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# GLORIA DEI

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

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GATHERING IN CHRIST ✝ SHARING HIS LOVE

**THE GLORION**

**December, 2020**

[www.gloriadeielca.com](http://www.gloriadeielca.com)

**IN CASE OF PASTORAL EMERGENCY**

**Contact the office during regular office hours:**

**9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Tuesday and Wednesday**

**After office hours contact:**

**Pastor Jim Young – 352-425-4889**

**Bill Birdsall – 732-773-2680**

**ADDRESS: 130 S. Lone Oak Drive, Leesburg, FL 34748**

**OFFICE PHONE: (352)787-3223**

**OFFICE EMAIL: *gloriadeilutheranleesburg@gmail.com***

**WEB SITE: [www.gloriadeielca.com](http://www.gloriadeielca.com)**

**FAX (352)787-7597**

**OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday and Wednesday-9:00-4:00 PM**

**INTERIM PASTOR: REV. JIM YOUNG**

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: PAUL MOTTO**

**OFFICE MANAGER: MARY BETH MORRIS**

**SEXTON: TINA JANOSA**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP – SUSPENDED DUE TO COVID**

**DRIVE-IN COMMUNION: TUESDAYS @ 2:00 P.M.**

## Pastor's Message for the December, 2020 Glorion

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

Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Will one day walk on water?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Will save our sons and daughters?

Did you know that your baby boy  
Has come to make you new?

This child that you've delivered  
Will soon deliver you

Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Will give sight to a blind man?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Will calm a storm with His hand?

Did you know that your baby boy  
Has walked where angels trod?

When you kissed your little baby  
You've kissed the face of God

Mary, did you know?

The blind will see

The deaf will hear

The dead will live again

The lame will leap

The dumb will speak

The praises of the Lamb!

Mary, did you know

That your baby boy

Is Lord of creation

Mary, did you know that your baby boy

Will one day rule the nations?

Did you know that your baby boy

Is Heaven's perfect Lamb?

This sleeping child you're holding

Is the great 'I Am'

Mary did you know? *(Pastor's message continued on next page.)*

Source: [LyricFind](#) Songwriters: Buddy Greene / Mark Lowry Mary Did You Know lyrics © Warner Chappell Music, Inc



*The virgin will be with  
child and will give  
birth to a son,  
and will call him  
Immanuel.*

*Isaiah 7:14*

As I pondered what thoughts to share with my Gloria Dei family for Advent/Christmas I kept going back to the touching lyrics of Mark Lowry's classic Christmas hymn, "Mary, Did You Know?" If you haven't heard it before, there are many, many versions of it on YouTube. I suggest that you give a listen to one (or more) of them.

This Advent and Christmas season will be unlike any we have ever experienced. But with God's help, we will do the best we can with what we have, all the while trying our best to stay safe and healthy.

One way to celebrate the coming of the Christ child will be for us to put ourselves in Mary's place, to try to ponder the gift that God has given us. The mystery and majesty of this season is not prompted by decorations and outward celebrations, but by that peaceful joy in our hearts. When was the last time you took a quiet moment to think how blessed you are that Mary's baby boy is Heaven's perfect lamb, that he has walked where angels trod?

My hope for all of you is that you will find peace, hope, love, and joy during Advent. Know that God sent his son to be our Emmanuel, God with us. May you draw comfort in knowing that the Holy Spirit is ever-present and guiding you.

