

FROM THE PASTOR

Grace and peace be yours from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,

Grace and peace! Haven't we been in dire need of these two things lately? COVID-19 is a new term in our vocabulary that has wreaked havoc on our world. As if being in transition hasn't been enough for us to deal with, then the virus rears its ugly head to give us more to deal with.

But, it's been said that God doesn't give us more than we can handle. I have to agree with that. When we trust in God's promises and rely on God for strength, there is really nothing that we can't handle. God's love continues to surround us and guide us, God's healing power continues to comfort and heal us, God's mercy and grace are always ours no matter what our situation.

The last few weeks have been hard on all of us. Isolation is very important to stop the spread of the virus but is something that we, as social beings, are ill-equipped to handle. Social and physical distancing is frustrating, to say the least.

I recently led the memorial service for our sister in Christ, Rachel Lesser. I so very much wanted to shake hands with and give hugs to the family that I had never met. Unfortunately, because of the precautions against such actions that we've undertaken lately, I was forced to simply extend our sympathies verbally.

I miss seeing all of you on Sunday morning and throughout the week. I pray for the day that we can dispense with all of this long-distance lifestyle and get back to being community together, the body of Christ that we need, the physical interaction which we yearn for.

Now, having sung my song of lament in the last few paragraphs, I'm happy to say that there is an upside to all of this. We are expanding our ministry online. I have convened a dedicated crew of worship assistants the past few weeks that I'd like to thank:

- Irv (and Sue) Johnson have manned the video camera and have been my "congregation" during taping so that we can post our worship on both our website and Facebook pages:
<http://www.gloriadeielca.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/GloriaDeiLeesburg/>
- Mary Greer, our webmaster, who has spent countless hours going back and forth with emails and phone calls to me and Irv as we tried to develop an online worship experience that would be meaningful, inspirational, and user-friendly for those in our congregation who have access to the internet.

April, 2020



- Paul Motto, our talented church musician, is always a joy to work with and can always be counted on to do it "in one take!"
- Byron (and Crystal) Kirkpatrick for reading the lessons and, along with Irv and Sue, make up the "congregation" during video sessions.
- Mary Beth Morris, our office administrator, has been instrumental in finding who among us does not have email and is diligently trying to ensure that they are "kept in the loop" via mailing. She also has to put up with me when my thoughts start getting way ahead of my mouth, a situation that has happened more than once in the last few weeks.

I'd like to thank all of you for your prayers, cards, and letters of support. We will make it through this trying time by staying connected with each other via phone, email, text, and other electronic means. Keep praying, keep looking to God for strength and peace, and keep washing your hands!!

See you in church, *Pastor Jim*

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Rachel Lesser died Monday, **March 2, 2020**. Our hearts and prayers go out to Rachel's family. Celebration of Life will be held on Wednesday, March 18th at Gloria Dei.

Renny Almquist died Friday, **March 6, 2020**. Our prayers and condolences to Nancy and her family. A Celebration of Life was held on Wednesday, March 11th at Gloria Dei.

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

Members or friends hospitalized or had surgery in March: Sam Goins.

Please note: When being admitted to the hospital, please indicate "Lutheran" or "Gloria Dei" when asked about your religion. It helps our visitation team members know who is hospitalized so that visits can be arranged.

RUTH CIRCLE-Due to the uncertainty of circumstances around us, RUTH CIRCLE will not be meeting on April 2nd. I believe it is in the best interest of us all to postpone this til later when everything settles down. Please be cautious and safe. Praying for good health for all. God's Peace and Blessings to all of you, Janet Braun

GIFTS OF REMEMBRANCE

In loving memory of:

Rachel Lesser, Love Never Ends	Pat & Doug Bressler/JHIFM
Renny Almquist, Love Never Ends	Pat & Doug Bressler/Memorials
Renny Almquist	Joyce Brandt/Memorials
Renny Almquist	Carol Davis/Memorials
Renny Almquist	Arlene & John Kelly/Memorials
Renny Almquist	Bev & Dick Healy/Memorials

PRAYERS

We will pray for the joys, sorrows, and concerns of the following members **April:**

- 04/05** Linda Steege, Mike Stewart, Bill & Phyllis Swinford,
Andy & Jean Talts, Mike & Donna Tarnok
- 04/12** Gayle Teerman, Jon & Marva Tetting, Ed Thompson,
Rudy Trapiss, Loraine Van Haecke
- 04/19** Nancy Vogel, Marilyn Wahl, Karen Schaefer & Darby Walbon,
Ruby Wanland, Bill & Diane Wasser
- 04/26** Joel & Sharon Weinhardt, Earl West, Hazel Wolfgram,
Celia Wollner, Mike & Janine Wurzer

