

HAPPINEWYEAR

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

ECCLESIASTES 3:11

JANUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

From the Desk of Pastor David Maxfield



Dear Friends in Christ,

Epiphany! Those sudden moments of insight, Aha, and wows that explode upon our mind.

Epiphany! A manifestation or showing of the divine such as on Mount Sinai, the visit of the Three Wiseman, the Mountain of Transfiguration, and the Upper Room.

Epiphany! A season of insight and discovery as God wows and wonders us with signs of his presence long ago and among us today.

I am excited to invite you into a Epiphany Exploration during the months of January and February. We will begin where our god-journey begins in the water and promise of Baptism on January 7-8. For the next two months we will explore the book of Acts together in worship and in partnered Bible Study as we ask some very important questions together:

- 1. What is God up to in this reading?
- 2. What is the intent of God in this reading? What is the intent of the people in this reading? Are they the same, are they at odds?
- 3. Where do you see God using people in this reading? Who are they? How would you describe them? How are they like you?
- 4. How did God surprise you in this reading?
- 5. What might this reading say to the Church today, to Gloria Dei, and to you?

Each week, beginning January 8th, 2 chapters of the Book of Acts will be shared in worship, online and mailed to those who request it.

Every week I ask that you read the two chapters and ponder the five questions.

Every week, I ask that you meet with a study partner for 30 minutes to share your insights, questions and pray for our ministry together here at Gloria Dei.

Every week, share your insights with each other at Coffee hour or on the boards in the Gathering Space.

On Sunday, February 26th, come to a **noon Pot-luck** after worship and we will share our **Epiphanies** drawn from prayer, study and conversation. We will spend some time thinking, praying and discerning what God is saying to us and calling us to do we walk by faith.

Individuals, couples, singles, families, young and old I invite you to this adventure of faith and Aha! Moments. I am confident that your faith will deepen, you will begin to see God active in your life in ways you never thought possible, and...., well let's leave that one open for the Holy Spirit.

The **Epiphany!** Bible study is the first step in our congregational renewal process. Our ministry is grounded in prayer, Bible Study and listening — to God, others and our community. As we do this we will discern together glimpses of God's dream and mission for our congregation. I am excited to open God's Word with you in this special way in the coming weeks. I know you will have questions, so will I, so let's talk, and let's open our heart and minds to Epiphany! Those moments of insight and aha! When God bursts into our midst.

Shalom, Pastor David

Dear Members of Gloria Dei,

Please join us the weekend of February 4, 2017 to hear the Rev Robert Lee Berger speak at all the services about a ministry providing direct relief to the poor throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

Pastor Berger will share personal witness about Food For The Poor's mission to care for the destitute as a means of living out the Gospel mandate to love one another.

The Reverend Robert Lee Berget was ordained June 15, 1969 in St Paul Lutheran Church, Reading Ohio. Since August 2011, after more than 40 years servicing in ELCA parishes in Ohio, Pennsylvania and Florida, he has been privileged to be a speaker for Food For The Poor.

Pastor Bob lives in Orange City, Florida with his wife Connie. They have two grown and married daughters, also living in Florida, with five marvelous grandchildren.

Please join us in welcoming Pastor Berger. Thank you, Pastor David Maxfield

January Bible Study

God Sightings: Epiphanies in the ordinary as discovered in the Book of Acts Sunday mornings in the Family Room

Join Pastor Dave as we journey into the book of Acts looking for the God Sightings: "moments of God's presence." Discovering how God works in the time of the disciples can shed light on how God desires to be among his people today. This is a part of the congregation-wide Renewal Bible Study which will be introduced at worship on January 7-8.

