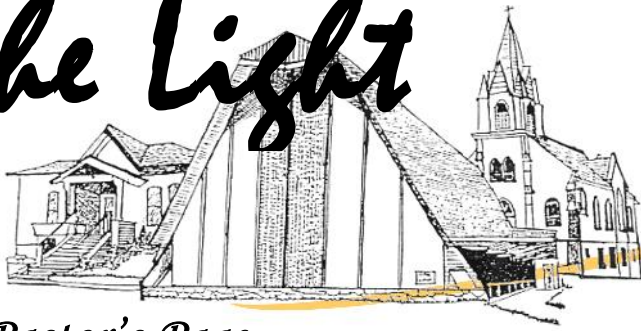


The Light



Gloria Dei Evangelical Lutheran
Church

July
2016



Pastor's Page ...

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill[b] the law of Christ...So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith." Galatians 6:2,10

While pondering what I should write this month, I curiously looked at what I wrote a year ago for the July newsletter. (Clearly, I was desperate for some kind of inspiration.) Sadly, what do I see, but an article written after the shooting during a prayer meeting and bible study at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, SC. An instance where nine individuals (including the pastor) were murdered in a place where they were simply and faithfully gathered to hear and study God's word, to offer prayers to Him, and to be in fellowship together.

And yet, here I am, a year later and pondering the murder of 49 individuals and numerous others injured in a nightclub in Orlando, FL on June 12th. An event that has been considered to be the worst act of terrorism on American soil since 9/11. An event that personally affected the young/old, gay/straight, white/African American/Latino who were present that evening, and yet, let's be honest, we've all been affected by this tragedy. Or, at least, we should *all* be affected.

Now, as your pastor, I'm not going to write to you about my opinion on guns. (I'll leave that up to those in the vocation of legislators, lobbyists, and such). Instead, I call you to the above passage from the Apostle Paul's letter to the Galatians. A man who was writing to a people in their own set of troubled times. A people who fought amongst themselves and amongst others as to the "correct and appropriate ways" of being a part of the newly formed Christian faith. (Yes, this more than just arguing about the color of carpeting or what kind of coffee to brew on Sunday mornings)

And in the midst of quarrels and fighting, the forcing of circumcision and dietary laws, the Apostle Paul reminded them of and pointed them to their faith in Christ Jesus. A faith given to them as a gift from the crucified and resurrected One himself, and a gift which now called them to a new life. A new life in which all are brought into one community, one body of Christ, to celebrate in each other's joys and to support and bear one another's burdens.

Now, I know that some of you are personally going through some very heavy burdens these days, and even Butte or America itself is bearing its own heavy weight. Terminal health diagnoses. A decrease in jobs or wages or retirement/annuity accounts. An increase in fear due to terrorist attacks. Feelings of loneliness or isolation. Mental illnesses. An election cycle that is gearing up to be one of the most aggressive and nastiest ones to date. Or just overall a sense of wanting to be a part of a community that provides healing, wholeness, acceptance, and grace in the midst of what can at times be a very unforgiving world.

Of course, you and I think at times, "Oh, well I don't want to burden anyone. I'll just handle it on my own." Yet, and YET, this is what we are all here for...this is what I as your pastor am here for...your church council...your friends and family...etc. Wrapped up in the grace and love of Christ, we are freely here for you and for one another. To help you bear your deepest burdens, to work for the good of all including those in the family of faith here at Gloria Dei and beyond, and to live together and in the world as members of the body of Christ.

And in bearing one another burdens we do so not by account of our own strength and ability, but rather through the strength and ability afforded to each of us by Christ, himself. The one who has overcome death and the grave. The one who wipes away all tears, all hurts and fears and hate, all shootings, and in the midst of it all says, "*Arise! Arise, for your light has come!*"

"Your light has come. So put away your old life and now go! Go out into the world, into the broken and shattered places, and shine it for all to see!" Be the light, the hands, the feet, the heart, the words of Christ to the world!

And may the grace and peace and love and forgiveness and joy of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you and all the saints. Amen.

Peace ~ Pastor Martha

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GLORIA DEI

July 1/3 – TBD – Monson Family Reunion in large hall
July 3 – **9:30 AM – Worship led by special guests
Hans Petersen and Nelson Morlock**
July 4 – Office Closed

July 12 – 11:30 AM – Altar Guild meets
7:00 PM – Church Council Meeting

July 31-Aug. 5 – Pastor at FLBC

See calendar: Two bicycle groups and one Lutheran youth will be staying at Gloria Dei in July. Please check with the office if you anticipate a schedule conflict.

VBS Fun!



Christopher Stodden waits patiently with other VBSers for potting soil in which to plant a flower seed.



Nathan Stodden glues his cross together. Glue and glitter—what fun!



Nearly 50 young people attended Vacation Bible School last week at Gloria Dei. The counselors from FLBC and those from Gloria Dei and Gold Hill enjoyed four days of Bible study, games, and music. Praise God! Many thanks to John Christianson for the photos!



Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp Sept. 2-5: Labor Day Family Camp

Family, faith, and fellowship on Flathead Lake as summer comes to a close. What could be better?

**To register, please call the FLBC Office at
406-752-6602 or email Jenn Cronk at
registration@flbc.net**

Pastor Martha will be attending camp July 31st through August 5th. There is currently a waiting list to attend that week—call Pastor for more info.



Youth Helper Jerek Rosenleaf enjoys a game of “Duck, Duck, Goose” with counselors David and Jonathon and some of the youngest VBS children.

