

WEEKLY WORD



A Publication of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Urbandale, Iowa

April 22, 2007

The Third Sunday of Easter

Comfort Moving

by Karen Kennedy, staff

Last week Pastor Meyer encouraged us to look for God sightings. As I followed his suggestion, many God sightings were spotted. For example, a couple that I had known for years had lived in the same house for most of their married life and talked about moving for years. Finally last year, they took a huge leap of faith to build a house that would hold their growing family. Although they were extremely apprehensive about the building process, they were thrilled when they actually closed on Friday with a lower interest rate than expected.

God was also sighted by Marilyn Newman as she wrote about the following incident:

Today Earl and his brother Paul were seeding grass at a farm southwest of here toward the Anita interchange when Paul's tractor got mired in mud up to the tractor's belly. Earl's tractor couldn't drag him out, but just then a younger farmer with a bigger 7520 John Deere came along and saw their predicament, and did the job with apparent ease. And, of course, farmers always tow for free. . . including for other farmers. Earl and Paul were really glad to see him. Sometimes God sends us angels that drive the green and yellow!

God is extremely personal on how he deals with individuals. A new house or a green and yellow tractor may not be the answer to your prayers, but it sure was for these couples. If we only look, we can see numerous sightings of God.

Today's sermon, "Moving with God Out of Your Comfort Zone," will add to the truth that God is always present; however, periodically, he will move us beyond our established boundaries.

Take, for example, God's concise instructions to Jonah about going to Nineveh. God's instructions left no room for private interpretation, yet Jonah decided God's plan was a bad idea, so he

went the other direction. No problem. God won't notice. After all, it is just a minor deviation from the plan and perhaps he can discuss this option with the Lord again tomorrow. Besides, God should have known Jonah would have resisted such orders—Nineveh was not on Jonah's top-ten vacation spots.

As we know, Jonah was met by some unexpected danger, which literally swallowed him alive. Jonah is now in darkness—the only light that he knew was miles back and he fled from that source. Then somehow, somehow, the light showed up in his darkness and rescued him. He deserved darkness and yet received light.

God has not changed; unfortunately man has not changed either. We still play the same game as Jonah. We constantly avoid, change, and ignore God's promptings. He tells us to go right, we go left; he tells us to love, we hate; he tells us to move, we stay; or he tells us to stay, we move. Either way, we have a great tendency to forsake the Lord's instructions and stay within our self-defined comfort zone completely ignoring his promptings. And yet somehow, God who is always present, finds a way to help us, and gets us back on the right track even when it is out of our comfort zone.

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Sermon Notes

- 1) The call to move beyond our comfort zone comes from one who loves us.
- 2) The call to move outside our comfort zone is for a noble purpose.
- 3) The call to move outside our comfort zone won't be easy.
- 4) The call to step out of our comfort zone requires a response.

Confirmation Sunday

Confirmation will be held Sunday, May 6 at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. To graciously host the confirmands and their families, the following services and locations will be offered:

- 7:45 a.m. Traditional worship in the Sanctuary
- 9 a.m. Traditional-blend worship in the Family Life Center
- 10:30 a.m. Contemporary-blend worship in the Family Life Center

Please note: The 10 a.m. contemporary worship service in the Family Life Center will be combined with the 10:30 a.m. contemporary-blend service on Confirmation Sunday.

Executive Director Position

In the last several years, Gloria Dei has had a steady increase in attendance and membership. For example, our average worship attendance in the last three years has increased by 214. As we begin to develop into a larger congregation, the Governing Board has recommended adding a staff position of an Executive Director, which will help with the upward growth trend of our congregation. As they reviewed the trend, our staff and the current structure of Gloria Dei, it became apparent that a full time position is needed to help monitor and oversee the daily activities and details of Gloria Dei. Therefore, the administrative responsibilities currently held by Pastor Burcham will be transferred to this new position. Thus, it will allow Pastor Burcham to focus all his energy and time into the vision and ministry of Gloria Dei.

“I believe the new position will help us to become better stewards of what God has given to us,” said Pastor Burcham. “It will allow me to develop and help Gloria Dei with the big picture of where we are going and why.”

As of April 22, we will be accepting applications for this position. The qualifications are as follows:

- Degreed, preferably in business administration.
- Accepts the core beliefs and values of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church.
- Has a minimum of five to ten years experience in business management and organizational leadership.
- Has a proven leadership style which motivates and brings out the best in people.
- Possesses excellent oral and written communication skills.
- Demonstrates a passion for the mission of the Church.
- Is or is willing to become a member.

