

Gloria Dei Tidings

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Encourage

Dear Siblings in Christ,

It was a family gathering for August and September birthdays. My in-laws' apple trees were bearing fruit. My nieces and I wandered the backyard inspecting apples that had fallen from the trees. Some were bruised or had evidence of hungry insects. We managed to find a few choice specimens that begged to be eaten. We carried them to the kitchen.

My younger niece asked if I would slice an apple for her to eat. As I handed her a plate with the apple pieces on it, she said, "I love you Aunt Tricia." I responded with "I love you too." She smiled and said, "I know because you sliced my apple." It was simple. My actions spoke. This is an easy everyday example. All of you could tell a story about an action that showed your love for someone.



Valentine's Day is a day we offer up a show of our affection. It is also a day that can be a target of cynicism. And rightly so. It spotlights romantic love with gifts of hearts and flowers. People who don't have a "valentine" may be the object of pity. Poor souls, lonely and unloved. The day for many becomes about feeling unlovable or unworthy of love.

This year Ash Wednesday falls on February 14. What might it mean for us as Christians, who are beginning the holy season of Lent, to reframe this day? The dissonance between the image of hearts and flowers and a cross smudged in ash on your forehead rings loudly. God's love story with you, me, with all of creation is gritty. Love lived out daily will be as messy as it is beautiful. The cross is where we are met by God in Christ in grittiest and messiest moments of loving. Jesus opens his arms to a world that rejects the depth and width of his love. Jesus lays down his life in undying love. Christ rises up out of the grit of the grave and offers new life to the world so loved by God.

In his book *Love is the Way*, Bishop Michael Curry writes that love is not the opposite of hate. Love is the opposite of selfishness. Selfishness is a turning inward, thinking first and foremost of self and what serves me, myself and mine. If Lent is a call to return to the Lord our God, then it is also a call to love, to make the move, as Curry writes, from *me* to *we*. When we return to God, we live in love that first chooses good for all.

We will enter the 40 Days of Lent marked with an ashy, gritty cross and we are called to love. We do it with Jesus and we do it together. We listen to the Word of God and we listen to the voices of our neighbors, not just next door but across town, across the state, across the world. Easier said than done? You bet. We fall short. It is inevitable. We will stand in the crowd on Good Friday and shout "Crucify him." Thank God for grace. Thank God for forgiveness. Thank God that Jesus always chooses the cross. Jesus always chooses *we*. Jesus always chooses love.

Your sister in Christ, entering Lent alongside you marked with the gritty cross of God's love,

Pastor Trish

Worship

- ◆ Join us in person and on Facebook Live each Sunday at 9 am
- ◆ Watch on YouTube - posted by 11 am each Sunday (GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH (gloriadeicr.com))
- ◆ **Ash Wednesday Worship** - February 14 at 7 pm
- ◆ **Mid-Week Lenten Worship** - February 21 and 28 at 7 pm (Facebook Live)



Mid-week Lenten Worship at 7:00 p.m.

Each week we explore the many dimensions of God's love for us and the love of Christ we share with one another, our neighbors and the world.

"LIFTED UP in LOVE"

February 21: *God's Love for Us*

February 28: *The Power of Love*

March 6: *Living Love*

March 13: *Love for Neighbor*

March 20: *Love that is Noble*

Simple Soup Suppers are back this year for Lent!
LOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PAGE 4

Encounter the Holy Days of Lent this year in a deeper and meaningful way. Join Pastor Trish and Pastor Phil for a mini-retreat on Saturday, Feb 10th. Together, we will discover the origin of our practices for Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday and connect the ancient rituals to our daily lives of faith here and now.

Lunch and refreshments will be provided

Adult Mini Winter Retreat

SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 10TH
9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.



Pray

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS BLOOD DRIVE

with
Impact Life

Thursday MARCH 7, 2024
Hosted by Gloria Dei

February Calendar

Thursday, Feb. 1	7:00 am - Women's Study 6:30 pm - Council Meeting
Saturday, Feb. 3	5:30 pm - Youth Fundraiser Dinner "A Night In New Orleans"
Sunday, Feb. 4	9:00 am - Worship 10:15 am - Others First Breakfast/GiFT
Wednesday, Feb. 7	6:00 pm - Confirmation Class
Thursday, Feb. 8	7:00 am - Women's Study
Saturday, Feb. 10	9:00 am - Adult Mini Winter Retreat <i>led by Pastor Trish & Pastor Phil - Encounter the Holy Days of Lent</i>
Sunday, Feb. 11	9:00 am - Worship - Transfiguration Sunday 10:15 am - GiFT
Wednesday, Feb. 14	7:00 pm - Ash Wednesday Worship
Thursday, Feb. 15	7:00 am - Women's Study
Sunday, Feb. 18	9:00 am - Worship 10:15 am - GiFT
Tuesday, Feb. 20	6:30 pm - Circle of Faith
Wednesday, Feb. 21	6:15 pm - Soup Supper 7:00 pm - Mid-week Lenten Worship
Thursday, Feb. 22	7:00 am - Women's Study
Saturday, Feb. 24	9:00 am - Prayer Shawl
Sunday, Feb. 25	9:00 am - Worship 10:15 am - GiFT - Update on the Director of Faith and Community Engagement
Wednesday, Feb. 28	6:15 pm - Soup Supper 7:00 pm - Mid-week Lenten Worship
Thursday, Feb. 29	7:00 am - Women's Study 9:00 am - Young at Heart will meet at Olive Tree, 2201 16th Ave SW.