> Introduction to Acts and the epiphanies of God (Acts 1) Jan 8 - 9:40 am Jan 15 - 9:40 am Epiphanies in the morning and afternoon (Acts 2 & 3) Jan 22 - 9:40 am **More God Sightings (Acts 4-5)** Jan 29 - 9:40 am If God can use Steve... (Acts 6-7)

There are increased needs in our community for assistance with food, clothing, shelter, heat, and gas. With approval from the Executive Committee, the Evangelism Committee has committed \$1200.00 from our crisis fund to Community Connections which will be combined with funds from other nonprofit companies to help meet these needs. With the anticipated harsh winter and new people moving to our area, much more help is needed! The Evangelism Committee is asking members of Gloria Dei to consider donating funds to match the \$1200.00 given to Community Connections demonstrating our commitment to our community and our appreciation for the opportunity to serve others. Donations towards matching funds for Community Connections will be collected through the end of January 2017. Your generosity is so appreciated! Thank you!



Please note on check/envelope Community Connections.



The 2016 Williston Area Christmas Closet

The Christmas Closet has closed its doors once more on a successful 2016 event! This year we had almost 230 people total come and shop all the donated items between our Saturday and Wednesday shopping events. We know most of those shoppers were looking for items for 2-3 people, but many were shopping for more than that. In fact, we had one grandmother shopping for 16! Again, just imagine the hundreds of people the Christmas Closet has impacted. All the children, parents, grandparents, neighbors and friends who opened up gifts on Christmas that otherwise might not have had presents to open. We can't express our gratitude enough for all of the donations, prayers, and volunteer help with which Gloria Dei has blessed our "little" project.

Thank you to the Council and congregation of Gloria Dei for all of your generosity and amazing help with the 2016 Christmas Closet! From allowing us to use the church for this wonderful event, to providing a muchneeded hot meal to so many of our shoppers; from donating cookies for refreshments to donating items from your homes for others to enjoy; from helping set the items up for our shopping events to helping our shoppers find the treasures they could gift to loved ones. We are grateful for each and every one of you. We would also like to give a special thank you to the wonderful youth group and confirmation kids from Gloria Dei and First Lutheran for their help in organizing items, wrapping gifts, loading boxes into shoppers' cars, and the help in packing things up at the end of the event. You were amazing!

Keep an eye out for items you can donate when we reopen the Closet doors again in November 2017!

Karen and Ashley Weisz



December Memorials

In Memory of Betty Solem & Esther Haagenson

in Memory of Betty Solem & Esther Mangenson	
Lloyd & Jill Haagenson	50/50 Fund
In Memory of Oliver Bekkedahl	
Harold & Arlene Tvedt	50/50 Fund
Etta Miller	50/50 Fund
In Memory of Beth Selle	
Stan & Shirley Lyson	50/50 Fund
Lori & David Geltel	50/50 Fund

January 2017

GDLC YOUTH GROUP NEWS

HAPPY NEW YEAR! In January, 412 Youth will begin the Grapple 4-part unit on KIDS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN.

Grapple (412 Youth: Grades 5-7) 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Wednesday, January 4 – Why Can't I Go to PG-13 Movies? (God's Guidelines for Making Good Movie Choices)

Wednesday, January 11 – What Would Jesus Play on His IPod? (God's Guidelines for Making Good Music Choices)

Wednesday, January 18 - NO 412 YOUTH

Wednesday, January 25 – Is God a Party Pooper? (God Encourages Celebration)

Wednesday, February 1 – Can Being a Christian Ever Be Fun? (Friendship with Jesus is Fun)

8-12 Youth Group: (Grades 8-12) from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Sunday, January 1 No Youth Group and Happy New Year!!!

Sunday, January 8 Quelf & night of board and card games

Sunday, January 15 Mafia

Sunday, January 22 Zombies Apocolypse

Sunday, January 29 Electricity game, ping pong and air hockey tournament

Call Melissa Meyer at 770-5443 if you can bring snacks for January.