For more information or to submit a resume, please go to our Web site and click on job-posting link.

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Governing Board
276-1700

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism on Sunday, April 22 at the 10:30 a.m. service is for:



Conagher Paul Love born January 25, 2007 to Shane and Stacy (nee Bergquist) Love. Conagher's spiritual sponsors are Scott Love and Sue Elsenpeter.

Altar Flowers

The flowers on the altar today are provided by Merle and Ellie Knuth in celebration of their 48th wedding anniversary.



Worship Outlines

In an effort to go paperless and to save printing costs, we will cease printing the worship outlines starting May 5 and 6. As always, the complete service will be projected on the screen. In addition, large-print service bulletins will be available with the ushers for those who need them.

Servers

Elders

Tom Westby
Marvin Deer
Randy Walford

Ushers:

Northwind

Dale Engelken
Mike Martens
Shawn Woolman

7:45 a.m.

Scott Ammann
Casey Fluegge
Brent Handel
Jordan Handel
Justin Handel
Morey Juhlin

9 a.m.

Tom Feldotto
Randy Fleming
Dean Kleckner

Mark Kramer

Jade Olson

Doug Pals

Rob Steuber

10 a.m.

Clayton Linquist

Jared Nicol

10:30 a.m.

Philip Bax
Bill Clark

Leslie Clark
Jim Kellenberg
Chris Warwick

Organist

Lynn Hays

Acolytes

Shelby Aufdenkamp
Eric Burr
Rachel Kelly

God's People in Prayer

Blue prayer request cards are beneath the pews. Please indicate your prayer request and place the card in the offering plate. We have both e-mail and phone prayer chains available. Call Pastor Phillips in the church office, 276-1700, or Diane Young between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 993-3870 or Joan Kickbush after 5 p.m. at 987-4864 with your request.

Thanksgivings

- For our families

Prayers

- For the families and friends of those who died at Virginia Tech
- For Jay Plagge's father, who has had a stroke
- For Michael Hamaker, who is grieving the loss of his grandmother
- For the healing of Diane Mahafey
- For Norma Willems, mother of Rachel Onsrud
- For the healing of John McKeighan

Prayer Ministry Team

If you are interested in joining the prayer ministry team, please e-mail tphillips@gloriadeionline.com with your name, e-mail address and phone number.

Gloria Dei's Spring Food Drive

Gloria Dei will host a food drive for DMARC, Des Moines Area Religious Council, starting this weekend. In previous years, specific food items have been collected but this spring we will collect only cash donations. DMARC will then purchase items from a warehouse at a reduced rate, thus obtaining more items. For example, if an individual from Gloria Dei bought five cans of spaghetti, DMARC could possibly purchase seven. In addition to DMARC's buying power, Gloria Dei will not be faced with the workload of collecting, storing and transporting the items to the food bank. We believe that more will be accomplished by cash donations than by specifically collecting food items.

How to get involved:

Naomi Circle will provide envelopes in this week's *Weekly Word*. Please make checks payable to Gloria Dei with "DMARC" written on the memo line. The envelopes and checks can be placed in the mail anytime or in the offering plate on April 29 and May 6. If you have any questions, contact Deb Timmons at 289-0360.

Upcoming Small Groups

Women's Connection Summer Edition

Women's Connection summer edition will start Monday, May 7 at 6:30 p.m. in 130-132. We will explore Beth Moore's "A Woman's Heart, God's Dwelling Place." This summer edition will be shorter in time; no specific worship or fellowship times will be offered, only the Bible Study from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Young Mothers Group

If you are interested in joining a small group for young mothers, please join us Monday, April 30 at 9:30 a.m. in rooms 130-132 for a planning meeting. We will discuss topics and days to meet. If you have questions, contact Pastor Meyer at 278-5544, ext. 224.

Men's Bible Study

Please join the Thursday evening Bible study as they begin a study on 1st Corinthians at 6:30 p.m. in rooms 130-132. The study will compare the issues that confronted the Corinthians to the issues that confront us. Likewise, solutions will be examined and discussed. If you have any questions, contact Fred Spath at 254-2561 or spathfamily@msn.com.

Member Updates

Member update sheets will be placed in next week's *Weekly Word*. Please fill out one per family and return them to the ushers. We need every family to fill one out, so that we can update our records. Thank you!

Media Ministry Fundraiser

The media ministry will be selling Chris Onsrud's famous homemade Chex-mix after the worship services on May 5-6 and May 12-13. All proceeds will go toward purchasing a new video switcher.

