# Weekly Word



January 14, 2007

A Publication of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Urbandale, Iowa

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

# **Differences: Celebrate or Separate**

#### by Pastor Kendall Meyer, Director of Adult Ministry

You have probably heard the old adage, "birds of the feather flock together." But what happens when birds of a different feather flock together? Do we naturally criticize these birds for having different feathers and habits? "Well, my family only eats small crustaceans-we have for centuries," says the penguin. "I think it is terrible that our neighbors eat only vegetables." And so walls are built to keep these vegetable-eating neighbors out of the penguin's terrain. But do differences have to be grounds for separation? I do not think so. I believe it is not the difference, but our attitude about the difference that separates us from each other. In other words, we need a strategy for dealing with each other when facing differences. If we learn to deal with differences objectively, it will help us when we encounter differences on a more personal or subjective level.

Paul has some suggestions for us:

Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity. I Timothy 5:1-2

It's interesting that Paul uses the metaphor of family to describe how Christians should act toward one another. And it is appropriate to do so because we are part of God's family. Paul encourages us in Galatians to "do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." All of us, despite our apparent differences, share in the same faith and believe in the same Jesus Christ.

As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." For there is no difference between Jew and *Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and* richly blesses all who call on him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Romans 10:11-13

God has made each of us unique. We all have different gifts and abilities, but they all come from the same source, God. Jesus died and took up his life again, so that he could be Lord of all of us, despite our differences. If we begin dealing with differences with this understanding, our critical or judgmental thoughts may turn to love and acceptance of what God has deemed lovable-our brothers and sisters in Christ.

When I first started seminary, we had a classmate named Matt, who really stood out because his body was covered with tattoos. Looking at him, I thought, "What is he doing on campus? He looks like a loser." One day, while shooting baskets with him, he began to tell me about his desire to work in prison ministry and that the tattoos were his way of witnessing to the prisoners. As I looked closer, I saw that the tattoos were quotes from Bible passages and pictures of different Bible stories. I realized that God had given Matt a gift of being able to relate to people who are in a tough place in a language they can relate to; consequently, I began to celebrate Matt's differences. And although we were different, we were the same in God's eyes.

This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference...Romans 3:22

### Stay Warm

God's love heats up at Grace Place, Women's Connections, Faith Alive, Bible studies, Kindermusik and Discovery 101 this week. Join us!

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# **Problems to Possibilities**

It doesn't take many days in the new year to realize that problems have a way of finding us. We can't ignore or avoid these irritants in life, but we can learn to handle them in a godly fashion. Next week, Pastor Burcham will begin a fourweek sermon series entitled "Problems to Possibilities." Whether the problem is small or large, we can learn to handle these problems from God's perspective instead of our tried-and-not-so-true ways.

#### January 20-21: Praying

Prayer for many of us becomes a last resort. But what would happen if we talked to God about our problems like the way that we talk to our best friend?

#### January 27-28: Focusing

Life is always about our focus. Do we focus on the glass half empty or half full? Do we feel sorry for ourselves because of the problem, or do we go to God expecting his solution? Can we get out of our perspectives long enough to see his viewpoint?

#### February 3-4: Trusting

Trust is a foundation of every relationship. Does God really care about our difficulties? Can we trust the Lord enough to help us handle a daunting problem?

#### February 10-11: Refining

Scriptures state that refinement is a part of the growth process. Can good actually come out of our situation? Can we see how adversity builds character?





#### Sunday Schedule

Sunday Worship 7:45, 9, 10 and 10:30 a.m. Staffed Nursery from 8 a.m.-noon Educational Times at 9:20 & 10:20 a.m.

#### Saturday Schedule

Saturday Worship at 5:30 p.m.

Grace Place at 5:50 p.m.

Staffed Nursery from 5:15 p.m.

#### Staff e-mail:

**Rev. Ronald Burcham** Senior Pastor rburcham@gloriadeionline.com

**Rev. Kendall Meyer** Director of Adult Ministry kmeyer@gloriadeionline.com

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Mrs. Terry Steinke Director of Early Childhood Ministry and Tiny Treasures Preschool terry@gloriadeionline.com

Mr. Bill Wishman Interim Business Manager bill@gloriadeionline.com

**Governing Board** 276-1700

# **Sacrament of Holy Baptism**

### The Sacrament of Holy Baptism at the 9 a.m. service is for:



Kailey Ann Elyea born January 3, 2007 to Chris and Jennifer (nee Larsen) Elyea. Kailey's spiritual sponsors are Jason Larsen and Ashley Elyea.

