

WEEKLY WORD



A Publication of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Urbandale, Iowa

February 25, 2007

First Sunday of Lent

Encounter Jesus

by Karen Kennedy, staff

“Name a famous person you have met,” was the question posed in my small group. While most of us had to scramble, my friend blurted out that she met Caroline Kennedy while in college. Although exciting for a moment, she said that encounter had a minimal impact on her life. The conversation then developed into a reflection of the people who have deeply influenced our lives. That list became longer. Ordinary people, such as sisters, brothers, fathers, mothers and husbands appeared on our top-ten list. We agreed that these relationships have deeply rooted and molded us. As we reminisced about the power of these relationships, we also noted that these are minimal compared to our relationship with Jesus Christ. He not only deeply impacted us, but he completely rearranged our lives and moved us from darkness into light.

One encounter with Jesus has lasting impact. Take Paul, in the New Testament, for example. While strolling down the road with his pharisaical agenda of persecuting the church, he encountered Jesus. The permanent impact of that meeting is reflected in Philippians 3:8:

What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things.

All of Paul’s powerful influences, background, education and credentials were nothing compared to the greatness of knowing Christ Jesus, his Lord. The gospels are rich with stories of people meeting Jesus. How about the two on the road to Emmaus? Weren’t they engrossed with their grave observations of Jesus’ crucifixion when Jesus approached them? Afterwards, they gleefully commented, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with

us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?” Luke 24:32.

How about the disciples’ encounters with the risen Jesus? Their fearful and anxious state soon changed into joy when Jesus appeared to them while they were eating broiled fish around a fire.

Although we do not have the time to view all accounts in which people’s lives were unexpectedly changed by an encounter with Jesus, Pastor Burcham will examine six of them through a series of messages entitled, “Encounter Jesus.” These men and women were ordinary people, like us, but who met an extraordinary Lord who completely turned their lives around. We will examine the dynamics of Nicodemus, the rich man, the woman at the well, the women caught in adultery, Martha, the inhabitants of Jerusalem and Thomas. Each one was marked with a different background and personality, not to mention the wide variety of personal relationships that molded them throughout their lives. Yet a common thread emerged that changed their lives—an encounter with the Savior of mankind, Jesus Christ.

Since Jesus is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, we can expect our lives will be forever changed by him.

Encounter Jesus!

Feb. 24-25	Grace Granted
March 3-4	Commitment Confronted
March 10-11	Attitude Adjusted
March 17-18	Forgiveness Forged
March 24-25	Rest Revealed
March 31-April 1	Hope Heightened
April 7-8	Doubt Defeated

Lenten Services

Join us this Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. in the sanctuary or the Family Life Center as we explore from a first-person perspective the people who were involved with Jesus’ trial, death and resurrection. See page 2 for more details.

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Town Hall Meetings

After hearing your input last year on the direction of Gloria Dei's future, the Strategic Planning Ministry Action Team (MAT) has been working under the direction of the ministry staff, the Governing Board and the Elders to develop a five-year plan that will allow Gloria Dei to meet its mission of GRACE.

During the past year, the Strategic Planning MAT has:

- Reviewed the needs of our current ministries as well as opportunities for future ministry offerings.
- Researched community demographic information identifying current membership location and future areas of population growth.
- Assessed the current facility's ability to accommodate current worship and ministry opportunities and requirements for future ministry program plans.

Please join Pastor Burcham and MAT member Merlin Siefken for the latest update on the work of the Strategic Planning MAT. The presentations will be offered two more times.

Thursday, March 1 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in rooms 134/36/38

Sunday, March 4 from 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. in rooms 134/36/38

Please try to attend one—your input is invaluable and continues to shape the team's future work.

Lenten Books and Services

Lenten devotional books are available at the Information Center. These books correspond with our Wednesday Lenten services entitled, "What would you do?"

So, grab a book today and join us this Wednesday and throughout the week as we examine the question: "What would you do?"

February 28

"...When you want things to go your way?"

March 7

"...When they're putting the pressure on?"

March 14

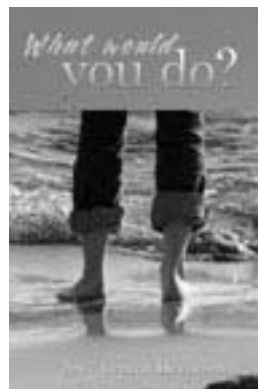
"...When you know you're guilty as charged?"

March 21

"...When you're asked to carry his cross?"

March 28

"...When you're asked to be an angel?"



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

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

Fundraiser

The youth are selling Younkers community day coupon booklets for \$5 each. The booklets can only be used Saturday, March 3 and includes one \$10-off coupon to be used on a single regular or sales price merchandise item of \$10 or more throughout the store, eight merchandise coupons and an exclusive bonus buy merchandise offer. If you are interested in purchasing a booklet, please see a youth today.

