



Gloria Christi News



Volume 14, Issue 12

DECEMBER 2014

“The Time for Children!”

Every one of us has very fond memories growing up. These memories are especially vivid recounting Christmases past.

My Mom went to great lengths to make sure that Christmas in our home was very special for us children. I can remember, of course, the day before Christmas when Mom baked several pies! Also the day before Christmas, she cooked the cranberries, which I was fascinated by, as they cooked, popping in the stove-top pan.

The decorations were also very special. Our house was not very large, so intricate rearranging of the furniture was necessary. The lights and smells were beyond anyone’s imagination. Our tree always had a special place for those fascinating “bubble” lights. There was also a wreath placed in the dining room window, which had at its center a “bubble” light.

But of course, Christmas for children would not be Christmas without some presents under the tree. Mom tried very hard to fill at least a part of our Christmas wish-lists. I can remember the first time when money was very tight and Mom charged part of our presents. My Dad was not very pleased to say the least. But what would Christmas be without gifts. After all, Christmas is “The Time for Children!”

Martin Luther also had a great concern for children, especially children at Christmas time. In fact, Luther wrote a Christmas hymn for his children for the Christmas of 1534 – *From Heaven Above to Earth I come*. Luther was concerned that his family have a happy home for Christmas. He wanted his children to be surrounded by a festival atmosphere. And so the song was written:

**From heav’n above to earth I come
To bear good news to ev’ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing:**

**To you this night is born a child
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child, of lowly birth,
Shall be the joy of all the earth.**



It is said that a man dressed as an angel sang the first verses of the hymn. Then all the children greeted with the response of the following verses.

This hymn truly reflects the importance of the real reason for the season of Christmas – the coming of the Christ Child into our world, our homes, and our hearts.

As each of us prepares to celebrate this very special time of the year in our homes and our lives, where do we place the emphasis with ourselves and our children? The temptation probably is there to emphasize gifts and giving, family gatherings and food.

This Christmas make a special effort to point out Jesus in your celebration. Maybe before you open your gifts, read Luke chapter 2. Perhaps it might be fun to open a hymnal to this hymn of Luther and have an adult read the opening stanzas. Then all the children could respond with the other stanzas.

Also remember to bring your entire family to the Christmas Eve candlelight worship!

This is truly a special time of the year - especially a special time for the young at heart!

In the Name of the Christ Child,

Pastor Richard Pierson



November 18 , 2014

Pastor's Report: No Report

Financial Secretary: No Report

Treasurer's Report: See page 6.

Elders: Dallas Vammer reported that Bobbie Huckfeldt and Jean Farrer have been working well as our new organists. Bobbie may consider taking on the position of lead organist. In the event that we would not be able to have an organist on site, CPH has a set of CDs (The Concordia Organist); the cost is \$700. Council decided to purchase the CDs and will pay for them from memorial funds and donations. There are no nominations yet for Thanksgiving food baskets, but we will continue to publicize it for Christmas. We have three candidates for new elders: Scott Sorensen, Gary Longhenry, and possibly Gary Debus. We have received a request for financial assistance from a family in Eton. Jim has spoken to the head of the family and checked some background information. We will consider ways to support them: Adult Bible Class, LWML, a special fundraiser were mentioned.

Trustees: No Report

Parish Education: No Report

Evangelism: No Report

Stewardship: No Report

Youth: The Harvest Party went very well; we had a total of 22 children attend, most of whom were not members of Gloria Christi.

Parish Fellowship: No Report

Finance: There will be a Budget meeting on Monday, 11/24 to work through the 2015 budget. All boards with budget items should send a representative.

LWML: The December meeting will be for all women of Gloria Christi and will include a Christmas theme with festivities. The society will also decide which mission and outreach organizations

to support with the funds from the Rummage Sale.

Memorial Committee: Alex reported that the Appointments and Memorials Committee shall consist of 3 members to be appointed by the Church Council.

Audit Committee: The committee will meet and have a report in time for the 12/6 Voters' Meeting.

