

FROM THE PASTOR

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

Two and a half months have passed since we began our walk of faith under the cloud of COVID-19. Our world as we knew it at the beginning of 2020 will never be the same. Hugs and kisses, handshakes and pats on the back have been replaced with facemasks, social distancing and hunkering down at home. Too many jobs have been lost. Too many businesses will not be able to re-open. Deaths and the widespread ripple of sadness that flows from the loss of friends and loved ones has been felt in every corner of our globe.

We mourn the loss of freedom to go and do as we please. We mourn not being able to be together to worship and share the Lord’s Supper together and, unfortunately, it will be a while before we can come together for worship again. The church leadership is following the guidance of our Bishop, Pedro Suarez, to wait until Phase 3 is declared by our government. We don’t know how long that will be. But we know that, no matter what, we are never outside of the love and care of God through Jesus Christ.

As we continue to pray for an end to this pandemic we join together on the internet or by our newest addition to our worship outreach, the distribution of DVD’s to those who don’t have internet. Irv Johnson makes four copies each week. If you know of anyone who would like a copy please call Mary Beth at the church office.

A big “Thank you” to the wonderful worship team that meets on Wednesday afternoon to video our service for the next Sunday. The team is comprised of Irv and Sue Johnson, Byron and Crystal Kirkpatrick, Paul Motto, Pat Bressler and Arlene Kelly. Please let them know how much you appreciate their dedication and hard work the next time you talk to them.

Speaking of talking to each other: I couldn’t let this article end without urging all of you to connect over the telephone with each other, to keep up-to-date, to share joys and sorrows, cares and concerns with your Christian sisters and brothers, and to strengthen the bonds of love which we so desperately need during the current crisis.

Great news for Gloria Dei! The Call Committee is formed and will hold its first meeting on June 1. It’s an exciting time for all of us. However, it will take hard work and many meetings of the Call Committee before the new pastor is called. So, please, keep them in your prayers. They are: Kathleen Birdsall, John Braun, Pat Heimbach, Elizabeth Sanguedolce, Sharon LaHood, Chris Carlson, and Art Zerbel.

See you in church on the internet! ☺ Pastor Jim

June, 2020



COMMUNITY NOTICES

A former member **Beverly Heinlen** died Thursday, **April 30, 2020**. Our prayers and condolences go out to Dick and his family.

**Rudy Trapiss** died Saturday, **May 23, 2020**. Our hearts and prayers go out to Linda Rapatas and Rudy’s family. Arrangements are pending.

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

Members or friends hospitalized or had surgery in May: Anne Rusk, Edith Leaf, Earl West

*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:

|                 |                                       |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Our Mothers     | Debbie & Ritch Cassem-5/10/20 flowers |
| My husband Bill | Linda Steege-5/24/20 flowers          |

In honor of:

|   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| In celebration of our Anniversary                     | Ed & Peg Chandler-5/10/20 flowers   |
| Our 35 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary                      | Arlene & John Kelly-5/17/20 flowers |
| In thankfulness for all our children & grandchildren. | Linda & Ron Riikonen-June Wine      |

PRAYERS

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

**06/07** Carol Davis, Joan Davis, Milton & Carolyn DeLong,  
Ruby Dettman, Judy Eads

**06/14** Don & Kathleen Eisinger, Jerry & Julie Eld, Martha Ellis,  
Sue Engel, Fred & Marlene Farris

**06/21** Carol Figi, Diana Frederick, Jim & Jayne Gable,  
Ron Galloway, Margi Geiger

**06/28** Jacki Goding, Leone Goding, Larry Goerke,  
Barbara Goins, Steve & Mary Greer



Please accept my heartfelt thanks for your prayers and kindness of comfort during this time.  
I am grateful for your friendship. God bless. Barbara Goins & Family

### JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

|       |                               |           |
|-------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| 06/02 | Darby Walbon & Karen Schaefer | 8 years   |
| 06/02 | Russ & Virginia Smith         | 69 years* |
| 06/07 | Brian & Karen Mundy           | 40 years  |
| 06/28 | Mike & cj Clarke              | 40 years  |