XYZ Will Travel

The XYZ group will travel to Union, IA. to fill bags with soup ingredients for Outreach Africa on Tuesday, May 1. We will meet at Gloria Dei's west parking lot at 10:15 a.m. and car pool to Story City where we will be stopping for lunch at the Happy Chief Restaurant before proceeding to Union, Iowa for a couple of hours. If you are interested in joining us or have questions, please contact Dick or Elaine Mueller at 276-8903 or rmueller_4213@msn.com.

Liturgical Dancers Needed

We are looking for children, men and women who would like to learn how to worship God through dance and creative movement. Rehearsals begin Saturday in the room 138 from 3:30-5 p.m. for Pentecost Sunday's presentation. For more information, contact Kim Marsh at 689-7388.

Bulletin Board

- **Last Day of Faith Alive**
Wednesday, April 25
- **Last Day of Sunday's Grace Place at 10:20 a.m.**
Sunday, April 29
- **Tiny Treasures Family Fun Night**
Thursday, May 3
- **Last Day of Saturday's Grace Place**
Saturday, May 5
- **Last Day of Sunday's Grace Place at 9:20 a.m.**
Sunday, May 6
- **Confirmation**
Sunday, May 6
- **Pancake Breakfast**
Sunday, May 20
- **Honduras Bake Sale**
Sunday, May 20
- **Discovery 201**
Sunday, May 20

30-Hour Famine

Gloria Dei youth will participate in the "World Vision's 30-Hour Famine" next weekend. The group will consist of 62 teenagers and 8 adults fasting, working on service projects and learning about parts of the world where hunger dominates. The teens will be accepting donations today and next weekend at the orange table in the narthex. Last year the teens raised \$8,300 with the help of generous Gloria Dei members; this year's goal is \$10,000. Please pray for our kids as they experience hunger and partake in local servant events during the famine.


 tiny treasures
 lutheran preschool
 presents:

carnival games

fun Night!

Thursday, May 3
5:30-7:30 p.m.

silent auction **bounce house**

\$5 per child or a maximum of \$15 per family
children under 2 are free

Purchase tickets at the door or by calling 276-1700.

Proceeds will go toward Tiny Treasures; supplemental funding will be provided by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Midweek Meal

Join us for our last midweek meal of "A Little Bit of Everything," this Wednesday, April 25 at 5 p.m.

Pancake Breakfast

Mark your calendars for the Tiny Treasures preschool pancake breakfast on Sunday, May 20 from 8 a.m. to noon. More details to follow.

Softball Schedule

Date	Time	Visitor	Home	Field
Tues., April 24	6:15 p.m.	GDLC	WEFC	R
Tues., April 24	7:15 p.m.	GDLC	Union Baptist	R

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Wednesdays

April 25

Sixth grade: Test time and pizza party

Seventh grade: Test time, pizza and acolyte training

Eighth grade: Test time, pizza party

Castaway

April 22

Topic:

“Time to Face the Strange Changes”

Paintball

Join us April 22 from noon to 5:30 p.m. for some paintballing fun. Sign up by April 15. Cost is \$15 per person; \$10 if you have your own equipment; \$20 for 500 painballs.

Confirmation

Confirmation pictures will be Saturday, May 5 at 9 a.m. Please don't forget to be in the Youth Center at 10 a.m. Confirmation Sunday at 10 a.m. for Confirmation Service.

Cafe 923

Cafe 923 will be Friday, May 4 from 6-9 p.m.

Senior High Sunday Morning Senior High Bible Study

April 22

Large-group Bible study begins at 10:20 a.m. on Sundays in the Youth Center.

The Island

April 22 at 5:30-8 p.m.

Large group topic: “Silence”

The Point

Let's get to the point on Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m. Senior high youth will gather for fellowship, a large-group teaching time, and a 20-minute small-group discussion.

April 25 Topic: Dating and Friendship

Mexico Trip

It is not too late to sign up for the Mexico trip on June 23-July 1. See Tim for more details.

Paintball

Join us April 29 from noon to 5:30 p.m. for some paintballing fun. Sign up by April 22. Cost is \$15 per person; \$10 if you have your own equipment; \$20 for 500 paintballs. Sign up on the Youth Center door.

Parents: If you are interested in driving, please contact Tim at 278-5544, ext. 212.

National Youth Gathering

If you are going to the youth gathering in Orlando, Fla., the second payment of \$100 is due Sunday, May 6. We will be staying at the Double Tree Castle. For more updates, go to www.lcmgathering.com and click on “Caitlin.” In addition, please turn in your medical release form as soon as possible.