Call Committee: The Committee continues to pull information together in preparation for the upcoming Voters' Meeting on 12/23 when the congregation will decide which pastor to whom we will extend a call.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Funding Plans: Table

2015 District Convention: We need to send two delegates to the June convention, 1 pastor and 1 lay delegate. The names must be approved by the voters.

Church Policy Review: Table

2015 Elections & Budget: The elections slate is ready for the voters. The budget will be ready for the voters.

Old Membership: Perhaps refer to as "Previous Membership." Elders and Pastor must approve all new members.

NEW BUSINESS:

RMD Mission Pledge: We have received a request for our 2015 Mission Pledge to District.

Announcements: Sharon Eberhard reported that Holiday Inn has a program for assisting individuals during the holidays. It is called "Room at the Inn" and provides rooms for people who may be in town due to the hospitalization of family members.

All boards should provide written reports for the December Voters' Meeting and a highlight of 2014 board activities for the January Voters' meeting.

Next Council Meeting: A December 16th meeting will be placed on the calendar, but if there are no pressing issues, it will be canceled.

Special Voters' Meeting: November 23 at 10:30 AM. Agenda will be to issue a pastoral call.

Regular Voters' Meeting: December 7th at 10:30 AM. Agenda will be approval of the 2015 Officers and Board members and approval of the 2015 Budget.



Jackson Edward Sorensen, infant
 some of Mark & Cameo Sorensen,
 was washed with the water of Holy
 Baptism on November 2, 2014.
 May our loving God, Father, Son
 and Holy Spirit, keep Jackson in his
 baptismal grace.

Larry Bol III & Jacky Noriz

were joined together in

Holy Matrimony on Nov. 22, 2014.

They are now making their home at:

605 Plaza Drive

Grandview Plaza, KS 66441



*To all of our friends at Gloria Christi,
 Thank you so very much for all of
 your help and support for us in
 preparation for and celebration of our son, Larry
 Bol III's marriage to Jacky Noriz last month. We
 are truly blessed with a wonderful church home
 and family!*

The Bol Family ~

Larry, Tracy, Larry III, Tyler, Melissa, and Kyle



Thanks be to God!

The ladies of Gloria Christi's
 LWML Society met on Saturday,
 Dec. 13th. The business portion of the meeting
 consisted of choosing recipients for the funds
 raised at the September Rummage Sale. The
 following agencies will each received \$100:

- A Woman's Place
- Eldergarden
- Lutheran Family Services - A Kid's Place
- Lutheran Blind Mission/Lutheran Braille
Workers
- Orphan Grain Train
- Resource Center for Pregnancy & Personal
Health
- Triangle Cross Ranch
- Weld Food Bank

Additionally, \$400 was dedicated to Moving
 Expenses for Pastor Weiss & his family.



Here are several
 changes of address;
 please make corrections to
 your church directory.

Rev. John & Jennifer Frahm
 3819 W 3rd Avenue E
 Williston, ND 58801

Rev. Richard & Linda Bolland
Leah Hellerich
 145 Buckeye Place
 Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

Betty Itken (970) 301-5231
 Garden Square Westlake #102
 3151 W 20th Street
 Greeley, CO 80634

Mailing: 1806 73rd Avenue
 Greeley, CO 80634



News
 from
 the
 Call
 Committee

***To God
 be
 the Glory!***

On Sunday, December 14th Ron Eberhard,
 chairman of the Call Committee, announced to
 the congregation that Rev. Stephen Weiss has
 accepted God's call to be the pastor at Gloria
 Christi Lutheran Church in Greeley, Colorado!
 He does not yet know when he and his family
 will arrive in Greeley, as he is focused now on
 the Advent and Christmas seasons. We look
 forward to hearing from him soon with details.

In the meantime, we know that there will be
 expenses incurred to move the Weiss family to
 Greeley. If you would like to donate toward
 this specific need, just mark your check "Pastor's
 Moving Expenses", and place it in the offering
 plate or mail it to the church office.

As the time gets closer to the arrival of our new
 pastor, there will be special announcements
 regarding his move, his installation, and special
 events. Please watch your bulletin for details.

**Women's Wednesday
Bible Study**

will resume

after Pastor Weiss arrives.

Watch your Sunday bulletin for details.



