

WEEKLY WORD



A Publication of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Urbandale, Iowa

January 28, 2007

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

It's a Matter of Focus

by Karen Kennedy, staff

Most great photographers have a knack for seeing ordinary things in different ways. They capture the moment by viewing the obvious from different perspective. Whether they see a background shadow, the way light reflects on a subject or the varieties of color, it is their focal point that distinguishes the master from the amateur.

Similarly, everyday we are all faced with ordinary-life situations while living in a fallen world, such as being angry, lost, humiliated, saddened, betrayed and discouraged. We then have a choice, do we allow the problem to define us, or do we change our perspective by changing what we focus on?

In the book of Numbers, twelve men were sent by Moses to the land of Canaan to spy and report on the land and its inhabitants. As the story unfolds, they returned from Canaan after 40 days with some souvenirs, such as grapes, pomegranates and figs. As news spread about the returning spies, the entire Israelite community gathered to hear about their findings.

The twelve men agreed, "We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey!" Even though they saw the same view, their perspectives parted ways when ten of the men reported,

"But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large... The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them." Numbers 13:28a, 32b-33b

Meanwhile on the other side of the camp, Caleb and Joshua showed a different focus:

"The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. Only do not rebel against the

Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will swallow them up. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them." Numbers 14:7a-9

How do twelve men see the same thing and arrive at two different conclusions? The answer is fairly obvious in this Biblical account—Joshua and Caleb focused on God's ability above their own abilities to deal with the circumstances.

Similar to Joshua and Caleb, we too, can focus on God instead of our current predicament. Whether we are faced with a financial setback, a wrong caused by a friend, a physical ailment or just viewing this beautiful Iowa winter, we can be assured that God's perspective is better than our own. After all, his ways are higher than our ways, we just need to focus on him.

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:2

Sermon Series: Problems to Possibilities

January 27-28: Focusing

Life is always about our focus. Is the glass half full or half empty? 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?

February 10-11: Refining

Scriptures state that refinement is a part of the growth process. Can we see how adversity builds character?

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Open House

Tiny Treasures Preschool invites you to an Open House this Thursday from 6-7:30 p.m.

For more details, check out page 6.

toolshoppe Books & Gifts

The Toolshoppe has decided to add shopping time to our Sunday morning and Wednesday evening hours; we now are open Saturday evenings after worship from 6:30-7 p.m.

We have several items on consignment from members of our congregation. We also have many new items for the spring. Stop in and see us!

Please Keep Us Informed

Please notify the church office at 276-1700 when a major life change occurs in your lives, such as a birth or an address change. We appreciate your help in keeping us informed!

Wooden Shelves

If you have ordered shelves for your GRACE tiles, please pick them up at the Information Center today. Thanks.

Scrapbook Fellowship

Scrapbook Fellowship, Friday, Feb. 9 from 8:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Scrapbook Fellowship is open to anyone who wants time and space to



spread out and work on scrapbooks or any other crafts.

We meet on the second Friday of each month from 8:30 a.m. until 11 p.m. in rooms 131/33, the double rooms by the kitchen. Come and go as your schedule allows.

This is a great opportunity to get pages done, get inspired, meet new friends, or to get away from the laundry! For more information, contact Deb Kesse at 251-8324 or DeAnn McCue at the church office.

Gloria Dei
8301 Aurora Ave.
Urbandale, IA 50322
515-276-1700
www.gloriadeionline.com



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

Rev. Tim Phillips
Director of Congregational Care
tphillips@gloriadeionline.com

Mrs. Heather Dingman
Family Ministry Admin Assistant
heather@gloriadeionline.com

Mr. Tim Kightlinger
Director of Youth Ministry
tim@gloriadeionline.com

Mrs. Karen Kennedy
Director of Publicity & Promotion
karen@gloriadeionline.com

Mr. Steve Kohtz
Director of Worship Ministries
steve@gloriadeionline.com

Mrs. DeAnn Haas McCue
Director of Family Ministry
deann@gloriadeionline.com

Mr. Chris Onsrud
Director of Media Ministry
chris@gloriadeionline.com

Mrs. Laura Rath
Senior Pastor Admin Assistant
laura@gloriadeionline.com

Mrs. Michelle Reinert
Assistant to the Youth Director
michelle@gloriadeionline.com

Mr. Brandon Simpson
Facility Manager
brandon@gloriadeionline.com

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

Lenten Schedule

Starting Wednesday, Feb. 21 at 7:15 p.m.