See you ~~in church~~ on the internet and in the parking lot. -*Pastor Jim*

## COMMUNITY NOTICES RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

Members or friends hospitalized or had surgery in November: Richard Czuprynski, Richard Smith, Bill Wasser

***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.***

## GIFTS OF REMEMBRANCE

### **In loving memory of:**

For the love of Jesus and our Family      Pat & Doug Bressler/Candle

### **In honor of:**

Our son, Rich's birthday      Debbie & Ritch Cassem/Flowers

## NOTICE TO WOMEN OF GLORIA DEI

As you know by now the Women's Christmas Luncheon has been cancelled for this year. Keeping with our tradition of sharing with others at the luncheon, I am suggesting we continue to provide Little Debbie Snack Cakes for Joining Hands in Food Ministry to be given to recipients on Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at our regular distribution. Please bring snack cakes to the church office on a Tuesday or Wednesday when Mary Beth is in the office. They do not have to be Little Debbie but they should be individually wrapped and nothing homemade. These need to be in the office by December 9<sup>th</sup>. Any questions, please call or email me. Thank you in advance for your generosity. Stay safe and well. Janet Braun, [janmbraun03@gmail.com](mailto:janmbraun03@gmail.com), 352-314-5042

## PRAYERS

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

- 12/06** Ed & Peg Chandler, Charlotte Christensen, Josephine Cichoracki,  
Michael & cj Clarke, John & Joan Cleary
- 12/13** Lynn Crane, Richard & Marilyn Czuprynski, Joan Davis,  
Milton & Carolyn DeLong, Ruby Dettman
- 12/20** Judy Eads, Don & Kas Eisinger, Jerry & Julie Eld,  
Martha Ellis, Freddy & Marlene Farris
- 12/27** Carol Figi, Diana Frederick, Jim & Jayne Gable,  
Ron Galloway, Margi Geiger

## MEDIA TEAM

**CHECK OUT OUR CHURCH WEBSITE AT:** [www.gloriadeielca.com](http://www.gloriadeielca.com)

The church website is where you will find the latest information about church events. The homepage contains the link for our Sunday Morning Coffee Hour, pictures of the latest Joining Hands food distribution, and other current information.

The Member Access page is a secure area just for our disciples. Here you can view the church directory, volunteer for Worship Ministries, or make a Worship Donation. The Giving page makes it easy for you to make donations using Tithe.ly, a funds collection application.

These are just a few of the many reasons to visit the website. If you have information or pictures to share, please contact Mary Greer at [mkgreer@earthlink.net](mailto:mkgreer@earthlink.net).

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

12/07	Vernon & Jean Kluge	66 years*
12/13	Loraine & Bill Van Haecke	23 years
12/18	Andy & Taeko Mincer	36 years
12/20	Mike & Peg Stewart	51 years*
12/23	John & Mary Grissom	27 years
12/27	Richard & Mary Lou Smith	39 years

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

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/03	John Braun	12/06	Madalon Ritter
12/06	Sam Smith	12/08	Gayle Bloom
12/08	Linda Hide	12/10	Forrest Berg
12/16	Loraine Van Haecke	12/18	Joyce Brandt
12/19	Mike Tarnok	12/23	Ples Norris
12/24	Richard Czuprynski	12/27	Mary Kelp
12/27	Gail Madson	12/29	Mary Rhoades
12/30	Marlene Farris	12/30	Larry Goerke
12/31	Vernon Kluge		

## SOCIAL MINISTRIES

*Salvation Army:* The Salvation Army continues to need food to meet the daily needs of the qualified hungry. You can assist by donating cereal, canned fruits and vegetables, canned soup, crackers, jelly and peanut butter-items needed daily to feed a normal family. Deposit any donations in the bin marked Salvation Army in the church entry.

*Elementary School:* Thanks to everyone who so generously donated uniforms and tennis shoes to those in need at the school. Joe Lahood reports the school administration was very grateful. Joe is also trying to arrange time for a school chorus to present to the GD congregation-watch for the notice in January or February.

*Christmas Angels:* All of the Salvation Army Angels requested have been picked up. Despite the challenges with the Corona Virus, the process went fairly smoothly. Angels must be turned into Salvation Army by the 10<sup>th</sup>.

(Social Ministries cont'd)

*Christmas donations in Leesburg Area from Gloria Dei:*

\$500 was donated to SoZo kids in the forest to be used for Christmas.

\$500 was also donated to the Middle School for clothing.

