

WEEKLY WORD



A Publication of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Urbandale, Iowa

May 14, 2006

Fifth Sunday of Easter

A Response to The Da Vinci Code



By Pastor Kendall Meyer

Under the statement, "Seeking the Truth," the movie *The Da Vinci Code*, which is based on the spellbinding conspiracy novel by Dan Brown, will be released this Friday. The book has sold over 46 million copies since 2003 and is expected to gain popularity as a blockbuster movie.

The Da Vinci Code involves the murder investigation of renowned Louvre's curator Jacques Saunière by Robert Langdon, professor of religious symbology at Harvard University. The curator was found naked and posed like Leonardo Da Vinci's famous drawing, the *Vitruvian Man* in the Denon Wing of the museum. The plot of the novel involves the interpretation of hidden messages inside Leonardo's famous works, including *Mona Lisa* and *The Last Supper*, and a conspiracy by the Catholic Church to cover up the "true" story of Jesus.

So, why is "seeking the truth" about *The Da Vinci Code* worth our time and attention? *USA Today* states the book is "historical fact with a contemporary storyline." Brown even begins his book under the heading "Fact," telling his readers: "All descriptions of artwork, architecture, documents and secret rituals in this novel are accurate." However, close inspection of these "facts" reveals their fictional nature. For example, Brown claims that Jesus never referred to himself as the Son of God but was actually deified three hundred years later by Emperor Constantine, Jesus was really married to Mary Magdalene, and the four Gospels are fabrications designed to claim Jesus as divine.

Are readers convinced? A survey by Decima Research, Inc. showed that one out of three Canadians who have read the book now believes in the existence of Jesus' descendants. And according to pollster George Barna, 53 percent of Americans who have read the book said it has been helpful in their "personal spiritual growth and understanding."

With this in mind, the widespread attention to Brown's claims will be discussed at work, social and family circles; therefore, it is prudent for Christians to be equipped with accurate information. We need to educate ourselves and our families with a strong foundation of truth that will help people know the real Jesus Christ; however, our response has to be marked with great love and compassion for those who cleave to Brown's declarations. The Word of God in 2 Peter 2:21 warns us of false teachers who "secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them," and Ephesians 4:15 stresses the importance of "speaking the truth in love."

Next week in the *Weekly Word*, we will probe some of Brown's claims. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Pastor Meyer at 276-1700, ext. 224.

The following books were used as reference points: The Da Vinci Code Fact or Fiction, by Hank Hanegraaf and Paul L. Maier, and Exploring the Da Vinci Code, by Lee Strobel and Garry Poole.

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New Worship Schedule in the Fall

A new worship schedule for the fall was approved by the Elders during their April 25 meeting. The new schedule will be as follows:

Sunday Worship

8 a.m.	Traditional	Sanctuary
9 a.m.	Northwind	Family Life Center
10 a.m.	Blended	Sanctuary
10:30 a.m.	Contemporary	Family Life Center

Sunday Educational Time (Children to Adults)

9:30-10:15 a.m.
10:30-11:15 a.m.

Saturday, Northwind Worship

5:30 p.m. Contemporary Family Life Center

Saturday Educational Time, Grace Place (Children age 3 to Grade 5)

6-6:45 p.m.

This change will accomplish several objectives:

1. Currently the classrooms on Sunday mornings are crowded; thus, a second educational time was added.
2. Families can worship together. Currently many families are split on Sunday mornings with children in Sunday school and the parents in worship. The new schedule allows a family to worship together for the first half of the 9 and 10 a.m. services before the children are excused for an age-appropriate message. Please note: If you worship at the 8 a.m. service as a family and then attend Sunday school, your schedule would remain the same. In addition, a family could attend the entire 9 a.m. service and then attend the 10:30 a.m. educational time.
3. Adult education classes can be held in classrooms. Currently the Family Life Center is being used for several adult classes and the noise level can be distracting. The new schedule will open up classrooms in the center wing for adult classes.
4. The late service will end before noon. Comments have been heard since the inception of the late service to begin and end earlier. The new late worship schedule begins at 10:30 a.m. and ends at 11:30 a.m.

