

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Issue #5/Volume #3

January 2021

EVERYDAY SPIRITUALITY

A Book Study for Epiphany

"The one who sets the course of (our) road and whose entry into it defines the way forward is the same who walks beside us, flesh of our flesh, God with us. Therefore, we can trust without reservation a journey whose future turns we cannot see."

-John S. Mogabgab

Back in 2017, while attending a talk by author Rob Bell, Rev. James Hazlewood heard something that made him realize there is a different path to becoming more spiritual than many people are aware. During a Q&A session before Rob's speech, a young college student asked him what kind of spiritual practices he uses. After a long pause, he said, "You mean like, surfing." There was laughter in the audience of earnest seekers who had come to hear from this former pastor and now quasi-guru. While many laughed, Jim realized Rob was serious. He also realized that he himself employed many spiritual practices that didn't fall into the traditional categories of prayer, scripture, reading, worship and fasting. What about swimming, cycling, & hiking? What about reading, writing, or eating a simple meal? Jim's mind exploded with all the things he did in his ordinary life that are indeed very much spiritual. This led him to a reexamination of spirituality-what it is, the times we relegate it to the corners of our life, and other times when it becomes all about all of life.

This time of year people are often thinking about making new year's resolutions. Sometimes these resolutions relate to growing or developing our spiritual life. "This year I plan to begin every day with a half hour of devotions and end every day with a half hour of prayer." Then within a week or two of the year beginning we find that we can't keep up this schedule and stop doing devotions altogether. But what if spirituality wasn't a matter of adding something more to an already overwhelming calendar? What if spirituality had more to do with paying attention to how God was already present and active in our everyday, ordinary life?

Are you frustrated with traditional approaches to spirituality? Are you feeling or have you ever felt guilty about not following a regimented devotional practice? Are you wishing there was a way you could embrace God in your everyday life? The book, **Everyday Spirituality** may be just what you're looking for. Rather than prescribe another failed attempt at daily devotional readings, written prayers and scheduled moments of quiet meditation, **Everyday Spirituality** expresses the truth that much of what we already do in life is, in fact, spiritual.

- Walking
- Laughing
- Moving
- Cooking
- Sleeping
- Spending

As James Hazlewood shares in the introduction, "This is a book about everyday life. In living an everyday, ordinary, seemingly routine life, we are living out a spirituality. Not the kind of spirituality that's set apart. Not the kind where you go off to a



retreat center for silence and good food and walks in nature. I've got nothing against that, and in fact, I enjoy those retreats myself. But I need a spirituality that is real for me on Mondays at 6 a.m., when the alarm goes off, and Thursday during dinner with my kids, and Fridays, between the grocery store and the gym. This is a book that connects the stuff we do every day, every week or every so often with God.

The schedule for our conversations is as follows:

Sunday, January 17, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.
"Things We Do Every Day – Part I"
Page 1-53

Sunday, January 24, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.
"Things We Do Every Day – Part II"
Page 55-82

Sunday, January 31, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.
"Things We Do Every Week"
Page 83-141

Sunday, February 7, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.
"Things We Do Every So Often"
Page 143-222

If you would like a book, we will have copies available in the church office for \$10.00. I hope you are as curious to hear what the author has to say as I am.

As the author states in the conclusion of his book: "So what's next? Where do I go from here?"

These are questions people have asked after reading this book. The questions reflect our American predilection for tasks. What should I do? What *more* do I need to do? We are task-oriented people.

But perhaps the answer for everyday spirituality is not so much what we must *do*, but how we are to *be*. Perhaps the answer is simple. . . start living every single day as an expression of the holy, the sacred, the divine. Live every day walking with God—and not just walking, but also sleeping, reading, breathing, cooking, laughing, grieving and wondering. Some of us just need to live life and not worry about what else we need to do or should do. I often wonder if our 21st century American quest for

hope, peace and meaning is a modern version of works righteousness. That's the idea that we just aren't good enough to earn God's love. At its core, this book and the movement I'm hoping to spark around everyday spirituality is an attempt to relieve people of the burden...the monster of 'more.' So, if nothing else, I'm hoping you'll live your life and know God is with you, in you and around you in a Grace-filled, loving, supportive way. No shame, no guilt, no should."