#### The Sacrament of Holy Baptism at the 10:30 a.m. service is for:

J aden Dean Ladd born March 31, 2006 to Bryan and Kelli Jo (nee Nelson) Ladd. Jaden's spiritual sponsors are Loren and Pam Nelson.

# **Mission Central**

Rev. John Mehl, the Asian Area Director, will be speaking Sunday, Jan. 14 at 7 p.m. at Mission Center in Mapleton.

# Journey with Dr. Luke

Journey with Dr. Luke has resumed at 10:20 a.m. If you have journeyed with us last year or if you have never traveled with us, please feel free to join us this year.

# Worship Service Ministry Partners

We are thankful for our helpers today who assist in providing a great place to worship.

Arlyn Hesse Jim Johnson Dick Mueller **9 a.m.** Greg Haessler Doug Kumm Jim Miles Tanya Richards Tom Richards Tim Mueller Chad Oehlert 10 a.m. Ivan Daniels Dan Johnson 10:30 a.m. Kevin Kelley David Sengpiel Colleen Sengpiel Organist: Lynn Hays Acolytes: Maggie McClelland Kelle Marsh Sarah Nichols

## 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 nation and the freedom we enjoy
- For the safe return of our Ugandan team

## Prayers

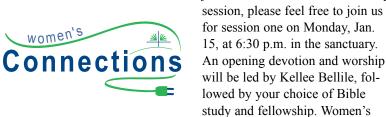
- For our military
- For the GriefShare ministry and for those families who have suffered a loss
- For the support of DivorceCare to broken families
- For Kory Schramm's mother, Barb, who is recovering surgery
- For Roxanne, mother of Monica Duncalf
- For Louise Crosser, mother of Ronda Mueller, who is having surgery on Wednesday

# Weather

When inclement weather arises, please check our Web site at gloriadeonline.com for up-to-date cancellations. We will also put a message on our answering maching at 276-1700. women's

# Calling All Women! Come All!

Women's Connections is a time for women to gather to learn more about God's Word and meet new friends in the body of Christ. If you could not



join us for last week's introductory

Connections concludes at 8 p.m. Child care is provided.

#### "Daniel: Lives of Integrity, Words of Prophecy," by Beth Moore

Join us in a faith-building 12-week study of prophecy, and learn how to shine for Christ in our modern culture. Just as the prophet Daniel faced unbelievable pressures-to compromise his faith, to live in a hostile culture, and confront temptations and threats-today's believers face many of the same trials. This study will examine the life of Daniel in an extremely contemporary way and explore the fascinating prophecies from the time of Daniel through the second coming of Christ.

#### "Jesus the One and Only," by Beth Moore

Come along with us on a 10-week, life-changing journey, which will lead you through the hills of Galilee with the teacher, across the lake with the master, and finally on the road with the Savior as he faces the cross.

#### "Breaking Free: Making Liberty in Christ a Reality in Life," by Beth Moore

"Breaking Free" leads you through a study of the Scriptures to discover the transforming power of Christian freedom. Based on Isaiah 61:1-4, this 11-week in-depth study draws parallels between the captive Israelites and today's believers. As you identify spiritual strongholds in your life, you will progress on the journey toward greater freedom in Christ.

#### "Really Bad Girls of the Bible," by Liz Curtis Higgs

Author Liz Curtis Higgs breaths new life into ancient stories depicting some of the most infamous women in Scripture. "In Really Bad Girls of the Bible," Higgs reveals the power of God's sovereignty in the lives of eight shady ladies known by reputation but rarely studied in depth. The eye-opening stories of these "really bad" women demonstrate one lifechanging concept—the sovereign power of God to rule our hearts and lives with grace, compassion and hope. This is an eight-week study.

Feel free to invite a friend or co-worker! See you there! For more information call Sheryl Woolman at 254-9290.



#### **Mary-Esther Circle**

Mary-Esther Circle will meet Thursday, Feb. 8 at 9 a.m. at the home of Millie Obrecht, 621 33rd St., West Des Moines.

#### **Miriam Circle**

Miriam Circle will meet on Saturday, Jan. 20 at 10 a.m. at Holmes Oldsmobile (Hickman & I-35) to help assemble food packets for the African Mission Project. At noon, the group will go to the Machine Shed restaurant.