We need volunteers to help make the youth groups run!!! Maybe it is one Wednesday a month, or all you do is organize games, bring snacks, promote youth group activities etc. To help with Grapple/412 Youth, contact Wendy Slotsve at 770-3330 or Bobbi Gathman at 406-262-3775 and for 8-12 Youth Group contact Deb Kemp at 770-1997



E-Mail

For 8-12 youth group this is the E-mail (gloriadeilutheran@ymail.com) that is used to keep you up to date of what is going on for this group!! If you are not receiving an e-mail please send an e-mail to this e-mail address and you will be added!!

Call Committee Update

Your Call Committee has been busy with the process of calling an Associate Pastor to Gloria Dei. We have interviewed a potential Pastor and for reasons out of our control she will not be joining us at GDLC. We will continue to be vigilant in this search and will wait for the right time in accordance with Gods plan.

As a committee we each individually pray at 7:00 am daily for our committee as a whole, for our congregation, for the Synod office and for any potential candidates. We invite and encourage you all to join us either at 7:00 am or any time of day that works for you. Thank you for your support.

Call Committee: Pastor David, Deb Kemp, Lisa Hanson, Carl Zeman, Deb Solomonson, Alberta Parisien, Cody Jeannotte, Wendy Slotsve, Wayne Colebank, Karen Olson & Drew Robinson

January

01/01 RICK BONSNESS LELAND BOSTROM MARILYN ROOKS RUSSELL SOLBERG

01/02
BRAYDEN BORRESON
CARTER BORRESON
GRACIE BORRESON
KEIRA BORRESON
CAROLE HEALY
BARBARA OVERLAND
JOHN SALVEVOLD
ROSE SLETTE

