

# Glad Tidings

March 2011



**Rafael**  
The Transfiguration

## Congregation Retreat

Dear Friends Through Christ:

Once upon a time there was a long line of ants marching up a hill—hundreds of ants—maybe millions—maybe even trillions. A grasshopper happened to be passing by, and said to the last ant in line, “Where are you going?” The ant replied, “I’m following the ant in front of me.” The grasshopper said to the next ant in line, “Where are you going?” The ant said, “I’m following the ant in front of me.” So the grasshopper went up the line asking each and every single ant, “Where are you going?” And they all said, “I’m following the ant in front of me.” Finally, the grasshopper reached the ant at the very front of the line. “Where are you going?” asked the grasshopper. And the ant in front of the line said, “I’m Lost!”

Ha! But doesn’t that seem to be the truth too often? We sometimes go through the motions not knowing where we are heading, but simply following, hoping the lead ant knows exactly where they are heading. Yet my friends that is not always the case! I know our purpose, according to Scripture, stating that we are to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We are to baptize and make known the Gospel of Christ Jesus in Word and Deed to the people around us. Yet sometimes even I just don’t know the best way to get there.

We as the Body of Christ are on this journey together! Yes, we have tried many things, some have worked rather well, others not so. Sure we must keep marching, but in what direction?

Therefore, on **Friday May 20<sup>th</sup>** around 6:00PM all of us ants will pack up their cars and follow each other to Lutherwald in Howe Indiana for the weekend. We will arrive at a beautiful facility right on the lake that can sleep up to 50. Then ALL DAY Saturday we will put our hearts and minds together and through the power of the Holy Spirit we will try as the Body of Christ to figure out together what direction we are heading. Anyone who cares about this Lampstand and wants to help plot Her future for the years to come is encouraged to attend.

Yet it won’t be all work. Friday evening there will be all kinds of snacks and refreshments with games and/or cards. Saturday morning we will be fed a wonderful breakfast and have some time to walk around and see this lovely Lutheran camp. We will also be fed lunch, and that evening all us ants will converge on Applebee’s for a nice dinner. Once again we will be fed breakfast Sunday morning, followed by a worship service, arriving back home before noon.

I am working on securing some funds from Lilly Foundation for the event, but even without funding, the cost should be no more than \$40 person for the entire trip! (Excluding the meal at Applebee’s)

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex of the church. Please make plans today to help keep Gloria Dei (Glory to God) marching in the right direction. Any questions regarding the retreat feel free to talk to me anytime. More details will go out to those attending as the time gets closer.

In Christian Love,  
Pastor David Trexler

## March Birthdays

|  |    |                     |    |                 |
|--|----|---------------------|----|-----------------|
|  | 1  | Joyce Popka         | 14 | Olga Dahlgren   |
|  | 2  | Jill Schaffenberger | 15 | Earl Schreiber  |
|  | 6  | Wallter Boldt       | 18 | Breanne Radolak |
|  | 11 | Dorothy Falk        | 20 | Joni Scherer    |
|  | 11 | Joseph Banek        | 23 | Robert Covault  |
|  | 11 | Christian Danner    | 26 | Ethan Schreiber |
|  | 12 | Carol Bieson        | 27 | Michael Riddell |
|  | 13 | Barbara Banek       | 30 | Keith Hawkins   |

## Serving in Worship Schedule

| Mar.        | Liturgist      | Reader          | Acolyte             | Greeter       |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------|
| 6           | Bev Arnold     | Bev Arnold      | Kyle Polster        | Carole & Olga |
| 13          | Doug Riddell   | Lauri Novak     | Raymond Pollalis    | The Adams     |
| 20          | Becky Tutto    | Matt Tutto      | Brown and Morsoriak | The Vates     |
| 27          | David Adams    | Charity Riddell | Brittney Choates    | The Glens     |
| <b>Apr.</b> |                |                 |                     |               |
| 3           | Debbie Thinner | Carole Fozkos   | Jonathon Armstrong  | The Talabays  |

