

<b>WORSHIP LEADERS - MARCH</b>
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*As swimmers dare to lie face to the sky and water bears them,  
as hawks rest upon air and air sustains them,  
so would I learn to attain freefall, and float  
into Creator Spirit's deep embrace,  
knowing no effort earns that all-surrounding grace.*  
- Denise Levertov

**From the Pastor**

Dear Friends in Christ,

I first heard this poem ten years ago read by Marcus Borg, a biblical scholar who died in January. He and his colleague Dominic Crossan were leading a retreat I was attending, whose theme was, "Being Christian in An Age of Empire, Then and Now." Their sessions focused on the historical context of the bible, on the struggle of God's people in both Old and New Testaments in the midst of worldly empires, and especially on the *deep passion* that runs throughout the bible for justice.

"We sometimes make Christianity so complicated, thinking we've got to get it right, and rightness so often means right doctrine," Borg said. "But Micah reminds us of what is simple and profound." That day he was referring to the verse, "*What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God?*" (6:8). But he was also thinking of another passage about beating swords into plowshares, and the coming of peace through economic justice: "*They shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid*" (4:3-4).

This picture of economic stability brought to mind two others:

+ There are now 32 families that have moved into the CHUM O'Neil Apartments, we learned at the CHUM Annual meeting in late February, and four more are expected this month. Kitchens Gloria Dei sponsored are among the permanent supportive housing units for the chronically homeless. The 44 can openers we pulled together as part of the furnishings are being used. Both Pr. Mark Holman of First Lutheran Church, who was the keynote speaker at the meeting, and CHUM Director Lee Stuart, mentioned Micah's vision in their words. Both spoke of economic disparity, of the widening gap between the those who have and those who do without, but also of the inspiring work people of faith are doing together to make a difference. "The goal is remembering what we're about," Lee said, "loving one another as God has loved us."

+ At the Lake Superior Conference of our synod last month, Jodi Harpstead from Lutheran Social Services spoke about Bethany Children's Home, which opened in 1916. Leaders from Gloria Dei and other churches were involved from the beginning, with what Jodi said was the first LSS related

<b>ALTAR GUILD for the Month of</b> March is Jackie D. Pearl J, Alison S. Marlaire W. Corrine H. Judy O. Helen W. Elaine W. and Kathy W.		<b>March 1</b>	<b>March 8</b>	<b>March 15</b>	<b>March 22</b>	<b>March 29</b>
	<b>Organist</b>	Barbara Erickson	Mary Garner	Worship Band	Barbara Erickson	Mary Garner
	<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Madeline Pass	James Crane	Sue Anderson	Kathleen Gates	Tanner Hall
	<b>Sound Technician</b>	Doug Maguire & Scott Ruzich	Rick Troy & Scott Ruzich	Doug Maguire & Rick Troy	Steve Dalager & Scott Ruzich	Rick Troy & Scott Ruzich
	<b>Reader</b>	Janet Schramm	James Crane	Julie Jagim	Maury Aaseng	Marlaire Willms
	<b>Acolytes</b>	Sam Winesett & Katie Carlson	Journey A. & Shamayah J.	Molly Weberg & Shameka Johnson	Raine Amundson & Shakira Johnson	Martha Carlson & Maggie Winesett
	<b>Ushers</b>	Mark & Sue Pass	Linda Kalweit & Paul Steklenski	Sandy Johnson & Sue Anderson	Alison & Duane Stucke	Ed & Colleen Martin
	<b>Nursery Attendants</b>	Sherry Dalager	Stephanie Carlson	Daphne Amundson	Katie Erickson	Cara Weberg
	<b>Counters</b>	Lubov Willms & Janine Dahlquist	Rod Dahlquist & David Gangeness	Bob Forbort & Sharon Stenberg	Barb Renick & Joan Gunderson	Mary Gagnon & Rod Dahlquist
	<b>Coffee Servers</b>	Sherry Dalager	Eve Circle	Camp Sunday Youth Group	Linda Kalweit	Service & Justice
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Brett Amundson & Barb Renick	Brett Amundson & Munda Forbort	Brett Amundson & Chelsea Froemke	Brett Amundson & Carol Worthing	Brett Amundson & Craig Haugan	