01/03 BONNIE KOLDEN DAXTON MURPHY GARRETT SOLBERG

> 01/04 DIANE NELSON BERT STORLIE

01/05 DEAN BENTH BROOKE STUNDAL JOAN THOMPSON JAREK WIGNESS

01/06 LISA BORRESON TAVIA OVERLAND

01/07 BARBARA HAUGSDAL NICK LIPPERT PHILIP RABON

01/08
PAUL AABERG
JOAN BEKKEDAHL
DICK MCKENNETT
DOLORES SCHNEIDER
KAYLA SWENSON
JAMAR WALTON

01/09 ALLAN GREENFIELD HAYDEN OWAN LACEY PETERSON TERRI WILDER

01/10 DAKOTA COTTAM 01/11
AUSTIN ANDERSON
BETTY HEGGE
COLTON LARSON
MCKENZIE LARSON
EVERHETT ZIEBARTH

01/12 TRAYCE BURWELL BILL CHRISTENSEN RICHARD LUDWIG JASON THOMPSON

01/13 CHARLES LOTVEDT TYLER SCHAAN SEAN STUDSRUD

01/14
ASHLEY FAGERLAND
CALLIE NASS
JAXON VONDALL

01/15 JEREMY BAKKEN JESSICA VESTAL

01/16
MATT LLEWELLYN
WYATT LLEWELLYN
KEITH OVERLAND
BRITYN WALLIN
DUFFY WEYRAUCH
CAROLYN WHITECLOUD

01/17 BURNETTA FAGERLAND MELANIE STILLWELL RYLAND STILLWELL

> 01/18 KAREN GARAAS SHAWN HOLM MACK JOHNSON

01/19
KALLYN BRUNELLE
KAYLEEN CHARBONNET
LARRY OLSON
JORDAN PETERSON
GABE SLOTSVE

01/20 TARA IRGENS

01/21 HADEN BERGSTROM DOLAN NELSON 01/22 JOSHUA BLOXHAM BRAXTON HANSON LUKE REEB TONYA THOMPSON

01/23 CHAZ BAKKEN LOREN SANDVOLD

01/24 KIM ENGEN SOPHIA FRITSCH

01/25 DEB KEMP DIANA MURPHY

01/26 ALAN CLARK ALISON MISCHKE KIRK SOISETH

01/27
COLTEN HANSEN
SID HAUGE
JANELL MCKECHNIE
KEYTON OPSAL
JIM SEMINGSON
LACEY SIME

01/28
CRAIG ANDERSON
DOROTHY BOSTROM
CHERYL HAUGENOE
LANELL LEDOSQUET
MARG MCKENNETT

01/29 DEBRA OAS

01/30
EMILY ALTON
SKYE CARRAWAY
JACOB GOFF
KALEB GOFF
SCOTT STUDSRUD
TIM VADER
ROBYN WADE

01/31 BRENDA COLLINS AUBREY NASS CHASE A. OLSON



Gloria Dei Sunday Schedule

8:30 AM Traditional Worship

9:30 AM Gloria Dei Coffee Hour

10:45 AM Contemporary Worship

JANUAF

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
1 Worship - 9:30 AM Happy New Year	2 Church Office Closed Sorry WE'RE CLOSED	3 Executive Committee - 5:30 PM	4 Dinner Confirmation Church School - 4:12 Youth - Glory Band -
8 Sr High Youth Group - 7 PM	9 GDLC Work Night - 5:30 PM SOS - 7 PM TCC - 7 PM	10	11 Dinner Confirmation Church School - 4:12 Youth - Glory Band -
No Church School Girl Scouts - 7 PM Sr High Youth Group - 7 PM	16 No School	17	18 No Church School Glory Band -
22 Sr High Youth Group - 7 PM	23 SOS - 7 PM	24 Lions - 5 PM Worship Committee - 6 PM Parish Ed Committee - 7:30 PM	25 Stewardship Con Dinner Confirmation Church School - 4:12 Youth - Glory Band -
29 Girls Night Out - 6 PM Sr High Youth Group - 7 PM	30	31	

Faith Lutheran Sunday Schedule

10:00 AM

Worship

Gloria Dei Saturday Schedule

5:00 PM

Worship

RY 2017	
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ı	Thu	Fri	Sat
5:30 - 6PM 6 7 PM 6 - 7 PM 6 - 7 PM 8 PM	5	6	7 Bible Breakfast - 8 AM
5:30 - 6PM 6 7 PM 6 - 7 PM 6 - 7 PM 8 PM	12 Council - 6:00 PM	13	14 Bible Breakfast - 8 AM
l 8 PM	19 Evangelism Committee - 6 PM Gideons - 5 PM	20	21 Bible Breakfast - 8 AM VES - 8 AM - 2 PM
m - 7:30 AM 5:30 - 6PM 6 7 PM 6 - 7 PM 6 - 7 PM 8 PM	26 Property Comm - Noon	27	28 Bible Breakfast - 8 AM

Lord, what would you have us do???

Happy New Year! What are your plans? The beginning of the year is like a painter with a blank canvas in front of them, there are endless opportunities to live the Good News of Jesus Christ in your community.

The beginning of the year is the perfect time of year for a church council and rostered leaders to lead the congregation in setting goals for ministry together. Some great questions to talk about are:

-What is the most important thing we do as a congregation?

(Believe it or not looking at your congregational constitution can be helpful because it defines why your congregation exists.)

- -Since time is a limited resource, how do we want to encourage members of the congregation to spend their time in faith-building activities?
- -How will our congregation help people deepen their faith in Jesus?
- -What can our congregation do to help people connect their faith and daily life?

You will notice this is a forward looking activity, pushing the council and pastor to lead conversation, listen closely and to be responsible for setting a course for the congregation.

Can we really dream a new dream???

Filling a blank canvas begins with noticing. What has changed in your community? In your congregation? What are the resources God has provided? Assets are more than money, they include people, your space, equipment, and financial resources. What are the passions of people around you?

Someone much smarter than I has written that God has provided us with absolutely everything we need to do the ministry God has set before us. In other words, God is not expecting us to do anything that God has not already provided the tools with which to accomplish the ministry.

All of this is about sharing the Jesus story with others. We do it through our words and our actions. Our churches exist to "Tell the old, old story..." both within our congregations and through the people who are the members.

Annual Review...

