

FROM THE PASTOR

(This article originally appeared in the June 2019 Glorion, to introduce the “Love, Listen, Learn, and Lead” portion of our opening litany.)

Love, Listen, Learn, and Lead.

I’ve added these words to our Sunday morning opening litany because I think they are very important for our lives together during my interim ministry. My first sermon attempted to introduce you to these action words. For those of you who weren’t in attendance that first Sunday I would like to let you know, in a condensed version, what was said. For those of you who were there just consider this a review.

February, 2020



We gather in Christ and share God’s **love**. Love is the essence of Christianity. Jesus gives us the new commandment that we love one another. Paul writes to the Corinthians that love is patient and love is kind. When we base everything that we do and say on the Godly love that we know as *agape* we open ourselves up to being servants to each other.

To **listen** is not simply to stop talking, but to be engaged in what the speaker has to say. Listen carefully, feel that person’s joys and sorrows, join into their moment, be present with them in your listening.

As I said in my sermon, I always chuckle to myself when I ask my grandkids, “So, what did you **learn** at school today?” and they respond with, “Nothing.” If they took some time to think about it, they would be able to verbalize what it was that they knew at the end of the day that they didn’t know at the beginning of the day. The same applies to our time in worship. As we love and listen so we will learn what it is that God has planned for us and what we can do to further the Kingdom of God on this earth.

And lastly, we are called to **lead**. Martin Luther was a firm believer in the priesthood of all believers. We are led by the Holy Spirit and we, in turn, lead others to a knowledge of the Good News of Jesus Christ. Leadership is the responsibility of the pastor, the council members, the committees, and all of us who claim to be disciples of Christ.

Love, listen, learn, and lead. Hopefully we can keep these words fresh and new in our lives and in our worship as we walk the journey together to bring Gloria Dei into a new era with a new pastor.

See you in church, *Pastor Jim*

COMMUNITY NOTICES

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

Members or friends hospitalized or had surgery in January: Jane Kunde

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:

To the Glory of God.

Ritch & Debbie Cassem/1-5-20 Flowers

PRAYERS

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

- 02/02** Barb & Dock Lias, Jan Liljestrand, Judy Lorenz, Sylvia Mackey, Gail Madson
- 02/09** Ernest & Hanna Mann, Carol Marshall, Evelyn Matthes, Sharon Maxwell, Ray & Arlene McGuire
- 02/16** James, Quiana, Julian Menchaca, Clair & Mary Miller, Andy & Taeko Mincer, Mary Moore, Merle & Rita Moritz
- 02/23** Gloria Moulton, Gladys Mull, Brian & Karen Mundy, Marilyn Nelson, Clarence & Ples Norris

FUNERAL PLANNING

While we may resist and avoid end of life decisions, such planning makes it much easier for a family dealing with the loss of a loved one. Please note the following resources are available to you:

- 1. **Funeral/Memorial Planning Sheet**-available at Welcome Desk
- 2. **Columbarium**-Niches are available at a cost of \$2,500.
Please contact Mary Beth if you would like further information.
- 3. **Prayer Garden**-Available for interment of cremains.
The cost is \$100 for engraving on the memorial stone.

AMAZON SMILE

Just a reminder to use when shopping on Amazon. **Login: smile.amazon.com.** You access your account in the same way you normally do and then can designate a charitable organization. Gloria Dei and Joining Hands in Food Ministry are registered as recipients.

Hospitality Sign-Up:

To sign up for our weekly after-service hospitality, please use a sheet on a clipboard that is posted on the wall at the opening of the kitchen serving counter. **This applies to hospitality sign-up ONLY.** Sign-Up Genius isn't available for this item. **PLEASE NOTE-IF NO ONE SIGNS UP, THERE WILL BE NO COFFEE HOUR THAT DAY.**

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

02/02	Ted & Dorothy Baehmann	63 years*
02/14	Joel & Sharon Weinhardt	31 years

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

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

02/01	Betty Ann Huebner	02/02	Bill Birdsall
02/03	Gerri Haller	02/09	Darby Walbon
02/09	Mike Wurzer	02/10	Sue Leaf
02/11	Marilyn Czuprynski	02/11	Joel Weinhardt
02/12	Mary Lou Smith	02/14	Linda Riikonen
02/15	Gayle Teerman	02/16	Arlene McGuire
02/18	Joe LaHood	02/20	Taeko Mincer
02/22	Jan Rudolph	02/25	Ralph Hallberg
02/26	Maureen Skurecki	02/27	Bill Swinford

LIFESTREAM NEEDS DONATIONS

Often, children come into the Foster Care/Adoption Program with their personal items packed in plastic garbage or grocery bags. The goal is to ensure that every child feels loved and respected throughout the permanency process. Having a suitcase, back pack or duffle for their belongings can help a child achieve normalcy and self-worth in a situation that is not in their control.

