

# THE LEARNER

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church's Official Newsletter

## LIVING IN A COVENANTAL RELATIONSHIP

BY PASTOR EDD WUNDERLICH

In a world built on contracts, Scripture invites us into something far deeper: covenant.

A contract is an agreement between parties who exchange goods or services. If one side fails, the agreement can be voided. But a covenant is different. A covenant is rooted not in mutual benefit alone, but in steadfast love. It is not merely a negotiated arrangement—it is a binding promise of faithfulness.

From Genesis to Revelation, the story of God and His people is the story of covenant. God makes promises to Noah, to Abraham, to Israel, and ultimately establishes a new covenant through Jesus Christ. In each case, the covenant is initiated by God's grace. It is sustained by His faithfulness. And it invites a response of trust and obedience from His people.

A covenantal relationship changes how we understand our walk with the Lord.

First, it reminds us that our relationship with God is personal. The Lord does not relate to us as a distant ruler issuing impersonal decrees. He binds Himself to His people. "I will be your God, and you will be My people" (Jeremiah 30:22). This is the language of belonging. In Christ, we are not merely forgiven; we are claimed.

Second, covenant shapes our identity. We do not define ourselves by shifting cultural standards or personal achievements. We are defined by the promises of God. When we struggle, we remember that He is faithful even when we are not. When we succeed, we remember that every blessing flows from His gracious hand. Our confidence rests not in our consistency, but in His covenant love.

Third, covenant calls us to faithfulness in return. God's covenant grace is never an excuse for complacency. Instead, it fuels devotion. Jesus said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments" (John 14:15). Obedience is not a way to earn covenant membership; it is the grateful response of those who already belong.

This covenantal framework also shapes how we relate to one another. Marriage reflects covenant. Church membership reflects covenant. Even our friendships, when grounded in Christ, take on covenantal depth—marked by loyalty, forgiveness, and perseverance rather than convenience.

In an age of disposable commitments, covenant stands as a countercultural testimony. We serve a God who does not abandon His promises. He does not rewrite the terms when circumstances change. He remains steadfast.

As we move forward together, may we remember: we are a covenant people. Bound to the Lord by the blood of Christ. Sustained by His grace. Called to walk in faithful love.

And because He keeps covenant, we can live with confidence, hope, and joy.

# UP COMING EVENTS

These are the events happening in March.



## Confirmation Class

Sunday, March 8, 2026  
10:15 am

## The Kansas City Metro Men's Chorus

Sunday, March 1, 2026, at 3:00 pm

Fairview Christian Church  
1800 NE 65<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, MO

A concert poster for The Kansas City Metro Men's Chorus. At the top, the word "Concert" is written in red. Below it is a photograph of the chorus members in black robes. The text on the poster reads: "featuring The Kansas City Metro Men's Chorus", "Artistic Director and Conductor Noel Fulkerson", "Asst. Directors: Mark Boothe & Tim Crosson", "March 1, 2026 at 3:00 P.M.", and "Fairview Christian Church 1800 NE 65th Street".

**Concert**

featuring  
**The Kansas City Metro Men's Chorus**  
Artistic Director and Conductor  
Noel Fulkerson  
Asst. Directors: Mark Boothe & Tim Crosson  
March 1, 2026 at 3:00 P.M.  
Fairview Christian Church  
1800 NE 65th Street



## Bowed-String Daffodils



Carray Music Studio Recital  
Monty Carter, Instructor  
Saturday, March 7  
2:00 p.m.

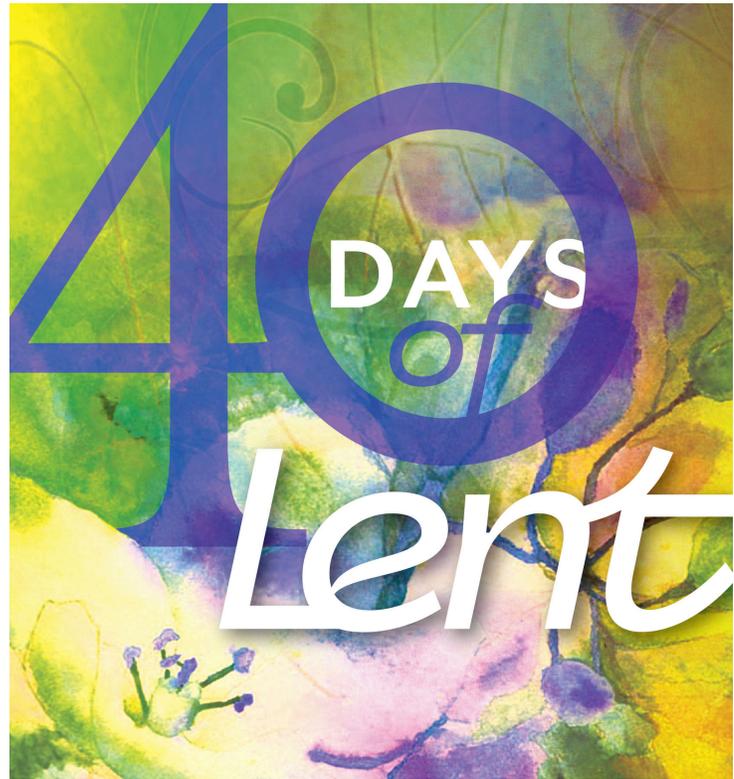
# LENTEN

BY KITTY LONG

Please join us for fellowship and dinner before our Wednesday 7:00pm Lenten services. Dinner is 5:30-6:45pm. Signup and themes are in the hall.

