

❖ NewsNotes ❖

April 2017

Vol. 119 Issue 4

'God for us' central to first article of Creed

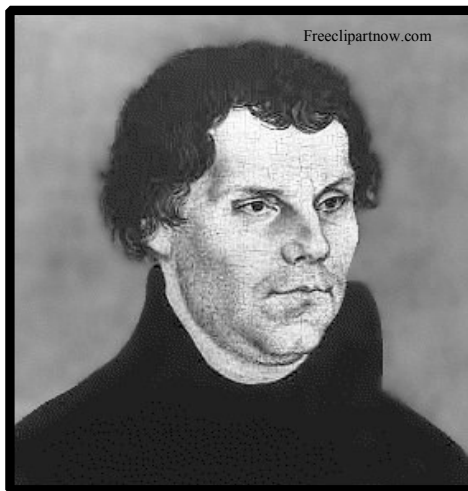
By Rev. Jeff Zell

In his preaching and writings, Martin Luther often uses the phrase "For Us." God is for us. The Apostles Creed offers a biblical summary of faith that teaches us that God is for us.

We divide the Apostles Creed into three sections that we call articles. The first article relates how God the Father is the creator of all. We believe that God continues to be actively involved in sustaining the creation. Our heavenly Father did not create the universe and then leave to go to a far away place. Our heavenly Father remains deeply invested in His creation. Our heavenly Father is "for us."

Here is Pastor Luther's explanation of the first article:

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my limbs, my reason, and all my senses, and still preserves them; in addition thereto, clothing and shoes,



Luther as a monk

meat and drink, house and homestead, wife and children, fields, cattle, and all my goods; that He provides me richly and daily with all that I need to support this body and life, protects me from all danger, and guards me and preserves me from all evil; and all this

Holy Week schedule

From Palm Sunday, the Three Days and to Easter Sunday, there are numerous opportunities to observe Holy Week, both here and at First English.

Palm Sunday: 9 a.m., 1st English and 10:45 at Gloria Dei; Maundy Thursday, 6:30 p.m., 1st English; Good Friday, 6:30 p.m., Gloria Dei; Eater Vigil, 8 p.m., Gloria Dei; Easter, 9 a.m., 1st English. 10:45, Gloria Dei.

out of pure, fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me; for all which I owe it to Him to thank, praise, serve, and obey Him. This is most certainly true. (<http://bookofconcord.org/smallcatechism.php#creed>)

Pastor Luther encourages us to not only understand what our heavenly Father has done for us, but also to put this knowledge into action. He wrote this in the Large Catechism:

We ought, therefore, daily to practice this article, impress it upon our mind, and to remember it in all that meets our eyes, and in all good that falls to our lot, and wherever we escape from calamity or danger, that it is God who gives and does all these things, that therein we sense and see His Paternal heart and his transcendent love toward us.

Thereby the heart would be warmed and kindled to be thankful, and to employ all such good things to the honor and praise of God. (Large Catechism II 23 <http://bookofconcord.org/lc-4-creed.php>)

As we continue to draw breath and move through our daily lives, let us continuously give thanks for God's goodness to and for us.

Check out treasure trove from enlightening conference

Our congregation received as a gift nine books that were selected by workshop leaders at the *Art of the Flourishing Congregation* on March 16. I was very proud to have from Gloria Dei, Brian Saine, Ginny Brummitt, and John Miller experiencing this invaluable seminar along with me.

I am looking forward to the many ways in which our congregational council begins to utilize the skills we have learned in our life together. The books that are being added to our congregational library are:

*Zander and Zander, *The Art of*



Possibility: Transforming Professional and Personal Life

*J. Clif Christopher, *Rich Church, Poor Church: Keys to Effective Financial Ministry.*

*Baldwin and Linnea, *The Circle Way: A Leader in Every Chair.*

*Martin E. P. Seligman, *Flourish: A*
(Continued on page 6)

Synod newsletter casualty of space

The IK Synod newsletter, which usually appears in the monthly NewsNotes, is not included this month because of space limitations. Because of the Holy Week service, an extra page was needed for the ministry schedule; thus, including the newsletter would have meant a 12-page NewsNotes. The Synod newsletter is posted on the Web site and will be placed in members' mailboxes. The NewsNotes staff apologizes for the inconvenience.

Sign receives nod from council; installation 'close'

After sitting patiently in our gathering area for some nine months, our glorious Announcer sign is inching closer to its permanent home on our parking lot median.