Looking forward to Seeing You There,
Pastor Greg



*Loving God,
I trust that who I am today
and where I am today
are the perfect starting points
for a closer walk with you.
I thank you for the journey so far,
and I praise you for the journey to come.
Walk with me, I pray.
Help me move ever closer to you
as we journey together.
Amen.*

From **When You Come Unglued... Stick Close to God**
By Patricia Wilson
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JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

6th Lesley Prout
 7th Jayne Bihr
 8th Nathan Craig
 8th Cathy Lake
 8th Riley Boyer
 8th Barbara Ross
 12th Kara Joan Eady
 14th Elizabeth Jade Flores
 16th Andrew Austin
 18th Camren James Burgett
 19th Claire Craig
 20th Isabella Melsheimer
 20th Tom Lake
 22nd Ross Carmichael
 25th Thomas Daniel Allen
 25th Bethany Herring
 26th Erin Lake
 26th Emily Grace Lewis
 27th Gabriel Domingo Gutierrez
 30th Gene Kai
 30th Michael Morford-Close
 30th Fred Sobottka
 31st Caleb William Bryson



ANNIVERSARIES

9th Norman & Jessy Rushing
 14th Lowell & Arlynn Schaffert
 23rd Tom & Cathy Lake

PRAYER REQUEST

Please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers. Joan Simonsen and Family as they mourn the passing of Husband, Father, grandfather, Lynn Simonsen, Wayne Asbury and Family as they mourn the passing of Father, grandfather, great-grandfather, Herb Asbury, Jeanette's brother Larry Kirksey (broken Tibia and foot), Diana's mother Dona (pneumonia), Terri Hawes, Steve Soderquist friend Charlie as he and family mourn the loss of his wife Ada, Our friends at Iglesia Santa Cruz, continued prayers for our friends at Atterdag, Renate Sanders, Dr. Vicki, & Chris Frederiksen, Pray for care-givers, for families mourning the loss of loved ones, for strength and healing for those who are dealing with illness from Covid-19, other illnesses, health concerns & undergoing treatments, & all family members and friends not mentioned who are in need of the Lord's healing touch.

With Deepest Sympathy



From Anne Kleve
 On Dec 18th, this world lost a great man and heaven gained another beautiful angel: our grandfather "PAPA" Herb Asbury after 96 yrs! His funeral service will be live streamed on Saturday, January 9, 2021 at 1:00 pm

MST on www.summitofpeace.org. In lieu of flowers, donations in Herb's memory may be made to the Handbell Fund at

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
4380 Orcutt Road, Santa Maria, CA 93455
 or **Habitat for Humanity**
 Northern Santa Barbara County at
habitatnsbc.org



Our Deepest Heartfelt Sympathy to Joan Simonsen and family as they grieve the passing of beloved husband, father & grandfather, Lynn Simonsen. Lynn passed into Jesus loving arms on December 28th. Pray for Joan and her family. A memorial service will be held at Gloria Dei Lutheran at a later date.

*Dear beloved Gloria Dei family,
 I want to thank you all for your sweet condolences and offers of help. It is heartwarming and comforting to know so many people care. Lynn's diagnosis of cancer and quick death was a tremendous shock. Due to covid, there will be a small family memorial service in a few weeks at Gloria Dei. It will be on the website shortly afterwards. I would like to install a Memory Garden at Gloria Dei in memory of Lynn. It would be a beautiful and peaceful spot where people could sit and pray, meditate and remember their loved ones. In lieu of flowers, perhaps consider a donation to Gloria Dei with the words "memory garden" on the memo line. Again, many thanks for your kindnesses.*

With much love, Joan Simonsen

**Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
JANUARY 2021**

**WATCH ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES
ON SUNDAY MORNINGS**

Sunday worship Service can be viewed
via the Gloria Dei Facebook page
and the our website.

WEBSITE

www.gloria-dei-elcasm.org

FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/gloriadeisantamaria>

HOLY COMMUNION

Last Sunday of the month, January 31st
Drive-By Communion in front of the
Fellowship Hall at 2:00 p.m.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Monday, January 11th – 6:30 p.m.
(via Zoom)

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Wednesday, January 13 & 20 & 27th – 7:00 p.m.
(via Zoom)

WELCA NEWS

**There will not be a WELCA Board Meeting
in the month of January.**

**No WELCA Bible Studies
during the month of January**

**A message from our
Council President**

Dear Gloria Dei Members,

When you read this, Christmas will be past, and that horrible 2020 will be over. But despite the tragedy which was 2020, Christmas made me realize we Gloria Dei received many gifts for which we are grateful to God. I would like to mention some of those gifts, in no particular order of importance.