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

04/21	Jerry & Julie Eld	59 years*
04/23	Craig & Christine Carlson	43 years
04/23	Pastor Jim and Patti Young	43 years
04/26	Richard & Debbie Cassem	51 years*

**Special congratulations to these couples that have
celebrated fifty or more years of marriage.*

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

04/06	Sharon Weinhardt	04/09	Donald Eisinger
04/10	Sylvia Mackey	04/13	Steve Greer
04/13	Sharon Maxwell	04/14	Ted Baehmann
04/16	Barbara Goins	04/19	Raymond Haller
04/24	Joy Yonko	04/25	Sandy Kolb
04/27	James Gable		

MEDIA TEAM

CHECK OUT OUR CHURCH WEBSITE AT: www.gloriadeielca.com

Stay current with church events by visiting the website on a regular basis. Help us keep the calendar of events current by sending information about any functions and club events to Mary Beth Morris. Please remember to take pictures of all events and send them to Mary Greer for posting on the website.

The Member Access menu is just for our disciples. Here you can view videos of sermons and Temple Talks, the church directory, and volunteer for Worship Ministries or make a Worship Donation.

FELLOWSHIP

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, all events at church have been cancelled until further notice. Hopefully we will be able to resume our normal schedule, which will include our after-church fellowship and coffee hour.

FAITH FORMATION

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

All classes have been cancelled during the virus emergency and will resume when the emergency is ended.

JHIFM (JOINING HANDS IN FOOD MINISTRY)

On March 13 over 40 JHIFM volunteers distributed 9,709 pounds of nutritious food to 393 individuals from 137 local Lake County families in need. Great job volunteers! I have posted photos of today's food distribution on JHIFM's Facebook page which you can access by typing [Facebook.com/feedinghopenow/](https://www.facebook.com/feedinghopenow/) in the address bar of your internet browser. Just click on "Posts" on the left side of the screen. Be sure to "Like" us on Facebook.

Ritch Cassem



In order to make sure that emergency contacts are made during the three days that Pastor Jim is not here (Thursday, Friday and Saturday), the team has developed an “on-call” list. These individuals can be contacted in an emergency. Each team member will serve one week.

If you know of anyone who desires or would benefit from a phone call (*during our current emergency situation*) when Pastor Jim isn’t here, please call the designated team member and they will be happy to make a phone call.

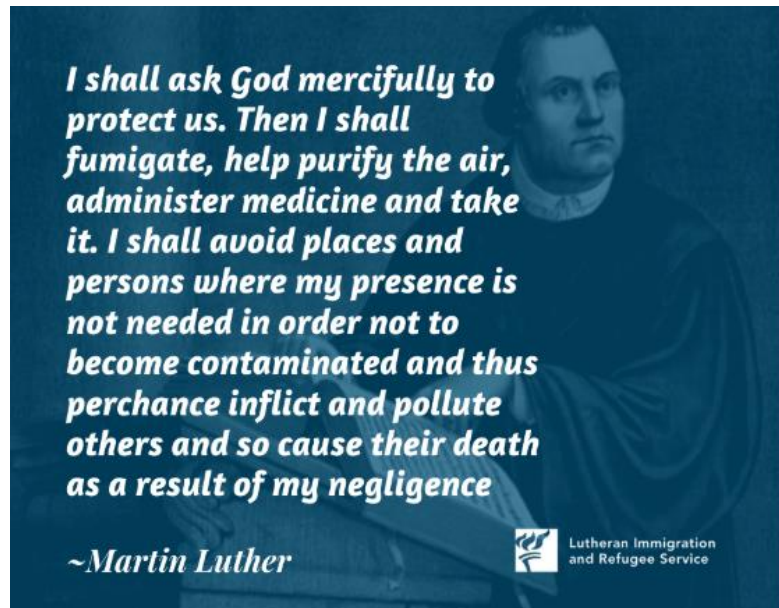
Visitation Ministers in addition to Pastor Jim Young:

Forrest Berg	Patricia Bressler	Elizabeth Sanguedolce
Leone Goding	Mary Lou Smith	
Sharon Maxwell	Jim Gable	

Please let us know if you are interested in serving.