Thank You To my Gloria Christi family,
I am so appreciative of all the help I
received in my recent move. May Christ
bless all of you during this season of
triumph!
Love,
Lisa Larson

From Leah Hellerich . . . TICKETS AVAILABLE!

We still have tickets available for purchase. Let me know if you are interested. I can mail them to you after receiving a check. Have a Blessed Advent Season. Leah

Altan
Friday, April 3, 2015 at 7:30 PM
Union Colony Civic Center in Greeley

This world-renown group of traditional Irish musicians has been touring for more than 25 years. Their music has become more than just music for Ireland as they have accompanied the Irish president on numerous state trips and played for dignitaries across the world. According to Chicago Weekly, the combination of their dazzling instrumental prowess and gorgeously delicate vocals has captivated fans for decades.

1st Floor, Row A, Seats 19-21 (3 seats)
Total Cost \$93.00

Judy Collins with the Greeley Philharmonic Orchestra
Saturday, March 14, 2015 at 7:30 PM
Union Colony Civic Center in Greeley

Judy Collins has inspired audience with sublime vocals, boldly vulnerable songwriting, personal life triumphs, and a firm commitment to social activism. The award-winning singer-songwriter is esteemed for her imaginative interpretations of traditional and contemporary folk standards and her own poetically poignant original compositions.

1st Floor, Row B, Seats 18-20 (3
seats)
Total Cost \$153.00



- 12/3 ~ Andrew Eberhard
- 12/5 ~ Joleen Cary
- 12/6 ~ Pastor Richard Bolland
- 12/6 ~ Rosalie Muirhead
- 12/7 ~ Vernice Wacker
- 12/13 ~ Jennifer Frahm
- 12/16 ~ Debra Rees
- 12/17 ~ Jacob Hein
- 12/17 ~ Vicky Laughlin
- 12/19 ~ Diane Gaudian
- 12/19 ~ Brendan Johnson
- 12/30 ~ Dallas Vammer
- 12/31 ~ Emil Krikac ~ 94 Years Old!
- 12/31 ~ Jean Prussman



Anniversary Blessings!

12/24 ~ John & Cindi Kennedy
- 3 years



Gloria Christi Lutheran Church
is now a member congregation of
the Association of
Confessing Evangelical
Lutheran Congregations.

The Voters' Assembly approved membership at a special meeting on November 16th. On Dec. 9th the ACELC Board of Directors approved our membership.

You are Invited
5th Annual ACELC Conference
Kansas City, MO
February 10-12, 2015

This year's conference theme is *Office of the Holy Ministry, Part II (Unbiblical Removal of Pastors)*. Watch your January newsletter for more information.



We recently have had a few changes to our membership through transfers.

Rev. Richard & Linda Bolland have transferred their membership to *Our Savior Lutheran Church* in Pagosa Springs, Colorado.

Leah Hellerich has also transferred her membership to *Our Savior Lutheran Church* in Pagosa Springs, Colorado.

We have received a transfer of membership for **Dave and Peggy McCall** from *St. John's Lutheran Church* in Yuma, Colorado.



To the entire Gloria Christi family, Heartfelt thanks to all who have so generously given of their time, their talents, and their gifts during this Advent season and now into the holy

season of Christmas. It is because of what God has done through you that many are blessed.

Our sanctuary is dressed for the season with beautiful poinsettias which have been donated by many individuals. The Christmas decorations have been placed so that all may be reminded that Christ is the Light of the world.

Our narthex Christmas tree is now empty of tags, thanks to many donations of gifts for the foster child program of Lutheran Family Services.

The shopping cart now sits empty, as the collected food was given, along with purchased fresh foods, to a local family in need.

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, . . ."

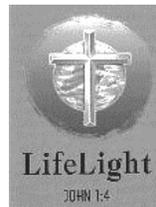
A NEW ADDITION:

A new wall cross has been added to the entry way of the main building thanks to the donation from Vernice Wacker in loving memory of her husband, Larry. The large metal cross has been attached to the wall and will soon be wired so that it will be backlit day and night. May it be a reminder to all who come and go from this House of God of the love He showers on us through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your understanding!