The new schedule will begin in September 2006. There will be one preacher each weekend, the other pastors will be the liturgists at each service. A Bible study will be led by one of the pastors during the first educational time, while other adult studies will be held at both educational times. If you have any other questions, please ask one of the elders or staff or call the church office.

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



Sunday Schedule

Sunday Worship
8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.
Sunday School
9:30 a.m.
Adult Bible Classes
9:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Staffed Nursery
8 a.m.-noon

Saturday Schedule

Saturday Worship
5:30 p.m.
Grace Place
6 p.m.

Staff e-mail:

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Senior Pastor
rburcham@gloriadeionline.com

Rev. Kendall Meyer
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Director of Congregational Care
tphillips@gloriadeionline.com

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Director of Youth Ministry
tim@gloriadeionline.com

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steve@gloriadeionline.com

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bill@gloriadeionline.com

Governing Board
govboard@gloriadeionline.com

Today's flowers are placed on the altar in celebration of Ken and Rosalie Petersen's 58th wedding anniversary.

June's Important Meetings

Mark your calendars for these two important meetings:

The budget hearing will be Sunday, June 11 at 1 p.m. in the sanctuary.

The annual Congregational meeting will be Sunday, June 25 at 1 p.m. in the sanctuary.

A Patriotic Tribute is Being Formed

Come and join the music as we form a patriotic tribute team, a multi-generational choir and orchestra, who will offer praise on Father's Day, June 18 and Sunday, July 2. Since this team is open to the church and the community, please extend the invitation to your soprano, alto or tenor neighbor or co-worker. We also need volunteers to help in the mix of mingling music with fellowship. If you are interested, call Julie DenHerder at 251-4632.

Rehearsals will be Wednesdays, May 24-June 28, for the following groups:

Patriotic Praise Choir	Junior high to Adult	6:15-7:15 p.m.
Patriotic Praise Children's Choir	Grades K-5	6:15-7:15 p.m.
Patriotic Praise Orchestra	Junior high to Adult	7:15-8:15 p.m.

Servers

We are thankful for our volunteers today who help provide a great place to worship.

Elders:

Marv Deer
Steve Junge
Tim Radig

8 a.m.

Randy Bosworth
Dick Fastenau
Bob Kollmorgen
Ken Meythaler
Lou Schroedel
Jim Wollslager

9:30 a.m.

Dennis Appelhons
Brett Hosch
Keith Nicolet
Dave Schramm
Bonnie Wharton

11 a.m.

Jared Nicol
Gary Wasko
Ryan Wedemeyer
Jeff Brunsen

Organist:

Lynn Hays

Acolytes:

Katie Gilg
Leslie Peyton
Grace Phillips

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 Pennie in the church office, 276-1700, or contact 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 military

Prayers

- For Jackleen Dohleman's step-mother, Judy, who is suffering from cancer and for the family as they deal with her sickness
- For Joann Leland and Andy Morse and their families during this difficult time
- For Diane Mahaffey, who was recently diagnosed with lung cancer and will be having surgery
- For Brent Clark, who is hospitalized at Methodist
- For Dorothy Rix's brother, Wilbert Pickel, who has cancer
- For Larry Rix's brother, Don Rix, who has cancer
- For Carl Evans, who has serious health concerns
- For Tom Ludwig, who has an aggressive tumor

Prayer Ministry Team

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

Thank You

Thank you for all the cards, flowers, food and visits during my illness. Everything was much appreciated. — Leona Standridge

A huge thank you to everyone who made casseroles for the Salvation Army. — Rebekah Circle



Let's Share Our Bread with the Hungry

Naomi Circle is collecting food donations for the Des Moines Area Religious Council food pantry by the first Sunday of each month. Each month, they will suggest several items that the pantry needs to assist the estimated 10,500 Des Moines residents who need food and other items.