# Thank You

A joyous Christmas 2006 has come and gone, and God's presence overshadows any presents we could have received. His love is everlasting and is communicated to us in various ways, certainly through His Word and Sacrament, but also through fellow believers. This Christmas season our family felt the love of God through you. Thank you for all the cards, gifts and warm wishes that we received over the last several weeks. As always, the outpouring of your love is humbling and greatly appreciated. May God continue to bless each of you as He continues to bless our congregation. - Pastor and Michelle Burcham

News

# **Upcoming Classes**

If you are interested in any of the following classes, please sign up at the Information Center or e-mail Pastor Phillips at tphillips@gloriadeionline.com.

## **Discovery 101**

It's not too late to join! Our fourweek new member class for people wanting to join Gloria Dei from a non-Lutheran background will be offered Wednesday nights in rooms 127/129 from 6:30-8 p.m.

## DivorceCare

Enrollment is still open. Our support group ministry will hold a class for those who have gone through the pain of divorce on Tuesday nights in the Youth Center from 6:30-8 p.m. The ministry is offered for a suggested donation of \$18.

## GriefShare

We are still accepting new people. Our grief support ministry will begin its winter session on Thursday nights in the Youth Center from 6:30-8 p.m. This ministry is offered for a suggested donation of \$18. Invite your friends, neighbors and co-workers to this comforting ministry.

## 2007 Weddings

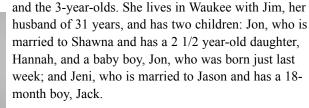
Are you planning to be married at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in 2007? A pre-marriage class will meet in rooms 130/132 on Tuesday nights from 6:30-8 p.m. beginning January 16. This class is required and will meet for six weeks. The cost per couple is \$20.

# Welcome

We are excited to introduce our newest Tiny Treasures teachers; please take some time to welcome them.

## Janet Tysse

Janet Tysse will be the assistant teacher for two classes, the 4-and-5-year-olds,



Janet, who loves to read, sew, cross-stitch and crochet, comes to Tiny Treasures with a rich background of 20 years of child care experience.

## What excites you the most about working at Tiny Treasures?

The open sharing of faith I see between teachers, children and parents.

## What are your favorite family activities/traditions?

Getting together several times a year with my family, especially during Christmas. I really enjoy being able to see our grandchildren and the joy they have at this time.

## What advice would give to a young family?

Teach your children to pray without ceasing. Love them and teach them about Jesus.

## **Christy Marshall**

Christy Marshall will be the lead teacher for the Monday and Wednesdays 3-



year-old class. She lives in Urbandale and has been married to Kevin for 13 years. They have two children, Jacob, 8, and Hannah, 5. She enjoys spending time with friends and family and loves to camp and play board games.

# What excites you the most about working at Tiny Treasures?

I am most excited about being able to teach the children about Jesus and his love for them.

## What advice would you give to a young family?

I would tell young families to put God first in their lives and teach their children the same. Spend time with your children because you can never get that time back.

# **New Life Needs You**

### by Terry Steinke, Director of Early Childhood Development

The New Life Ministry Action Team is looking for people who can help in specialized ways. Ministry partners can sign up on one or more lists:

**Meal List:** If you would be willing to cook a simple meal for a new baby's family just getting home from the hospital, please add your name and phone number to the *meal* list.

**Visit List:** If you would be available to visit a family to bring gifts from Gloria Dei with food, please sign up on the *visit* list.

**Sew List:** If you would be willing to sew small bags to deliver the things in (this will be an ongoing project), please sign up on the *sew* list.

**Other List:** If you have other ways that you would like to help these families, please sign up on the *other* list and indicate what you want to do.

Sign up at the Information Center or contact Terry at 278-5544, ext. 305.



# Playgroup

for ages 2 1/2 to 3 1/2



Tiny Treasures will hold a Friday morning playgroup for children ages 2 1/2 to 3 1/2.

- February-May 2007
- 9:15-11:15 a.m.
- \$40 a month

For more information, pick up a brochure at the Information Center.

**Register Today!** 

Pick up a brochure today!

## Registration now open!

tiny treasures lutheran preschool

Bringing Jesus Christ to people for the first time and for a lifetime.

# Fall of 2007

Classes

3-year-olds

4/5year-olds

Pre-k

Nurturing the total development of your child

morning & afternoon classes offered!

Open House Thursday, Feb. 1 6-7:30 p.m. Register Today!

278-5544, ext 305

www.gloriadeionline.com

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# Kindermusik

## It is not too late to join the fun. Family Time

Family Time offers families an opportunity to play, sing and move with their children. This multi-age setting offers something for everyone! This 10-week class begins this week; the fee is \$90, which includes materials for use at home.

**Tuesday evening** class meets from 7-7:30 p.m. Taught by Steve Kohtz, this fun class runs from Jan. 16-March 20.



Wednesday morning class meets from 10-10:45 a.m. Taught by Julie DenHerder, this jamming class runs from Jan. 17-March 27.