## Repeating Monthly Events Schedule

- Men's Breakfast Club meets the first Saturday of each month at 8:00 am. Mar. 5
- Church Council meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Mar. 8
- Dorcas Circle meets the second Wednesday of each month at 9:30 am. Mar. 9
- Ladies Birthday Club meets the third Wednesday of each month at 11:30 am. Mar. 16
- The Prayer Ministry meets the third Thursday of every month at 10:00 am. Mar. 17

**All are welcome to attend these events!**

## A Letter From Joyce Partyka

Dearest Family at Gloria Dei,

This has been such a busy and exciting semester! I started off in January taking a course called Jewish-Christian Relations. We visited several synagogues and studied about what Jews and Christians are doing together and what we can do to help motivate more cooperative work. We then visited Washington D.C., talked to someone from Christians for Middle Eastern Peace (CMEP), and visited the Holocaust Museum. It was a very moving and educational experience.

The spring semester began February 1. I am taking Hebrew, Introduction to Worship, Old Testament, Church History II, and Ministry with Young Adults. I am so excited about these classes and working with the professors. The semester seems to be flying by already. Our seniors are receiving their regional assignments February 23, our middlers (second year students) are applying for internships beginning in August, and my classmates are applying for Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE). I will be having my CPE experience in Fort Wayne, Indiana at the Lutheran Hospital.

I have also begun work at a Ministry in Context (MIC) site. The site that I have been assigned to is in Pickerington, Ohio. It's about 15 minutes away from school. They are celebrating their 50th anniversary this year! It has been amazing to see the history of where they began to where they are now, not unlike the history at Gloria Dei! This congregation is rather large. They have three services, many youth in the youth group, and several really young children running around. They are very friendly and welcoming! It is exciting to be a part of their ministry!

At the MIC sites we are required to attend council meetings and worship planning meetings, help with confirmation classes, and assist in worship. These have all been good experiences so far and I'm so excited to see what is to come!

The past couple weeks have been a reminder to me that not everything in life can be planned. God has been showing me that sometimes I just have to let go and let God go to work. I've noticed that if everything went my way things would not always be for the best. As I have watched the angst of our seniors in not knowing where they will be assigned and the nervousness of our middlers curious as to who their internship supervisor will be I have been reminded that when the disciples were called they immediately followed Jesus not knowing where they were going, what they were doing, or what was going to happen.

I have also been reminded that no matter where I go I know that I have a church that gave and continues to give me support, love, prayers, and a good theological background. I come from a church that has prepared me to be one of God's servants and has taught me that I still have much to learn. I have all of you to thank for forming me to be the person I am. I thank you for the prayers, the cards, and the thoughts that you have all given me! You have all helped to shape me into the person I am today and I can't thank you enough for that. You have given me the experience of a loving and supportive congregation! I miss you all and am keeping all of you in my prayers.

I miss you all!

God Bless!