During the past several weeks, the office computer has been "on the fritz," acting up, slowing dying, and generally just being a source of major frustration. And of course, it had to happen during one of the absolute busiest months of the year. I apologize for not being able to get the December newsletter published before this very late date! I anticipate that once I get the new computer set up, life in the office will be much easier, and deadlines will once again be met. Thank you for your continued understanding and support.

A Blessed Christmas to all of you!
Betty Monson



**LifeLight Bible Study
will start up again
on Monday evenings,
7:00 PM**

beginning January 12, 2015.

Although the next topic has not yet been decided, we will have one chosen within the next week and materials ordered. Please watch your Sunday bulletin for more information.

If you have never participated in LifeLight, it is a 9-week study of a particular book, or books, of the Bible with 5 days of lessons for each week. The format is quite structured and encompasses both old and new testaments, weaving together the complete gospel message through God's Word. The group has typically been small in numbers, but we are always ready to welcome new people to the group. Remember, it is just a 9-week commitment, but I guarantee that once you begin, you will most likely be ready for more!



The Portals of Prayer
for
January - March 2015
are now available
in the narthex.

There are also copies of the December Lutheran Witness on the table as well as the Higher Things devotions which run through Epiphany.

TREASURER'S REPORT

| October, 2014 | Current Month | Year to Date |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Weekly Offerings | \$ 13,840.00 | \$ 152,298.23 |
| Mortgage Offerings | 805.00 | 7,510.00 |
| Special Services | 0 | 8,110.20 |
| Non-Budgeted Income | 0.06 | 1.98 |
| Church Income | \$ 14,645.06 | \$ 167,920.41 |
| Church Expenses | 11,569.36 | 163,441.55 |
| Net Church Activity | \$ 3,075.70 | \$ 4,478.86 |
| | | |
| District Missions | \$ 346.00 | \$ 3,809.63 |
| | | |
| Bank Accounts | \$ 35,899.25 | |
| Memorials | -6,597.84 | |
| Working Dedicated | -13,633.19 | |
| Available Cash | \$ 15,688.22 | |

A Christmas Greeting from Leah . . .

Greetings from Colorado,

I know this is not the best way to send out my Christmas letter, but things have been a little hectic the past 17 weeks. After visiting Pagosa Springs in August for the Church's Anniversary, we decided to move here permanently as our retirement homes. The Bollands and I both sold our houses within 2 weeks in October with closings in November. The packing madness was at warp speed. November 10th, the move was on. Two days later, with the help of 4 moving trucks and 8 movers, we arrived with everything in Pagosa Springs. Most of my "stuff" went into storage in the Bolland's sunroom and garage. I have a large bedroom upstairs which is both bedroom and office at this time. The Bollands are 90% unpacked with the remainder of their "stuff" awaiting room in the bedroom that I am occupying.

I went right to work as the full-time organist at Our Savior and love it. They have a nice electronic Allen organ which compliments the Liturgical Divine Service we have each Sunday. It is great to worship with a Confessional Pastor (Pastor Andrew Packer) who is preaching the Word and administering the Sacraments each and every Sunday.

As far as my "home", it is still unsettled. Thank goodness for great friends who are letting me live in their house at the moment. I am exploring two options. Option 1 is building a guest house or addition to this house - problem is that this is the Rocky Mountains. We can pin the house foundation to the rocks, but getting the utilities in the house is a huge expense with a process called "thumping" to get the rocks broken up and moved. Option 2 is buying a house in town, but the inventory is very low at this time.

I am hoping to make it to my brother's home in Colorado Springs for Christmas, but the forecast now is for snow on Christmas Day. Wolf Creek Pass may be closed which would keep me here. I also am signed up to go the ACELC Conference in Kansas City in February, but again, the weather will be the deciding factor. We are in drought stages here and desperately need the moisture, but I wish it wouldn't happen when I want to travel.

I hope this is finding everyone well for the holidays. Jesus Christ was born to be the messenger of God's grace, and in Him are the gifts of abundant life. May you have joy and rest in The Saviour this Christmas.