One gift is Pastor Greg Kintzi. Throughout this year, Pastor Greg was always there for us, ready to counsel and advise us. He celebrated and mourned with us, ministered to our needs, led book

studies to broaden our understanding of our faith, and generally shepherded us through these trying times. Despite restrictions caused by Covid-19, Pastor made sure we celebrated services and the sacraments. He was the calm in our stormy sea. What a gift he continues to be for us.

Another gift is our Church Council. What a year it was for our leaders. Zoom Council meetings were a struggle, but Council members still managed to conduct Gloria Dei's business and provide leadership and counsel for Pastor and members. The Council has had to move more slowly on some projects, but the Council is working well despite the restrictions. Council members have worked to maintain communications with our members and keep everyone informed and in touch.

We also exercise the gift of giving. 2020 was a year of financial strain for many of us, but God enabled us to continue to contribute to the operations of Gloria Dei at a level nearly as had been budgeted. We are so blessed to have members who are able and willing to assist the congregation in God's work. It is wonderful that our members have stepped up when they could.

There are many others who have worked to keep Gloria Dei stewardship and care of our facility as normal as possible. If I would try to name everyone who contributed in 2020, I'm afraid I would leave someone out, so I won't try. But our staff members, group and committee leaders and members, financial officers and just plain folks are the backbone of our church. They are all gifts to others and to each other.

For Gloria Dei is not "gifted" just because of its Pastor, Church Council and other leaders. Each and every member of our congregation is a gift to us all. We lift each other up and help each other face these trying times. We encourage each other to worship and praise God as we should. We support each other in times of grief, as we have lost several wonderful members this year, members who have been gifts to us through the years. God has truly given Gloria Dei gifts of and to its members.

So, dear friends, let us belatedly recognize our Christmas gifts, gifts which will keep on giving in 2021. May you all have a blessed new year.

In Christ,
Tom Lake



"Offering Ourselves to God" STEWARDSHIP 2020-2021

"We learn to see God by opening our eyes and actively looking for opportunities to serve others."

-James T. Grana

Thank you to those who have returned your **Pledge Cards and Time & Talent** sheets for 2021. The Pledge Cards help us calculate a proposed budget for the year. The Time & Talent Sheets let us know what areas you are interested in serving throughout the year.

There are many ways you can give time to God through the church: teaching Sunday School; leading or being a part of a Bible study; singing in the choir; serving as usher or acolyte; helping Altar Guild; serving on a committee; offering hospitality, gardening, etc. Think about what you would like to do, and how you can be an active volunteer in the church.

If you have not yet had a chance to fill out your forms and return them to the Gloria Dei church office, you can do so via mail or drop off. We are united as Christians through our love and our service.

HISTORY OF IGLESIA LUTERANA SANTA CRUZ From Retired Pastor Patricia Muran

In 1997, some of the pastors of the Central Coast Collegium began a grassroots effort to start a new church in this area, and one that would reach the Hispanic community. When Patricia Muran (at the time a member of Saint John's Lutheran Church) announced that she would be entering PLTS to ultimately serve as an ordained minister to the Spanish speaking people, the mission church idea took hold. Patricia was settled here and was glad to stay and serve. So while she tended to her seminary studies, the core group of pastors strategized how to find mission support and to rally the conference churches to advocate for a new church. With much prayer, they contacted and secured financial backing from 1) local ELCA churches 2) Southwest California Synod 3) ELCA churchwide office.

In 2001, when Patricia graduated from seminary, she was ordained and called as a mission developer in Santa Maria, CA. Her church served a very marginalized community of mostly Mexican immigrants that have minimal education, speak Spanish and an native Mayan language, and have an indigenous culture. Many work in agriculture. The grace of Christ touched their hearts and lives and continues to do so after Patricia retired in 2016.