ministry in Duluth, which later became Bethany Crisis Center and continues today to provide short-term emergency shelter for children and youth. On any given night she said there are now 120 youth are homeless in Duluth, spending their nights in doorways or cars, crashing on couches or trading sex for shelter. Three-fourths of them come from unstable situations where they were abused, neglected, or unaccepted. But along with LSS street outreach, the Renaissance House, life skills programs and health services, our ongoing partnership with LSS is meeting homeless youth where they are and providing stability at a crucial time. "Building the Center for Changing Lives by 2016 – 100 years after Bethany opened – is really about ending youth homelessness in Duluth," Jodi went on to say. "It is God's intention that all youth have abundant lives, the same God who says, I won't abandon you."

Micah's image of sitting "under their own vines and fig trees" may look different today, but *the passion of God* is the same. This month, we're invited to grow deeper in that same passion as God's people:

- + Wednesdays in Lent, beginning at 5:15 with soup, we're studying Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and, with Jim Bailey's book *Contrast Community*, its historical context and practical implications for justice and nonviolence today.
- + Evening Vespers at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays will include *icons of Jesus' passion*, on loan from John Dietz, for contemplation and candle lighting.
- + The *St. Matthew Passion* by J.S. Bach will be performed Mar 27 and 29 at First Lutheran by the Arrowhead Chorale and other choirs, directed by Stan Wold. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear the account of Christ's self-giving death faithfully and brilliantly through music. A special Saturday symposium that weekend will feature church historian Martin Marty.
- + The *Passion According to St. John* will be shared on Palm Sunday during worship, with readers who are committing to memory sections of John's gospel account for a performative reading.
- + We also celebrate *God's passionate love in Christ* as lived out in the lives of Bold Women (Mar 1), Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry (Mar 15), and the Radio Ministry Anniversary (Mar 22).

Marcus Borg trusted in the "buoyancy of God" – God's faithfulness and eternal embrace – as he engaged God's passion for the world. Let this trust also be ours as we continue this season of Lenten renewal.

See you in worship!  
+ Pastor David Carlson

to have one less thing to remember on Sundays. Forms for Simply Giving are available through the church office—722-3381.

**SYNOD CREATION CARE RETREAT, April 10, 11 2015 at Camp Hiawatha**

The Next Reformation: Good News for the Whole Creation (Mark 16:15)



The Northeastern MN Synod Creation Care Team invites you to participate in a special training retreat that will focus on:

*Earth-honoring Faith* - During the retreat, participants will learn about exciting creation care initiatives undertaken by congregations who received grants in 2014, will interact with a panel of representatives from state and local organizations devoted to a sustainable future, will engage in network mapping of the synod's current creation care network, encounter the 2015 Season of Creation (scriptural and liturgical resources for worship) and learn about grant possibilities and other ways to engage earth-honoring faith.

Here are some issues we will plan to address: graceful engagement on challenging conversations (e.g., oil pipelines, non-ferrous mining, water quality, or protection of endangered species).

The cost is \$60 per person, which includes dinner Friday night, overnight accommodations, and breakfast and lunch on Saturday. Scholarship assistance is available, especially for students. For registration form, see Pastor David.

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

*****			
*	1 ~ Deb Hannu	15 ~ Madeline Pass	*
*	3 ~ Judith Anderson-Bauer	15 ~ Mark Peterson	*
*	4 ~ Nancy Gangeness	16 ~ Jim Bailey	*
*	4 ~ Eldora Recksiedler	17 ~ Andy Johnson	*
*	6 ~ Judy Bailey	18 ~ Barbara Erickson	*
*	6 ~ Theresa Johnson	18 ~ Alison Stucke	*
*	6 ~ Donna Kallio	21~ Marianne Kjolhaug	*
*	7 ~ Gerald Erickson	21 ~ Stan Wold	*
*	8 ~ Karen Bockelman	23 ~ Harriet Starkey	*
*	8 ~ Pearl Johnson	26 ~ Brenda Lufholm	*
*	8 ~ Marlaine Willms	27 ~ Greg Stevens	*
*	13 ~ Teagen Tessier	30 ~ Marcia Troy	*
*	14 ~ Grace Birdseye	31 ~ Raine Amundson	*
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**WORSHIP WITH THE RADIO**