Love & Hugs,
Leah



*The Epiphany of
our Lord
Divine Service
Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2015
7:00 PM*

Come together as we celebrate the arrival of the Wise Men (or magi or kings). This is when Christ was first revealed or made manifest to the Gentiles.

Oh, Come, Let us Worship the King!

HATS OFF

TO MIKE DORSEY!



This month I'd like to recognize Mike Dorsey, our Board of Trustees chairman and general all-around "fix it, build it, install it" guy! Mike recently installed the two new doors in the Agape Center's east entrance. The doors are solid and are now much easier to open. (Sometime this spring the doors will be painted.)

Listen to 'The Lutheran Hour' on XM Satellite
Radio station XM170 Family Talk
on Sundays at 1:00pm Eastern.



The Gospel outreach radio broadcast of Lutheran Hour Ministries can be heard each Sunday on the following radio stations:

KOA (**850 AM**) 6:00 am

KFKA (**1310 AM**) 9:30 am

XM Satellite - Family Talk (**XM170**)12:00pm

Broadcast sermons for **December 2014** are:

December 7 ~

"We Need Something Stronger"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz
Jesus exchanges our weakness for His strength. (Mark 1:1-8)

December 14 ~

"In Christ, Unbroken"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz
God's grace restores those broken by sin and grief. (Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11)

December 21 ~

"Surprised by Grace"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz
God's grace comes as a surprise and blessing to those who deserve none of it.
(Luke 1:26-38)

December 28 ~

"Monsters in Our Tomorrows"

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour:
Rev. Ken Klaus
Unknown monsters lurk in the shadows of the new year but Christ will carry us through.
(Romans 8:37-39)



December 7 ~ Second Sunday in Advent

Malachi 4:1-6

Romans 15:4-13

Luke 21:25-36

December 14 ~ Third Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 40:1-8

1 Corinthians 4:1-5

Matthew 11:2-10

December 21 ~ Fourth Sunday in Advent

Deuteronomy 18:15-19

Philippians 4:4-7

John 1:19-28

December 28 ~ First Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 11:1-5

Galatians 4:1-7

Luke 2:33-40

Please study these Scriptures each week to prepare yourself for Sunday services. You are also encouraged to read the "Christian Questions and Answers" for communicants in the *Small Catechism* to prepare to receive the Lord's body and blood faithfully in the Divine Service (p.329, 330 *LSB*).

For those who would like a daily Bible reading schedule you are encouraged to use the one listed on page 299 in our hymnal, *Lutheran Service Book*. The Bible, the Catechism, and our hymnal are the three key books for Lutherans to use in devotions. Besides this, it is good to be familiar with our Lutheran Confessions, the *Book of Concord*, which includes the Catechisms. See Diane, Becky, or Marlene to get a Bible, Catechism, *Lutheran Service Book* or the *Book of Concord*.

"Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Psalm 119:105





Deadlines for Newsletter and Sunday Bulletin

GLORIA CHRISTI STAFF

Rev. Richard A. Pierson (970) 597-0218
 Assistant Pastor - Emeritus

Tom Johnston, President (970) 506-1531 (H)

Alex Antuna, Vice-President (970) 371-6723

Jim Breitweiser, Head Elder (970) 454-3769

Tracy Bol (970) 301-9285
 Sunday School Superintendent

Betty Monson, Secretary (970) 518-7917 (C)

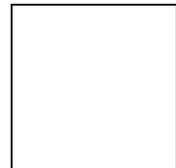


We welcome and encourage submissions for our newsletter and Sunday bulletin. **Please make all submissions in writing, on disk, or by e-mail.** All material is subject to editing for content, clarity, and style, as needed. The deadline for the newsletter is the **15th of every month**. The deadline for the Sunday bulletin is **Wednesday at Noon**.

"So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith . . . Galatians 6:10

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 Greeley, CO 80634
 Phone: 353-2554 Fax: 353-6555
 gloriachristi@gloriachristi.com
Website: www.gloriachristi.org

Return
 Service
 Requested



December 24 - 7:00 PM
 Christmas Eve
 Candlelight Divine Service



December 31 - 7:00 PM
 New Year's Eve
 Divine Service

December 2014