Please bring the following items to the narthex today:

May's Items

- Diapers
- Fruit/Vegetable Juices
- Infant Formula
- Instant Potatoes
- Jiffy Biscuit/Muffin Mixes

New Items Needed

In addition to donating items, checks can be written to Gloria Dei with "food pantry donation" written on the memo line and placed in the offering plate.

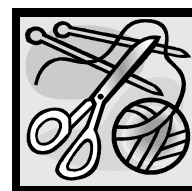


Strategic Planning

Thank you to those who attended the Q&A session to hear more information and to ask questions. The Governing Board appreciates your interest and feedback. If you have further questions or want to visit with a Board or Ministry Action Team (MAT) member, contact the board at gov-board@gloriadeionline.com or call one of the members of either group. Thanks! — Deb Kesse

Sew and Sews

Please join us Thursday mornings at 10 a.m. in room 127/29 for a



time of fellowship and handiwork in a group setting. Whether you crotchet, embroider or needlepoint or work on any other sewing craft, we would love to have you join us for this fun group.

Softball

Softball season is in full swing. If you have any questions, please call Bill Clark at 276-2517.



Upcoming Schedule:

Thursday, May 18, 7:15 p.m.

Away: Westview; Home: GDLC

Thursday, May 18, 8:15 p.m.

Away: GDLC; Home: MDRC

Monday, May 22, 6:15 p.m.

Away: GDLC; Home: Hope Min

Tuesday, May 30, 7:15 p.m.

Away: GDLC; Home: Central A

Monday, June 5, 8:15 p.m.

Away: GDLC; Home: MDRC

Monday, June 5, 9:15 p.m.

Away: GDLC; Home: Luth Hope

Thursday, June 15, 7:15 p.m.

Away: Cntrl A; Home: GDLC

Thursday, June 15, 8:15 p.m.

Away: Union Pk; Home: GDLC

Saturday, June 24, 7:15 p.m.

Tourney



Make a quilt for the Honduras missions

When:

Five Classes

- Mondays: June 5, 12, 19 and 26 at 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, June 17 at 8:30 to noon (bring a sewing machine to this class)

Cost:

- Class is free, but after the first class, some materials (approx. \$15) will need to be purchased

What to bring:

- A willingness to learn
- Access to a straight-stitch sewing machine

Where:

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
Room 134/36/38

To Pre-Register:

Call Norma Rohn:
253-0523 • mrohn@aol.com
Linda Hungerford:
226-1129 • hunger4@earthlink.net

Spring Cleaning

We will be collecting new or gently used stocking caps and mittens until May 21 for Shining City of China. Please look for the Shining City of China box in the narthex.



Thanks for your contributions.
– Naomi and Miriam Circles

Bulletin Board

- **Last Day of Sunday School**
Sunday, May 14
- **Discovery 201**
Sunday, June 11
- **Waffle Breakfast**
Sunday, May 21
- **Beginning Ballet**
Mondays, June 5, 12, 19 & 26
- **Friday Story Time**
Fridays, June 16, 23 & 30
- **Preschoolers and Parents**
Saturday, June 17
- **Drama Camp**
June 23-30

Scrapbook Fellowship



Since many of the “regulars” couldn’t scrapbook last Friday, we’ve decided to add an extra scrapbook day this month! We will meet Friday, May 19 all day in room 135/37. Join us and complete a page or two of your scrapbook. For further information, contact Deb Kesse at 251-8324 or DeAnn McCue at 276-1700.

Thrivent Builds
 Habitat for Humanity | Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will team with Habitat for Humanity, and local congregations to build 3 houses in the Des Moines Habitat Homes this summer.

Sunday, June 4
 Buy a 2X4 in the narthex and sign it.
 \$1, \$5, \$10, \$20 or \$50 donations accepted.