Live Radio Broadcast Sundays 10:00 a.m. on AM 710 - WDSM Radio

**OR STREAMING LIVE ON THE INTERNET**

1. Listen live using Windows Media Player: Download Windows Media Player for best software interface with the audio stream.
2. After opening up the media player, type CTRL U (Hold down CTRL key, then press U key) which will open a new window asking for "URL."
3. To play live audio stream, copy and paste the following into the URL window: <http://24.158.26.190:17543>.

*Note: you will only hear the live audio while the service is being broadcast, so if you are early just wait a few more minutes and try the link again*

**STEWARDSHIP****FINANCE REPORT THRU JAN 2015**

*Needed per month \$16,833; per week \$3,885*

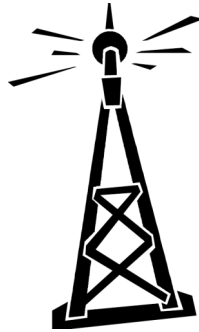
Envelope Offerings:

Budget, 1 month	\$16,833
Actual, 1 month	\$16,274 96.7%
Difference, <i>behind</i>	\$ 560

Our regular offering is a sign of worship and thanksgiving for all that God has done and continues to do. In our offering, we return to God a portion of what God has so graciously entrusted to us. *THANK YOU* for remembering your offering as a regular part of your worship!

**OFFERING ENVELOPES AND INITIAL OFFERING** - If you used offering envelopes as part of your giving last year, a new box has been assigned to you. Thanks for remembering to pick it up in the narthex. In your offering envelope box, the first envelope is called the Initial Offering. We are encouraged to put at least \$3.00 in that envelope to cover the cost of offering envelopes. Thank you!

**SIMPLY GIVING** - An increasing number of people at Gloria Dei are using Simply Giving, an automatic withdrawal process operated through Thrivent Financial. This process allows one to designate an offering amount and a schedule for giving automatically. Reusable laminated cards saying you give through Simply Giving are also available in the narthex to place in the offering plate, if desired. The Stewardship Committee encourages you to consider this method of giving, as it helps reduce the cost of envelopes and benefits Gloria Dei with knowing more consistently what electronic giving amounts will be. It can also be easier

**Sunday, March 1, 2015 Second Sunday in Lent**

*The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ* **Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16, Psalm 22:23-31, Romans 4:13-25, Mark 8:31-38**

**Sunday, March 8, 2015 Third Sunday in Lent**

*The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The ten commandments are one of the chief parts of Luther's catechism, a core piece of baptismal instruction. They begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods.* **Exodus 20:1-17, Psalm 19. 1 Corinthians 1:18-25. John 2:13-22**

**Sunday, March 15, 2015 Fourth Sunday in Lent**

*The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith, for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.* **Numbers 21:4-9 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22, Ephesians 2:1-10, John 3:14-21**

**Sunday, March 22, 2015 Fifth Sunday in Lent**

*God promises Jeremiah that a "new covenant" will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God's heart through Christ and draws God's light and truth into our hearts. We see God's heart most clearly in the way Jesus shares human suffering, in an agony both the John and Hebrews readings describe.* **Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 51:1-12, Hebrews 5:5-10, John 12:20-33**

**Sunday, March 29, 2015 Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday**

*The first and second readings and psalm are the same this Sunday every year: Christ emptying himself of divine power and protection, willingly becoming vulnerable to those who struck him and put him to death. With Christ we lament his suffering and all human suffering, but expect God's final vindication. Mark's passion story begins with an unnamed woman anointing his head, perhaps to proclaim him Messiah, and Jesus saying she has anointed him beforehand for burial. Mark's Easter story will begin with women going to anoint Jesus for burial, only to find that he has been raised, God's living Anointed One.* **Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16, Philippians 2:5-11, Mark 14:1-15:47**