Their family Connection Program is in need of linen donations-towels, sheets, and blankets. If you are “cleaning out”, LifeStream would certainly appreciate your donation! Paul Motto will pick up weekly from the church or you can call 518-469-3790 for pickup.

MINISTRY NEWS
WELCA (Women of the ELCA)

Sunday, January 19, 2020, Pastor Jim Young installed the 2020 WELCA officers for Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Leesburg. President Loraine Van Haecke, Vice President Donna Tarnok, Secretary Charlotte Christensen, Treasurer Sharon LaHood. Circle Leaders: Ruth-Janet Braun, Priscilla-Nancy Almquist, Mary-Martha-Carol Marshall. We welcome Loraine & Donna as new officers and Charlotte & Sharon for their continuing service. The WELCA ladies work hard to keep focused on working to help others in need.

Pictured from left to right Donna Tarnok, Sharon LaHood, Charlotte Christensen, Nancy Almquist, Pastor Jim Young, Loraine Van Haecke, Carol Marshall, Janet Braun.



The ladies have been busy making 210 quilts plus personal care kits and school kits. These will be dedicated on February 9, 2020 and then packed and delivered to Redeemer Lutheran Church in Winter Park on February 10 to be sent to the distribution center for Lutheran World Relief. **BUSY HANDS – GOD’S WORK**

Gloria Dei was represented by six of our ladies attending the Church Women United Human Rights Day at St. Phillips Lutheran Church in Mt. Dora on Friday, January 17, 2020. The next CWU Celebration will be World Day of Prayer at St. Paul Catholic Church, 1330 Sunshine Avenue, Leesburg at 9:30 AM on March 6, 2020.

(WELCA cont'd)

The Planning Meeting for our Pinelands Conference Spring Gathering is to be at Rock of Ages Lutheran in Wildwood at 10:00 AM on February 15, 2020. If you have an interest in helping to plan this event please join us. You may contact me at Loraine.vanhaecke@gmail.com or 352-787-1407. Rock of Ages will be hosting the Pinelands Spring Gathering on March 7, 2020. Details will follow after the meeting.

SAVE THE DATE: March 31, 2020 for our Annual Spring Fashion Show. Leone Goding is the Coordinator and we are positive it will be another successful event. Watch for details.....

Respectfully submitted by Loraine Van Haecke, President WELCA

RUTH CIRCLE-will meet on Thursday, February 6th at 1:30 at the church. Loraine and Joyce will be the hostesses. Please let either one of them know if you will be attending. Elizabeth will lead the Bible Study. Looking forward to seeing you there. Everyone is welcome.
Janet Braun, Leader 314-5042

PRISCILLA CIRCLE-will meet Monday, February 10, 2020 at the 9:00 a.m. at the home of Anne Rusk. Please call Anne to let her know you are coming, 323-0045.
Nancy Almquist, 321-4208

MARY MARTHA CIRCLE-will meet on Tuesday, February 11th @ 9:00 a.m. Quilting until 10:30, then coffee and snacks. Our Bible Study will be out of the *JANUARY/FEBRUARY Gather* where we will study together "We are called!" Session Two starting on page 36. If you do not subscribe to the magazine, we will share at our study. On Friday, February 28th at 9:00 a.m. we will again be quilting in the morning. Anyone in Gloria Dei's area is welcome to join us for fun and fellowship in the Gathering Hall.
Carol Marshall, Leader Phone 787- 0435

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.



The Gloria Dei Home Communion/Visitation Team continues to share the love of Christ with those who can't be with us in worship. Each week the team comes forward to receive the sacraments and our blessing at the end of Sunday service. These dedicated disciples then deliver healing and Holy Communion to our homebound members. Their care and compassion are vital links that keep our people connected with one another.

In order to make sure that necessary hospital and urgent home visits are made during the three days that Pastor Jim is not here (Thursday, Friday and Saturday), the team has developed an "on-call" list so that a designated team member can be contacted in an emergency. Each team member will serve one week. Their names and phone numbers will be printed monthly in the Glorion and weekly in the bulletin.