Buy the Wood Build a Home

Contact:
 Wally Haase: 225-1958
 Bill Clark: 276-2517

Buy the Wood Project

We need volunteers to help work Friday, May 19 from approximately 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on houses located on 12th street in Des Moines. Details to follow. Everyone is welcome; no tools or skills are required. Please sign up at the Information Center and pick up a waiver, which will need to be signed before you work. Stay tuned for more volunteer opportunities as Gloria Dei helps every third Saturday throughout the summer. For more information, contact Wally Haase at 225-1958 or Bill Clark at 276-2517.

Giving Plus

“Giving Plus,” a program sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans that will match \$1 for every \$2 given, is available to help with our preschool playground plans. Please pick up an information sheet at the Information Center; forms must be filled out and checks made payable to Tiny Treasures Lutheran Preschool.

Consignment Sale

Tiny Treasures is hosting a consignment sale June 9 and 10. This sale is open to the congregation and to the public to sell baby, children and adult items.

Here is how it works: You pick up a seller’s packet, which will outline the instructions for the sale at Tiny Treasures Preschool office.

The cost: The seller determines the price of their items and keeps 70% of the selling price; Tiny Treasures keeps the remaining 30%.

Volunteers: Volunteers who work a minimum of four hours are invited to a pre-sale on Thursday, June 8.

For more information: Grab a consignment sale brochure at the Information Center or on the literature racks throughout the building.

sharing the love of Jesus in word and deed

Honduras Mission Dinner
 Saturday, June 3 at 6:45 p.m.

dental optical pharmacy

free-will donations

hot dogs hamburgers

medical children evangelism

join us in our mission, proceeds help to defray the expense of the trip

Waffles Coming Next Sunday!

Buy your tickets today and save \$1

Proceeds to benefit the playground of Tiny Treasures Lutheran Preschool



\$5 advance tickets

\$6 at the door

Belgium Waffle Breakfast

Sunday, May 21, 8:30-12:30

Buy your tickets today at
the Information Center!



8 Reasons to Eat Waffles Next Sunday

1. Enjoy nine-inch malted Belgium waffles from one of the 14 waffle irons.
2. Nine kinds of syrup.
3. All you can eat.
4. Kids ages 5 and under eat free.
5. Fellowship time with your family and others before or after church.
6. Seeing Dad's Waffle Company in action.
7. Slide show of the first year of preschool.
8. Support the building of the new playground.

3 Reasons to Volunteer Next Sunday

1. The preschool needs your help.
2. Working together is fun.
3. It's a way to work off the huge delicious breakfast that you ate.

Pick up a poster for your workplace!



gloriadeiyouthministry

luke 9:23

Information:
Tim Kightlinger,
278-5544, ext. 212 or
tim@gloriadeionline.com



Bible Study Today at 9:30 a.m.

Grades 6-8 May 14: Last Sunday school meeting for the school year
Grades 9-12 May 14: Sunday morning Bible Study: "Staying Friends when Issues Arise"

Confirmation

Eighth Grade

Congratulations! We are thankful for all your hard work. Eighth graders are welcome to join the high school group beginning this week. Please join us for all the high school activities.

High School

High School: Grades 9-12

Join us this Wednesday for our small group studies: "A Lifestyle of Worship."

Sunday Nights at Tim's

Join us Sunday evenings for Bible study and fellowship at Tim's house, 9916 Brookview Drive, Urbandale starting May 21.



Paintball

Sign up today!

Join us Sunday, May 21 at the church at noon. We will return at 5 p.m. The cost is \$10 for rental and course usage; \$20 per 500 rounds of paintballs.

Graduating Seniors

Join us Sunday, May 21 from 9:15-10:30 a.m. in the Youth Center as we honor your graduation. Families of the graduates are invited to join us. Please RSVP by Wednesday, May 17. Parents, please provide us with photos of your child as a baby and as a teen.

Summer Mission Trip

The payment of \$200 for the New York mission trip is due by Wednesday, May 24.