Social Ministry Committee: Thanks all in the congregation for your generous support:

Charlotte Christensen, Diane Wasser, Donna Tarnok, Gayle Bloom, Joe LaHood, Leone Goding, Linda Steege, Pat Bressler, Pat Heimbach, Pastor Jim, Joyce Brandt

### JHIFM (JOINING HANDS IN FOOD MINISTRY)

Thank you to the 35 volunteers from Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, First Presbyterian Church of Leesburg and from around the local community who joined hands on November 13 to feed 590 individuals from 161 local needy families nearly six tons (11,819 pounds to be exact) of nutritious food. This is a new record for 2020 for Joining Hands in Food Ministry (JHIFM).

JHIFM wishes to thank Deputy Lake County Manager Jo Anne Drury and Misty Spahn for delivering to us the hundreds of COVID-19 rental assistance information flyers that our volunteers handed out to 161 families this morning.

To see photos of the November food distribution just type [Facebook.com/feedinghopenow/](https://www.facebook.com/feedinghopenow/) in the address bar of your computer's internet browser and click on "Posts" or "Photos". Be sure to "Like" us on Facebook.

Thank you everyone for helping our neighbors in need.

Ritch Cassem, JHIFM, COO

## **Pastor's Report for October 2020**

During October 2020 I:

- ✝ Prepared and preached 4 sermons
- ✝ Scheduled personnel for 4 video recording sessions
- ✝ Developed scripts for 4 video recording sessions
- ✝ Recorded 4 Sunday services
- ✝ Reviewed and approved 4 worship videos
- ✝ Prepared Pastor's report for September
- ✝ Hosted one Zoom Executive Committee meeting
- ✝ Hosted one Zoom Council meeting
- ✝ Planned and hosted one Special Congregational meeting
- ✝ Edited 4 bulletins
- ✝ Presided at the interment of Rev. Sam Goins
- ✝ Contributed articles to and edited the November Glorion.
- ✝ Attended 3 Zoom interim ministers' conferences
- ✝ Made numerous phone calls and wrote numerous emails.
- ✝ Worked a total of 20 days.
- ✝ Planned for and hosted 4 Sunday morning Zoom Virtual Coffee Hours.
- ✝ Provided ongoing consultation with Call Committee including review of the Ministry Site Profile and 7 Reflections on Ministry
- ✝ Travelled 599 miles commuting and providing pastoral care.
- ✝ Presided at 2 Tuesday afternoon Drive In Communion services
  - Conceived the idea
  - Received approval from Council to proceed
  - Researched, purchased, and tested broadcast equipment
  - Coordinated volunteers for set up/video/worship assistants
  - Organized and led rehearsal
  - Developed Order of Service handout
- ✝ Had prayer with the Wired Word virtual class 4 times
- ✝ Reviewed and approved hymns for November
- ✝ Coordinated production of PowerPoint slides for video sessions
- ✝ Continued to provide technical assistance to parishioners wishing to join Zoom meetings and coffee hour
- ✝ Planned for and hosted one Zoom Social Ministries committee meeting.
- ✝ Arranged for and supervised upgrade of sanctuary internet
- ✝ Attended final inspection for the fire alarm system
- ✝ Updated the ELCA Congregational Leadership Directory
- ✝ Planned Nov-Dec worship with Mary Beth
- ✝ Planned budget and Worship Team meetings

Respectfully submitted, Rev. James F. Young, Interim Pastor



## FINANCIAL CORNER

	October, 2020	Year to date 10/31/2020
Contributions	\$20,236.36	\$194,061.83
Expenditures	\$17,813.78	\$187,626.83

### RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Beg. 8/01/2020	Donations	Expenditures	Ending 8/31/20
Elementary School	383.36	0	194.11	189.25
Oak Park Middle	812.22	0	0	912.22
Coffee Project	394.58	0	0	394.58
Thrivent Choice \$	1,734.04	27.00	0	1,761.04
Basket Social	282.51	0	0	282.51
Eternal Light	515.00	0	0	515.00
Fellowship	238.13	0	5.99	282.51
JHIFM	0	50.00	50.00	0
World Hunger	0	152.00	152.00	0
ELCA	0	122.00	122.00	0
Flowers	(125.00)	0	0	(125.00)
Altar wine/bread	107.79	0	0	107.79
Tree/Landscaping	0	400.00	0	400.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$4,442.63</b>	<b>751.00</b>	<b>524.10</b>	<b>\$4,669.53</b>

As you may be aware, we have begun a fund raiser we are calling “Be Prepared Fund.” I will use this space to let you know how that is going. Our goal is \$50,000.