If you know of anyone who desires or would benefit from a visit when Pastor Jim isn't here, please call the designated team member and they will be happy to arrange a visit.

February On-call Ministers

Thursday-Saturday	Name	Phone
Feb 6-8	Mary Lou Smith	678-458-8056
Feb 13-15	Loraine Van Haecke	352-787-1407
Feb 20-22	Pat Bressler	352-406-4896
Feb 27-29	Forrest Berg	352-787-1787

Visitation Ministers in addition to Pastor Jim Young:
Forrest Berg Patricia Bressler Jim Gable
Leone Goding Mary Lou Smith Elizabeth Sanguedolce
Sharon Maxwell Loraine Van Haecke
Please let us know if you are interested in serving.

Visits, communion and healing made for December & January:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| (1) visit to Renny Almquist | (2) visits to Doug Bressler |
| (1) visit to Goins | (1) visit to Bernice Heiser |
| (2) visits to Betty Ann Huebner | (1) visit to Roseanne Knudsen |
| (1) visit to Rachel Lesser | (2) visits to Edith Leaf |
| (1) visit to Ernie Mann | (3) visits to Gladys Mull |
| (3) visits to Mary Rhoades | (2) visit to Russo/McKearney |
| (2) visits to Sam Smith | (1) visit to Gayle Teerman |
| (1) visit to Trapiss/Rapatas | (1) visit to Hazel Wolfgram |

FAITH FORMATION
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

After Sunday morning worship service

YOUTH FAITH MINISTRY meets downstairs in the counting room. Charlotte Christensen and Ruby Wanland will be team-teaching.

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP – “The Wired Word - Ripped from the Headlines”. Discussion on what scripture says about current events. Meets downstairs in the conference room. Led by Forrest Berg.

On weekdays

TUESDAYS 11:00am – 12:30pm – DEVELOPING DISCIPLES

What does it mean to live as an everyday follower of Jesus? Meets downstairs in the bible study room.

WEDNESDAYS 10:00am – GOSPEL DISCUSSION GROUP

A discussion on the Gospel lesson for the upcoming Sunday. No book is required but please bring your bible. Meets in the Gathering Room. Led by John Braun.

Faith formation takes life-long learning and the leaders of these groups are diligent in their preparation. Please support their gift of time and consider attending at least one of these classes.

New Small-Group Opportunity
“Companions in Christ”

The new Companions in Christ group will be held in the Council Room (Sunday School room) on Thursday mornings:

Jan. 30 from 1:30-3:30	Feb. 6 from 10:00-12:00 – to be confirmed
Feb. 13 from 1:30-3:30	Feb. 20 from 10:00-12:00
Feb. 27 from 10:00-12:00	Mar. 5 from 10:00-12:00

Participants are asked to bring their Bibles and a pen or pencil. This is an exciting program of faith formation, in a new format. Any questions, contact cj Clarke at (352) 365-6290 (leave a message) or (716) 672-9552 or email at legacyhippo@gmail.com. Thank you.

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

Christmas Angels: Fifty plus gifts for children and seniors were picked up by Salvation Army for distribution. . Thanks for making someone’s Christmas special.

Community Hunger Project: Again we need your continued support of the Community Hunger Project at Salvation Army. Need continues to be greater than available resources

Blankets and winter clothing: Winter clothing and blankets were delivered to Salvation Army last week. Thanks to each and everyone who donated a blanket and warm clothing last year that was delivered this week. They will be needed this week as temps drop. We are continuing to clothing and blankets. Some are being saved for the next cold spell.

Souper Sunday: Watch the bulletin for details on “Souper” Sunday when we will be collecting soup and crackers for the Joining Hands in Food Ministry on 'Super Bowl' Sunday.

Donations for January: \$300 was donated to Educational Foundation-Apple Mart for supplies for teachers.

2020 SM will continue assistance at the Elementary and Middle School. Charlotte and Ruby will be liaison with Middle School and Joe LaHood will work with Elementary. Campership tuition will continue for Gloria Dei members and one identified by ELCA, Disaster funding will continue if needed, Advocacy, Lutheran Services, SOZO kids, Deliver the Difference will also be included as donations from Gloria Dei. We would also like suggestions from membership regarding effective ways to assist people in need in our community.

Happy New Year from the Social Ministries Committee: The committee wants Gloria Dei members to know we look forward to working with you in 2020. We need your support and if you have suggestions for the committee, please talk to any one of us. Your response when there is a special need in the past continues to speak loudly to the community that Gloria Dei members care and willingly reach out in Christ's name.