Contemporary Service Added. We have received requests to offer a contemporary service for Lent; therefore, a contemporary service in the Family Life Center will be offered at the same time as the traditional service in the sanctuary with the sermon being telecasted from the sanctuary. If you have any questions, contact Steve Kohtz at 276-1700, ext. 205.

Usher Training 101

This short informational meeting/training session is for anyone 18 and older, who is currently an usher, interested in becoming an usher, or just wanting to see what ushering is all about. Two different times will be offered for approximately 30 minutes on Sunday, Feb. 4 at 11:45 in the sanctuary, or Wednesday, Feb. 7 at 6:15 p.m. in the Family Life Center. It will offer a brief explanation on ushering, answer questions and hand out information on usher duties. If you are unable to attend, please pick up the usher sheets at the Information Center after Feb. 4. We still need more ushers, so any new recruits would be appreciated! If you have any questions, please contact Tim Radig at 243-3814.

Worship Service Ministry Partners

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

Elders:

Tom Westby
Marvin Deer
Randy Walford

Ushers:

Northwind

Mike Mazza
7:45 a.m.
Bruce Amendt
Dave Disney
Lou Grotheer
Mo Grotheer

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

Prayers

- For John McKeighan, who has been diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia
- For Lyle Kramer's wife, Barbara, who has some health concerns
- For Beth Corell's mom, Kay Jacobson, who is starting another round of chemo
- For the grieving family of Tom Ludwig
- For Michael Atkins, uncle of Kendra Weingart, who is battling various health problems
- For Bob Alleron, father of Kim Brienzo, who has health concerns

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.

A New Year Brings New Beginnings

Women of all ages are invited to join Women's Connections—a time of worship, fellowship and studying God's Word on Monday evenings. Just as the New Year brings forth many changes, so is Women's Connections changing and unfolding to provide the ultimate opportunity to praise God and connect with his Word. A new format begins this Monday, Jan. 29.

6:15-6:30 p.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

Tired and weary from a stressful day of work? Come relax and enjoy an opening devotion led by Kellee Bellile. Refresh your soul with music of praise and reflection to our Almighty God.

6:30-6:45 p.m. Fellowship and Refreshments in the Gathering Place

Enjoy a cup of tea, hot cocoa or cappuccino with other women and have a light dessert on us! Converse with women you've just met and expose yourself to the wonderful world of relationships at Gloria Dei.

6:45-8 or 8:15 p.m. Small Group Bible Study

Gather with women of similar desires to learn more about God's Word. Choose from four Bible studies ranging in style from video-based to a fictional novel approach in studying God's Word: "Daniel: Lives of Integrity Words of Prophecy," by Beth Moore, "Jesus the One and Only," by Beth Moore, "Breaking Free: Making Liberty in Christ a Reality in Life," by Beth Moore, and "Really Bad Girls of the Bible," by Liz Curtis Higgs.

Child care is provided. Feel free to invite a friend, family member or co-worker! Women's Connections is only in its second week, so don't delay! For more information, contact Sheryl Woolman at 254-9290.

Amazing Freedom

Women of Faith will host a conference April 20-21 at Wells Fargo Arena. If you are interested in receiving the early-bird price of \$65, contact Pastor Meyer at 278-5544, ext. 224.



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 Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. at the home of Elaine Anderson, 4801 Dakota Drive, West Des Moines, 225-8820.

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will meet Monday, Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. at the home of Shirley Juhlin, 5579 NW 66th Ave., Johnston.

Sarah Circle

Sarah Circle will meet Monday, Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. at the home of Julie Kammeyer, 3310 78th St., Urbandale.

GriefShare Books

We have a new selection in our library, which is located in the Gathering Place. An entire book section is dedicated to books dealing with grief. Please feel free to check one out this week.

taste of a small group

It is Not too Late

If you have not signed up to be in a small-group, please sign up at the tables in the narthex or Family Life Center, or e-mail Pastor Meyer at kmeyer@gloriadeionline.com.

Discovery 201

Sunday, Feb. 11 from 3-7 p.m.

Discovery 201 is a four-hour class for everyone joining Gloria Dei. Dinner and child care are provided. If you are interested, contact the church office at 276-1700.

Soups On!

Saturday, Feb. 10

6:30 p.m.

