



The Light

Gloria Dei Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pastor's Page ...

"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid."

Matthew 5:13-14

Here we are at the beginning of February. By now, you are either rockin' your resolutions, or you've abandoned them entirely. And I don't know about you, but I always find this time of the year to be a bit odd. There's no major holidays to celebrate with big groups of people (aside from birthdays and anniversaries, of course). It's still frigid and cold outside, snow keeps falling, and thank goodness, the sun continues to shine.

Now, don't get me wrong, it's not that I need a major holiday or event to keep things interesting in my life. (I'm an introvert, after all.) But sometimes the monotony of the same schedule day-in-and-day out, or week after week, can get to be a bit, well, boring.

Despite all of that, there is still much for us to soak up and learn during these remaining weeks in the season of Epiphany. For instance, we will hear Jesus describe to the disciples all about their new life in Christ, namely comparing it to being both one of salt and light.

Jesus' first illustration of the Christian life was salt. Salt had two purposes: it was a preservative, and it was a seasoning. Jesus focuses on the second with his illustration. The low-quality salt of Jesus' day could actually lose its saltiness—and without its flavor, it really lost its character. It wasn't good for seasoning, and it wasn't good for preserving, and you couldn't even throw it away in a field because it would kill vegetation. About all it was good for was to be thrown along a well-worn path where nothing would be planted or grow.

Jesus' second illustration of the Christian life was light. It goes without saying that light's character is to make things visible. The light of the sun makes a city on a hillside visible to everyone who looks up during the day, and the light of a lamp makes a room visible to everyone who occupies it at night. To light an oil lamp in Jesus' day and then hide it under a basket would defeat the purpose of the lamp. Its character is to shine, not to hide.

Salt and light both have a particular character. To ignore their character makes them useless. Salt without flavor is useless, and a hidden light is useless. Jesus uses these pictures as illustrations of the Christian life. Christians are salt in the world. They "season" the world by their good works done in faith and by their verbal expressions of faith.

And Christians are light in the world. They "enlighten" the world by their public confession of faith and by godly lives that reveal hearts of faith.

May Christ use you as both salt and light in the world, proclaiming forgiveness in his name, and living out God's Word in both words and in deeds.

Peace,
Pastor Martha

February
2017



ELCA

The Beatitudes

Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the sons of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when people insult you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.
 Matthew 5:3-11

©teacherhelp.org

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

FEB 1-	10:00 AM Quilter's Small Hall 6:30 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM Fly Tying Group	FEB 15-	10:00 AM Quilter's Small Hall 6:30 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM Fly Tying Group
FEB. 6-	Noon WELCA Executive Board	FEB 21-	11:30 AM Altar Guild 5:30 PM Family Game Night
FEB 7-	7:00 PM Worship and Music Committee meeting	FEB 20-	Articles for Newsletters Due
FEB 8-	10:00 AM Quilter's Small Hall 6:30 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM Fly Tying Group	FEB 22-	10:00 AM Quilter's Small Hall 6:30 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM Fly Tying Group
FEB 9-	Noon WELCA	FEB 27-	7:00 PM Quilting for the St. James Foundation
FEB 13-	7:00 PM. Church Council		

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY TEXTS

February 5

Isiah 58: 1-9a
Psalm 112: 1-9
1Corintheians 2: 1-12
Matthew 5: 13-20

February 12

Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 119: 1-8
1 Corinthians 3: 1-9
Matthew 5: 21-37

February 19

Leviticus 19: 1-2, 9-18
Psalm 119: 33-40
1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23
Matthew 5:38-48

February 26

Exodus 24: 12-18
Psalm 2
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17: 1-9

Men's Bible Study resumes January 12 Thursday at 7:00 AM at Perkins.

WELCA Bible study, every 2nd Thursday, is a video series called "Loved by God."

President Notes

Can it really be almost February? Time seems to be going faster and faster. The days however are getting a bit longer and I'm thankful for that! Not sure about you, but I really dislike going to work and coming home when it's dark outside.

We had our annual congregational meeting on the 22nd of January. I'm hopeful that 2017 at Gloria Dei will be even better than 2016. We do however have much to be thankful for, an amazing Pastor, committees, lectors, ushers, counters, choir members, quilters, men's and women's bible study, but most of all I'm thankful for you, the members of Gloria Dei.

Is there something that you would like to see at Gloria Dei this year? Do you have a thought or idea for us? Maybe you'd like to volunteer this year at Gloria Dei? Call, email or find me after church and we will find the perfect opportunity for you.

