



The Light

Gloria Dei Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pastor's Page ...

"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life with lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it." Matthew 16:24b-25

Jesus did not die in order that you would have to give up chocolate. Let me repeat that for "those in the cheap seats in the back." Jesus did not die in order that you would have to give up chocolate.

You and I both know that, and yet, how often do we turn Lent into a kind of New Year's Resolution for Jesus time of the year? So we give up the alcohol or chocolate or junk food for 40 days and then by the time Easter rolls around, we partake in them again like "the good ol' days," and all the while we probably don't feel much closer to God than when we first started. Am I right?

Don't get me wrong. The practice of fasting is very common in the church during high festival times (such as Lent and Easter), or practices such as abstaining from meat on Fridays, or abstaining from any kind of vice that we know is not healthy or the best for us. But that's not really the whole point, is it?

So if Jesus isn't after our Girl Scout cookies, chips, or glasses of wine during Lent, then what exactly is he after? Well, your heart. Your devotion. Your time and attention. Lent gives you and I the opportunity to step back from our busy schedules and calendars, the things that we deem "oh so important" and once again, "return to the Lord our God."



Lent is often a reminder of two facts: God's plan of salvation is simple, but living as a Christian is not. It wasn't simple for the disciples living some 2,000 years ago and it's not simple for you and I today. This is why you and I need Lent. Not because it's somehow good for our waistlines, but because it is good for our faith. To be reminded of what it means to be and live as a disciple. To take up our own crosses in life (whatever they may be) and to follow Christ, no matter how unpopular or inconvenient that it may be to us.

For you and I have a mission to fulfill in the world: to show the love of Christ in it and thus transform it. But it is a mission that is impossible if we are not first transformed ourselves. This is why we need community, which is part of the reason why we need the church. We need to wrestle with each other, to be stretched together as we grow, and to be strengthened by Christ. We need to be reminded constantly of our forgiveness in Christ. Of the forgiveness, we so desperately need to receive, and the forgiveness in him we are called to give.

So give up your chocolate and junk food if you wish during Lent if you feel that these things distract you from God and from your life in Him. (My guess is that they probably don't). But more importantly, may you grow this Lent in the knowledge of what you have yet to give, what you have yet to receive, what you have yet to learn, and as always of the immeasurable love of Christ Jesus our Lord. And may we all lose our lives for Christ's sake, for only in such dying, shall we rise and be given true and abundant life.

Peace,
Pastor Martha

March
2017



ELCA



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Worship: 10:30 a.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GLORIA DEI

March 1- 10:00 AM Quilter's Small Hall
7:00 PM Choir Practice
5:45 PM Soup Supper
6:30 PM Worship

March 6- Noon WELCA Executive Board

March 7- 7:00 PM Worship and Music Committee meeting

March 8- 10:00 AM Quilter's Small Hall
7:00 PM Choir Practice
5:45 PM Soup Supper
6:30 PM Worship

March 9- 11:00 WELCA

March 14- 7:00 PM Church Council

March 15- 10:00 AM Quilter's Small Hall
7:00PM Choir Practice
5:45 PM Soup Supper (GOLD HILL)
6:30 PM Worship

March 21- 11:30 AM Altar Guild

March 20- Articles for Newsletters Due

March 22- 10:00 AM Quilter's Small Hall
7:00 PM Choir Practice
5:45 PM Soup Supper
6:30 PM Worship

March 27- 7:00 PM Quilting for the St. James Foundation

March 28- 10:00 AM Quilter's Small Hall
7:00 PM Choir Practice
5:45 PM Soup Supper (GOLD HILL)
6:30 PM Worship

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY TEXTS

March 5
Genesis 2:15-17
Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

March 12
Genesis 12: 1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 12 1-4a
John 3: 1- 17

March 19
Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95
Romans 5: 1-11
John 4:5-42

March 26
1 Samuel 16: 1-13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5: 8-14
John 9:1-41

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

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

Soup suppers are Wednesdays at 5:45 PM *alternating between Gloria Dei and Gold Hill*, followed immediately by Lenten worship at 6:30 PM.

March 1 – Gloria Dei – 5:45/6:30 PM
March 8 – Gold Hill– 5:45/6:30 PM
March 15 – Gloria Dei – 5:45/6:30 PM
March 22 – Gold Hill – 5:45/ 6:30 PM
March 29 - Gloria Dei- 5:45/ 6:30 PM



All Wednesdays above are available to bring soup. Whichever soup supper you sign up for, please bring soup to that church. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the narthex. Thank you!

President Notes

Spring will soon be here, per the calendar its in 19 days to be exact! I often think that the calendar doesn't relate to those of us in Montana, but regardless Spring is on the way. Spring also means Lent and Easter are upon us. Plan on joining Pastor Martha and Pastor Tim at Gloria Dei and Gold Hill on Wednesday nights during lent.