Love,

Joyce Partyka

## Gloria Dei March 2011 Events Calendar

| SUNDAY  | MONDAY   | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY                       | FRIDAY | SATURDAY   |
|---|--|--|---|--------------------------------|--------|--|
|   |  | 1  | 2   | 3                              | 4      | 5<br>8:00 am<br>Men's Breakfast Club<br>5:00 pm Worship Service<br>with Communion              |
| 6<br>10:00 am Sunday Worship with Communion<br><b>TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY</b><br>10:30 am to 7:30pm<br>11:00 am Coffee Hour<br>7:30 pm N/A Meeting                             | 7<br>7:00 pm<br>Lectionary Bible Study<br><br>7:30 pm<br>AA Meeting  | 8<br><b>SHROVE TUESDAY</b><br>5:00 pm - 7:00 pm<br>Pancake Supper<br><br>Council Meeting -<br>following supper | 9 <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b><br>9:30 am<br>Dorcas Circle<br>6:00 pm<br>Soup and Sandwich<br>7:00 pm<br>Service of Ashes | 10<br>7:00 pm<br>Tri-Kappa     | 11     | 12<br>5:00 pm<br>Worship Service<br>with Communion   |
| 13<br>10:00 am 1st Sunday in Lent<br>Worship with Communion<br>10:30 am to 7:30pm<br>11:00 am Coffee Hour<br>1-5PM Fellowship Hall (MacCartney Family)<br>7:30 pm N/A Meeting | 14<br>7:00 pm<br>Lectionary Bible Study<br><br>7:30 pm<br>AA Meeting | 15   | 16<br>11:30 am<br>Lady's Birthday Club<br>6:00 pm<br>Soup and Sandwich<br>7:00 Pm<br>Worship Service              | 17<br>10:00 am Prayer Ministry | 18     | 19<br>1:00 pm<br>Cappuzzi Memorial Service<br><br>5:00 pm<br>Worship Service<br>with Communion |
| 20<br>10:00 am 2nd Sunday in Lent<br>Worship with Communion<br>11:00 am Coffee Hour<br>7:30 pm N/A Meeting  | 21<br>7:00 pm<br>Lectionary Bible Study<br><br>7:30 pm<br>AA Meeting | 22   | 23<br>6:00 pm<br>Soup and Sandwich<br>7:00 pm<br>Worship Service  | 24                             | 25     | 26<br>5:00 pm<br>Worship Service<br>with Communion   |
| 27<br>9:00 am "The Greatest Story" study class<br>10:00 am 3rd Sunday in Lent<br>Worship with Communion<br>11:00 am Coffee Hour<br>7:30 pm N/A Meeting                        | 28<br>7:00 pm<br>Lectionary Bible Study<br><br>7:30 pm<br>AA Meeting | 29   | 30<br>6:00 pm<br>Soup and Sandwich<br>7:00 Pm<br>Worship Service  | 31                             |        |  |

## Musings from the Vicar's Den

Dear people so loved by God,

Greetings! So we can now say that we survived The Great Blizzard of 2011! This year is off to a sprint with surprises. I had a generous helping of both East and Midwest varieties. I hope that with the thaw of the snow (at least, as I write this looking at the sunshine through my window) that things are returning to some degree of normality for you. Personally, and I hesitate even saying this if the blizzard caused a ton of grief for folks (especially with areas of delay or safety), but I had an absolute blast! I enjoy when super-sized wrenches such as these are thrown into our plans, when we can but throw our hands up with a mandated city-sized pause and a smile, confessing, "I'm really not in control of this, after all." A delightful Rabbi Chaplain shared with me during training in New York, that people make plans and God laughs. Pastor David independently echoed these sentiments the following week, saying, "Want to see God smile? Make plans!"

You can read about coming weeks from Pastor's portion of the newsletter, but I would just like to echo that during Lenten midweek services, beginning with Ash Wednesday on March 9<sup>th</sup>, we'll be exploring some of the themes brought up in his new book, *Has Your Robe Been Washed?* We'll look at the book of Revelation, while drawing upon our own past, present, and future as a church. As we consider John's beautiful imagery and message to the churches, we'll also tie in some of those questions that tend to sit in the back of minds; questions about the end of days and what we believe and where our hope lies. As we journey with some glorious visions of heaven, we also journey the contemplative path to the Cross.

Along with Lenten soup suppers and midweek services, we've also recently begun delving into each Gospel text together for the following week, on Monday nights at 7:00 P.M. No excessive biblical knowledge or research experience necessary! We think out loud and brainstorm and ask questions. You can find inserts included with the bulletin, which give us some questions consider. A study like this keeps our gathering connected, offers new insight and preparation for the following Sunday Word, as we carry the Good News of Scripture into the challenges of the week. We hear to, "... put these words of mine in your heart and soul ... talking about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates..." (Deut. 11:18-20). This last time also ended about as beautifully as one could have hoped for: Hearing a passing testimony of new life, new opportunities, joy and thankfulness.

Our leadership summit begins on Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. I encourage all who hope and pray for the future direction of this church, as well as our outreach to the community and world, to attend. As the *priesthood of all believers*, we all have an equal share of ownership and growth, and I have incredible, *incredible* hope for the future direction of this church. Coming away with our findings and renewed focus from there, we will also put together a new sermon series for the month of June, bridging some of those themes.