Financial Peace University

Begins this Tuesday. Financial Peace University is a 13-week video series designed to teach families debt management. Its small group discussion format fosters accountability and discipleship. Topics cover cash flow planning, dumping debt, saving, giving and much more. Financial Peace University will be held Tuesdays beginning Feb. 27 at 6:30 p.m. Cost for the materials is \$89.95. If you want to get a better idea of the class, come to our orientation Sunday, Feb. 25 at 10:15 a.m. If you have any questions, please call Pastor Meyer by Monday at 278-5544, ext. 224.

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
Jeff Eckhoff

7:45 a.m.

Ken Andresen
Carol Andresen
Alan Grunst
Bob Knief
Dean Mohr

Ken Peterson Sr.

Dale Readinger
Ken Wunsch

9 a.m.

Bruce Brock
Dan Devries
Paul Drake
Don Franzen
Eric Hoffman
Jason Hoffman
Kurt Krominga
Ron Oolman
Paul Rusch
Todd Schwartz

10 a.m.

Jack Readfearn
Mary Ann Readfearn

10:30 a.m.

Gabe Nelson
Organist
Kathy Stange
Acolytes
Amy Patterson
Rachel Dubas
Zach Kightlinger

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 10th anniversary of Randy and Monica Pingel

Prayers

- For comforting Shirley Knickman, who lost her mother, Clara Goering
- For the grieving family of Marvin and Nancy Freund, who lost their son
- For Beth Corell's mom, Kay Jacobson
- For guiding the doctors who are treating Diane Mahaffey
- For the continued health of Sheila Oolman
- For the health of John McKeighan
- For Britt Morris, who has recently been diagnosed with cancer
- For the health of Dennis Hays

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.



Meetings

Mary-Esther Circle

Mary Esther Circle will meet Thursday, March 8 at 9 a.m. at the home of Melva Wenndt, 3601 Western Hills Drive, West Des Moines.

Rebekah Circle

Rebekah Circle will meet Thursday, March 8 at 7 p.m. at the home of Leona Standridge, 7905 Prairie, Urbandale.

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will meet Monday, March 12 at 7 p.m. at the home of Mary Jo Miller, 4725 71st St., Urbandale.

Naomi Circle

Naomi Circle will meet Thursday, March 8 at 9:30 a.m. at the church to clean the kitchen and finish the blankets.

Walking in the Light



Tune in Sunday, March 4 at 10 a.m. on radio station 940 AM. Praise as Pastor Baldwin shares on "By His Wounds, We are Healed."

Good News Players Will Perform at Mt. Olive Lutheran

The Good News Players, a drama group from Concordia University, St. Paul, Minnesota, will perform plays and musicals based on stories from the Bible at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 5625 Franklin Avenue, Des Moines, IA, on Monday, Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. Dr. Jeffrey Bukart wrote and directed the play. For more information, call 277-0247.

Scrapbook Fellowship

Scrapbook Fellowship will meet on Friday, March 9 from 8:30 a.m. to

11 p.m. in rooms 131/33. Come and go as your schedule allows. Make new friends, catch up with others and get inspired. For more information, contact Deb Kesse at 251-8324 or DeAnn McCue at 278-5544, ext. 207.



Honduras Updates

Items Needed

The Honduras mission team is collecting the following items for the June 23-30 trip. The items can be placed in the plastic bin in the narthex.

- Tylenol – Adult and Children's
- Vitamins – We need a huge supply of vitamins
- Lice Shampoo
- Hair pretties
- Hair gel for boys
- Ziploc bags (quart and sandwich size)

Vacation Bible School
March 19-22 from 9:30 - 11 a.m.



Three Ways to Help

1 We need adults and senior high school youth leaders for Bible challenge sessions. This fun session will take kids on a quest for truth in Scripture through a fun chant each day. This session will also help kids discover the truth through map folding. Everything is printed out in an easy-to-follow format.

2 We need adults, junior and senior high school youth leaders for quest groups. All elementary students will be in quest groups; thus, we need leaders for each group that will guide the students in their "Quest for Truth" journey to different stations each day. We only ask that you love working with kids and love the Lord!

3 We need adults, junior and senior high school youth helpers for craft sessions. All of our students will travel to a crafts area each day. We need helping hands to complete each day's craft activities.

If any of these three job descriptions interest you, please contact DeAnn at 278-5544, ext. 207 or deann@gloriadeionline.com.