### EASTER GIFTS

You may want to give a gift to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church on the occasion of Easter this year. You may choose to give a lily for the sanctuary. Each lily will be \$15.00. Or, consider giving a gift (any amount) to a ministry fund:



- Bukoba Parish
- Building Renovation
- CHUM
- Gabriel Project
- ELCA World Hunger
- Extra gift for the "General Fund"
- Ingrian Lutheran Church of Russia
- LSS Center for Changing Lives
- Mission Endowment Fund
- Neighborhood Breakfast Fund
- Nursery Fund
- Parish Nurse Fund
- Radio Ministry Fund
- Transportation Fund
- Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry Camp Fund
- Youth Fund

You may place your donation into the offering plate and be sure to mark it "Easter Gift" with a designation. All donations and forms must be received by Monday March 30, 2013. Please include this form with your gift. Lilies or gifts to funds may be given in memory or in honor and all names will be listed in the Easter Morning bulletin and the May Dei by Day.

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Gift: Lilly or Fund: **Circle One** : \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill in the information and drop this form into the offering plate with your donation, or fill it out, drop it off at the office or mail it to the church office. If you are mailing it in, please be sure to send it early enough to reach the office by the deadline. Thank you.

+ **Saturday, April 11** The Lake Superior Conference of WELCA will hold its Spring Gathering in Duluth. Mark the date and watch for further information.

+ **Saturday, April 18, 2015 9:30 - 11:30**

Hold the date! Our own Karen Bockelman will lead a Bible study "The Lord is (not only) My Shepherd: Beyond the 23rd Psalm" during a spring brunch All Together Now Gathering at Gloria Dei in the Lakeside Room. More registration information coming soon!

+ **Saturday, April 25, 2015 9:00 - 2:00 pm.**

Family of God Lutheran Church, Duluth, MN. Hold the date! Join many from around the region for a special Spring Conference. The topics discussed will include local energy work as well as the WELCA efforts to assist with the solar project in Haiti. This will be an informative day on how the women of the church can help make positive environmental changes through work on new energy sources in a variety of communities. Registration information was not yet available, but more information will head your way soon.

+ **Sunday, June 7, 2015** - Graduation Sunday, presentation of quilts to Gloria Dei high school graduates during the service. Plan to be there to recognize their achievements!

+ **Friday - Saturday, June 12 - 13, 2015**

Hold the date! WELCA convention at UMD! More specifics coming your way soon from the planning team

#### EVANGELISM - WITNESS

1) Proclaim God's saving Gospel of justification by grace for Christ's sake through faith alone, according to the apostolic witness in the Holy Scripture, preserving and transmitting the Gospel faithfully to future generations. 2) Carry out Christ's Great Commission by reaching out to all people to bring them to faith in Christ and by doing all ministry with a global awareness consistent with the understanding of God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of all.

**RADIO ANNIVERSARY, Mar 22** – We thank God for this ongoing opportunity of sharing the gospel through the Radio and through the Internet, and plan to celebrate 73 years on the air! You're invited to reflect on this valuable outreach: share a story, support a broadcast or a portion of the broadcast, gift a special gift of \$73 for the anniversary, consider learning what happens behind the scenes to be more hands on if you wish. Thank you for your prayerful support!

#### THANK YOU RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORS

It takes \$1000 per month to fund our ongoing Radio Ministry. Thanks to all who sponsor broadcasts and give regularly throughout the year. Gifts of \$230 to sponsor a Sunday or in any amount continue to make this an important outreach.

(Copper Top) averages 225 people per month who purchase food on the third Thursday of every month. For \$20.00 those purchasing a share will receive approximately two large boxes of food. Cash only, no checks or EBT cards accepted. You will need to bring your own boxes (laundry baskets work very well). There are no income guidelines. The Pantry operates from 5:30-7:00 pm. We depend upon volunteers to help with the distribution process. If you are interested in volunteering or have questions, please call First Methodist Church at 727-5021 or talk with Sue Anderson.

**NEIGHBORHOOD BREAKFAST, March 28** —All are welcome to join us for our free fourth Saturday Neighborhood Breakfast from 9:00-10:30 a.m. in the Hillside Room. To help, come early or stay late! 158 Plates served in December. All volunteers welcome!