God Bless each of you and a Happy, Healthy New Year! Charlotte Christensen, Ruby Wanland, Pat Bressler, Leone Goding, Linda Steege, Diane Wasser, Pat Heimbach, Joe LaHood, Gayle Bloom, Elizabeth Sanguedolce, Donna Tarnok, Pastor Jim, Joyce Brandt

JHIFM (JOINING HANDS IN FOOD MINISTRY)

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS! The morning of January 10, Joining Hands in Food Ministry volunteers (JHIFM) from Gloria Dei and 1st Presbyterian churches fed 484 individuals from 141 local families in need a whopping 11,203 pounds of nutritious food! I have posted photos of this 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 computer's internet browser. Just click on "Posts".

Ritch Cassem

FELLOWSHIP

New opportunity to get involved with our after church Fellowship hour.

I have noticed in the past few weeks, various people have been donating goodies to our coffee hour. This is in addition to the goodies provided by the host/hostess for that Sunday. We realize that hosting Fellowship hour may be a bit daunting for some folks due to physical restraints or baking "challenges".

We would like to invite anyone who is interested in donating to continue this new procedure. Please check the new sign-up sheet outside the kitchen window. It will allow you to sign up to host coffee hour or bring a donated item for a particular week. Signing up will allow the host to determine what additional items need to be provided. Looking forward to this new adventure!

Pat Heimbach

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS.....

If you haven't volunteered for a ministry yet, it's easy using the church website at www.gloriadeielca.com. Just go to the Member Access menu and complete the registration form. Within 24 hours you will be approved to access this secure portion of the website. Just click on Worship Ministry Sign-ups to volunteer for a ministry.

A few tips when signing up:

- When signing up for a Worship ministry, do not enter any information into the comments box. Enter your name and email into the spaces that are provided.
- If you are signing up for two people, you must go through the signup procedure twice. After you enter the first person, you can click on Return to Sign Up to sign up the other person. Entering information into the comments box does not reserve a spot.

Feel free to contact Mary Greer (407-340-0414 or mkgreer@earthlink.net) with any questions. She can walk you through the signup process while you are in front of your PC at home.

EVANGELISM

We would like to designate Sunday, February 16th as Evangelism Sunday at Gloria Dei, to emphasize that, as Christians, we are ALL called to be evangelists. One of the most important callings we have, as followers of Christ, is to tell the Good News of the Gospel to others. Each member of the congregation is being asked to bring a friend, a relative, or a neighbor to church on that Sunday. Watch for more information in the Bulletin.



BROWN BAGS AND PRAYER

MONDAYS @ 11:30 A.M.

BRING YOUR LUNCH. JOIN YOUR FELLOW DISCIPLES IN THE GATHERING SPACE FOR A TIME OF FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP. THEN AT NOON, JOIN PASTOR JIM IN THE SANCTUARY FOR A TIME OF PRAYER AND MEDITATION THAT WILL BE FOCUSED ON THE CALL PROCESS.

EVERYONE IS INVITED AND WELCOME!

Who We Are: Gloria Dei’s History-by Mary Greer

This is the second installment in a series about Gloria Dei’s interesting and colorful history.

On January 21, 1953 at the first annual congregational meeting, the small Gloria Dei congregation voted to purchase a lot at 130 S. Lone Oak Drive. At one time this was the location of a depot where Spanish tree moss was collected and shipped north to the Fisher Body Corporation in Detroit to make "horse hair" stuffing for automobile seats.

The congregation decided to build as soon as possible. Just 18 months later on December 12, 1954 the new church building was dedicated by the Reverend Thorston Gustafson, D.D., President of the New York Conference of the Augustana Lutheran Church.

The cornerstone was laid by the Reverend Arne Andell, President of the Florida District of the Augustana Lutheran Church. A copper box containing the history of the congregation, a hymnal, newspaper reports, and the charter membership list was placed in the cornerstone.

By the end of 1954, the Parish Record listed 88 members and 59 enrolled in the Sunday School. This was an increase of 83% in adults and almost 400% in children in just two years. The Baby Boomers had arrived!



FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Sun.	2/02	9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship-Healing Service Following worship-Youth Faith Formation Following worship-Bible Fellowship
Mon.	2/03	11:30 a.m. Brown Bags & Prayer
Tues.	2/04	9:30 a.m. WELCA Board Meeting
Wed.	2/05	10:00 a.m. Gospel Discussion Group 5:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Thurs.	2/06	10:00-12:00 Companions in Christ-to be confirmed 1:30 p.m. Ruth Circle
Fri.	2/07	8:00 a.m. Men’s Breakfast @ H.P. Grill 9:00 a.m. Laying the quilts on the pews
Sun.	2/09	9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship-Blessing the Quilts & Kits Following worship-Congregational meeting to discuss Full-time vs. part-time pastor & call-committee nominations Following worship-Youth Faith Formation Following worship-Bible Fellowship
Mon.	2/10	9:00 a.m. Priscilla Circle
Tues.	2/11	10:00 a.m. Packing/Delivering the Quilts 9:00 a.m. Mission Quilting/Mary Martha Circle 11:00 a.m. Developing Disciples
Wed.	2/12	1:00 p.m. Evangelism Committee Meeting 10:00 a.m. Gospel Discussion Group 5:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Thurs.	2/13	1:30-3:30 p.m. Companions in Christ
Fri.	2/14	8:00 a.m. Men’s Breakfast @ H.P. Grill 9:30-11:30 a.m. Joining Hands in Food Ministry
Sun.	2/16	9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship-Evangelism Sunday Following worship-Youth Faith Formation Following worship-Bible Fellowship
Mon.	2/17	11:30 a.m. Brown Bags & Prayer
Wed.	2/19	10:00 a.m. Gospel Discussion Group 1:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting 5:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal GLORION DEADLINE-MARCH
Thurs.	2/20	10:00-12:00 Companions in Christ
Fri.	2/21	8:00 a.m. Men’s Breakfast @ H.P. Grill

Sun.	2/23	9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship-Hunger Offering Burying the Alleluias & Preparing Ashes Demonstration Following worship-Youth Faith Formation Following worship-Bible Fellowship
Mon.	2/24	11:30 a.m. Brown Bags & Prayer
Tues.	2/25	11:00 a.m. Developing Disciples 4:00 p.m. Shrove Tuesday/Pancake Supper
Wed.	2/26	10:00 a.m. Gospel Discussion Group 4:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service
Thurs.	2/27	10:00-12:00 Companions in Christ
Fri.	2/28	8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast @ H.P. Grill 9:00 a.m. Mission Quilting

FEBRUARY WORSHIP LEADERS

Assistant Ministers

Legend: L=Lector, +-Crucifer, C=Communion Assist., A=Liturgy Assist.

<u>9:30 a.m.</u>			
2/02	L=Mary Greer +=Leone Goding C=Patricia Bressler A=Arlene Kelly	2/09	L=MaryJean Kancel +=Arlene Kelly C=Sharon LaHood A=Brian Mundy
2/16	L=Ted Baehmann +=Leone Goding C=Jayne Gable A=Patricia Bressler	2/23	L=Arlene Kelly +=Ted Baehmann C=Sharon LaHood A=Arlene Kelly

Ushers

<u>9:30 a.m.</u>			
2/02	Dick Healy Bev Healy Ples Norris Clarence Norris	2/09	Ritch Cassem Debbie Cassem Sandy Retz Mike Stewart
2/16	Ritch Cassem Debbie Cassem Carol Davis	2/23	Byron Kirkpatrick Mike Stewart Crystal Kirkpatrick Joe LaHood

**If you are unable to serve or have any questions,
please contact Crystal Kirkpatrick at 552-3983.**

Altar Guild for February:

2/02	Julie & Jerry Eld
2/09	
2/16	
2/23	Arlene McGuire

Post Worship Secretary for February: Nancy Almquist

Greeters

2/02	Christine & Craig Carlson
2/09	Jean Hoffman & Lillian Skilbred
2/16	Janet & John Braun
2/23	Jan Rudolph & Nancy Almquist

Counters – Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.

2/02	Jean Talts & Linda Riikonen
2/09	Vernon & Jean Kluge & Arlene Kelly
2/16	Arlene Kelly & Steve Greer
2/23	Pat Heimbach & Diane Wasser

Sunday Hospitality Hosts-Sign-up sheet on wall outside kitchen window.

2/02	Joe & Sharon LaHood
2/09	Chuck & Joy Yonko
2/16	Don & Helen Ames
2/23	

Please note, if nobody signs up, there will be no coffee hour that day. If you have any questions, please contact Pat Heimbach at 610-737-0333.

Preparations for Lent

Burying the “Alleluia’s” and Preparing the Ashes demonstration Sunday, February 23

During worship everyone will receive a slip of paper with the word, “Alleluia,” written on it. This is the last Sunday that we will be using that word until Easter Sunday morning. Everyone will be asked to “bury” their Alleluia in a basket as they come up for communion.