Believe it or not what you do at the beginning of the year to lay out the priorities and goals of your ministry is the starting point of an end of the year annual review. Synod staff often get phone calls in late November or early December asking if we have material to help a council do pastoral evaluations. Evaluations are best done when congregation and leaders have spent time setting goals — it is in light of those goals or priorities that our ministry together is evaluated.

Evaluation helps a congregation access what has been done well, where have positive steps been taken, what did not work well. It allows us to ask why somethings worked well and others did not.

Synod Council to Meet...

The Western North Dakota Synod council will meet February 10 & 11 in Minot. If you have items that you believe should be addressed by council give me a call.

At this meeting your synod council will be making adjustments to the 2017 budget and approving a budget for 2018 which will be presented to Synod Assembly for conversation. We will also engage conversation around openings in our synod and talk about raising up new leaders.

Constitutional Changes...

At the end of November notice was sent to all of our congregations about proposed changes to the synod constitution. Those changes will be voted on at our synod assembly this coming June. Please take time to review the documents. A link to the documents can be found on the front page of the synod web site.

God's Blessings to all of you in the New Year! May Christ's light continue to shine in your life.

Rev. Mark Narum

Serving as Bishop of the Western North Dakota Synod



November Financials

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General Checking Account:	
Nov 1 2016 General Checking Account Balance	204,016.74
November Offering	+28,780.46
November Expenses	(28,830.44)
Nov 30 2016 General Checking Account Balance	\$203,966.76
Special Checking Account:	
Nov 1 2016 Special Checking Account Balance	263,716.93
November Specials Offering	+19,174.23
November Expenses	(14,477.56)
Nov 1 2016 Special Checking Account Balance	\$268,413.60
Benevolences:	
WND Synod—ELCA Benevolence	1583.88
UMM Bible Camp Benevolence	226.26
Bethel Lutheran Home Benevolence	158.39
Lutheran Social Services Benevolence	113.14
WND Synod– WND Benevolence	<u>181.01</u>
Total Benevolences for November	\$2262.68
Thrivent Mortgage Payment	\$6552.00
Building Loan Balance as of Nov 20th, 2016	\$261,115.90

November Council Meeting Highlights

Committee Reports –

Pastor's report - Renewal team recruitment is progressing.

Evangelism - Food pantry use is down but Veteran's use is up. Made a donation to Community Connections to provide 10 Thanksgiving meals.

Property - Work night is 2nd Monday of the month. Painting the parsonage on 11/14 at 6:00 p.m.

Worship - Thanksgiving Eve service is November 23rd at 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve services are 3:00, 5:00 and 9:00 p.m. Unified service on Christmas Day and New Years Day at 9:30 am.

Stewardship - Doing a follow up on the Celebrate Generosity Program.

Parish Ed - Asking Council member if they would be willing to help with Wednesday night dinners, serving and helping with clean up. Combined Christmas program is Sunday, December 18th @ 9.45.

Nominating - Open positions for council

Parish Education - 2, Evangelism -1, Property - 1, Stewardship - 1, Worship - 2, Youth - 2 one adult and one youth, Vice President and Secretary

Call Committee - Very active and preparing for the next phase of the process.

Blood drive will be held at the church on December 11th 12:00 - 5:00.

Christmas Closet will be held on December 10th and 14th.

Faith Lutheran

Church

	Jan 1	Worship	10:00 AM
	Jan 8	Worship	10:00 AM
_	Jan 15	Worship	10:00 AM
	Jan 22	Worship	10:00 AM
	Jan 29	Worship	10:00 AM
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Faith News January 2017

Bill Christensen

Jeremiah 29:11-12 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you."