And finally, we continue with our *Scrip* program, or giving "Glory to God through 'Vicarious' Stewardship." I'll continue to keep you posted on our progress with updates. It's been said in earlier stages this program is really a "no-brainer" (the Aramaic word for "airhead" was *raca* in Matt. 5:22 NIV), taking our everyday practices (practically *everywhere* we shop for what we need) and having a portion come back. Perhaps you feel like getting involved is just a little more complicated than that. We're working on making more payment options available to you (such as credit cards, too). Many of you know already I prefer to hang out with you throughout the week, catch up on your stories and prayer concerns, and stay connected to one another. I'd be more than happy to also guide you through and show you how to place your first order, or give it a little test run. For those that have already tried it out, maybe share your thoughts with others or share why it is you choose to buy your household essentials and other goods in this way. Don't hesitate to take advantage of this wonderful, easy program, and a further opportunity to plan finances ahead, especially remaining thankful to God for the everyday purchases we already make, because everything we've been given is already God's in the first place (be that time, talent, and provision). This is one thing we don't necessarily have to "give up" during Lent, but simply reimagine how we do it and how it might offer glory to God.

God's peace,  
Zach




## Glory to God Family and Friends Directory Phone Number Correction



Pam Daniels cell phone number is (219) 381-8227. There is not a 5 in her phone number!

Please mark this correction in your printed copy. If you find any errors in this directory please let us know so we can correct our data base. Also, If you see that your telephone number or email address is not listed and if you want it listed in the directory — put your information on a note and leave it in the offering plate, send an email message to the church office at < gdlc3711@sbcglobal.net > or call the church office at 838-5313.

Thank You

|   |  |
|---|--|
|  | <p>As of March 1<br/>2011 Golden Opportunities Coupon Books<br/>on sale for half price!</p> <p>\$13.00 per Coupon Book</p> |
|---|--|

## LENTEN SEASON 2011

Better get ready cause there's a rumor floating around that the world will come to an end in 2012! Something about the Mayan calendar coming to a close and shifting from one world to another. While most don't take this nonsense seriously (otherwise they probably would have quit their job and maxed out their credit cards), it's still a subject almost everyone seems fascinated with. Many of these radical predictions claim to have their roots in the final book of Scripture—Revelation.

**So when will the world end? What is Armageddon? Who are those four riders of the Apocalypse—the Beasts—the Dragon—the Whore of Babylon? What about the 1000-year reign of Christ and 144,000 in heaven? What is heaven like? Is the number 666 really the sign of the devil?** These and many other questions are answered in a new book entitled *Has Your Robe Been Washed*, written by yours truly. I have spent nine years interpreting the book of Revelation in a language that people may understand and learn that the Bible holds many truths making a difference in our life today.

So now is the time to strike while the iron is hot and society seems obsessed with the End Times talk. Therefore this Lenten Season beginning Ash Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> Gloria Dei (Glory to God) will be offering to the church and the community a series on the book of Revelation, using *Has Your Robe Been Washed* as its teaching guide. Each Wednesday we will gather at 6:00PM for Soup and Sandwich Supper. Following the meal and fellowship we will cover a different exciting aspect of Revelation beginning at 7:00PM, answering many of the questions people have on their minds.

I will do my part, with God's help, putting together a wonderful worship experience, trying my hardest to open up the most fascinating piece of heaven literature with meaning beyond our wildest imagination. I will also be contacting the local newspapers and radio stations making known our intentions of promoting the Gospel of the Slaughtered Lamb during this Lenten Season.

Yet I pray that each of you will do your part in this endeavor! First of all, make plans to attend each and every Wednesday! Second, make known what our Lampstand is offering by talking about it to your family members, friends, neighbors and your co-workers. Like I said, this is a unique opportunity for us to reach out into the community with the Good News of Christ Jesus. Let's not waste it, but invite all those we come in contact. You will learn a great deal about the Living Word of God and hopefully your life will be touched by the Holy Spirit through John's strange vision.

May the One seated upon the Throne,  
The Slaughtered Lamb,  
And the All Encompassing Spirit  
Bless you now and forever!



Don't Miss

Pastor David Trexler



**Also Fat  
Tuesday  
March 8  
5 to 7 pm  
Pancake  
Supper**

# Gloria Dei

## GLORY TO GOD

A House of Worship and Prayer  
Where **ALL** People Are Welcome.

Glad Tidings March 2011

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