Following worship on the 23rd, Pastor Jim will be demonstrating the preparation of ashes in the Gathering Space.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Tuesday, February 25, 4:00PM

Have a Happy “Fat Tuesday” at Gloria Dei with a pancake supper in the Gathering Space starting at 4:00PM.

Ash Wednesday Worship February 26, 4:00PM

Join us in worship as we begin the forty days of Lent. Service will start at 4:00PM and include Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes.



Pastor’s Report for January 2020

During December 2019 I:

- ✚ Prepared and preached 5 sermons
- ✚ Led 5 Sunday worship services and 1 Christmas Eve service
- ✚ Edited 6 bulletins.
- ✚ Made 4 hospital/rehab/home visits (Almquist-2, Teerman-1, Brandt-1)
- ✚ Distributed Holy Communion to 5 people during those visits
- ✚ Contributed articles to and edited the January Glorion.
- ✚ Attended one council meeting
- ✚ Attended one Worship and Music Committee meeting
- ✚ Attended one Visitation Team meeting
- ✚ Instituted a weekend “on-call” rotation for the Visitation Team
- ✚ Attended one Pinelands Conference Ministerium meeting
- ✚ Participated in one Interim Ministers conference call
- ✚ Made many phone calls and wrote numerous emails.
- ✚ Filed the monthly Interim Ministry report with the synod
- ✚ Worked a total of 18 days.
- ✚ Took one non-paid holiday.
- ✚ Travelled 1205 miles commuting and visiting parishioners.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. James F. Young, Interim Pastor

FINANCIAL CORNER

GENERAL FUND

	December 2019	Year 12/31/19
Contributions	\$25,579.93	\$249,583.31
Expenditures	\$20,480.82	\$223.428.82

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

November 30, 2019 balance \$3,893.18
Deposits -
Withdrawals
December 31, 2019 Balance \$3,893.18

If you are a Thrivent member, don’t forget to designate your Choice Dollars to Gloria Dei or a charity of your choice.

2019 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Please call the church office if you need a 2019 contribution statement and it will be mailed to you. Thank you!
Mary Beth Morris 787-3223

Why do we need a Full-time Pastor?

Written by Rev. Tom Weitzel, Head of the Florida-Bahamas Synod Transition Ministry Leadership Team and Interim Pastor, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Spring Hill, FL

FULL-TIME PASTOR

- † Lives in the area with the people
- † The people & the ministry are priorities
- † 6-day work week (40-60hrs)
- † Generally younger with lots of energy
- † Quick responses to hospitalizations, etc.
- † Regularly spends time in member homes
- † Builds relationship in community (with leaders, pastors, potential members)
- † Strengthens relationships in the church
- † Part of most committees & ministries
- † Assists in planning for the future

Critical:
Leads to STRENGTHENED CHURCH
with lots of possibilities

PART-TIME PASTOR

- Lives elsewhere, commutes in
- Time away from the church is priority
- 3-4-day work week
- Likely retired, limited energy
- May not be able to respond at all
- Little time for member visits, irregular
- No time for community efforts
- Works mostly with council, few others
- Generally limited to council and worship
- Mostly maintains status quo

Critical:
Leads eventually to CLOSURE
with no possibilities

How Are Churches “Grown”?

- † It starts with a Congregation that is Committed to Growth and Looking Outward
- † It takes Council Leadership that never lets a Congregation forget this priority
- † It takes a Friendly and Welcoming Congregation that lives the love of God in all that they do

Ah, but wait! There’s more!!

- † It also takes a Pastor who is Committed to Growth and appreciates the value of Home Visits

Home visits, home visits and more home visits

- † Building Relationships = Building Congregations
- † The more time a Pastor spends at this, the more the church will grow.
- † That’s why churches that have full-time Pastors are more likely to grow than those having part-time Pastors



This is so neat. I had never heard this before...This is beautiful – and *it is surely worth making the 5 finger prayer a part of our lives.*

1. *Your thumb is nearest you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is as c.s. Lewis once said, a “sweet duty.”*
2. *The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.*
3. *The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God’s guidance.*
4. *The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger; as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need our prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.*
5. *And lastly comes our little finger; the smallest finger of all which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, “The least shall be the greatest among you.” Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.*

If you decide to send this to a friend, you might brighten someone’s day! Pass this on to someone special...I did.

