
❖ NewsNotes ❖

January 2018

Vol. 120 Issue 1

‘Forgetting’ is temporary, but ‘forgiving’ is forever

By Rev. Jeff Zell

I believe in the Holy Spirit the forgiveness of sins...

As you begin your list of New Year resolutions, here is one that every Christian ought to take advantage of: forgive. Forgiving is easier for some of us than others. Some of us would just as soon forget rather than forgive. Forgetting only works for a while. Forgiving is forever.

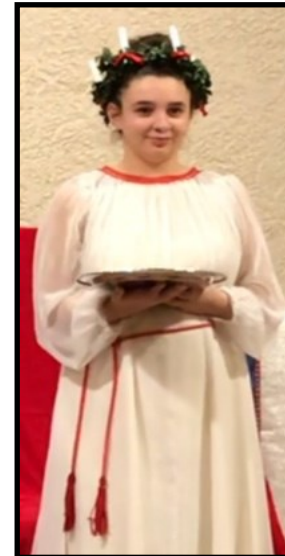
The Holy Spirit has arranged for forgiveness to be a part of the creed. We believe in the Holy Spirit. We believe that the Holy Spirit can forgive sins. Mine as well as theirs. I believe the Holy Spirit can work in our hearts to lead us to forgive. We want to take advantage of this gift of God. Forgiveness is good for our heart, mind, and soul.

In his explanation for the third article Martin Luther of the 16th century says in part: "...Daily in this Christian church

the Holy Spirit abundantly forgives all sins – mine and those of all believers." This is a return to baptism. In baptism we encounter God's gracious love. In the font we first encounter God's forgiveness. But, after we are baptized, even after we receive communion, we continue to sin. God's grace allows us to return to God with repentant hearts and seeks God's forgiveness.

Martin Luther wrote this prayer: *O God, where is there another like you? You forgive sin and forgive the iniquity of the lowest of your people. You do not stay angry forever, for you are merciful and you pardon our transgressions and cast all our sins into the deep sea. Do continue forever to be merciful, so that we may walk in the light of your Word and escape every trap of Satan and of the world, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Redeemer. Amen.*

(Pages 85-86, *Luther's Prayers*, edited by Herbert F. Brokering)



Lucia
Queen
2017
Emma
Fleming

Emma Fleming reigns over 61st Lucia festival

The 61st anniversary Santka Lucia Fest, held Dec. 10, culminated in the crowning of Emma Fleming as queen of the Advent celebration.

Emma was accompanied in her royal court by past Lucia queens, Cora Kazmierzak and Nikole Oliver-Scherer.

As part of her regal duties, the Lucia Queen served coffee to our guests at the post-celebration reception and laid the baby Jesus in the manger at the Christmas Eve Nativity service.

Maidens of honor, who look forward to becoming Lucia Queen in a few years, were Mackenzie Miller, Amelia Marek, Madison Weldy, Lindsay Fleming, Cici Walls and Charlotte Walls.

Other roles were filled by Dylan Marek (goat), Christian Yahle (Herrod), and Liam Boyd, Tyler Marek and Garret Miller (Iussegubbar).

Erik Miller and Mitchell Walls portrayed the jingle boys.

Luciafest celebrates the life and martyrdom of the 4th Century Italian saint, Lucy.

‘Active’ or not: a poem for pondering

EDITOR’S NOTE — Pastor Zell found this poem in the November/December 2017 edition of *The Faithful Follower*, the newsletter of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Plymouth, Ind. It is attributed to Berniece Umbaugh, ca. 1992.

Are you Active?

Are you an active member?
The kind that would be missed?
Or are you just contented,
That your name is on the list?
Do you attend the meetings?
And mingle with the flock?
Or do you just meet in private
And criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part
To help the work along?
Or are you just satisfied to be
The kind who just belongs?
Do you work in committees?
To this there is no trick;
Or leave the work to just a few
And talk about the clique:
Please come to the meetings often
And help with hand and heart
Don't just be a member,
But take an active part
Think this over, members
You know what's right from wrong
Are you an active member
Or do you just belong?

Like Jesus, ‘we come from the baptismal waters to live a new life in Christ’

The Baptism of Jesus

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John.

But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”

Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.”

Then John consented.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.

And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” Matthew 3:13-17 (NIV)

The following is excerpted from Faith Practices—Living Our Baptism on the ELCA Web site.


The liturgy for the Affirmation of Baptism describes the faith practices that grow out of our baptism (*Evangelical*

Lutheran Worship, page 236). We are to “...live among God’s faithful people; hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s Supper; proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed; serve all people following the example of Jesus; and strive for justice and peace in all the earth.”



Living Our Baptism is our faith journey as we come from the baptismal waters to live a new life in Christ. Living Our Baptism means living a life nurtured by the faith practices of discipleship.