## Lenten Meal Schedule:

- March 4<sup>th</sup>----Baked Potatoes
- March 11<sup>th</sup>----Mexican Cuisine
- March 18<sup>th</sup>----Breakfast for Dinner
- March 25<sup>th</sup>----Italian Cuisine



Mid-Week Lenten Offering has been designated for the Discretionary Fund.



## Children's Sunday School

Sunday, March 1, 15 & 29  
9:15 am

## CONGRATULATIONS

**Zachary Thompson & Simon Guy**

for completing their First  
Communion Classes.

They will be receiving their First  
Communion this month.





## NATIONAL QUILTING DAY

BY OUTREACH

The Outreach team has received interesting information from Lutheran World Relief about their Quilt and Quilt Kit opportunities. The program has given thousands of quilts and quilt kits to people in U.S. disaster areas and many places across the world.

Our Gloria Dei congregation can organize a one time project or an ongoing program. Funding can be available from Thrivent or other sources. This is such an exciting expression of God's love. If quilting is your passion, contact the church office or Steve or Sandy Fogt for more information.

We can celebrate NATIONAL QUILTING DAY on March 21, 2026!

Website: <https://lwr.org/blog/2026/national-quilting-day-2026-your-love-goes-distance>



## THANK YOU!!!!

BY ANN SMITH

Feeling grateful and blessed by God's goodness! Thank you so much!

Thank you for the beautiful wooden cross!



# The Chosen Bible Study

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

10:00 am

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

## Blood Drive

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

12:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church



### **Blood Drive** **Gloria Dei Lutheran Church**

Fellowship/Social Hall  
5409 NW 72nd St.  
Kansas City, MO 64151

**Tuesday, March 24, 2026**  
**12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: GloriaDeiKC to schedule an appointment.

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES



## CONGRATULATIONS

**Ronnie Benford and Ashleigh Cruce**  
on their successful swimming success  
for Platte County High School.

# NEXT MONTH, SAVE THE DATE

This event is happening in April.



## EASTER EGG HUNT AND PARTY

BY YOUTH MINISTRY

The Easter Egg Hunt will be held on March 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 am in the fellowship hall. The hunt is for ages infant to 4<sup>th</sup> grade. The craft for that day involves shoe boxes. If you have unused shoe boxes, please bring them to the church. (We need 20). Also, easter eggs need to be filled. They will be located in the entrance hall. Please take a carton or cartons, fill them, and place them in the tote located next to the table. Thanks in advance for your help.

Holy Week Schedule:

Maundy Thursday----- April 2<sup>nd</sup> 7:00 pm at St. James on Vivion Road

Good Friday-----April 3<sup>rd</sup> 7: 00 pm at Gloria Dei

Easter Vigil-----April 4<sup>th</sup> 5:00 pm

Daybreak Service----April 5<sup>th</sup> 7:00 am

Festival of the Resurrection----April 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am



## EASTER BREAKFAST

BY FELLOWSHIP

Looking ahead - join us for  
Easter Breakfast  
Sunday, April 5th, 8:15-11:15 am.

# BINGO AND PIZZA

BY KITTY LONG

We had a great fellowship time with Bingo and Pizza on February 1st after church. Even with the snow day change, we had about 30 people attend.



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## APPLYING BIBLE PRINCIPLES

The Old Testament Book of Esther is very interesting. If you've never read it, you might want to do so. It is the only book of the Bible in which the name of God is not mentioned. Too, the New Testament does not quote from the Book of Esther. The ten chapters which comprise this book are filled with intrigue, mystery and divine providence as God comes to the rescue of the Jewish people.

King Ahasuerus (also known in secular history as Xerxes) is described in chapter one as surrounding himself with wise men who knew the times. To paraphrase comedian Steve Martin, these were the "wise guys" of their day. They knew what was happening in terms of history and current events, so much so that they were invaluable to the king.

What does it mean to be "wise"? Charles Stanley wrote, "Wisdom is the capacity to see our lives from God's perspective." In other words, if we want to be among the "wise guys" of our day, we will view our lives and how we use our time from God's perspective.

What is that perspective? It is from eternity. Before the foundation of the earth was created, there was no time. There were no clocks, no second hands ticking off the passing of time. And someday when time as we know it ends, that same vista will once again be present.