Pastor Esteban Salazar was called to IL Santa Cruz after an interim period and currently serves there with his wife Angie. We are hoping to reinvigorate our conference around this work as we keep the promise we made to them at their founding. This effort has always been rooted in the dreams and vision of the churches on the Central Coast and was not instigated by the Synod. Rather, they heard our request and responded. With pastoral departures from our region, congregational separations after 2009, and the need to respond to the Covid crisis, we are called upon again to partner with IL Santa Cruz and support them with time, talent, and treasure as they live into their development.

Last year, IL Santa Cruz presided at over 50 baptisms and 22 confirmations, by far the healthiest of all our churches.

God is doing something in Santa Maria. And it is our honor to be invited to be part of it.

Santa Cruz Christmas Angel Program 2020

This month we want to thank everyone for working hard to help our Community. Thanks to the generosity of our Brothers and sisters from Bethania Lutheran in Solvang, Peace Lutheran in Lompoc, Gloria Dei in Santa Maria, Saint John's Lutheran in Arroyo Grande, Mt. Carmel in Morro Bay, Mt. Carmel in San Luis Obispo, Bethel Lutheran in Templeton Mt. Carmel Lutheran, we were able to provide 405 gifts for 115 families. Thank you for making a child or a family happy. May God's blessings continue to rain upon you and your families. We know how hard it is to do our everyday activities, yet you all continue to support us. Thank you!!



FUN FACTS FOR A PANDEMIC

Part Eight

Making Online Learning More Fun:

Zoom school is becoming just a little bit more bearable, thanks to a new viral trend. Many instructors find student participation lagging during remote classes, so when a teacher made a TikTok video of herself plastering a sticker on her face each time a student spoke up, the idea quickly caught on. “My students loved it. They were laughing, and I had never had all 18 of my students completely engaged in my math lesson,” said Taylor Dale. By the end of a class, some teachers’ faces are covered in stars, or characters. “It’s a way to block out all the craziness with something fun,” said Krista Coletti.



Religious Values:

“The more we seek solace through politics,” says Richard Just, “the more unhinged American politics becomes; and the more unhinged American politics becomes, the more solace we need.” Just suggest that religious traditions at their best provide an antidote to the political divisiveness we face. Humility teaches us that we may be wrong and our political opponents right. Forgiveness helps us let go of past burdens. Mutual trust makes space for working at knotty civil difference. Sabbath gives us a sense of the holy breaking into time, providing a respite from the entanglements of politics. (Washington Post Magazine, October 28)

Lonely Deaths:

Some residents of nursing homes who have been spared Covid-19 are dying of loneliness, according to a study by two economists from the University of Norte Dame. This is especially true in five-star facilities in areas where the rate of coronavirus infections have been low and isolation measures were stringent. In September the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services relaxed visitation standards for nursing homes, noting that “nursing home residents derive value from the physical, emotional, and spiritual support they receive through visitation from family and friends.” (Bloomberg Business Week, Nov 9)

Stressor: It is already known that a hostile attitude can contribute to coronary artery disease. New research at Baylor University has disclosed that a particular kind of hostile attitude-cynical hostilities – can be even more problematic. It consists of “negative beliefs, thoughts, and attitudes about other people’s motives, intentions and trustworthiness,” said lead author Alexandria Tyra. It “appears to be extremely relevant in today’s political and health climate.” and can be harmful not only for our short-term stress responses but also our long-term health,” she said. (Baptist News Global, November 23)

Black Santa:

Last week Chris Kennedy and 4-year-old daughter Emily decorated their lawn with Christmas cheer, including their inflatable Black Santa. Then, they received a hateful anonymous note telling them to remove it because Santa has been a white man “for the past 600 years.” Shocked, Kennedy shared the letter on Facebook. Soon, in solidarity, their neighbors began putting up Black Santas – so many that retailers are selling out. “The outpouring of love, support, and unity that we’re seeing from the community has just been incredible,” said Kennedy. “At the end of the day, what was meant for evil was flipped for good.”

**Remembering to Say Thanks:**

In March, Jeff Gerson was admitted to New York City’s NYU Langone Tisch Hospital suffering from Covid-19. He was intubated the next day, and when he woke up a month later, Gerson had no recollection of his recovery, but still wanted to thank the heroes who saved his life. So he tracked down the names of all 116 doctors, nurses, and therapists by looking through his insurance records and treatment charts. Then, he sent a letter of thanks naming each one. Health-care workers “often go without appreciation,” Gerson said, “and the point of my letter was to give them the recognition that they’re due.”