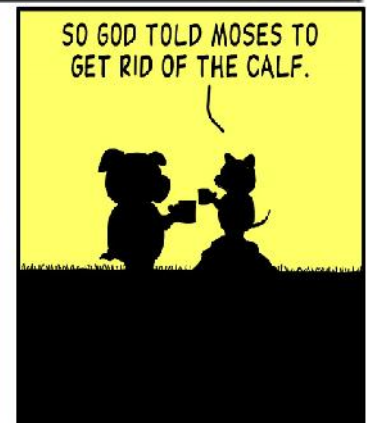
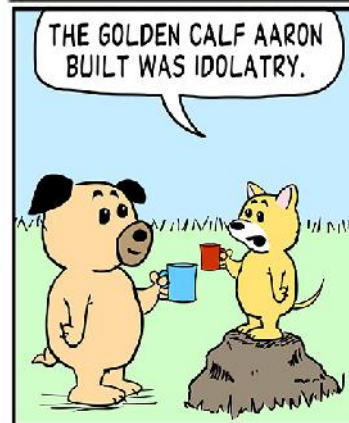


Anna Bentley	July 1 st
Paula Morgan	July 1 st
Jacob Trudnowski	July 1 st
Brandon Amundson	July 2 nd
Jack Hendrickson	July 6 th
Ross Whelchel	July 6 th
Andrew Arntson	July 7 th
Karen Andreas	July 8 th
Patty Ferguson	July 8 th
Bob Green	July 11 th
Erin Garlinghouse	July 13 th
Judy Hendrickson	July 14 th
Bob Bentley, Jr.	July 17 th
Chris Heiland	July 17 th
Parker Annarose Lee	July 17 th
Janel Morgan	July 19 th
Mitch Rosa	July 19 th
Lynn Nielsen	July 20 th
Dennis Marjamaa	July 23 rd
Tyler Stodden	July 24 th
Jodi Burroughs	July 26 th
Nancy Nilson	July 26 th
Dottie Heath	July 29 th
Jenny Eva	July 30 th



Ed & Kathleen Scott	July 23 rd
Alan & Cortney Franklin	July 24 th
Darrell & Betty McDaniel	July 27 th
Dan & Diana Trudnowski	July 27 th
Leo & Dottie Heath	July 29 th
Don & Mavis Bentley	July 30 th

Wherever you go and whatever you do, God Bless Your Summer!



A reminder—no newsletter next month, but a calendar will be (e)mailed out.



“MISSION POSSIBLE”

Please join us for a night of fun and festivity on October 13th for the annual Stewardship Dinner and Auction.

The Stewardship Committee decided to help fund a youth service trip in 2017.

Organizers have set a goal of 14 sponsored tables. We have six so far. **If you are willing to sponsor a table (or if you have questions of what that entails), please contact Susanne at the church office.** We are also looking for a wide array of items for our **live and silent auctions**. October will come sooner than you think, so please mark your calendar and plan to attend.



Hans Petersen of Dakota Road Music and his son Nelson Morlock will lead us in worship next Sunday, July 3rd. Born and raised in Alaska, Hans began his life in the Midwest, where he attended Luther College in Iowa and United Seminary in the Twin Cities where he completed a masters in theology and arts.



As a singer/songwriter he ventures out solo and with the Dakota Road band, playing piano and acoustic guitar. Home is now in Jordan, MN where he teaches music and private lessons at St. John’s School. Hans lives with his spouse, Heidi, on her family’s farm with their two boys. In all that he does, Hans prays and works for a world where all creation is seen as sacred.

Dakota Road Music is a publishing and performance company that specializes in original faith filled music. Their songs of love, hurts, and hopes are shaped by a passion for justice and a vision for the church, the neighborhood and the whole world to be peace-filled and welcoming. Their songs touch people of all ages and walks of life. We sing their song “Kyrie Eleison” in Setting 8, ELW.

FROM THE BISHOP...

Good is stronger than Evil, Love is Stronger than Hate.

Will the ELCA Bishops make a statement on the Orlando massacre? Yes. We already have. Following the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre several years ago, the bishops adopted a statement abhorring violence. In the years since then we have experienced more and more mass shootings--in a theater, in a community center, in a church, on campuses. A year ago we watched with horror the race-related Mother Emmanuel shootings. And now Orlando, motivated by hatred of LGBTQ people. We are a society of laws, designed to protect people. We welcome diverse opinions. But we do not tolerate mass murder. As Christians we reject violence and hatred. Please read the words of the ELCA Bishops by following the link below:

http://www.lutheransnw.org/files/marquee_or_interst_ite m/cob_pastoral_letter_on_violence_030413_f.pdf

Assistance for Victims of Disaster

In response to the recent tornado the hit Baker, Montana, on June 11, 2016, the Synod is establishing a tornado relief fund to accept donations to help victims of the Baker Tornado, as well as other disasters which may plague our state this season. Some victims of the Baker tornado were members of American Lutheran Church in Baker.

Anyone wishing to send donations to the victims through this fund may send a check to the **Tornado Relief Fund, Montana Synod, 3125 5th Avenue South, Great Falls, MT 59405**. 100% of your donations will reach the victims. Any funds received in excess of the needs of the Baker disaster will remain in the fund to assist with victims of future disasters. ~ *Jessica Crist*

Women of the ELCA

WELCA COOKIES DUE JULY 5TH

Mavis Bentley
Lynn Petersen
Susanne Whelchel

WELCA COOKIES DUE AUGUST 1ST

Midge Bentley
Diane Kocher
Paula Morgan



Remember Our Potluck Picnic Thursday, Aug. 11 at 5!