Bill Gaither described that prospect with these words:

The market place is empty,	Busy housewives cease their labors,
No more traffic in the streets,	In the courtroom no debate,
All the builder's tools are silent,	Work on earth is all suspended
No more time to harvest wheat;	As the King comes through the gate.

Someone described eternity this way: High up in the north there stands a rock. It is 100 miles high and 100 miles wide. Once every 1,000 years a little bird comes to this rock to sharpen its beak. When the rock has been worn away, then a single day of eternity will have gone by.

Yes, someday, time as we know it will be no more. What really matters is using the time that God has given us now to glorify God and to be of Christian service to others, especially here at Gloria Dei. What really puts us in the class of those who are "wise" is viewing our activities and the use of our time from God's eternal perspective.

He who knows not, and knows not that he knows not, is a fool; shun him.

He who knows not, and knows that he knows not, is a child; teach him.

He who knows, and knows not that he knows, is asleep; wake him.

He who knows, and knows that he knows, is wise; follow him.

# March 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 am Worship Child Sun sch <b>11 am GS Mass</b>	2 9:30 am Grandpa Coffee Day Care	3 6:45 am NorQuest 9:30 am Grandpa Coffee Day Care	4 <b>Lenten Services</b> 9:30 am Women's 9:30 am Grandpa 5:30 pm Supper <b>6:30p Confession</b> 7:00 pm Worship 8:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	5 9:30 am Grandpa Coffee Day Care	6 9:30 am Grandpa Coffee Day Care	7 5:00 pm Worship 7:00 - 9:00 am Harvesters Pantry 2:00 pm Bowed- String Daffodils Recital
8 <b>Day Light Savings</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am 7th Gra Confirmation <b>11 am GS Mass</b>	9 9:30 am Grandpa Coffee Day Care 6:00 pm Invitation Meeting	10 6:45 am Men Bible 9:30 am Grandpa Coffee Day Care 10:00 am Chosen Bible Study	11 <b>Lenten Services</b> 9:30 am Women's 9:30 am Grandpa 5:30 pm Supper <b>6:30p Confession</b> 7:00 pm Worship 8:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	12 9:30 am Grandpa Coffee Day Care	13 9:30 am Grandpa Coffee Day Care	14 5:00 pm Worship
15 9:00 am Worship Child Sun sch <b>11 am GS Mass</b>	16 9:30 am Grandpa Coffee Day Care	17 6:45 am Men Bible 9:30 am Grandpa Coffee Day Care	18 <b>Lenten Services</b> 9:30 am Women's 9:30 am Grandpa 5:30 pm Supper <b>6:30p Confession</b> 7:00 pm Worship 8:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	19 9:30 am Grandpa Coffee Day Care	20 9:30 am Grandpa Coffee Day Care 12:00 - 2:00 pm Food Pantry (Weston City Hall)	21 5:00 pm Worship 7:00 - 9:00 am Food Pantry
22 9:00 am Worship <b>11 am GS Mass</b>	23 9:30 am Grandpa Coffee Day Care	24 6:45 am Men Bible 9:30 am Grandpa Coffee Day Care <b>12-4p Blood Drive</b>	25 <b>Lenten Services</b> 9:30 am Women's 9:30 am Grandpa 5:30 pm Supper <b>6:30p Confession</b> 7:00 pm Worship 8:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	26 9:30 am Grandpa Coffee Day Care	27 9:30 am Grandpa Coffee Day Care	28 5:00 pm Easter Vigil Worship
29 <b>Palm Sunday</b> 9:00 am Worship Child Sun sch 10:15 am Easter Egg Hunt <b>11 am GS Mass</b>	30 9:30 am Grandpa Coffee Day Care <b>*Last Day for Easter Lily Orders</b>	31 6:45 am Men Bible 9:30 am Grandpa Coffee Day Care	1	2	3	4
<b>COMMUNION SERVERS</b>			<b>ASSISTING MINISTER</b>			
Mar 1 The Fox family Mar 8 Jim & Jackie Finnegan Mar 15 Jennifer Shireman & Carol Kuhr Mar 22 Dean & Joan Dark Mar 29 <b>Volunteers Needed</b>			Mar 1 Payten Davis (Lector: *Trevia DeLeon) Mar 8 Steve Fogt (Lector: *Jodi Fox) Mar 15 Brian Ericksen (Lector: VirJean Scheuerman) Mar 22 Jennifer Williams (Lector: Bob Happel) Mar 29 Corey Reil: Palm Sunday (Lector: Carol Kuhr)			
<b>ALTAR FLOWERS</b>						
Mar 1 None ~ Mar 8 <i>In honor of our 30th Anniversary ~ Julia Kuhn</i> Mar 15 None ~ Mar 22 <i>In honor of Treva &amp; Tillie's birthday ~ VirJean Scheuerman</i> Mar 29 None ~						