Solidarity:

Tanja Babich’s 10-year-old daughter refused to wear her glasses during online school, afraid of what her classmates might think. So Babich, a morning news anchor for ABC7 Chicago, decided to wear her glasses every day for a week as a gesture of solidarity. She also put out a call for viewers to send in pictures of their children wearing spectacles, and they responded enthusiastically. “Whatever people say or think about you is none of your business,” Babich said on air. “Just be yourself, authentically and unapologetically.” Babich’s daughter now wears her own glasses, encouraged by the hundreds of photos of other kids wearing glasses with frames of every conceivable color and shape.

**Amazon Driver to the Rescue:**

A passing delivery driver helped a man escape from a burning building. Sean Campbell was carrying packages for Amazon in a Florida suburb when he heard the sound of screams. He ran toward the sound and discovered that a fire in a house’s garage was quickly growing, with an elderly man still inside. Campbell ran in and found the man in his kitchen, searching for his walker. The 23-year-old driver quickly helped him outside. Tim West, the rescued man’s son, praised Campbell for being “brave enough” to run in. “It was fantastic,” West said.

JANUARY HUMOR

Words to Start the New Year

THE KEY TO A BETTER LIFE:

- Complain less, appreciate more.
- Whine less laugh more.
- Talk less, listen more.
- Want Less, give more.
- Hate less, love more.
- Scold less, praise more.
- Fear less, hope more.

-Michael Josephson

"Having a sense of humor has served me more than it has hurt me, just in the sense that it has allowed me to keep my sanity."
-De De Myers

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. I have decided to stick to love. Hate is too great a burden to bear."

-Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"When you rise in the morning form a resolution to make the day a happy one for a fellow creature."
-Sydney Smith (1845)

The six best doctors in the world: (1) sunlight, (2) rest, (3) exercise, (4) diet, (5) self-confidence, (6) friends.
-via George Goldtrap, Ormond-by-the Sea, FL

"Count your life by smiles, not tears. "Count your age by friends, not years."
-Lois Ward, Port Townsend, WA

"In the New Year, write a new plan; turn a new page; follow a new direction; be a new person; radiate enthusiasm."
-William Arthur Ward

"Embrace frugality. Frgality is just doing whatever it takes to spend less than you earn. What a novel concept!"
-Mary Hunt, Columnist, "Everyday Cheapskate"

"A good sweat, with the blood pounding through my body, makes me feel alive, revitalized. I gain a sense of mastery and assurance. I feel good about myself. Then I can feel good about others."
-Arthur Dobrin, via Apple Seeds

"The testimony of a good conscience is the glory of a good man; have a good conscience and thou shalt ever have gladness."
-Thomas a Kempis (1471)

"O God our loving Father, help us rightly to remember the birth of Jesus...that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Deliver us from evil by the blessing that Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven for Jesus sake. Amen."

-Robert Louis Stevenson




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JANUARY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					 New Year's Day	Film Service 10 am
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Online Service 9:00 am Fellowship 11 am EPIPHANY				Central Coast Conf. Clergy 9:30 am (ZOOM)		Film Service 10 am
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Online service 9:00 am Fellowship 11 am Baptism of Our Lord	Church Council 6:30 pm (via Zoom)		Confirmation Class 7:00 pm			Film Service 10 am
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Online service 9:00 am Fellowship 11 am Book Study 7 pm 2 EPIPHANY			Confirmation Class 7:00 pm			Film Service 10 am
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30
Service 9:00 am Fellowship 11 am Book Study 7 pm 3 EPIPHANY						Film Service 10 am
Service 9:00 am Fellowship 11 am Holy Communion 2 pm at Gloria Dei Book Study 7 pm 4 EPIPHANY			Confirmation Class 7:00 pm			

Our Mission Statement: To Know God, Love God, Serve God

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

4380 Orcutt Road

Santa Maria, CA 93455

(805) 937-3905

Pastor: Greg J. Kintzi

Email: gloria.dei@verizon.net

Website: gloria-dei-elcasam.org

<https://www.facebook.com/gloriadeisantamaria>

Sunday worship Service can be viewed via the Gloria Dei Facebook page and the our website.

WEBSITE

www.gloria-dei-elcasam.org

FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/gloriadeisantamaria>



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