Investigate the Fun

Our summer reading program will help children investigate reading possibilities throughout the summer. Sign-up begins Sunday, May 14. Each group will read books from our library or other locations to collect clues to spend at the Investigator's Shop. Come and investigate which group is right for you:

- Preschool Puzzle Masters
- Elementary Mystery Solvers
- Read-To-or-With-Someone Secret Decoders
- CSI Advanced Readers

Summer Camps



Are you looking for something fun to do this summer? Our summer camps are a fun way to spend the hot summer days! All of the camps are open to elementary school children. We also have fun summer opportunities for preschool age children too! Check out our summer camp brochure at the Information Center today to learn more about the following fun camps:

- Science
- Girl
- Fine Arts
- Sports
- Drama

Join us for summer fun!

The Incredible Race



Get your motors running!

The Incredible Race is a fun-filled opportunity for kids to go trackside where they will learn from Biblical pacesetters who were transformed into champions. The Incredible Race drops its green flag at Grace Place, Saturday, May 20 and rumbles for kids ages 3 to fifth grade.

Volunteers Needed

Pit crew workers are needed to help equip the children with the correct tools for the race. Lots of crew members are needed, so name your available hours and jobs that will help to keep the team on track. If you are interested, contact DeAnn at 278-5544, ext. 207.

Week of May 14-20

Sunday, May 14

Mother's Day

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
- 9:30 a.m. Blended Worship Service
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:30 a.m. What the Bible Says about Parenting
- 9:30 a.m. Da Vinci Bible Study
- 9:30 a.m. Lifelight-Gospel of Luke
- 9:30 a.m. Discovery 101
- 10:45 a.m. Da Vinci Bible Study
- 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service with Communion
- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting - RM 109

Monday, May 15

- 6:00 a.m. BSF Leaders Meeting

Tuesday, May 16

- 8:00 a.m. Kindermusik
- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 1:00 p.m. Christcare Bible Study Group
- 6:00 p.m. Governing Board
- 6:00 p.m. BSF

Wednesday, May 17

- 6:15 p.m. Chorale and Chapel Rehearsal
- 7:30 p.m. Gloria Dei Orchestra
- 7:30 p.m. Hand Bell Practice
- 7:30 p.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

Thursday, May 18

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study
- 10:00 a.m. Sew and Sews
- 7:30 p.m. Ministry Strategic Planning MAT

Friday, May 19

- 8:00 a.m. Fellowship Scrapbook
- Wedding Rehearsal

Saturday, May 20

- 2:00 p.m. Guttenfelder and Shepherd Wedding
- 5:30 p.m. Saturday Evening "Northwind" Service

Outpouring of Love for the Lord	
General Fund Offerings	\$15,905
YTD Offering	\$1,061,617
YTD Budget	\$1,022,780

Attendance			
Northwind	115	Total	1096
8 a.m.	172	Communion:	
9 a.m.	439	8 a.m.	152
9:30 a.m.	225	9 a.m.	256
11 a.m.	145	9:30 a.m.	149

Week of May 21-27

Sunday, May 21

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service with Communion
- 8:30 a.m. Belgium Waffle Breakfast
- 9:30 a.m. Blended Worship Service with Communion
- 9:30 a.m. What the Bible Says about Parenting
- 9:30 a.m. Da Vinci Bible Study
- 9:30 a.m. Lighthouse-Gospel of Luke
- 9:30 a.m. Discovery 101
- 10:45 a.m. Da Vinci Bible Study
- 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service
- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting - RM 109

Monday, May 22

- 6:00 a.m. BSF Leaders Meeting

Tuesday, May 23

- 8:00 a.m. Kindermusik
- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 1:00 p.m. Christcare Bible Study Group
- 6:00 p.m. BSF
- 7:00 p.m. Board of Elders

Wednesday, May 24

- 6:15 p.m. Chorale and Chapel Rehearsal
- 7:30 p.m. Gloria Dei Orchestra
- 7:30 p.m. Hand Bell Practice
- 7:30 p.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

Thursday, May 25

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

Friday, May 26

- 6:00 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal

Saturday, May 27

- 4:00 p.m. Bob Kahn and Brittanie Hand Wedding
- 5:30 p.m. Saturday Evening "Northwind" Service with Communion

o r d e r o f **W O R S H I P**

May 13 and 14, 2006 • Change of Community

Saturday, 5:30 p.m.