#### **CLAYTON, JACKSON, MCGHIE DINNER - ONE SPOT LEFT**

Gloria Dei is among the sponsoring organizations for the Clayton Jackson McGhie Memorial (CJMM) fundraising dinner on March 28, 2015. The event is titled Honoring the Past, Building the Future and will be held at the Greysolon Ballroom. Funds raised will support scholarship endowments, workshops, in-services for the community, and guided tours/lectures/discussions of the Clayton Jackson McGhie Memorial and the events surrounding it. Gloria Dei has sponsored 2 tables of 8 for the dinner March 28, with a suggested donation of \$50 per person. As of this mailing, 1 spot is still open. Consider signing up for what will certainly be an inspiring event. For more information, speak to Maury Aaseng (464-0189) from the Service & Justice Team or Pastor Carlson.

#### **WELCA NEWS**

WELCA is open to all women of Gloria Dei! Please join us!

+ **March 1, 2015 - Bold Women Sunday** - We praise God for all the faithful women past and present whose lives point to the self-giving love of Christ our Lord. WELCA and Gloria Dei celebrate all the hard work and dedication of our amazing Altar Guild during coffee hour. Hear the Altar Guild story and thank them for all the work they do to make our worship services run smoothly. Cake will be served!

+ **March 15, 2015 - Executive Committee meeting during coffee hour** – Do you have new ideas for WELCA? Do you want to help plan and carry out our events? All women of Gloria Dei are part of WELCA so please do join us for our meeting and share in the fun and community of WELCA. All are welcome to participate.



#### **MINISTRY OF WORSHIP**

*Worship God in proclamation of the Word and administration of the sacraments and through lives of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, witness, and service.*

**SAMARITAN SUNDAY, Mar 1** – Thanks for remembering: 1) canned food items to help replenish the CHUM Food Shelf, which are brought forward as part of our offering. 2) Our loose cash offering on the first Sunday has for several years gone to the Gabriel Fund, a ministry started by Gloria Dei and other Central Hillside parishes and managed through CHUM, for direct assistance to the needy.

**EUCHARIST AT ST ANN'S, Mar 1.** Each month, Gloria Dei conducts a service and fellowship time at a senior residential home. This month, Pastor David is leading a worship service on Sunday, Mar 1, at 3:00 p.m. A fellowship day is planned for Mar 10 at 3:00 p.m. All are welcome to join us.

**CHOIR REHEARSAL, Mar 4** - Monthly on the 1st Wednesday each month at 7:30. The choir also rehearses each Sunday at 8:30 a.m. For more information, contact Stan Wold, Director of Music, 728-5925.



**ONE BREAD, Mar 15** - Thanks to One Bread, our worship band, for accompanying worship once a month. The next Sunday planned is March 15 with the "God Give Us Life" liturgy by Ray Makeever. Other Sundays, the liturgy will be accompanied with organ, piano, and choir. We thank God for the gifts of all musicians at Gloria Dei!

**LENT WEDNESDAYS 2015** - Mar 4, 11, 18, & 25

5:15 Soup Supper (Hillside Room)

5:45 Dwelling in the Word: "The Sermon on the Mount"

led by Jim Bailey and Pastor David with the book, *Contrast Community*  
7:00 Evening Prayer at the cross

**LENT WEDNESDAY SOUP SUPPERS** – please sign up to bring soup or bread near the kitchen.

**NEED A RIDE/ GIVE A RIDE TO EVENING WORSHIP IN LENT?**

Please note: No midday services are planned during Lent this year. If you would like to attend but need a ride in the evening, please call the church office. Also, if you can offer a ride to someone in the evening, please call the church office 722-3381.



### MINISTRY OF DISCIPLESHIP

*Nurture members in the Word of God so as to grow in faith and hope and love, to see daily life as the primary setting for the exercise of our Christian calling, and to use our gifts of the spirit for our life together and for our calling in the world.*

**INTERGENERATIONALSUNDAY SCHOOL, Mar 1** — “Holy Parables!” Jesus taught in parables, hearing events in which God’s kingdom breaks into our minds and hearts with surprising grace. Join us once a month for singing, bible dramas, crafts and conversations across the generations that will focus on parables. In March, we’re focusing on parables about forgiveness and God’s grace. See you there!