On March 1, South Bend's Common Council unanimously adopted a resolution granting a special exception use for our parking lot.

That action came a few weeks after the Area Board of Zoning Appeals approved a variance in the size limitations for such a sign.

Our council has retained the services of the retired owner of a small construction company who will secure the necessary permit and supervise the installation.

Able-bodied folk will be needed to perform some of the manual labor, so stay tuned.

Budget, attendance, leadership problems common in ELCA

EDITOR'S NOTE: Many ELCA congregations face declining attendance, budget issues and the prospect of a part-time or shared pastor. This article, excepted from Living Lutheran, examines how they are being dealt with.

By Karris Goldman

When Thomas Batterman retired from full-time parish ministry, he began serving as a supply pastor in the Dayton, Ohio, area. The call often takes him to serve small congregations in crisis. It has been an eye-opener for him: "Out here, the future of the local congregation looks bleak."

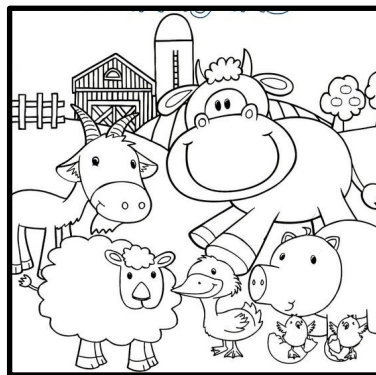
By "out here," Batterman is referring in part to the isolation such ELCA members sometimes feel. "They don't feel connected to the national church because the national church isn't talking about the problems they face," he said. "Diversity is worthwhile ... but to some of these small congregations, diversity is someone under 50—or a family with children walking in."

These small congregations grapple with aging and dwindling membership, decreased giving, maintaining expensive infrastructure and a leadership vacuum. Of particular concern is staffing—some

(Continued on page 7)

Ready to join the workforce !

Chicks 'n' ducks 'n' geese and even goats and cows and oxen and busy



little bees are waiting to get to work in developing nations through the ELCA God's Global Barnyard. Each Lenten season for the past several years, Gloria Dei members have contributed hundreds of dollars to this

amazing program to fight poverty and world hunger.

BANKS COLLECTED ON EASTER SUNDAY

What's in your barnyard bank?





April



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Every Sunday at Gloria Dei: 9:45 a.m. Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. Sung Liturgy*; Coffee Hour follows. *10:45 a.m. April 9 & 16</p> </div>						1
2 Lent V 1st English Council, 1:30 p.m.	3	4 Mary Circle. 6:30 p.m.	5 Mid-Week Eucharist , noon, Gloria Dei; 6:30, Gloria Dei, Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.	6 Pastor at Episcopal/Lutheran Chrism Mass, St. Michael and All Angels, 9 a.m.	7	8
9 Palm/Passion Sunday 10:45 a.m.	10	11 Congregation Council, 6:30 p.m.	12 Bible Study, 10 a.m.	13 Maundy Thursday 6:30 p.m. @ 1st English	14 Good Friday , 6:30 p.m. @ Gloria Dei	15 Solemn Vigil , 8 p.m. @ Gloria Dei, followed by wine and cheese party
16 Resurrection of Our Lord 10:45 a.m.	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Easter II	24	25	26 NN Deadline	27	28	29
SOCIAL MINISTRY						
30 Easter III Fifth Sunday Servant		May 2 NN Mailed				

April Ministry Schedule
(mid-week servers below)

	April 2 Lent V	April 9 Palm Sunday 10:45 a.m.	April 14 * Good Friday 6:30 p.m..	April 15 The Solemn Vigil
Liturgical Assistant	Leslie Miller	Brian Saine	John Miller	Dan Lindborg
Servers	Thomas Zell Garrett Miller Mackenzie Miller	Colin Dreher Liam Boyd	Thomas Zell	Colin Dreher
Lector	Dan Lindborg	Jean Petersburg	Patty Golichowski	TBA**
Sunday School				
Communion Assistant	Don Holmberg	Melinda Foley	Dolores Miller	Michelle Megyese
Greeters	Dorothy Anderson Jean Petersburg	Lindy Dreher Phyllis Thompson	Mary Ann & Joe Sorocco	
Altar Flowers and Sanctuary Lamp	F: No Flowers L: Open	F: No Flowers L: Open	F: No Flowers L: Open	F: No Flowers L: Open
Altar Guild	Patty Carr, Peggy Niedbalski; also noon and 6:30 p.m. April 5	Mary Ann Sorocco, Dolores Miller, Sheryl Taghon	Gloria Buysse, Jill Seifer	Patty Carr, Peggy Niedbalski

Mid-week Lenten services at noon Wednesday, April 5: L.A. , Ginny Brummitt; Lector, Darlene Scherer.