Month	Amount collected	Year to date
July, 2020	\$190.00	\$190.00
August, 2020	\$4,032.35	\$4,222.35
September, 2020	\$2,045.00	\$6,267.35
October, 2020	\$1,400.00	\$7,667.35

## **Council Corner for December 2020**

### **By William Birdsall, council president**

The Council has been hard at work as always. This month we put the finishing touches on the 2021 budget and planned for what lies ahead in the New Year. We are preparing for our part in the call process as it seems that it is moving along faster than we thought. When the Council met this month we discussed our role and feel we are ready to act in a timely manner.

The council feels that it is time to reinvent the Evangelism committee with an increased emphasis on technology and modern communication. We have entered into a new era of communication and the church needs to be taking advantage of all the technology available to us to get our word out, not only to prospective members but also to our congregation. With that said, we are looking for volunteers to chair as well as work on this committee.

Our grounds have never looked as well maintained as they do now thanks to Bob Keim, but the council is also still seeking a new Maintenance supervisor to manage the maintenance work. Much of the physical work is now done by contractors due to the age of our congregation but someone still needs to determine what needs to be done. If you are interested in filling this position please contact me.

The nominating committee has been activated to find a candidate to fill one council position. If you are interested please inform Mary Beth and she will pass your name along to the committee. Our church Council is very active and dedicated, so it can be a rewarding experience to take part in the successful operation of our church.

Lastly, with the pandemic getting worse and not better, we will continue with our Tuesday Drive In Communion and online services only. The Council closely monitors the pandemic and hopefully things will get to a point when it will be safe to return to normal Sunday services sometime in the near future.

- *Bill*

## **2020 Call Committee News**

Temple Talk by Pat Heimbach

November 22, 2020

Good morning, my name is Pat Heimbach. As a member of the call committee, I am responsible for completing all the online forms required by the ELCA for the call process, including the 14-page Ministry Site Profile. There are several sets of instructions that must be followed in a special sequence in order for Gloria Dei's paperwork to reach the ELCA's database. We recently had a technical glitch, but with the help of synod that has been resolved.

The Call Process is basically finding a partnership with a prospective candidate who shares a common purpose in our ministry. The call committee has now completed the required documentation and it has gone through the mandatory reviews. With that said, I am pleased to announce that I have electronically submitted our documents into the ELCA nationwide database. Now prospective candidates can view our profile to determine if they feel they would be a good fit with our congregation.

Each prospective candidate seeking a call in the Florida Bahamas Synod submits what is called a Rostered Leader Profile to the Office of the Bishop. A synod team will now compare Rostered Leader Profiles against our Ministry Site Profile. Carefully and prayerfully, they will select several matches to create a list of candidates for the call committee to interview. They will also give us instruction on the interview process. This is where we are now, waiting for synod to do their portion of the process.

This is definitely not a quick and easy process and that is as it should be, because this is a very important step in the life of our congregation as well as a big commitment to our prospective new pastor. I hope this gives you some insight into the process of calling a new pastor. If you have any questions regarding the process, please contact anyone on the call committee.

If you would like to read the two documents that the committee has filed with the Synod and the ELCA please go to the church website or call the church office to get a printed copy.

Yes, this is a lengthy process, but it takes time and patience to listen, hear and discern what God wants for our congregation. He is not only speaking to the call committee, but to you as well. Thank you.