**ADULT FAITH FORUM** – All are welcome to join us at 8:45 in the Hillside Room before worship.

Mar 1 – Intergenerational Sunday School, see above

Mar 8 – “And Grace Will Lead Me Home” - The Prodigal Son in Art

Mar 15 – Voyageurs Lutheran Ministries with guest Exec Director Joel Abenth

Mar 22 & 29 – DVD discussion, Marcus Borg: “An Emerging form of Christianity Today” 2 Parts

**YOUTH CONFIRMATION CLASS, Mar 14 & 28.** In addition to discipleship practices of worship, prayer, and service, our youth confirmation program will focus on Luther’s *Small Catechism* and faith practices. *We meet every other Saturday from 9:00-10:30 a.m.* All families with students in grades 7 & up are welcome—please speak to Pastor Dave.

**LENT WEDNESDAY STUDY BOOK** – *Contrast Community: Practicing the Sermon on the Mount* by James Bailey (2013). This will be our focus for Lent Wednesdays, co-led by the author and Pastor David.

No portion of Scripture has been more influential in renewing church and society than Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. This book invites us into a transformative engagement with the text, the cultural context, and its meaning for us today. Its approach challenges faith communities not only to study the Sermon on the Mount but to begin practicing these radical teachings of Jesus.

All sessions on Wednesdays, 5:45-6:45 in the Hillside Room:

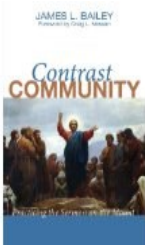
Feb 25: Freed from Nursing Anger (Matt 5:21-26)

Mar 4: Challenged to Value Women (Matt 5:27-32)

Mar 11: Trusted Truth-Tellers (Matt 5:33-37)

Mar 18: Risking Non-Violent Power (Matt 5:38-42)

Mar 25: Open to Enemies (Matt 5:43-48)



etc) for this event please talk to one of these members of the Service and Justice committee -- Maury and Char, Per and Elaine, Sue, Paul S., Kristen, Carol K.

**MINNESOTA FOOD SHARE MARCH** - March provides an unequalled opportunity for people to stretch cash and food contributions to local food shelves. Every donation receives matching incentive funds from the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign and the Feinstein Foundation. Cash donations are especially welcome. They allow the Food Shelf to take advantage of lower prices available through local vendors. The campaign begins March 1 and runs for the entire month, so March is the best time of the year to help stock the Food Shelf.



**CROP WALK - Sunday, March 8th /1:30 Registration / 2:00 p.m. Start.** Join us at the Bagley Nature Area and walk, ski, snowshoe, or sled to raise awareness and money for hunger-related issues, locally and abroad. For more information, contact Cynthia Coffin-Langdon at [ucm-duluth@gmail.com](mailto:ucm-duluth@gmail.com)



**CAN OPENERS** Forty-four plus can openers collected in one week. Quite an accomplishment. We’ve gotten the word. They are greatly appreciated and already being well used at the Steve O’Neil complex. Thank you for this support. We hear that there are 27 move-ins already and 13 more to follow the week of February 23. Families with a home, how wonderful is that!



**TAX PREPARATION SITE** - Gloria Dei will again be hosting one of the free tax sites in Duluth, beginning on Wed. Feb 4 from 12:00-5:00 p.m. Appointments take approximately ½ hour for a single return and 1 hour for a joint return. Call Donna at the church office for an appointment – 722-3381. This is a free service sponsored by AARP.

**SOAP SOAP SOAP** - WELCA is collecting soap again. The soap will be distributed by Lutheran World Relief to those in need of this life essential. You can give wrapped bars of soap and place them in boxes located in the Narthex or the Lakeside room. Thank you!

**RUBY’S PANTRY, March 19** - Now in its 5th year of providing low-cost groceries to the community. The First Methodist Church



friends course at Gloria Dei. Our Parish nurse monthly meeting included information on INSURE DULUTH which has helped hundreds of Duluthians sign up for health insurance. See me for more info. We also learned about the many services available through the LIGHT-HOUSE Center for Vision Loss. Since so many of us are experiencing vision loss, it is good to know there are tools and options here in our community.

