

ENCOURAGE

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Happy Epiphany to you!!

Epiphany is a time of revelation. It is a time when the spotlight of God's love shines into dark places and we catch a vision of God at work in the world. It is a time to especially be on the lookout for Jesus popping up and being revealed in unexpected places. Where will you see him? What will he be doing?

I think the unexpected part about Jesus isn't so much that the places he will pop up are unusual. I think the unexpected part is how ordinary and routine the places are. It is unexpected because as we go along in our everyday stuff: work, school, the grocery store, the gym, pumping gas, watching the news in the family room, walking the dog – well, we can't help but think, "What would Jesus be doing here?"

Oh, but it is just like Jesus to show up in those places. He's been that way from the very beginning. God in the flesh born into common human circumstances. Born in a stable and baptized in the muddy Jordan River. Walking dusty streets and hanging out with fishermen. Eating with the outcast and forgotten.

So why not pumping gas at Casey's or pushing a grocery cart at Fareway? Jesus could be swimming laps at the Y or sitting in the stands watching your child play basketball. Will we recognize him? Smiling, holding a door, letting us cut into his lane of traffic?

Where else might we catch a glimpse and feel the warmth of Christ's light shining into darkness? Maybe the most unexpected place Jesus will be revealed to us this Epiphany is in ourselves and in the daily things we do. Christ, your Savior, with you and among you. Christ inside each of you and making us all into his Body. Surprise! All the places you go - Jesus is there too. Jesus is in you and me, moving us to kindness, honesty, fairness, generosity, sacrifice, forgiveness and reconciliation.

Your church helps connect you to many ways you live your faith and reveal Christ to others. But I know beyond the church doors, you are out in the world shining Christ's light into lots of dark places. Are you reading to kids, delivering meals to seniors, shoveling a neighbor's driveway or praying for a sick friend? What, in Jesus' name, are you up to?

Share your stories. It's not bragging. It's telling Jesus' story. It's revelation. It's living in Epiphany.

Your Sister in Christ who gives thanks for the Savior's light revealed in you,
 Pastor Trish

A Special Congregational Meeting is being called by our Gloria Dei Council to be held at 11:30 a.m. Sunday, January 28. Purpose: To vote on the purchase of 19.5 (approximate) acres of land on the corner of 16th Ave and 80th Street in southwest Cedar Rapids. All members are encouraged to attend. Thank you.

WORSHIP

Live in Concert – Hans Peterson and son Nelson Morlock!

Right here at Gloria Dei on Thursday, February 8, 6:30 p.m. Freewill offering. Hans is a member of Dakota Road, the ensemble that has written a number of songs that we use in Worship. Nelson is on a one-year hiatus from college, touring with his father. Nelson is a vocalist, bass guitarist and excellent fiddler! He was a hi-light of the Synod Assembly last May. This is a family event. Please invite your friends and neighbors!

Thursday 6:14 Worship - Working or out of town on Sunday? Please join us Thursdays at 6:14 p.m. Holy Communion is celebrated in Worship every Thursday.

The Flower Chart for 2018 has been posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Please sign up to provide flowers in honor or memory of loved ones or an event. The flowers cost \$18 (we are now picking them up to save delivery costs.) Please pick up an envelope when signing up to return the fee to the church. Thank you.

Sermons are available for viewing on our website, www.gloriadeicr.com. Click on "Sermon Video" under Weekly Worship on the front page of the website.

Cupcake Wars



Sunday, January 21, 11:30-12:30 p.m. All ages welcome to enter, multiple flavor entries welcome. Prizes awarded for Best Tasting, Best Decorated, and Bakers Choice. Come join the fun and help support our youth trip to Houston! A soup meal will be included with cupcake taste testing. \$5.00 per person. Contact Laurie Weber for more details.

INVITE

You are invited to join the Altar Guild – Volunteers prepare the altar area, banners, paraments, candles, guest registers, baptismal water, and the communion table on Saturdays. They serve one month of the year. If you are interested in joining a team, please contact Joyce Henderson at 319-360-2046 or joycehenderson6705@gmail.com Thank you!

SERVE

Family Promise - A new director for Family Promise has been hired and will begin work on January 15. Churches will start hosting February 11th. Gloria Dei is scheduled to host February 25 to March 4th.

Mark your calendars! Gloria Dei will host a Blood Drive with Holy Redeemer at Gloria Dei on Friday, March 9, 4:00-6:30 p.m. Sign ups will begin in February.