*Maundy Thursday at First English, 6:30 p.m.; **Lectors for Easter Vigil dependent upon number of readings. They will be notified by mail.

Ushers: Harvey Holmes, Stephen Saine, Russ Buysse.

Counters: April 2: Sorocco and B. Saine; April 9: Lindborg and Fortson; April 16: Forslund and Taylor; April 23: Miller and C. Saine; April 30: Suter and TBD

Ushers scheduled by Russ Buysse, counters by finance committee;
Altar Guild by Patty Carr, all others by Jack Seifer (mlkusa@sbcglobal.net)

April Ministry Schedule Pt. 2
(mid-week servers below)

	April 16 Resurrection of Our Lord	April 23 Easter I	April 30 Easter II
Liturgical Assistant	Lisa Suter	Ginny Brummitt	Karen Siderits
Servers	Thomas Zell Garrett Miller Mackenzie Miller	Colin Dreher Liam Boyd	Tyler Marek Dylan Marek Amelia Marek
Lector	Bob Suter	Patty Carr	John Miller
Sunday School		Donald Holmberg	Leslie Miller
Communion Assistant	Mary Ann Sorocco	Joe Sorocco	Peggy Niedbalski
Greeters	Carol & Bob Larson	Dolores & John Miller	Carol & Brian Saine
Altar Flowers and Sanctuary Lamp	Easter Flowers		
Altar Guld*	Patty Carr, Peggy Niedbalski	Gloria Buysse, Jill Seifer	Gloria Buysse, Jill Seifer

April open house offers introduction to Diakonia

There will be an open house for Diakonia from 7-10 p.m., April 27 at Zion Lutheran Church in Bristol

All are welcome for a preview to see if you would like to join the next class. Sessions will start again in the fall. Pastor Zell has taught the Lutheran Confessions section and Barb Ault, First English, is a graduate of the Diakonia program.

Never heard of Diakonia? Here is a brief explanation found on the website: <http://www.mcselca.org/congregation/leadership/diakonia/>

What is the emphasis of Diakonia? Diakonia emphasizes the baptismal vocation of all Christians to serve as did our Lord Jesus. Participants are usually already leaders in their parishes, and have a high degree of commitment to the ministry of the Church.

They want to deepen their life of faith and ground their baptismal commitment to serve in the scriptural, theological, liturgical, and historical



traditions of the Church.

They are committed to serve through the Church in a variety of ways: teaching, administration, liturgical leadership, action for social justice, evangelism, visitation of the sick, community organization, youth work, ministry among the elderly, and the like. In every way they seek, and are helped by diakonia, to grow closer to the image and example of Christ the servant.

How is diakonia structured? The diakonia curriculum consists of twelve courses, six per academic year. Each course is five sessions in length, and meets weekly for three-hour sessions.

Weekly assignments and reading reflect



BUILDING ON FAITH REPORT

To Jan 31, 2017

YEAR TO DATE

Receipts for January	\$ 2,755
Mortgage paid for February	2,379
Loan principal on Feb 1	79,258
Mutual Bank balance on Feb. 1	18,315
Total paid from scrip sales	55,200

At present, 87% of each payment reduces the principal. Current interest rate is 4.95 percent. Mortgage termination date is June 2020. Forty payments remain. Pledges totaling \$150,543 were received in a 2014 fund drive. Congregation should continue making regular contributions and purchasing scrip.

*Report prepared
By Dan Lindborg
January 10, 2017*

the twin purposes of relating subject matter to the students' context of life and ministry (family, parish, neighborhood area of ministry), and of giving a solid background to the topic.

Students work at their own level, and assignments reflect the understanding that students are already busy in their families, jobs, and parish.

Typically, students average approximately two to five hours of studies per week in addition to class time.

Treasure trove

(Continued from page 1)

Visionary New Understanding of Happiness and Well-Being

*Sue Annis Hammond, *The Thin Book of Appreciative Inquiry*.

*Judy Brown, *A Leader's Guide to Reflective Practice*.

*Whitney, Trosten-Bloom, Rader, *Appreciative Leadership: Focus on What Works to Drive Winning Performance and Build a Thriving Organization*.

*John P. Kotter, *Leading Change*.