Week of April 22-27

Sunday, April 22

- 7:45 a.m. Traditional Worship Service in Sanctuary
- 9:00 a.m. Traditional-Blend Worship Service in Sanctuary
- 9:20 a.m. Castaway
- 9:20 a.m. Grace Place, Ages 2-Grade 5
- 10:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service in Family Life Center with Communion
- 10:20 a.m. Castaway
- 10:20 a.m. Grace Place, Ages 2-Grade 5
- 10:20 a.m. Journey with Dr. Luke
- 10:20 a.m. Senior High Bible Study
- 10:30 a.m. Contemporary-Blend Worship Service
- 12:00 p.m. Junior High Paintball
- 5:30 p.m. The Island

Tuesday, April 24

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 1:00 p.m. Helping Hands
- 6:30 p.m. Financial Peace University
- 7:00 p.m. Board of Elders Mtg.

Wednesday, April 25

- 10:30 a.m. Bible Study with Pastor Meyer
- 5:00 p.m. Midweek Meal
- 5:30 p.m. Music Alive
- 5:30 p.m. Strategic Planning MAT
- 5:45 p.m. Gloria Dei Chorale
- 6:00 p.m. Discovery 101
- 6:15 p.m. Faith Alive
- 6:15 p.m. Lord, I Want to Know You
- 6:15 p.m. The Point
- 7:30 p.m. The Alleluia Ringers

Thursday, April 26

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study
- 10:00 a.m. Sew and Sews
- 6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study

Friday, April 27

- 5:00 p.m. 30-Hour of Famine

Saturday, April 28

- 30-Hour of Famine
- 3:30 p.m. Dance Class
- 4:00 p.m. Gloria Dei Infusion Worship Practice
- 4:00 p.m. Northwind Worship Team
- 5:30 p.m. Castaway
- 5:30 p.m. Northwind Service
- 5:50 p.m. Grace Place

Last Week's Attendance			
Northwind	188	Communion	
7:45 a.m.	196	7:45 a.m.	137
9 a.m.	405	9:00 a.m.	266
10 a.m.	83	10:30 a.m.	133
10:30 a.m.	186		
Total	1058		

Please note: Our business manager is on vacation this week; therefore, the offerings of April 15 and April 22 will be posted next week.

Week of April 29-May 5

Sunday, April 29

- 7:45 a.m. Traditional Worship Service in Sanctuary
- 9:00 a.m. Traditional-Blend Worship Service in Sanctuary
- 9:20 a.m. Castaway
- 9:20 a.m. Grace Place, Ages 2-Grade 5
- 10:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service in Family Life Center
- 10:20 a.m. Castaway
- 10:20 a.m. Grace Place, Ages 2-Grade 5
- 10:20 a.m. Journey with Dr. Luke
- 10:20 a.m. Senior High Bible Study
- 10:30 a.m. Contemporary-Blend Worship Service in Sanctuary
- 12:00 p.m. Senior High Paintball

Monday, April 30

- 9:30 a.m. Moms with Young Children Mtg.

Tuesday, May 1

- 9:00 a.m. XYZ
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 1:00 p.m. Helping Hands
- 6:30 p.m. Kindermusik: Near and Far
- 6:30 p.m. Financial Peace University

Wednesday, May 2

- 10:30 a.m. Bible Study with Pastor Meyer
- 5:45 p.m. The Gloria Dei Chorale
- 6:00 p.m. Discovery 101

Thursday, May 3

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study
- 10:00 a.m. Sew and Sews
- 5:30 p.m. Tiny Treasures Family Fun Night
- 6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study

Saturday, May 5

- 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Photos
- 3:30 p.m. Dance Class
- 4:00 p.m. Gloria Dei Infusion Worship Practice
- 4:00 p.m. Northwind Worship Team
- 5:30 p.m. Castaway
- 5:30 p.m. Northwind Service
- 5:50 p.m. Grace Place

Educational Attendance					
	Saturday, 5:50	Sunday, 9:20	Sunday, 10:20	Wed., 6:15	Misc.
Preschool	20	27	24	26	Music Alive
Elementary	20	59	25	76	60
Junior High		28		concert held	Wed. Meal
High School				concert held	82
Total	40	114	49	102	

Gloria Dei Weekend Worship Times

Sunday Morning: 7:45 Traditional • 9:00 Traditional-blend • 10:00 Contemporary • 10:30 Contemporary-blend
 Educational Times: 9:20 and 10:20 a.m • Staffed Nursery from 8 a.m.-noon

Saturday Evening: 5:30 Contemporary
 Grace Place at 5:50 p.m. • Staffed Nursery from 5:15 p.m.