## **2020 Call Committee News**

### **Progress**

The Ministry Site profile (MSP) and the Seven Reflections documents have been successfully submitted electronically to the ELCA database. They are now available nationwide for review by any pastor looking for a new call.

The Seven Reflections document provides additional information about our church and missions.

Copies of the final version will be made available on the Gloria Dei website or for pickup at the church office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays,

The Call Committee is in recess until the Synod Bishop's committee has prayerfully reviewed all of the applicants for consideration for pastor at Gloria Dei. Only those applicants that meet our needs will be put on a list for the Call Committee's review. This is step #6 in a 12-step process.

### **Thank You for the Video**

Kathleen has written the following note of appreciation for the recently completed video about Gloria Dei. The video will be given to the candidate pastor as part of the information packet about our church.

1. The Call Committee supplied the list of ingredients.
2. Irv and Sue gathered those ingredients and gave them a whirl.
3. Mary added the spices.
4. Pastor Jim adjusted the recipe.
5. Irv and Sue finished the mixing and VOILA!
6. We have ourselves a Gloria Dei video

The project could never have been completed without all these members working as a team...and that's just how Gloria Dei rolls! – Kathleen Birdsall

--Elizabeth Sanguedolce,  
Communications Chair  
2020 Call Committee

## WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Online Sunday worship will continue each week. There will be no mid-week Advent services this year.

Drive In Communion will be celebrate in the parking lot on Dec. 1, 8 and 15. There will be no drive-in communion on Tuesday, December 22 because of Christmas Eve.

We will have a parking lot Christmas Eve service on Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. in car or with lawn chairs outside (socially distanced) with some Christmas music.



### ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Reports for all committees are **due no later than Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>**. Please email them to me at the office email address: [gloriadeilutheranleesburg@gmail.com](mailto:gloriadeilutheranleesburg@gmail.com). Thank you!

Mary Beth Morris



### VACATIONS & OFFICE CLOSED

Pastor Jim will be taking a much-needed vacation starting Sunday, December 27 through Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mary Beth will also be off during that time, so the church office will be closed 12/24/20-1/4/21. The office will re-open on Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

# Merry Christmas



*PASTOR JIM AND THE STAFF  
WOULD LIKE TO WISH  
THE CONGREGATION  
A BLESSED CHRISTMAS  
AND A HEALTHY, HAPPY 2021*

**2020 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Interim Pastor	Jim Young	352-425-4889
President	Bill Birdsall	732-773-2680
Vice President	Arlene Kelly	605-999-4555
Secretary	Diane Wasser	610-762-8895
Treasurer/Financial Secy	Linda Hide	253-740-3063
Fellowship	Jan Rudolph	610-220-3746
Stewardship	Arlene Kelly	605-999-4555
Property	Bill Birdsall	732-773-2680
	Craig Carlson	352-504-3138
Worship	Crystal Kirkpatrick	352-552-3983
Social Ministry		
Evangelism	Bill Birdsall	732-773-2680
Christian Education	Linda Steege	815-222-6195
Finance	Linda Hide	253-740-3063
Strategic Planning	Arlene Kelly	605-999-4555
Task Force		
	Rollie Heimbach	610-737-3722

**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

Worship & Music	Crystal Kirkpatrick	352-552-3983
Evangelism	Art Zerbel	352-255-6191
Social Ministry	Joyce Brandt	352-787-9639
Property	Bill Birdsall	732-773-2680
Fellowship	Pat Heimbach	610-737-0333
Stewardship		
Church Staff Liaison	Diane Wasser	610-762-8895
Joining Hands Liaison	Diane Wasser	610-762-8895
WELCA	Loraine Van Haecke	352-787-1407
Strategic Planning	Forrest Berg	352-267-2200
Task Force		

# DRIVE IN SERVICE

**Tuesdays at  
2:00pm**

Join your friends for Holy  
Communion in our parking lot  
in the comfort and safety of  
your vehicle. Tune to 87.9FM

**Note: No Service on December  
22 due to Christmas Eve  
Service on Thursday, Dec. 24**