(after the Northwind Service)



A free-will offering will be accepted for the Honduras mission work.

Uganda Presentation

The stories keep on coming in. If you would like to hear more about the trip, please join us on Wednesday, Jan. 31 at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Pastor Burcham will report about the present and future work in Uganda and the preaching conference, Steve Kohtz will share about the worship conference, and other team members will share about their experiences and impressions of Uganda.



Camp Okoboji

Counselors

Camp Okoboji is currently recruiting summer 2007 staff. If you are interested, contact Doug Kading at doug.camp@idwlcms.org.

If you are interested in renting a cabin this summer, please fill out a form at www.campokoboji.org.

Camp Okoboji needs items or money for this year's camps. For a more complete listing, please go to www.campokoboji.org.

Art Work

Friends of Mercy, a non-profit organization which partners with LCMS World Relief and Human Care, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church to build orphanages in Kenya, is selling Tom duBois' fine-art print, "Blessed is He," for a minimum donation of \$300. A small copy of the painting can be seen at the Information Center. If you are interested in buying one, please contact 1-877-316-3729.

Fine Arts Concert Series

St. John's Lutheran Church, 600 Sixth Ave., Des Moines, invites you to the following concerts: Augustana Choir from Rock Island IL at 7:30 p.m on Saturday, Feb. 24 and the Wartburg Choir from Waverly, Iowa on Saturday, April 28 at 7:30 p.m. A free-will offering will be gathered at each event.

Open House

Please join us this Thursday from 6-7:30 p.m. for Tiny Treasures open house where you can tour our preschool facilities, ask questions, and get to know the staff. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call Terry Steinke at 278-5544, ext. 305.



Thrivent Builds

Thrivent Builds, in partnership with Habitat for Humanity will host a kick off to "Thrivent Builds 2007 Grand Slam," an effort to build four houses this spring for four families in Des Moines. Join us Saturday, Feb. 10 at 10 a.m. at Lutheran Church of the Cross, 1701 8th Street SW, Altoona. Bring a cell phone, your church directory or address book, a crock pot of chili or a dozen cookies. If you have any questions, contact Kristofer Orth, at 515-963-8917 or ksorth1@msn.com.

A Taste of Trinity

Trinity Lutheran Church, 3223 University, Des Moines will host a "Taste of Trinity" on Sunday, Feb. 18 from 5-7 p.m. Come and sample foods from Sudan, Southeast Asia, Sierra Leone and Germany. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children 12 and under; proceeds will go to the Iowa District West Deaf Ministry. For more information, call 279-3609.

Kindergarten Round-up at Mt. Olive Lutheran School

Parents and children are invited to a kindergarten information meeting at Mt. Olive Lutheran, 5625 Franklin Avenue, Des Moines on Feb. 19 at 6:30 p.m. Come and meet the kindergarten faculty and learn about the opportunities of Christian education at Mt. Olive Lutheran School. For further information or to arrange a visit to the school when classes are in session, call 277-0247.

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!

www.gloriadeionline.com

278-5544, ext 305

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.

Wednesday's Meal



January 31:

- Hamburger
- Potato Salad
- Fruit

February 7

- Corn Dog
- Baked Beans
- Fruit

The cost per meal is \$2.50; children ages three and under eat free.





5 p.m.

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
Starts soon!**

Bibles for Three-Year-Olds

We want to recognize the milestone of the three-year-olds attending Grace Place; therefore, we have given them the Beginner Bible, which contains easy stories and lots of pictures. If your child is three and did not receive a Bible, please contact Terry at 278-5544, ext. 305.

growyeldminister



gloriadeiyouthministry

luke 9:23

Junior High

Wednesdays

Sixth grade will continue with their current studies.

Seventh grade topics will include:

“The Commandments,” “Quickly through the New Testament,” and “They’re not like us (different non-Christian religions).”

Eighth grade will study the *Apostles’ Creed*.

Castaway

Sunday, Jan. 28



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

Topic: “Gossip, I know something you don’t know. Let me tell you.”

* Please note that the 10:20 Castaway will be moved to rooms 131/33 starting Feb. 4.

Café 923

Friday, Feb. 2, 6-9 p.m.

Junior high youth: Join us for food, fun, friends, and fellowship

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.

Sunday Morning Senior High Bible Study

Large-group Bible study starts Sunday, Feb. 4 at 10:20 a.m. in the Youth Center.