Thanks

Our thanks to the following members who were key members of our "village" in January:

- ◆ **Jay Wiebold and Ron Miller** for salting, blowing and shoveling snow.
- ◆ **Ginger Larson** for helping with the last *Tidings* mailing.
- ◆ **Janelle Whisler** for cooking/preparing the delicious food and serving the BLAST crew!
- ◆ **BLAST families** for attending BLAST nights. We couldn't have a BLAST without you!
- ◆ **ALL VOLUNTEERS!**

WE LOVE
OUR VOLUNTEERS

We know how much time, energy and love that each of you put into the ministry here, and it's such a blessing to know that we can rely on you. Thank you for the hours you've spent assisting our church. Thank you for being a friend to those who need it most.

Study

February 4

- ◇ Isaiah 40:21-31
- ◇ Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
- ◇ 1 Corinthians 9:16-23
- ◇ Mark 1:29-39

February 11

- ◇ 2 Kings 2:1-12
- ◇ Psalm 50:1-6
- ◇ 2 Corinthians 4:3-6
- ◇ Mark 9:2-9

February 14 (Ash Wed)

- ◇ Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
- ◇ Psalm 51:1-17
- ◇ 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
- ◇ Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 18

- ◇ Genesis 9:8-17
- ◇ Psalm 25:1-10
- ◇ 1 Peter 3:18-22
- ◇ Mark 1:9-15

February 25

- ◇ Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
- ◇ Psalm 22:23-31
- ◇ Romans 4:13-25
- ◇ Mark 8:31-38

Lent

Lenten Devotions - "LIFTED UP in LOVE"

(Need your booklet mailed to your home, contact the church office at (319) 396-2641.)

Each day of Lent we will join in reflection and prayer as we come to experience more fully the everlasting compassion of God shown to us in Christ.

"O gracious Christ, walk with me through these days of Lent. In your abundant mercy, mold me more and more into your disciple. Amen."

Mid-week Lenten Worship at 7:00 p.m. on

February 21, February 28

March 6, March 13, March 20

Simple Soup Suppers are back this year for Lent!
"Come for the fellowship and stay for the soup!"

The soup, bread, and beverage meal will begin on Wednesday, February 21st serving from 6:15 p.m. until 6:50 p.m.
The last simple soup supper will be held on March 20.

A different *homemade soup* will be served each week along with different breads, macaroni and cheese will also be available.

Free will offering, but not required.

Youth Fundraiser

A Night In New Orleans

Gloria Dei Youth Fundraiser ♦ Feb. 3 ♦ \$5 per person

Optional Movie at 6pm: "Princess and the Frog"
Silent Auction ends at 7:30pm

Dinner Begins at 5:30pm

Menu:

PoBoys, Red Beans and Dirty Rice, Kings Cake Dessert

January BLaST theme was Epiphany

BLaST kids shine with Epiphany "LIGHT". Flashlights symbolize the guiding star that illuminated the path of the Wisemen to find baby Jesus. The decorative crowns represent the strength and resilience of the Wisemen, who journeyed far to bear witness to the miracle of the newborn king.



Amber and Gemma Sebastian showing off their crowns.



Look how adorable Luca Dockendorf is with his decorated crown. Such a visionary!

REMINDER
NO BLaST in February

We invite you to come and enjoy the soup supper and Lenten Worship in February (details on page 4)

◆ **LENTEN BLaST BAGS can be picked up Sunday, February 11th**



Friends used flashlights to look for missing wise men hidden in the sanctuary. After all the searching, they played a fun game called Fireflies. It was a BLaST! Everyone had a great time!



Check out our **NEW** Diversity Library!

There is something for all reading levels, and we will continually add books throughout the year.

(Located near the "Get Connected" wall.)

Sign Up Today for Camp's Early-Bird Discount

EWALU offers a variety of programs all summer for youth in grades 1 to 12, led by trained counselors. Sign up by February 29 for the first early discount or by April 18 for the second early discount. See program descriptions for the discount amount - <https://ewalu.org/summer-camp/>.

Gloria Dei provides \$200 for full-week camperships and \$100 for mini-week camps. It is the desire of the whole Ewalu community of churches and individuals that no child is ever denied an amazing camp experience due to a family's financial constraints.

Information and registration forms are available on the Get Connected table.



Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

153 Cherry Hill Rd NW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

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community@gloriadeicr.com

Website: www.gloriadeicr.com

Please remember to periodically
check your mailbox in the
church fellowship hall.

And like us on Facebook!

Invite

Young at Heart, Gloria Dei's fellowship group for those over age 55, gets together monthly for breakfast or lunch. The group meets next on **Thursday, February 29 at 9 a.m. at Olive Tree, 2201 16th Ave SW.**

Save the dates for
Holy Week & Easter:

Palm Sunday
March 24 at 9:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday
March 28 at 7:00 p.m.



Good Friday
March 29 at 7:00 p.m.

Easter
March 31 at 7:00 a.m.
& 9:00 a.m.