# Village

Village is designed for young children, ages newborn to 1 1/2. It provides a delightful environment with an engaging experience of learning and bonding with a young child. This 8-week class begins this week; the cost is \$60.

**Tuesday evening** class meets Jan. 16-March 6 from 6:30-7:15 p.m. and is taught by Angie Gage.

# Imagine That

Imagine That is a music and movement class for children ages 3-5. Each session delights the whole child as they sing, move, play instruments and discover more about the world in which we live. This 14-week class starts Tuesday; the fee is \$110, which includes materials for use at home.

**Tuesday evening** class meets from Jan. 16-April 24 from 6:30-7:15 p.m. and is taught by DeAnn McCue.

For more information, pick up a brochure at the Information Center or call DeAnn McCue at 278-5544, ext. 207.

# **Recycled** Christmas Cards

The Honduras Mission team needs recycled fronts of religious Christmas cards for their mission trip to Honduras. Please save your cards and put them in the "donation-card" box located in the narthex in January. Thank you for your assistance!

# Honduras Mission Trip

Please join us for a presentation on Honduras on Sunday, Jan. 21 at 9 and 10:30 a.m. This presentation is open to everyone. Please come if you are going, would like to go, or plan to support us through prayer. If you have any questions, contact Bill Clark at 453-3404 or bill.clark@equitrust.com.

# **Parenting Teens**

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 5625 Franklin Avenue, Des Moines, invites you to a parenting series, "Active Parenting of Teens," held on Wednesday from 6-7:30 p.m. The first session was on Jan. 11, but you may join the group Jan. 18, 25, Feb.1, 8 and 22. All classes are free and childcare will be provided.



## **Junior High**

## Wednesdays

Sixth grade will continue with their current studies.

Seventh grade topics will include: "The Commandments, Quicky through the New Testament, and They're not like us (different non-Christian religions)."

The eighth grade will study the *Apostles' Creed.* 

# Castaway

Sunday, Jan. 14

Join us for today at 9:20 or 10:20 a.m. for a high-energy time of study and fellowship.



**Topic:** "Part 2: Are We Going to Ride on the Clouds in Heaven?"

# **Senior High**

#### **Super Bowl Party**

Senior High Super Bowl party will be held in the Youth Center on Sunday, Feb. 4 from 5-10 p.m. Bring a food/appetizer to share.

# The Island

January 14 and 28



The Island new schedule format:

- 5:30 Open Youth Center and Family Life Center
- 6:00 Large-group Bible study/discussion
- 6:45 Small-group Bible study
- 7:15 Open Youth Center and Family Life Center

Join us for some or all of the evening activities. The Island will end at 8 p.m. instead of 9 p.m. We'd love to see you there.

#### Jan 21

Join us for "Pins and Praise." We will begin in the Youth Center at 5:30 p.m. and travel to Merle Hay Lanes for bowling. We will land back in the Youth Center for pizza and a small-group Bible study. Sign up by Wednesday, Jan. 17.

## **Dinner Theatre Auditions**

#### April 13-14 and 20-22

Rehearsal begins Sunday, Jan. 14 from 3:30-5:30 p.m.

# Mark Your Calendar!

The 30-hour famine will be held April 27-28, 2007. In 2006, our group was one of the highest fundraisers for the World Vision's 30-hour famine organization. All teens 12 years and older are invited to participate in saving kid's lives! An initial planning meeting will be in January. Those that feel led to help with the organization of this year's event, please contact Kim Phillips at 254-1036 or e-mail: TNK4JC1@msn.com.

# Week of January 14-20

### Sunday, January 14

	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	
	10:30 a.m.	Contemporary-Blend Worship Service in Sanctuary	
	3:30 p.m.	Dinner Theatre Rehearsal	
	7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting	
	Monday, Ja	nuary 15	
	Martin Luthe	er King, Jr. Day	
No Tiny Treasurers			
	3:30 p.m.	Mt. Olive Basketball	
	6:30 p.m.	Women's Connections	
	6:45 p.m.	Men's Basketball	
	Tuesday, Ja	anuary 16	
	1:00 p.m.	Staff Meeting	
	1:00 p.m.	Helping Hands	
	3:30 p.m.	Mt. Olive Basketball	
	6:30 p.m.	Kindermusik: Imagine That	
	6:30 p.m.	Kindermusik: Village	
	6:30 p.m.	DivorceCare	
	6:30 p.m.	Pre-marriage Class	
	6:45 p.m.	Co-ed Volleyball	
	7:00 p.m.	Kindermusik: Family Time	