One of the chief ways God works to bring good into people's lives is thru the community of faith, the fellowship of saints, the church. Does God have plans for you? God has plans for all of us and wants that we should come to Him in prayer so that we will know His plan. We don't need to make New Year's Resolutions which we usually don't keep very long. We only need to listen to God. We help one another, not because we are doing or want to do "good works" to somehow earn our salvation, but because Jesus came among us to teach us how God wants for us to live, to help each other and to love all people. It is what our Lord Jesus would have us do. We hear it all the time: I couldn't have made it without the help I got from the church with a food basket and their support. My friends in my bible study really came thru for me when I having surgery and I could feel the power of their prayers as I recovered.

One way God is helping all things work to the good for those who love Him is to work thru those who love Him. Let us resolve to make 2017 the year we listen to God plans for us and make this year one that the angels in heaven will sing about!

Have a Blessed New Year!

Faith's Annual Meeting - January 22nd following worship

- Potluck dinner following the annual meeting.

 Faith LCW will meet January 7th @ 10 AM Place: Lillian Stro
- Faith LCW will meet January 7th @ 10 AM Place: Lillian Stromme's home.
 Bible study leader Joanne Njos
- Cleaning in January Joanne & Naomi Njos



Update on Stewardship Committee.....

- 1. A follow-up letter went out to thank those that the church received financial commitments from and to those members that we hadn't heard from. If you received a pledge card and have not taken the time to fill it out, we ask you to do so and please return it to the church office.
- 2. Above & Beyond We received the money for the doors in the fellowship hall & kitchen. Currently we do not have any projects that need funding, but watch the above & beyond board for future projects.

The Stewardship Committee - Wendy McGinley, Kent Reierson, Rick Clemes, James Bervig & Alberta Parisian



Community onnections

Working together to be a community where all people are valued.

"Baby, it's cold outside." These are very familiar song lyrics made famous by Nate King Cole. This time of year we know that to be very true here in Williston, ND. The cold weather also means there are more people coming to Community Connections for assistance. We are currently providing assessment of clients for six churches in Williston. In September we saw 36 clients, 8 of which were homeless, that requested help with 56 needs. In October we saw 54 clients, 9 of which were homeless, requested help with 68 needs. In November 56 people came to us with 102 needs. Nine of those 56 were homeless. As of this writing, December 8 we have met with 23 clients, 4 of which are homeless, that have requested help with 34 needs. The assistance people are asking for includes food, rent, lodging, utilities, medicine, gasoline and a whole variety of other needs.

In many cases we are seeing people that had jobs or came here because they feel they had been promised a job and are now finding themselves without employment and no place to live or in danger of losing their home. With no emergency shelter and resources at both churches and social service agencies stretched the word cold takes on two meanings. Community Connections not only provides guidance to resources but also a welcoming place where someone will take the time to listen. Many of the people we see come in feeling desperate and scared. It is one of our goals they leave our office feeling calmer and cared for.

We conducted a survey of all churches in Williston this past fall. We asked each church two questions. Do you provide anything special for Thanksgiving or Christmas for people in need?" and "If so, what is it you provide?" We created a flyer with a listing of what was available and it was sent out to all the churches and social service agencies.

We are also very busy planning for the Point In Time Count scheduled for the end of January. This a nation-wide count of people living without adequate shelter or outside conducted by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Community Connections serves as the area coordinator for the ND Coalition for Homeless People and will be coordinating with social service agencies, churches and others that serve people in need to conduct a count of people living without adequate shelter. We will be asking for volunteers to help with the effort. Watch the church bulletin for ways you can be part of this important day or contact us at 701-713-6783 or communityconnectionswilliston@outlook.com.

As we enter a new year it is customary to reflect on the year that just passed and look to the future. At Community Connections we serve people in need to help them look toward a future filled with the hope of Christ. We also pray you live in our Lord's hope every day.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Romans 15:13.

Your Sister in Christ, Lynea Geinert, Deacon Community Connections

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Gloria Dei Council

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Kami Dornfeld

Evangelism

Lori Hahn

Property

Frank Weisz

Mark Telehey

Stewardship

Wendy McGinley

Worship

Linda Clemes

Youth Committee

Wendy Slotsve

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