

Scripture to meditate on this week:

Luke 1:46-55

⁴⁶ And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has been mindful

of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me—

holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him,

from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;

he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones

but has lifted up the humble.

⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things

but has sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,

remembering to be merciful

⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever,

just as he promised our ancestors.”

Elder Team Update to the Congregation:

Affirmation Vote Results: Doreen Miller was affirmed for another 3-year term as Congregational Spiritual Director. We thank you for your support of her and her role and ask you to join us praying for God’s blessing on her ministry among us and to others outside our church family.

Our Future: What is God’s purpose for Gingrichs and what will Gingrichs look like in five years? We don’t yet know, but we as a congregation are on a journey to find where God is leading and to follow Him. We want to clarify that “all options are on the table” currently except closing the church. We are moving toward revitalizing our congregation to be a beacon of Christ’s truth and love in our community for years to come.

Pastoral Search Team: Four persons have agreed to join our bishop, Dave Musser, to form the Pastoral Search Team. They are Carol Hershey, Diane Hoover, Barry Freed and Myron Miller. Their responsibility is to find a pastoral candidate that can serve on a part-time base to lead a team of leaders to revitalize our congregation. The Elder Team members are ex officio members of the Search Team and will be kept informed of the progress. We ask for your prayers. Please contact any of the members with any ideas or suggestions you have.

Growing: Invitations have already been sent to a couple families to join our effort to revitalize Gingrichs congregation. We are looking for approximately five families and/or singles willing to spend 2-4 years working together to form a nucleus of leaders for future growth and life. If you know a family or single to invite, please discuss this option with the Elder Team so we can support and coordinate the process.

Thanks: We thank you, our brothers and sisters, for your prayers, your ideas, your faith and faithfulness, your service and support, and your commitment to Christ and each other. We thank God for each of you and for His unchanging, loving presence among us. God is good, and His covenant lovingkindness endures forever.