"Majestic"
"Everyday"
"Psalm 40"
"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"
"Open the Eyes of My Heart"
"Holy, Holy, Holy"
Confession and Forgiveness
"Great is Thy Faithfulness"
Epistle Reading
(NIV) I Corinthians 15:30-34
Gospel Reading
(NIV) Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
Children are Invited to Grace Place
Offering: *"Without You"*
Sermon: Pastor Ron Burcham,
Senior Pastor
Prayers
Lord's Prayer
Celebration of Holy Communion
"Jesus, Draw Me Close"
"Shout to the Lord"
"In Your Presence"
Blessing
"Lord Reign in Me"
Welcome and Announcements

Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

Welcome
"O Savior, Precious Savior" LW 282, 2 Vs
Invocation, Psalm 115
"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"
"Open the Eyes of My Heart"
"Holy, Holy, Holy"
Confession and Forgiveness
"Great is Thy Faithfulness"
Epistle Reading
(NIV) I Corinthians 15:30-34
Musical Offering
"Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel"
Offered by the Gloria Dei Chorale
Gospel Reading
(NIV) Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
"Oh Christ, Our Light, O Radiance True" LW 314, 3 Vs
Sermon: Pastor Ron Burcham,
Senior Pastor
"Oh Christ, Our Light, O Radiance True" LW 314, 2 Vs
Offering
Prayers
Lord's Prayer
Benediction
"Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling," LW 318, 3 Vs

Sunday, 8 a.m.

Welcome
"O Savior, Precious Savior" LW 282, 2 Vs
Invocation, Psalm 115
"O Savior, Precious Savior" LW 282, 2 Vs
Confession and Forgiveness
"You are the Way; to You Alone" LW 283, 4 Vs
Epistle Reading
(NIV) I Corinthians 15:30-34
Musical Offering
"Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel"
Offered by the Gloria Dei Chorale
Gospel Reading
(NIV) Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
"Oh Christ, Our Light, O Radiance True" LW 314, 3 Vs
Sermon: Pastor Ron Burcham,
Senior Pastor
"Oh Christ, Our Light, O Radiance True" LW 314, 2 Vs
Offering
Prayers
Lord's Prayer
Benediction
"Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling," LW 318, 3 Vs

Sunday, 11 a.m.

Welcome
"Majestic"
"Everyday"
"Psalm 40"
"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"
"Open the Eyes of My Heart"
"Holy, Holy, Holy"
Confession and Forgiveness
"Great is Thy Faithfulness"
Epistle Reading
(NIV) I Corinthians 15:30-34
Gospel Reading
(NIV) Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
Offering: *"Without You"*
Sermon: Pastor Ron Burcham,
Senior Pastor
Prayers
Lord's Prayer
Celebration of Holy Communion
"Jesus, Draw Me Close"
"Shout to the Lord"
"In Your Presence"
Blessing
"Lord Reign in Me"

The Celebration of Holy Communion

A Note to Our Guests and Visitors . . . The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Gloria Dei in the belief and with the confession that this Sacrament is the very body and blood of Christ (The Doctrine of the Real Presence) which is received with the bread and the wine for us to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our faith. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and seek to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us. If you agree with our beliefs regarding the nature and meaning of this Sacrament and desire to commune with us, you are welcome! For the medical and/or physical needs of members or visitors, non-alcoholic wine will be in the inner circle of each communion tray and will be lighter in color than the regular wine.