PRAY

O God, by the preaching of your apostle Paul you have caused the light of the gospel to shine throughout the world. Grant that we may follow his example and be witnesses to the truth 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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Gloria Dei Tidings

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Office Hours: 8:00 - 1:00—Mon-Thu. 8:00-12:00—Friday

Please remember to periodically check your mailbox in the church fellowship hall. This saves on mailing costs. Please contact us with your new address when you move!

Deadlines for articles are the 8th and the 23rd of each month.

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JANUARY 16-31

Tue. Jan. 167:00 am - Men's Bible Study
6:00 pm - Worship Team
Wed. Jan. 179:00 am - Naomi Circle meets at *American Skillet*
5:55 pm - Confirmation
6:00 pm - Epiphany Family Event
7:00 pm - Choir
8:00 pm - Midweek Break
Thu. Jan. 186:45 am - Women's Study at *Panera*
6:14 pm - Advent Worship/Holy Communion
Sat. Jan. 209:30 am - Stephen Ministry Retreat at *Prairiewoods*
Sun. Jan. 21**8:00 am - Worship/Holy Communion**
9:20 am - Sunday School and Youth Forum
9:25 am - Adult Forum
10:30 am - Worship/Holy Communion
11:30 am - Cupcake Wars and Soup Lunch
Tue. Jan. 237:00 am - Men's Bible Study
6:30 pm - Circle of Faith
Wed. Jan. 245:15 pm - 4th Grade Pre-Confirmation
5:55 pm - Confirmation
6:15 pm - Tone Chimes
7:00 pm - Choir
8:00 pm - Midweek Break
Thu. Jan. 256:45 am - Women's Study at *Panera*
9:00 am - Young at Heart meets at *16th Ave Grill*
6:14 pm - Worship/Holy Communion
Sun. Jan. 28**8:00 am - Worship/Holy Communion**
9:20 am - Sunday School and Youth Forum
9:25 am - Adult Forum
10:30 am - Worship/Holy Communion
11:30 am - Special Congregational Meeting
Tue. Jan. 307:00 pm - Men's Study
Wed. Jan. 315:15 pm - 4th Grade Pre-Confirmation
5:55 pm - Confirmation
6:15 pm - Tone Chimes
7:00 pm - Choir
8:00 pm - Midweek Break

STUDY

Please take a moment to read the upcoming Lessons:

January 21—Mark 1:14-20
January 28 - Mark 1:21-28

Adult Forum - Sundays, 9:25-10:20 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. On January 21 and 28 we will view and discuss segments of, "The Story of God" with Morgan Freeman.

Do you know:

- Who wrote a good portion of the New Testament? Did you know most of the New Testament letters were written before any of the four gospels?
- How the good news of Jesus ended up spreading across the world?
- How the theological language of Scripture conveys God's word to us today?

Please join us for study and conversation on Paul, the Apostle and the first book written in the New Testament, I Thessalonians. This three-week course will happen during the Sunday Adult Forum on February 11, 18 and 25. 9:25 – 10:20 a.m.

YOUTH NEWS

Epiphany Household Event – Wednesday, January 17, 6:00-7:00 p.m. Join us for a puppet show, flashlight games, craft, and a pizza dinner! Please bring a flashlight. All are invited!

4th Grade Pre-Confirmation will be held Wednesdays, January 24, 31, and February 7 at 5:15-5:55 p.m. 4th Graders will learn about God's gift of prayer. Please call or email the church office to register.

GIVE

Simply Giving (Automatic Bank Withdrawal for your offerings). It's convenient. It saves time. It's hassle free. It greatly helps your church manage and steward your offerings for the ministries and mission of your church. About 60 households use this method of supporting Gloria Dei. It's easy to sign up. Just visit with Jana Freeman, Business Manager at 396 2641.

Souper Bowl of Caring - Please bring a few extra dollars to worship on Sunday, February 4 as we participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring. Funds offered will be donated to the Linn Community Food Bank and the ELCA Hunger Appeal.

THANKS

Thanks to members of the Property Team who clear snow.

Thanks to the Worship Team for the seasonal displays in the sanctuary.

Thanks to our parents who faithfully bring their children to Sunday School.

Thanks to our Sunday School Staff for caring for and teaching our kids.

QUOTES

"I am not discouraged, because every wrong attempt discarded is another step forward."
Thomas Alva Edison

"People, even more than things, have to be restored, renewed, revived, reclaimed, and redeemed; never throw out anyone."
Audrey Hepburn

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."
Aesop