It's been a honor and a privilege serving as your church council President for the last 2 years, now its time to pass on the torch to Ross Whelchel who will do a find job of leading us for the next couple of years. I however am not going far. I've agreed to take over as the treasurer from Deanna Johnson, who's done an amazing job, however is ready for a break! Thanks to you the members of Gloria Dei, thanks to Pastor Martha, but most of all thanks be to God for all that he gives us!

2017 Church Council

President – Ross Whelchel

Vice-President – Sunvee Rosenleaf

Secretary – Marilyn Krause

Treasurer – Janel Morgan
Bob Bentley Sr.

Jenna Sanders

James Hadley

SERVICE COMMITTEE PROJECTS



Dan & Kathy Sharon	March 7 th
Lynn & Lyle Nielsen	March 9 th
Bob & Pam Green	March 16 th



Tyler Andreas	March 1 st
Deanna Johnson	March 3 rd
Stephanie Stodden	March 4 th
Susan Madison	March 5 th
Dean Bentley	March 9 th
Bob Becker	March 10 th
Alaiya Arntson	March 11 th
Carol Gonzalez	March 13 th
Liberty Daugherty	March 20 th
Lorraine Smith	March 30 th
Beverly Hadley	March 30 th
Ashlyn McDaniel	March 30 th
Molly Bentley	March 31 st
Elizabeth Sagar	March 31 st

SERVICE COMMITTEE REQUEST DURING LENT

During Lent, rather than to give something up, let's add giving to someone less fortunate to our list of things to do! Each week listed below, please bring the following items for Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief:

March 5: Light-weight bath-size towels (maximum 52" X 27"), dark color recommended

March 12: Bath-size bars (4 to 5 oz.) of soap, any brand, in original wrapping



March 19: Adult-size toothbrushes in original packaging (Please donate toothbrushes that will last and not fall apart.)

March 26: Sturdy combs for any type of hair

April 2: Metal nail clippers (attached file optional)



April 9: Any of the above items we still need to make our goal! We'll keep you up to date!!

We have set a goal of 50 personal Care Kits for this year! Help us make this a reality or help us surpass it!

Old Irish Blessing



May the road rise up to meet you.
 May the wind always be at your back.
 May the sun shine warm upon your face,
 and rains fall soft upon your fields.
 And until we meet again,
 May God hold you in the palm of His hand.



This month and several following, “The Light” will be highlighting the committees that make up the working force of WELCA

The six committees and chairperson(s) in charge are as follows:

- Pick A Project - Florence Teller, Doris Schultz
- Quilters - Diane Kocher, Betty McDaniel
- Baptisms - Diane Delaney
- Care Package outreach - Paula Morgan, Diane Kocher
- Cookies for Nursing Homes - Gloria Dei ladies
- Coffee Fellowship - Betty McDaniel

Each chairperson reports their committee’s progress at WELCA’s monthly meeting.

This Month WELCA highlights Pick A Project the local missions here in Butte, Montana. About seven years ago Pick A Project came to life, so named because it gave individuals a chance to pick a project they would like to do and stay with that one project, whether it was sewing, knitting, crocheting, or donating materials if they had no time or talent for hand crafts.

Four facilities were picked to receive help as needed from the Gloria Dei WELCA. New Hope Pregnancy Clinic, Hospice, St James Hospital and Safe Space. A key person at each facility was picked to be a contact person and periodically inquiries were made as to their needs.

Since a monetary fund is nonexistent for Pick-A-Project this mission survives on materials that are donated for projects that are handmade.

For New Hope items such as receiving blankets, cuddle quilts, crib blankets, nursing cover-ups, etc. There is a constant request especially for flannel receiving blankets.

For Hospice requests continue, prayer shawls, neck warmers, lap robes, walker tote bags, bed blankets, adult booties.

For St. James Hospital, the Emergency Rooms uses cuddle quilt, receiving blankets for the infants and smaller children who come into the department hurting and often frightened. Numerous Prayer Shawls are distributed by the Chaplains at St. James, to those going through chemo therapy or surgery and oft time also to the member of waiting families.

Safe Space depends on donations from everyone at Gloria Dei. Their needs differ, they can use clothing, (children and adult) household items (dishes, cooking kettles, silver ware, linen, etc.) This is easy to understand when you realize some victims come to Safe Space with only what they are wearing. They are sometimes set up in apartments and need all the essentials. There is a constant need of health item.

WELCA is a staunch supporter of Lutheran World Relief and understandably proud of all the Quilts that are made, and the many kits compiled each year. But let’s not forget the local missions, and continue to support them also. The needs are many and they continue to be with us.

If you wish to be a part of Pick-A-Project please let Florence Teller or Doris Schultz know of your decision, there is yarn available if you can knit or crochet and would like to make a prayer shawl or a baby blanket or adult booties. If you would rather donate to the project, flannel is constant needed. If you have items to donate to Safe Space, there is a special shelf in the Quilting room for those.

Please keep Pick-A-Project in your prayers



March WELCA Cookies

- Paula Morgan
- Diane Kocher
- Midge Bentley