Martin Luther taught that every morning we are to rise and say, “I am baptized into Christ” and then go about our daily life inspired, guided, and empowered by our baptism as we live a life made new by Christ. The Holy Spirit guides and inspires us to continue in the covenant of holy baptism.



BUILDING ON FAITH REPORT

To Nov.. 31, 2017

YEAR TO DATE

Receipts for November	\$ 655
Mortgage paid for December	2,379
Loan principal on Dec 1	58,378
Mutual Bank balance on Dec. 1	13,477
Total paid from scrip sales	58,300

At present, 88% of each payment reduces the principal. Current interest rate is 4.95 percent . Mortgage termination date is June 2020. Thirty payments remain. Pledges totaling \$150,543 were received in a 2014 fund drive. Congregation should continue making regular contributions and purchasing scrip.

Dan Lindborg
Dec. 19, 2017

Epiphany service Jan. 6; other items to note

The Epiphany of Our Lord will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 6, with a brunch to follow.

Please plan to stay afterwards to help put away the Christmas and Epiphany decorations and be ready for the observance of Jesus’ baptism on Jan. 7.

Gloria Dei’s annual meeting is Jan. 21 after the liturgy. See details on Page 5.

See the very nice article about Gloria Dei in the annual report of Broadway Christian Parish. We are always glad to support the wonderful mission of our neighbor church in any way we can.

Brynn Johnson, daughter of Pastor Max and Nancy Lindell Johnson, recently received the Michael Pressley award for Excellence in Catholic Education.


A graduate of Saint Joseph’s High School, Brynn earned a bachelor’s degree in anthropology from Notre Dame and is now teaching middle school math at Academy of the Sacred Heart in New Orleans.

Joan Hartman has a new address: 136 Gamecock Way, Cosby, Tenn. 37722.

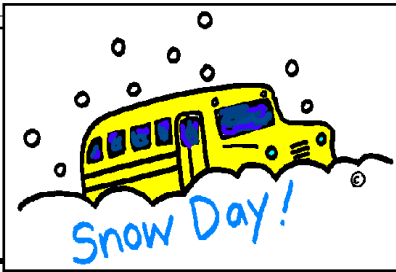
Looking ahead: Ash Wednesday is Feb. 14. March 25 is Palm Sunday. Easter is April 1.

Those who have asked for our prayers include

Lorraina Doolittle, Al Saari
(Darlene Scherer’s brother-in-law), **Judithellen Larson,**
Jordan Cone, Samantha Croymans, Shirley Brunt,
Ken, Thelma Lemanski, Douglas Sorocco, Shirley Brunt,
Paul Scherer, Darlene Scherer, Don Tetzlaff, Gloria Sheneman, Gene Fortune, Amy Fischettto (friend of Shenemans), Carolyn Scherer, Paula Sheneman
(daughter-on-law), **Lois Callandar, (Thelma Lemanski’s sister), Maria Miller, our shut-ins.**



Remember in Prayer



January



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 No Mary Circle	3	4	5	6 The Epiphany of Our Lord 11 a.m. Brunch follows
7 Baptism of Our Lord	8	9	10 Bible Study. 10 a.m.	11	12	13
14 Epiphany II Sunday School	15	16 Ministerium, 9:30 a.m., Holy Trinity; Congregation Council, 6:30 p.m.	17 Bible Study. 10 a.m.	18	19	20
21 Epiphany III Annual Meeting	22	23	24 NN Deadline Bible Study. 10 a.m.	25 Hope Dinner Social Ministry	26	27
28 Epiphany IV Sunday School	29	30 NN Mailed	31 Bible Study. 10 a.m.; Worship and Music Committee, 6:30 p.m.	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><i>Every Sunday at Gloria Dei:</i> <i>9:45 a.m. Sunday School (4th and 28th); 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour;</i> <i>10:45 a.m., Sung Liturgy</i></p> </div>		

January Ministry Schedule

	Jan. 6 Epiphany of Our Lord 11 a.m.	Jan. 7 Baptism of Our Lord 10:45 a.m.	Jan. 14 Epiphany II 10:45 a.m.	Jan. 21 Epiphany III 10:45 a.m.	Jan. 28 Epiphany IV 10:45 a.m.
Liturgical Assistant	Brian Saine	Patty Carr	Karen Siderits	Dan Lindborg	Leslie Miller
Servers and Acolytes		Thomas Zell	Tyler Marek Dylan Marek Amelia Marek	Colin Dreher Cora Kazmierzak	Liam Boyd Garrett Miller Mackenzie Miller
Lector		John Miller	Ginny Brummitt	Patty Carr	Jean Petersburg
Communion Assistant		Mary Ann Sorocco	Peggy Niedbalski	Michelle Megyese	Melinda Foley
Sunday School			Jim Schleis		Leslie Miller
Greeters		Dorothy Anderson, Jean Petersburg	Dolores & John Miller	Phyllis Thompson, Lindy Dreher	Carol & Bob Larson
Altar Flowers and Sanctuary Lamp	Sign-up	Available	In	Fellowship	Hall
Altar Guild	Gloria Buysse, Jill Seifer	Mary Ann Sorocco, Dolores Miller, Sheryl Taghon	Mary Ann Sorocco, Dolores Miller, Sheryl Taghon	Lindy Dreher, Phyllis Thompson	Lindy Dreher, Phyllis Thompson

Ushers: Harvey Holmes, Stephen Saine, Russ Buysse.