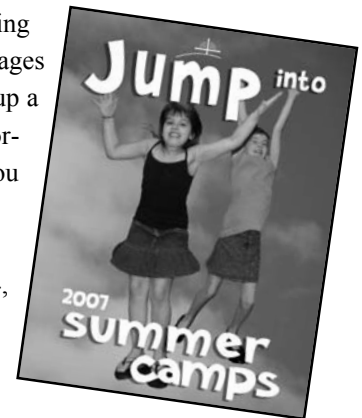
Orchestra Players Needed

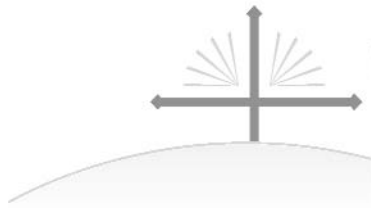
Please join the orchestra for Easter services. We need all instruments, including woodwind, brass, strings, and percussion. There are no tryouts; we only request that you have a willing heart to praise our Lord. We will practice every Wednesday evening from 8:15-9:15 in rooms 131/33. So dust off your musical instrument and call Julie DenHerder at 251-4632 today.



Summer Camps

Learning, summer and fun will be combined into a capsule of activities during each of our 13 summer camps. Check out the wide range of exciting camps for children ages 3 to 14 by picking up a brochure at the Information Center. If you have any questions, please contact DeAnn at 278-5544, ext. 207.





Welcome new members



Scott and Jennifer Anderson
(not pictured - Benjamin)



Ken and Mary Dubas
(not pictured - Jessie and Rachel)



Bryan Easter and Jen Gray



Brian and Elly Hein
(not pictured - Aspen and Ava)



Matt Hueser



Jon and Kirsten Illian
(not pictured - Bryson and Elisebeth)



Jodi Jensen
Tanner and Todd



Raymond, Jonie Karns
Cole (not pictured - Matthew
and Jacque)



Paul and Teri Kruse
(not pictured - Harrison)



Donna Kusy



Bryan and Kelli Ladd



Mike and Kim Larson
Emilie and Jackson

New Members



Sandy and Dean Miller
(not pictured - Nicholas, Brandon, Caitlin)



Susie Mitchell
Cameron and Crayton



Dan and Tina Morton
(not pictured - Jessica and Luke)



Kendall Neessen



John Rohden and Ashley Young



Susan and Al Ruhnke



Stacy and Paul Sams
Luke and Dylan



Meggan Samuelson



Kevin Stengel



Bev Tweedt



Jim and Janet Tysse



Matthew Van Meter



Diane Wieditz




Kurt Zuelke and Deb Welke

Please welcome the newest members to our church family. We are thankful for each of their lives. We pray that their experiences at Gloria Dei will enrich their relationships with Christ.

VBS

QUEST for TRUTH



Jesus: The Way,
The Truth, The Life

SIGN UP TODAY!

MONDAY-THURSDAY
MARCH 19-22 • 9-11:30 A.M.

Calling Children 3-11

Join the fun of Vacation Bible school as kids discover Jesus, the way, the truth, the life. Kids will join Dakota Joe and his faithful dog, Digger, as they tackle daily challenges to unearth the keeper of the truth artifact. This camp is free and open to our congregation and community.

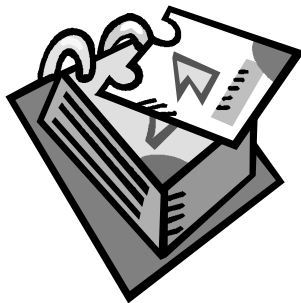
Two ways to register!

- Fill out registration form at the display in the narthex
- Register online at www.gloriadeionline.com

Mark Your Calendar

Spring Break

Because of spring break, Grace Place will not be held Saturday, March 17 and Sunday, March 18. In addition, Faith Alive, Music Alive and the midweek meal will not be held on Wednesday, March 21.



Holy Week and Easter

Grace Place will not be held April 4, 7 and 8 because of Holy Week and Easter. The last day of Faith Alive (including midweek meal and Music Alive) is April 25.

Wednesday's Meal

February 28

- BBQ Pork Sandwich
- Green Beans
- Fruit

March 7

- Chicken Nuggets
- Mashed Potatoes
- Fruit

5 p.m.

growyieldminister



gloriadeiyouthministry

luke 9:23

Junior High

Wednesdays

Sixth grade will continue with their current studies.

Seventh grade topics will include:

Feb. 28: "The Lord's prayer," "Leadership 101," and "Relationships: Families."

Eighth grade studies:

Feb. 28 "Means of Grace: Sacraments"

Castaway

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

Topic: "Integrity, Who is really watching?"

* Please note that the 10:20 Castaway has been moved to rooms 131/33.

30-Hour Famine

Please return your parental permission slips to Kim Phillips by March 4.

Café 923

Junior high youth are invited for food, fun and fellowship Friday, March 2 from 6-9.

Fundraiser

Don't forget to pick up your Younkens community booklets today to sell to your friends and family this week.

Senior High

Sunday Morning Senior High Bible Study

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

Topic: "Jesus my Savior, my friend."

The Island

Feb. 25

Join us on Sundays at 5:30 p.m. for large and small group study and fellowship.