Coming up in March, I will be attending the second in a seven month series on "Preserving Dignity and Purpose in Late Life" offered by UWS Center for Continuing Education. These training sessions are designed to improve the quality of life of older adults, especially those who are the "elite old" with multiple health conditions. March 25th I will be down in St Paul with the Minnesotans for Healthy Kids Coalition lobbying our legislators for bills that will assure active living, more physical activity and combat childhood obesity. If you would like to attend this free event, let me know.

#### **MARCH is:**

American Red Cross Month: [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

National Colorectal Awareness Month:

[www.preventcancer.org/colorectal](http://www.preventcancer.org/colorectal)

National Kidney Month: [www.kidney.org](http://www.kidney.org)

National Nutrition Month: [www.eatright.org](http://www.eatright.org)

**A Prayer of LENT** God of wilderness and water, your son was baptized and tempted as we are. Guide us thought this season, that we may not avoid struggle, but open ourselves to blessing through the cleansing depths of repentance and the heaven-rending words of the Spirit. AMEN

(from the RevGalBlogPals blog)

**NOISY OFFERING** On Palm Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> a "Noisy Offering" will be held. Please bring coins and all manners of clinking and jangling currency to place in the cans that will be passed around during the service. Start saving some loose change now, so we can really make a ruckus during the offering! The money raised will go directly to the ELCA World Hunger fund, so help us make a clatter for a cause that matters!

**HEARTY SALAD SUNDAY** The Service and Justice Committee is sponsoring a Hearty Salad Pot Luck after the service on Sunday, March 29th. Treat this as a Sunday Lunch out and give what you would have spent to help those in need of food. Proceeds from the lunch will go to ELCA World Hunger. Plan to stay and share a meal. If you are willing to bring a hearty salad (pasta, potato, vegetable, fruit,

Jim Bailey is Professor Emeritus of Biblical Theology at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. He and his wife Judy now live in Duluth and have been regular worshipers at Gloria Dei since last fall. We look forward to this rich opportunity for learning and growing in faith together! Books are not required for the sessions but will provide helpful insights for these and future conversations. Books are available at a discounted rate of \$15 – orders are in, and extras available from the author.

**CLASS FOR SEEKERS AND NEW MEMBERS** Sundays Feb 22 - Mar 22, from 11:30-12:30 in the Lakeside Room. This is for anyone interested in learning more about Christianity and the Lutheran Church, being baptized or confirmed as an adult, or joining our parish. Lunch and materials will be provided. We will be using the helpful booklet, *Baptized We Live: Lutheranism as a Way of Life*, by Dan Erlander, to guide our discussions. Our class will meet for five consecutive Sundays, and new members will be received at the Easter Vigil service on Saturday April 4. Current members also welcome for a review! If interested in attending, please contact Pastor Carlson so we can plan accordingly.

#### **VOYAGEURS LUTHERAN MINISTRY—OUR MINISTRY PARTNER**

*By Brett Amundson*

Gloria Dei has been a member congregation of Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry (VLM) for many years. From sending summer campers and summer staff to volunteers and financial gifts, Gloria Dei has supported the outdoor ministries at Camp Vermilion and Camp Hiawatha in various ways. The partnership has been and continues to be mutually supportive for both our ministries. This past summer Gloria Dei sent seven campers, one family and two staff members.



I attended the VLM **annual meeting** in February as our congregational voting delegate. While there were the usual reports, graphs, financial statements, and annual meeting business, there were a few unique items as well. VLM had a "very good year-by any measure" with solid income, reduction of debt and increased camper and retreat numbers. There were great stories and a DVD clip of VLM's brush with the big screen as Camp Vermilion played host to a Hollywood movie shoot. And the gathered group was excited as progress on the new dining hall project at Camp Vermilion was shared. You will hear more about this on Camp Sunday, March 15 when VLM's Executive Director, Joel Abenth, will join us.

