



IN THE SPIRIT

Women's Ministry of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Wichita, Ks

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit." Galatians 5: 22 and 25.

Casting Seeds on a January Snow - There is a small stretch of land just north of my country farmhouse that begs for improvement. Last year I solicited help from my sons to tear down an old outbuilding that stood in that spot for some sixty years. It had become fixed in our minds as a part of the farmyard, so it was jolting to see it gone. The scar that resulted from the removal of the foundation has begged for someone to restore earthly dignity.

Since I try to nurture the wildlife around the area, I thought I should plant some quail-supporting native grasses and wildflowers that would have grown there when that space was native prairie. I waited all last summer for the rainy season so I could broadcast seeds, but last year was a drought year.

The surface soil in that area is still poor and we still wait for rain, but I have a plan given to me by some successful old farming friends. "First," they tell me, "you want to mix the native seeds with some red clover. The clover will sprout quickly and protect the slower sprouting native seeds. Second, you want to throw the seed mixture out on the January snow and let the thawing action work with the moisture to set the roots."

Of course, I asked the expert, Dr. Google, to verify this advice, and sure enough, it seems to be a good farming practice. In that search, I found more scriptural references to casting seed than those of a scientific nature and spent considerable time that afternoon going through the farming and agricultural foundation of many stories and parables of the Bible. A farming context, it seems, made stories understandable for the people of that day.

Farming has always been an industry closely connected to God. We may think we have the science of farming in our control, and these days do some pretty fancy seed manipulation, but when it comes to growing plants, we still find that it is not the one who plants, waters or fertilizes, but God, who makes things grow.

My grandfather was quick to credit the crop to his higher power. As he brought in his grain, he was sure to say it was by "the grace of God and back-breaking work" that he brought in a crop. Unlike him, my livelihood doesn't depend on these seeds, but I never tire of the miracle of growth. Come a January snow, I will cast them.

Blessings,

Joan Pritchard, Council Representative

Gloria Dei Women's Guilds

Hannah Guild:
Meets the second
Tuesday of the month at 9:30
a.m. in
Fellowship Hall B.
Pam Fulton 794-8659

Leah Guild:
Meets the second Sunday of
the month at 9:45 a.m. in the
Church library.
Susan Vetter 744-7096
Debra West 264-5115

Rebekah Guild:
Meets the second Saturday of
the month at 1:00 p.m. in the
hostess' home.
Laura Shriner 942-6109
Ruth Johnson 682-2063

Ruth Guild:
Meets the second Wednesday
of the month at 10:00 a.m. in
the Church.
Karen Haynes 721-1633

Tabitha Guild:
Meets the third Tuesday of the
month at 1:00 p.m. in the Church
library.
Roberta Witte 721-5430
Linda Timmons 832-1369



Women's Ministry Mission

Women's Ministry was formed to support and encourage women to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ and other women of the church, community and the world.

Getting to know Jody Helton -

Perhaps you have met and are already getting to know Jody Helton, a busy working mother of two. By day, she is employed by the Sedgwick County Special Education Coop as a School Psychologist serving the Clearwater Schools, K-12. She also coaches the Clearwater High School dance team and sponsors SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions).

At home, Jody cares for Brady, who is thirteen and a seventh grader and involved in football, scholar's bowl and band. He also plays competitive baseball. Daughter Mallory is nine and a third grader. Mallory is involved in dance and piano. Husband Greg is a Pre-flight Inspector Senior at Cessna.



In her spare time, Jody enjoys knitting, quilting, and sewing; she is also very involved with her family in the activities of Gloria Dei. Jody likes to assist with worship in any way. She sings in the choir, serves as a cantor and rings bells with the bell choir. Jody also serves on the youth committee and is a member of Leah Guild.

Jody's family is also involved in church activities. Greg is on the usher team; Brady rings bells with the Jubilate bell choir and is an acolyte; Mallory is in the children's choir and preparing to join the liturgical dancers.

Jody and Greg have a Lutheran background. Jody was raised ELCA Lutheran and Greg was baptized as an adult into the Lutheran Church. When asked what brought them to Gloria Dei, she said, "Gloria Dei has been a blessing to us from day one. We were in search of a church with a strong youth program and confirmation program before Brady's sixth grade year. Not sure what took us so long to find Gloria Dei, but thankfully God led us here. My parents love to attend. As my mom says "now that's a Lutheran Church!!!!"

Gloria Dei, she continued, "is a very important part of who we are and how we have chosen to raise our kids. Thankfully, they both love to be in church."

When you see Jody and her family in the next few weeks, be sure to tell them how pleased we are they are a part of Gloria Dei.



Pages and Sages Book Club

Book Club Selections, 2012

An open discussion group meets the first Saturday of the month (except for holidays) at 11:00 a.m. in the Café at the Wichita Art Museum.

January, 2012

The Other Side of the Bridge by Mary Lawson (carried over from 2011)

Discussion February 4, 2012

February, 2012

The Descendants by Kauai Hart Hemmings

Discussion March 3, 2012

March, 2012

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot

Discussion April 7, 2012

April, 2012

My Ruby Slippers-The Road Back to Kansas by Tracy Seeley

Discussion May 5, 2012

May, 2012

Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption by Laura Hillenbrand

Discussion June 2, 2012

June, 2012

Emily Alone by Stewart O’Nan

Discussion July 7, 2012

July, 2012

The Housekeeper and the Professor by Yoko Ogawa

Discussion August 4, 2012

August, 2012

Angry Housewives Eating Bon Bons by Lanvik Larna

Discussion September 8, 2012

September, 2012

Marriage and Other Acts of Charity by Kate Braestrup

Discussion October 6, 2012

October 2012

Even Sunflowers Cast Shadows by Douglas Armstrong

Discussion November 3, 2012

November 2012

American Jezebel by Eve Laplante

Discussion December 1, 2012

December 2012

The Glass Castle by Jeanette Walls

Discussion January 5, 2013



Save the Dates!

February 3, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. Key Coffee, Church Women United, 829 N Market



Spring Event

Sunday

April 22, 2012

1:00 P.M.

July 27-29, 2012 Central States synod Convention will be St. Joseph, Mo., at the Ramada Inn. The theme will be: "Sing to the Lord."