*Batts and Hammar, *Church Finance: The Complete Guide to Managing Ministry Resources*.

— Jeff Zell

*Those who
have asked
for our
prayers
include*

Sara & Lorraina Doolittle, Al Saari (D.

Scherer's brother-in-law), Judithellen Larson,

Jordan Cone, Samantha

Croymans, Nelson, Ken,

David Post, Judy Kepner,

Roland Sheneman, Jaime Owen, Shirley Brunt,

our shut-ins.



Centuries-old prayer asks for grace in ‘golden’ years

EDITOR’S NOTE: Bev Trone passed along the following item, an anonymous prayer attributed, nonetheless, to a 17th Century nun. She found it in The Fisherman, the newsletter of St. Peter ELC in Fort Myers, where she and Pete worshipped while spending the winter months in Florida.

Lord, thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will someday be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion.

Common problems

(Continued from page 2)

can’t afford a full-time pastor and can’t find a part-time one. Stressed budgets mean some church buildings are only open for weekly worship services.

According to ELCA Research and Evaluation, the number of ELCA congregations declined between 2010 and 2015 from 10,008 to 9,326, and the number of congregations that can’t fund a full-time pastor remained above 2,000—which is projected to grow.

An average of 38 people attend weekly worship services at Lutheran Church of the Cross in Berkeley, Calif. “Most of the members here weren’t raised Lutheran,” said Cary Bass-Deschenes, pastor. “We’re not very affluent. Some of our members are homeless, and some have been homeless.”

But Bass-Deschenes believes low attendance, building maintenance and other budget strains could eventually take their toll. Without changes, his full-time position won’t likely be sustainable.

“For the church to continue on and grow ... I’d like to have more lay-led initiatives and more lay involvement with worship,” he said.

At Church of the Abiding Savior in Durham, N.C., the congregation experienced a sharp decline in giving and worship attendance. More than half the members left.

Remaining members pursued new life as a “renewing congregation” with a grant

Release me from craving to straighten out everybody’s affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by.

I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of other’s pains, but help

me to endure them with patience. I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a saint—some of them are so hard to live with—but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the Devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people.

And, give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so. Amen.

<https://bible.org/illustration/seventeenth-century-nuns-prayer>

Some numbers

104: Average number of worship attendees at an ELCA congregation.

50: Highest number of worship attendees at a “small” congregation.

37.6: Percentage of ELCA congregations with 50 or fewer worship attendees

31: Average number of worship attendees per small congregation.

Source: ELCA Research and Evaluation

from the churchwide organization as part of the ELCA’s strategy to revitalize flagging congregations.

The struggles of a small congregation aren’t easy, pastor Timothy Taylor added. Members want to draw new people, support youth programs, develop outreach initiatives and more. They often seek to retain some of the congregation’s history and heritage. “We fall in love with our buildings,” he said. “I’ll ask, ‘If the building burns down, will the church cease to exist?’ If the answer is ‘yes,’ it’s time to think differently.”

What Taylor tells Abiding Savior’s members applies to anyone, he said. He often asks, “Why in God’s name are you here in this place?” Look elsewhere for a “social club,” he adds, because the church is a place to do God’s work in the community.

RLA kids a ‘big hit’; more brief items of note

Brief but important items to report.

Michelle Megyese, with her Resurrection Lutheran Academy students, faculty and parents, reported that a good time was had by all at the March 23 Hope Ministries meal.

She noted that 159 individuals were served a taco meal, with enough left over for seconds and to leave for a future meal. The Hope staff was so pleased, “They asked if could come back next week,” Michelle said.

On Palm Sunday, April 9, **Amelia Marek and Mackenzie Miller** will receive their First Communion.

We received a thank you letter from **Broadway Christian Parish** for our recent donations of toys, T-Shirts, hygiene products, bus passes, and breakfast foods. The letter is on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

A big thanks to **Steve Martin**, who donned rubber boots and clambered onto the Fellowship Hall roof March 26 to clear away leaves and clutter that were causing a heavy accumulation of rain and spilling over the roof edges like Niagara Falls

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www.gloriadei-in.org

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NewsNotes

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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 April include...

April Birthdays

Melinda Foley	April 1	Marcus Foley	April 12
Elizabeth Bradbury	April 1	John Brummitt	April 13
Carol Larson	April 4	Harvey Holmes	April 13
Mary Lou Elder	April 4	Nancy Lindell Johnson	April 24

April Anniversaries

Linda and Len Jepson	April 8
Karen and Joe Menyhart	April 16