**Camp Sunday** is coming once again on Sunday, **March 15**. This is our annual opportunity to hear from and talk with staff from VLM as well as a time to encourage families and campers to register for summer

camps. The youth will again lead a **cinnamon roll fundraiser** to cover Gloria Dei's camp membership, camper discounts and camper scholarships. Each year, this one fundraiser has been able to cover our membership fee and provided a camper discount as well for all of members attending one of these summer camps.

**RELIGION AND SCIENCE IN DIALOGUE, Mar 25** - 8 a.m. at Valenti's (London Rd). Through the College of St. Scholastica, Pastor Carlson facilitates a monthly discussion group in the community on the topic of Religion and Science. The group is lively and engaging and connects our readings with current events and daily life. Newcomers are welcome! For March, we're reading selections from *God and Evolution* edited by Mary Cunningham (2007).

#### FELLOWSHIP— "KOINONIA"

*Manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives.*

**MANY THANKS!** What a great Valentine Party! Thanks to all who helped make this a really joyful celebration. The food, prizes, workers, entertainment and all were greatly appreciated. Our friend, Terrence Smith, who adds such joy to this event says, "Thank you for your generosity and for your care for the community. It takes a whole village to throw a party to raise a child." What great fun for the child in all of us.

**GLORIA DEI QUILTERS** - will meet on Tuesday March 3 at 6:30 p.m. in the Lakeside Room. New comers are welcome. No sewing experience necessary. For questions, call Marianne Kjolhaug at 722-1493.

**LGBT ELDERS** - This group gathers for support and fellowship and plans to meet on a regular basis as part of Gloria Dei's Welcoming Ministries. For more information, please contact Kathleen Gates gatespea@centurylink.net or 624-4589. This month the group will meet on Thursday Feb 5, at 6:30 p.m. in the Youth Room.

**SWEDISH CULTURAL SOCIETY** will meet on Sunday March 15 at it's new start time of 2:30 in the Hillside Room. This month Nancy and Ken Lahti will present a slide show of "Midsommar in Northern Sweden and Finland".

**BOOK CLUB** - will meet the 3rd Monday each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Community Room. The book to read for March 23rd will be *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd. The selection for April will be

Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger and for May we will read *The Dance Boots* by Linda LeGarde Grover.

#### SYNOD WORKSHOPS – DON'T SAY NO UNTIL YOU KNOW -

Sunday, Mar 15th - 2:00-5:00 p.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Virginia.

Featuring keynote speaker Bishop Patricia Lull of the St. Paul Area Synod, "Discipleship Today." Workshop topics: Being an Effective Council President/Member (Brenda Wagner), Finances (Kathy Wimer), Synod Communication (Marilyn Hull), Conflict Resolution Skills (Vicki Taylor), Youth Ministry Planning (Catherine Anderson), Bylaws & Constitution Issues (Rollie Bockbrader), Bible 101 (Bishop Tom Aitken), and Mission Planning (John Dietz. There is no cost for attending, but registration is requested at 724-4424 or [www.nemnsynod.org](http://www.nemnsynod.org).



#### MINISTRY OF SERVICE

*Purpose: Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, and standing with the poor and the powerless and committing to their needs.*

#### CHAPLAIN'S REPORT - Patti Maguire

February is American Heart Month and perhaps you received a "Create in Me a Clean Heart" bookmark with words and reflections on heart health issues. Besides physical care for the heart, there are spiritual heart issues as well. During the Healing Service on February 8th, people who felt a need for healing of any kind came forward for prayer and anointing. Thanks to Bishop Tom Aitken for being part of this service. Please remember that God is with you whether your heart is ailing or breaking or pumping with joy. **You are a precious child of God.**

As winter slogs on, the Care Team continues to visit, pray with and bring communion to those who are ill or cannot attend church on a regular basis. Calls, cards and prayer shawls warm folks with the knowledge that we care about them. In addition the Health Cabinet arranges monthly worship and fellowship at local senior facilities. Ash Wednesday service was held at King Manor this month. We will be at St Ann's in March and at Edgewood Vista in April. Please join us.

During February, I was recertified in Basic Life Saving which is always good to know. If there is an interest, we could offer a family &