Outpouring of Love			
General Fund Offerings	\$32,774		
YTD Offering	\$774,615		
YTD Budget	\$723,870		

### Wednesday, January 17

<b>3</b> , <b>3</b>				
10:00 a.m.	Kindermusik: Family Time			
10:30 a.m.	Bible Study with Pastor Meyer			
5:00 p.m.	Midweek Meal			
5:30 p.m.	Music Alive			
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 Gloria Dei Chorale			
7:30 p.m.	Gloria Dei Orchestra			
7:30 p.m.	The Alleluia Ringers			
7:30 p.m.	Gloria Dei's Infusion Worship Team			
Thursday,	January 18			
6:30 a.m.	Men's Bible Study			
10:00 a.m.	Sew and Sews			
2:00 p.m.	Home School Choir			
3:30 p.m.	Mt. Olive Basketball Practice			
6:00 p.m.	GriefShare			
Friday, Jan	uary 19			
3:30 p.m.	Mt. Olive Basketball Practice			
Saturday, J	anuary 20			
4:00 p.m.	Northwind Worship Team			
5:30 p.m.	Northwind Service			
5:50 p.m.	Grace Place			

Attendance (Dec. 30-31)			
Northwind	166	Communion	
7:45 a.m.	154	7:45 a.m.	117
9 a.m.	366	9 a.m.	252
10 a.m.	46		
10:30 a.m.	244		
Total	976		

# Week of January 21-27

## Sunday, January 21

7:45 a.m.	Traditional Worship Service in Sanctuary with Communion		
9:00 a.m.	Traditional-Blend Worship Service in Sanctuary with Communion		
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		
10:30 a.m.	Contemporary-Blend Worship Service in Sanctuary with Communion		
3:30 p.m.	Dinner Theatre Rehearsal		
5:30 p.m.	Senior High: Pins and Praise		
7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting		
Monday, January 22			
3:30 p.m.	Mt. Olive Basketball		
6:30 p.m.	Women's Connections		
6:45 p.m.	Men's Basketball		
Tuesday, Ja	anuary 23		
1:00 p.m.	Staff Meeting		
1:00 p.m.	Helping Hands		
3:30 p.m.	Mt. Olive Basketball		
6:30 p.m.	Kindermusik: Imagine That		
6:30 p.m.	Kindermusik: Village		
6:30 p.m.	DivorceCare		
6:30 p.m.	Pre-marriage Class		
6:45 p.m.	Co-ed Volleyball		
7:00 p.m.	Kindermusik: Family Time		

#### Wednesday, January 24

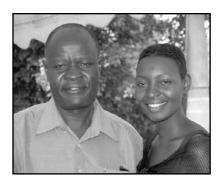
weunesuay, January 24				
10:00 a.m.	Kindermusik: Family Time			
10:30 a.m.	Bible Study with Pastor Meyer			
5:00 p.m.	Midweek Meal			
5:30 p.m.	Music Alive			
6:00 p.m.	Discovery 101			
6:15 p.m.	Faith Alive			
6:15 p.m.	Lord, I Want to Know You			
6:15 p.m.	The Gloria Dei Chorale			
7:30 p.m.	Gloria Dei Orchestra			
7:30 p.m.	The Alleluia Ringers			
7:30 p.m.	Gloria Dei's Infusion Worship Team			
Thursday,	January 25			
6:30 a.m.	Men's Bible Study			
10:00 a.m.	Sew and Sews			
2:00 p.m.	Home School Choir			
3:30 p.m.	Mt. Olive Basketball Practice			
6:00 p.m.	GriefShare			
Friday, January 26				
3:30 p.m.	Mt. Olive Basketball Practice			
Saturday, J	Saturday, January 27			
7:00 a.m.	Blood Drive in the narthex			
8:30 a.m.	Ends Retreat			
4:00 p.m.	Northwind Worship Team with Communion			
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	8	23	14	18	Music Alive
Elementary	17	56	31	87	56
Junior High	2	35		90	Wed. Meal
High School					80
Total	27	114	45	195	

# Uganda Team Returns









Photos by Stan Greenwood

A team from Gloria Dei has safely made it home from their trip to Uganda where they held a worship conference.

"It was a tremendous and humbling experience to see how many people really opened up to us," said Pastor Burcham, Senior Pastor. "I feel that we really developed a strong relationship with many of the members of the Lutheran Church Mission in Uganda."

Steve Kohtz, Director of Worship, said, "When we left, it was more like leaving friends and family than people who we just met."