HATS AND COATS FOR KIDS!

We are also collecting mittens, gloves, hats and coats for Butte children. Bring your donations to the church by Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, please! The mitten and hat tree will be on the table in the Narthex and a container for coats is located there, too. The coats can be gently used or new and infant up to size 10 for boys or girls. Thanks for your help!!



### Christmas Poinsettias!

If you would like to provide a poinsettia in honor of or in memory of a family member to decorate our sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas seasons, the Altar Guild will be purchasing the plants from The Petunia Factory.



**The cost is \$12 per plant.** The signup sheet is in the narthex or call the church office (723-9182) and give your information to Mariya.

**Support the people and causes you love through your will.**

As you plan for the distribution of your assets at your death, consider a charitable bequest to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church Endowment. This is one way your faith can be transferred to the next generation. This, and other types of planned gifts, can support our congregation's ministry in perpetuity, providing resources that will allow future generations to worship, serve others and continue the vital ministries of the church. Please remember the church in your will. The Endowment committee will be happy to answer any questions that you have.

Sample wording:

- *Designate a Specific Percentage*  
"I give, devise, and bequeath to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, (Butte, MT) an amount equal to \_\_\_\_ percent ( \_\_\_%) of the value of my gross or net estate at the time of my death for its general uses and purposes." or "for an endowment to be used for building to insure its maintenance and existence."

**Giving Thanks.**

Now is the season we give thanks to God for all He has done for us this past year and throughout our lives. It is also a good time to begin considering how we might give back some of our wealth or assets to Him through His Church with a special year-end gift of cash or appreciated assets such as shares of stock. You can designate such a gift to the endowment fund or simply to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church general operating fund. Please contact Mariya in the office for more information.

Advent  
Soup Supper  
& Worship Service



Advent Soup Supper and Worship are back!!!!  
Starting November 30 6:00 soup supper and 6:30  
Worship.



Women of Gloria Dei are invited to the annual Christmas luncheon at noon on Thursday, December 8th in the small fellowship hall. If you can make it to the Bible study, it starts at 11 in the church library followed by a short business meeting prior to the luncheon.

Bring a wrapped white elephant gift for a fun exchange and Ross Whelchel will be on hand with his guitar to lead us in familiar Christmas carols. It promises to be a fun luncheon with maybe a surprise or two! We have invited both Gold Hill Lutheran and Hope Lutheran in Anaconda to join us in our celebration. If you have questions, please contact Marilyn Krause at 490-7486 or any of the WELCA officers - Betty McDaniel, Stephanie Stodden, or Doris Schultz. **Please join us!**

**WELCA COOKIES**

Marilyn Krause  
Janel Morgan  
Bev Becker



## Words from the Bishop

### **Let's Build!**

Our new Synod House is becoming more real each week. The architects are fine-tuning the plans. Engineers are working on issues related to the site. Electrical engineers are planning the lighting, and mechanical engineers are working on the heating and cooling. We have had our first meeting with the city's Design Review Board, we've begun the conversations about sidewalks and bike racks. We have the support of all our neighbors, and have begun the negotiations for a conditional use permit for Mission Builder RVs on the site. We hope to begin putting down the concrete slab in early spring, as soon as the weather permits.

In the mean time, we continue to raise funds for the project. Jeanne McCoskery continues to work with congregations and individuals. [Mcjeanne8@gmail.com](mailto:Mcjeanne8@gmail.com).

And we are beginning the signup of volunteers to come to Great Falls next summer to help the Mission Builders build our new house. Starting June 6, and continuing through September 2, we are looking for groups of volunteers from congregations to sign up for 5 day stints-Tuesday through Saturday. We are asking each group to bring at least 4 construction volunteers and 2 cooks. Pastor Arne Bergland ([arne@ourredeemerlives.org](mailto:arne@ourredeemerlives.org)) and a group of volunteers from Our Redeemer's are coordinating the volunteer recruitment. You can find a signup sheet on our website ([www.montanasynd.org](http://www.montanasynd.org)) and also in this email. More information is there.

We are excited to have this be the people's house, created and built by members of the Montana Synod. We are so grateful to all the people who are stepping up and helping out any way they can.

I look forward to seeing you and working with you this summer!

Jessica Crist, Bishop

### **HELP US HELP OTHERS**

If you yourself are hospitalized or in need of a pastoral care visit, or if you know of someone who is, **please let Pr. Martha know directly by calling her cell phone (406) 565-3592**, in addition to contacting the church office by calling 723-9182 or emailing [office@gloriadeibutte.org](mailto:office@gloriadeibutte.org)

### **Statement from ELCA Presiding Bishop Eaton on Standing Rock**

When we come together for worship, we often begin with confession and forgiveness using these words: "We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves." Lutherans acknowledge that this is a broken world and, as part of it, even our best wisdom and efforts fall short. Very often we face issues of extraordinary complexity in which all sides make reasoned arguments for their reality. The current situation at Standing Rock in North Dakota is just such a case.

The route of the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) runs through contested land, which the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe sees as their homeland and sacred places, including burial grounds. Proponents of the DAPL sees it as a combination of public and private property. The pipeline will run under Lake Oahe, the primary water source for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. What we see is the tension between two peoples trying to share one land. We can also see the tension between our dependence on fossil fuels and the commitment this church has made to care for creation.

This past August, the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly passed a resolution repudiating the doctrine of discovery. In it we pledged "to practice accompaniment with Native peoples." The doctrine declared that indigenous land was "unoccupied" as long as Christians were not present. Land deemed "unoccupied" was, therefore, "discovered," as if it had been previously unknown to humankind. This doctrine was used as justification for European monarchies, and later the U.S. government, to take land from Native people. Many of us in this church who are immigrants have benefitted from the injustices done to the original inhabitants of this land where we now live and worship. Our church also includes American Indian and Alaskan Native people, who have been on the receiving end of the injustices done. When we repudiated the doctrine of discovery, we Lutherans pledged to do better together in the future than we have in the past.

Acknowledging the complexity of this issue and the limitations sin places on human decisions, I believe that we are called as a church to support the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe: to stand with the Tribe as they seek justice, to encourage our congregations to pray for them and to offer material support, and to examine the racism inherent in our system that contributes to the current crisis. As promised in our resolution repudiating the doctrine of discovery, we will listen to tribal leaders and respect their wisdom.

We will lend our presence when invited, our advocacy when requested, the resources of our people when asked, and our prayers, friendship and repentance at all times.

Your sister in Christ,



Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America