Large Group Topic: "Rain. Where is God when it is Beginning to Pour?"

Small Group Topic: "My Body is about Him."

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.

Topic: "The Good and Bad of Family History."

Dinner Theatre Mayhem in Mayville

March 30-31 and April 13-14

Main cast rehearsal on Sunday from 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased starting Monday, March 5 for \$15 for adults, \$10 for adults ages 55 and over, and children ages 12 and under.

Childcare with meal for children ages 8 and under is provided.

Kutless

Thursday, March 8 at 7 p.m.

Meet at Gloria Dei at 5:30 p.m. and travel to the concert at Point of Grace Church. Sign up and pay \$15 to Tim by March 4. When you sign up by March 4, a drawing will be held for two VIP passes, which will include a personal meeting with the band including a photo opportunity.

Saltillo Mexico Mission Reminder

Sign up and make your \$100 deposit for the mission trip by March 11.

Week of February 25- March 3

Sunday, February 25

- 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
- 10:15 a.m. Financial Peace University Orientation
- 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
- 3:30 p.m. Dinner Theatre Rehearsal
- 5:30 p.m. The Island
- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

Monday, February 26

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

Tuesday, February 27

- 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 Volleyball
- 6:30 p.m. Kindermusik: Village
- 6:30 p.m. Kindermusik: Imagine That
- 6:30 p.m. DivorceCare
- 6:30 p.m. Financial Peace University
- 6:45 p.m. Co-ed Volleyball
- 7:00 p.m. Kindermusik: Family Time
- 7:00 p.m. Small Group Study
- 7:00 p.m. Board of Elders

Wednesday, February 28

- 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
- 6:15 p.m. The Gloria Dei Chorale
- 6:15 p.m. Faith Alive
- 6:15 p.m. Lord, I Want to Know You
- 6:15 p.m. The Point
- 7:15 p.m. Lenten Services (Sanctuary and FLC)
- 7:30 p.m. Gloria Dei Orchestra
- 7:30 p.m. The Alleluia Ringers

Thursday, March 1

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study
- 2:00 p.m. Home School Choir
- 6:30 p.m. Town Hall Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. GriefShare
- 6:30 p.m. Men's Small Group Bible Study

Friday, March 2

- 6:00 p.m. Junior High Café 923

Saturday, March 3

- 3:30 p.m. Dance Class
- 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	\$21,111
YTD Offering	\$923,134
YTD Budget	\$884,730

Attendance			
Northwind	186	Communion	
7:45 a.m.	174	7:45 a.m.	146
9 a.m.	368	9 a.m.	237
10 a.m.	99	10:30 a.m.	132
10:30 a.m.	215	Lenten Services	
		Traditional Service	308
	1042	Contemporary Service	118

Week of March 4-10

Sunday, March 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
- 11:30 a.m. National Youth Gathering Mtg.
- 11:45 a.m. Town Hall Meeting.
- 3:30 p.m. Dinner Theatre Rehearsal
- 5:30 p.m. The Island
- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

Monday, March 5

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

Tuesday, March 6

- 9:00 a.m. XYZ
- 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. Financial Peace University
- 6:45 p.m. Co-ed Volleyball

- 7:00 p.m. Kindermusik: Family Time
- 7:00 p.m. Small Group Bible Study

Wednesday, March 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
- 6:15 p.m. The Gloria Dei Chorale
- 6:15 p.m. Faith Alive
- 6:15 p.m. Lord, I Want to Know You
- 6:15 p.m. The Point
- 7:15 p.m. Lenten Service (FLC and Sanctuary)
- 7:30 p.m. Gloria Dei Orchestra
- 7:30 p.m. The Alleluia Ringers

Thursday, March 8

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study
- 2:00 p.m. Home School Choir
- 3:30 p.m. Mt. Olive Volleyball
- 6:30 p.m. GriefShare
- 6:30 p.m. Men's Small Group Bible Study

Saturday, March 9

- 8:30 a.m. Scrapbook Fellowship
- 5:30 p.m. Seventh Grade Confirmation Retreat

Saturday, March 10

- Seventh Grade Confirmation Retreat
- 3:30 p.m. Dance Class
- 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

Educational Attendance					
	Saturday, 5:50	Sunday, 9:20	Sunday, 10:20	Wed., 6:15	Misc.
Preschool	18	25	18	24	Music Alive
Elementary	15	61	18	78	50
Junior High		30	8	51	Wed. Meal
High School				11	72
Total	33	116	44	164	

A Week at a Glance



Lenten services were held simultaneously in the sanctuary and the Family Life Center last Wednesday evening with the sermon being telecast from the sanctuary. "It is exciting to see the traditional and contemporary services being held at the same time but in different locations," said Steve Kohtz, director of worship. Join us next Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. as we experience the Lenten season together.