God's Peace,
Janel
490-7945
Janelmmorgan@gmail.com

Calling all members, young and old alike! Join us at the church on Tuesday, February 21st, at 5:30 p.m. for a church game night. Bring your favorite game or two, and a snack to share. We'll order pizza and have a fun evening! Questions?? Ask Janel 490-7945

SERVICE COMMITTEE PROJECTS



Joe & Bonnie Sagar	Feb. 14 th
Pat & Sharon Sanders	Feb. 21 st
Bruce & Diane Kocher	Feb. 29 th



Erlene Abraham	Feb. 1 st
Joan Johnson	Feb. 1 st
Bernie Phelps	Feb. 2 nd
Katie Green	Feb. 3 rd
Adam Petersen	Feb. 6 th
Wade Petersen	Feb. 6 th
David Murto	Feb. 7 th
Abbie Green	Feb. 9 th
Hanna Hadley	Feb. 10 th
Blaise Nuthak	Feb. 10 th
Nathan Heiland	Feb. 14 th
Randi Phelps	Feb. 14 th
Kody Burroughs	Feb. 16 th
Laverne Taulbee	Feb. 17 th
Patrick Sanders	Feb. 19 th
Mike Kober	Feb. 20 th
Art Nuthak	Feb. 21 st
Ed Scott	Feb. 22 nd
Rylee Cebulski	Feb. 27 th
Amber Jensen	Feb. 27 th

It's that time again! Time to gather items for kits to be sent to Lutheran World Relief!

In February, we will be collecting items for **Baby Care Kits!** Needed Items can be new or gently used but no stains. Sizes 6-24 months work well so we can send varying sizes.

Here's the dates you can bring items:

February 5: Baby Socks and bars of gentle soap (3-4 oz. bars)

February 12: Light jackets or sweaters or sweatshirts that open in the front with a hood or include a baby cap

February 19: Sleepers with no feet or top and pant sets

February 26: Dark colored Hand Towels



Words From the Bishop: Social Message on Israeli/Palestinian Conflict

In 1989, the ELCA Church Council addressed the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Stating: "Our faith calls us to stand with all who suffer, whatever their religious conviction or cultural identity," the message begins with a confession of how Lutherans have failed the Jewish people in the past. It goes on to critique human rights abuses in Occupied Territories, and ask for prayers for a just and peaceful settlement of the conflict.

The message acknowledges the long roots of the conflict, which involved seemingly mutually exclusive claims to the same land. It lists both the Palestinian and Israeli claims. And it lists the political goals of both Israelis and Palestinians. It states: "We recognize that resolving such a deep and complex conflict will involve lengthy, sustained negotiations. Yet we are encouraged by the spreading recognition that perpetuation of the status quo will be increasingly detrimental to both sides, as well as to world peace"

The message concludes with urging ELCA members to:

1. Familiarize themselves with the history of the Middle East and current issues affecting the conflict so that they can be advocates for responsible political action, and
2. Pray for the coming of God's gift of peace in this area so that Christians, Muslims and Jews might live lives free from violence and fear.

I will be travelling in the Holy Lands this week, learning more about the lives of the people there, and praying for peace. I hope that you will join me in prayer.

In the 29 years since this message was adopted, there have been ups and downs in the Middle East peace negotiations. The ELCA has kept abreast of the situation, and has a program called "Peace not Walls," with resources at www.elca.org. Part of the ELCA's witness in the Middle East is to remind the world that there are Christians in the Middle East, Arab Christians, even Lutheran Christians. We have close ties with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Lands.

"We speak because of our faith in God, the bringer of peace. Called to serve this God, the ELCA is constitutionally mandated to participate in God's mission by '...advocating the dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations.'"

Jessica Crist, Bishop



February is Valentine's Day and in celebration, the Gloria Dei WELCA will have a Valentine's theme potluck at noon on *February 9th* - please plan to join us! The Bible Study and business meeting is at 11 am in the church library followed by lunch at noon in the small fellowship hall. Think red, white and pink when planning your dish! Even if you can't join us for Bible Study, come join our lunch fellowship. Watch for a special surprise from WELCA at worship on *February 5th*.

Looking ahead to *March 9th*, Kathy Griffith of the Butte Emergency Food Bank will be our guest and speaker.

February WELCA Cookies

Janel Morgan
Marlene Heald
Stephanie Stodden