Counters: Jan. 6: Sorocco and B. Saine; Jan. 14: Lindborg and Fortson; Jan. 21: Forslund and Taylor; Jan. 28: Miller and C. Saine.

Ushers scheduled by Russ Buysse, counters by finance committee; Altar Guild by Patty Carr, Sunday School teachers by Christian Education committee; all others by Jack Seifer (mikusa@sbcglobal.net)

'By Heart' does not mean memorization for this Bible class

When the Wednesday Bible class resumes on Jan. 10, we will use the study, *By Heart: Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism*, to explore our Lutheran use and application of Holy Scripture.

This is a study that comes with a brief introductory video and a substantive book that includes all manner of information. It promises a fascinating time of study.

One thing ought to be clarified; Pastor Zell will NOT be requiring participants to memorize the catechism or bible verses.

This will be an enjoyable time of learning, reflection, and conversation. Books are \$12.99 each for those who want their own copy. We will have extras on hand.

Four 'neighbors' receive sacrament of holy Baptism

One Summer Sunday, four youngsters from the neighborhood came to church. They were warmly welcomed and invited to join us for worship.

The three girls and one boy marched into the sanctuary, sat in a forward row and (mostly) paid attention.

They returned the next Sunday and for many thereafter, always sitting in a front row and always coming to the altar for a blessing at Communion.

They asked questions of our members and of Pastor Zell and were given the answers that led to the ultimate one: "Can we be baptized?"

After further instruction, and with the full knowledge and consent of their parents, that answer was given: a resounding YES!

On Nov. 26, Treylen Crieglear, and Nevaeh Crieglear, along with Karissa Hearn and Kaniya Hearn received the promises of God through Holy Baptism.

We give thanks and welcome them into the family of God and into our congregation.



WHAT: *Annual Meeting of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church*
WHEN: *Sunday, Jan. 21, immediately after service*
WHERE: *Fellowship Hall*
WHY: *Reports and new business*
WHO: *Everyone!*

Main dish will be provided (Martin's chicken). Please sign up at scrip table to provide a salad, side dish or dessert.

Laughter the best medicine? You be the judge

Humor: The oldest computer can be traced back to Adam and Eve. It was an Apple. Limited memory, just 1 Byte. Then everything crashed.

More humor: A woman goes to the post office to buy stamps for her Christmas cards. She says to the postal clerk, "May I have 50 Christmas stamps?" The clerk asks, "In what denomination?"

The flustered woman shakes her head. "God, help us. Has it come to this? Well, OK. Give me six Catholic, twelve Presbyterian, ten Lutheran and twenty-two Baptists."



HELP THE HOMELESS



As the new year debuts with heavy snow and single-digit temperatures, living on the streets takes on new and almost insurmountable challenges. That's why our dear friend Suellen Petersen instituted a program that we have named in her memory, *Socks from Suellen*. Please bring heavy winter socks for men, women and children and place them in the big box in the Gathering Room. Gloves, scarves and mittens also are welcome. They will be distributed at the Jan. 25 Hope Ministries meal.

THANK YOU FOR CARING, TOO!

Gloria Dei Lutheran
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South Bend, Indiana 46613
www.gloriadei-in.org

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NewsNotes

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Celebrating 138 years of faithful ministry of Word and Sacrament.



Rev. Jeff Zell, pastor
Hours by appointment
Jeff.Zell@yahoo.com

Dolores Miller, office administrator

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
8 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday
1:30 p.m.-4 p.m.

Dolores is off on Wednesday.
Office phone: (574) 288-5266

www.gloriadei-in.org

NewsNotes is a monthly publication for members and friends of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 225 E. Haney Ave., South Bend, IN 46601 The deadline for submissions is printed in the monthly calendar.

Please submit information for the weekly bulletin in writing by noon each Wednesday.

NewsNotes Editor: John Miller
e-mail: jdmiller10@hotmail.com



Please notify the church office if a special occasion is missed

Those celebrating birthdays and wedding anniversaries in January include...

January Birthdays

Madeleine Buysse	Jan. 8	Pr. Jeff Zell	Jan. 24
Karen Swanson	Jan. 16	Susan Ulrich	Jan. 25
Jeanette Taylor	Jan. 16	Tony Schmidt	Jan. 28
Patty Carr	Jan. 24	Annika Luke	Jan. 29

January Anniversaries

Jeanette and Lawrence Taylor	Jan. 15
Darlene and Paul Scherer	Jan. 25