Visits, communion and healing made for February & March:

(3) visits to Renny Almquist	(1) call to Nancy Almquist
(2) visits to Doug Bressler	(1) call to Lynn Crane
(1) visit to Bernice Heiser	(1) visit Ray & Roseanne Knudsen
(1) visit to Edith Leaf	(1) visit to Sylvia Mackey
(2) visits to Gladys Mull	(1) visit to Russo/McKearney



Pastor’s Report for February 2020

During February 2020 I:

- ✚ Prepared and preached 5 sermons
- ✚ Led 4 Sunday worship services
- ✚ Led one Ash Wednesday service
- ✚ Edited 5 bulletins.
- ✚ Planned for Lenten midweek services.
- ✚ Attended Mission Insite presentation with Pr. Jefferson Cox
- ✚ Prepared and presented a follow-up Mission Insite presentation
- ✚ Arranged one rent assistance project
- ✚ Contributed articles to and edited the March Glorion.
- ✚ Attended one Executive Committee meeting
- ✚ Attended one council meeting
- ✚ Blessed the WELCA quilts
- ✚ Held 4 Brown Bags and Prayer sessions
- ✚ Participated in one Interim Ministers conference call
- ✚ Made many phone calls and wrote numerous emails.
- ✚ Worked a total of 16 days.
- ✚ Travelled 1,058 miles commuting and visiting parishioners.
- ✚ Filed the 2019 Annual Parochial Report with the Synod
- ✚ Attended one Card Ministry Committee meeting
- ✚ Attended one Congregational Meeting
- ✚ Attended one Social Ministries Committee meeting
- ✚ Gave one demonstration on preparing ashes for Ash Wednesday

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. James F. Young, Interim Pastor

FINANCIAL CORNER

GENERAL FUND

	February, 2020	Year to date 2/29/2020
Contributions	\$20,787.00	\$41,977.07
Expenditures	\$21,121.64	\$40,493.95

RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Beg. 1/31/2020	Donations	Expenditures	Ending 2/29/20
Elementary School	228.36	0	0	228.36
Oak Park Middle	812.22	0	0	812.22
Coffee Project	454.83	34.00	94.25	394.58
Thrivent Choice \$	3,893.18	413.00	346.14	3,960.04
Basket Social	282.51	0	0	282.51
Eternal Light	430.00	20.00	0	450.00
Fellowship	343.06	109.00	185.17	266.89
JHIF	0	621.00	621.00	0
World Hunger	0	334.00	334.00	0
ELCA	0	220.00	220.00	0
Flowers	(160.00)	250.00	200.00	(110.00)
Quilt shipping	0	884.00	0	884.00
Altar wine/bread	0	50.00	42.21	7.79
TOTALS	\$6,284.16	2,885.00	2,042.77	\$7,126.39

Notes (in case you're wondering)

The hunger offering collected on the 4th Sunday each month is split 50/50 between Joining Hands and World Hunger. The amounts shown above are different because additional donations are made by our members at other times in the month.

Council Corner for March 2020

By William Birdsall, council president

Where to begin? I've been trying to write this article for the last 10 days, but everything changes day by day and hour by hour. I'm sure that none of us knows what to think about today or tomorrow. Just keep in mind there is one constant in our lives: our belief and love of God, and that this faith will guide us through this event in history. In that regard we can all give thanks to the Lord for Pastor Jim's guidance to our congregation as he leads us through all this turmoil.

By now I hope we have all had the opportunity to view Pastor Jim's services on line, and receive the word. He has done a great job and is working every day to improve the format and content. Without these services where would we be? But we are a church family and we are going to get through this together. Although we cannot gather as a group, and should not, we should all feel the love and security in our hearts of being a congregation. We, as the rest of the world, are in this together. It is no one's fault but only ours to conquer. And we will.

Since the last council meeting, the executive committee met just before the rules for public and private gatherings were put in place, and our monthly council meeting was cancelled so I have nothing official from council to report, but we are still dealing with the issues as they come up and resolving them as the best we can.

I am happy to report that, as of this writhing, we have had no reports of corona virus among our congregation and we all hope and pray it stays that way. But we made the right decision to suspend all services and meetings early on to stop any spread of the virus among ourselves and our loved ones and our friends. None of us is sure when we will be allowed to resume church services or when we will feel it safe to do so, but we are monitoring the situation closely and will resume services when we feel it is safe to do so.

One last thing, please keep up you're giving to the church. We still have our normal expenses to pay and a few new ones as well. If you can't stop buy the church office to drop off your offering, then please mail it in. You may also want to consider giving online through our website. <http://www.gloriadeielca.com/Giving>

May the Lord be with you at all times and Bless you all. Keep safe.