The Island

The Island’s new schedule format on Jan. 28 will be:

5:30 - Open Youth Center and Family Life Center

6:00 - Large-group Bible study/discussion
Discussion and planning for Sunday morning Bible study and the Point on Wednesday evenings.

6:45 - Small-group Bible study
“My Message is about him”

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.

The Point

A new bible study beginning Wednesday, Feb. 7 at 6:15 p.m. will be for senior high youth. We will get to the point of our journey that we call life during this time. There will be fellowship, a large-group teaching time, and a 20-minute small-group discussion.

Dinner Theatre

April 13-14 and 20-22

Rehearsals continue Sunday, Jan. 28, and Feb. 4 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. These rehearsals are for the main cast.

Week of January 28-February 3

Sunday, January 28

- 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
- 5:30 p.m. The Island
- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

Monday, January 29

- 6:15 p.m. Women's Connections
- 6:45 p.m. Men's Basketball

Tuesday, January 30

- 11:45 a.m. Preschool Beginning Dance Class
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 1:00 p.m. Helping Hands
- 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 31

- 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

Thursday, February 1

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study
- 10:00 a.m. Sew and Sews
- 2:00 p.m. Home School Choir
- 6:00 p.m. Tiny Treasures Open House
- 6:30 p.m. GriefShare

Friday, February 2

- 6:00 p.m. Jr. High Cafe 923

Saturday, February 3

- 4:00 p.m. Northwind Worship Team
- 4:00 p.m. Gloria Dei Infusion Worship
- 5:30 p.m. Northwind Service
- 5:30 p.m. Castaway
- 5:50 p.m. Grace Place

Outpouring of Love	
General Fund Offerings	\$14,295
YTD Offering	\$816,693
YTD Budget	\$777,490

Attendance			
Northwind	220	Communion	
7:45 a.m.	81	7:45 a.m.	80
9 a.m.	225	9 a.m.	171
10 a.m.	54	10:30 a.m.	80
10:30 a.m.	124		
Total	704		

Week of February 4-10

Sunday, February 4

- 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
- 10:20 a.m. Senior High Bible Study
- 10:30 a.m. Contemporary-Blend Worship Service in Sanctuary with Communion
- 11:45 a.m. Usher Meeting
- 3:30 p.m. Dinner Theatre Rehearsal
- 5:00 p.m. High School Superbowl Party
- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

Monday, February 5

- 6:15 p.m. Women's Connections
- 6:45 p.m. Men's Basketball

Tuesday, February 6

- 9:00 a.m. Minister Circuit Meeting
- 9:00 a.m. XYZ (Machine Shed)
- 11:45 a.m. Preschool Beginning Dance Class
- 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, February 7

- 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. Usher Meeting
- 6:15 p.m. Faith Alive
- 6:15 p.m. Lord, I Want to Know You
- 6:15 p.m. The Gloria Dei Chorale
- 6:15 p.m. The Point
- 7:30 p.m. Gloria Dei Orchestra
- 7:30 p.m. The Alleluia Ringers

Thursday, February 8

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study
- 10:00 a.m. Sew and Sews
- 2:00 p.m. Home School Choir
- 6:00 p.m. Tiny Treasures Fun Nigh
- 6:30 p.m. GriefShare

Friday, February 9

- 8:30 a.m. Scrapbook Fellowship

Saturday, February 10

- 4:00 p.m. Gloria Dei Infusion Worship
- 4:00 p.m. Northwind Worship Team
- 5:30 p.m. Castaway
- 5:30 p.m. Northwind Service with Communion
- 5:50 p.m. Grace Place
- 6:30 p.m. Soup Supper

Educational Attendance					
	Saturday, 5:50	Sunday, 9:20	Sunday, 10:20	Wed., 6:15	Misc.
Preschool	27	16	10	19	Music Alive
Elementary	23	37	17	88	75
Junior High	5	27	6	89	Wed. Meal
High School					105
Total	55	80	33	196	

A Week at a Glance



Top left clockwise: John DenHerder shows his latest TaeKwonDo moves • The prekindergarten class from Tiny Treasures expanded to the outdoors when they sled down the hills at Gloria Dei. • Gabrielle Woolman stays warm in her winter cap. • The preschool ballet class lines up for instruction • Milt Maurer and Alice Wegner come in from the cold to attend their Tuesday afternoon Bible study.