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

### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

|       |                 |       |                 |
|-------|-----------------|-------|-----------------|
| 06/01 | June Rieb       | 06/06 | Marilyn Wahl    |
| 06/07 | Jean Heitz      | 06/08 | Don Ames        |
| 06/08 | Barb Lias       | 06/08 | Julian Menchaca |
| 06/09 | Marva Tetting   | 06/14 | Mary Greer      |
| 06/23 | Janet Bauer     | 06/23 | Michael Stewart |
| 06/25 | Nancy Vogel     | 06/28 | Leone Goding    |
| 06/28 | Martha Holleran | 06/30 | Diane Wasser    |

### MEDIA TEAM

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

What a beautiful morning for our May 8th monthly food distribution! Here's a big THANK YOU to the approximately 28 volunteers from Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, First Presbyterian Church of Leesburg, and from around our local community. We were blessed this morning to have Gloria Dei's Pastor Jim Young on hand to present JHIFM's President & CEO Forrest Berg with a \$2,500 check from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Thank you to Gloria Dei's congregation and friends who contributed \$2,000 of that amount and to the ELCA for its matching gift of \$500. After Pastor Jim offered the opening prayer JHIFM's volunteers were all in their places with bright shining faces (masked of course) and proceeded to distribute 9,925 pounds of nutritious food to 503 individuals from 150 local families in need. A glorious day indeed!

I posted photos of today's food distribution on Facebook 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" on the left side of the page and enjoy the photos.

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 MAY:

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, all visits, communion and healing have been cancelled until further notice. Hopefully we will be able to resume our normal schedule soon.

## **Who We Are: Gloria Dei's History-by Mary Greer**

This is the fourth installment in the series about Gloria Dei's interesting and colorful history.

### **The 80's**

Reverend Wallace Kemp arrived to shepherd Gloria Dei for the next 20 years until he retired in 2000. Gloria Dei added changes to the existing structure including a new sanctuary and a complete lower floor for offices, meeting rooms, and storage areas. Gloria Dei established a memorial garden, which is maintained by members of the church.

### **The 90's**

Gloria Dei happily burned the real estate mortgage and companion in the church parking lot in March 1990. As an indication of the sign of the times, Gloria Dei had their first women ushers! A pictorial church telephone directory was produced for the first time. Dedication of the bronze church bell was rung for the first time on December 27, 1992. It was originally cast in 1892 and formerly hung in Philadelphia, which made it exactly 100 years old when it was installed at Gloria Dei. The bell continues to be rung before worship services, funerals, and weddings.

Renovations continued to be made including installations of stained glass windows in the narthex that were made possible by donations of Gloria Dei members. The Living Christ life-sized wood sculpture in the sanctuary was installed.

Members of the congregation worked on needlepoint cushions using designs created by church member Robert Terry. The themes include the seven last words of Christ, Psalm 1, and a summation of our journey of faith through the church year.

Gloria Dei expanded its outreach by participating in building a house with Habitat for Humanity and the Angel Tree project, which provides gifts and food to children who have a parent in prison. Other projects, such as the Pig Project for Haiti, provided pigs to the poorest of the poor enabling them to become self-sufficient.

A series of musical concerts took place with music ranging from black gospel music to violin concerts. All concerts were well attended. In 1994, the congregation voted to purchase a Baldwin Organ, which was replaced for a newer model in February 1997.

A Columbarium Chapel was constructed in 1998 for use by members and their families. Several seminary scholarships were funded for a number of students and missionary ministries in Africa continued to be supported.

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

During April 2020 I:

- ✚ Prepared and preached 5 sermons
- ✚ Scheduled personnel for video sessions
- ✚ Developed scripts for video sessions
- ✚ Developed slide show of Stations of the Cross
- ✚ Coordinated posting of videos on website and Facebook
- ✚ Recorded Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services
- ✚ Recorded 4 Sunday services
- ✚ Recorded 1 Midweek Lenten service
- ✚ Edited 7 bulletins
- ✚ Contributed articles to and edited the May Glorion.
- ✚ Attended one Executive Committee meeting
- ✚ Had our Sunday online services added to the list on WESH 2 website
- ✚ Participated in one Interim Ministers conference call
- ✚ Attended 3 Zoom synod interim minister's COVID-19 conferences
- ✚ Attended one Zoom Pinelands Conference gathering
- ✚ Raised \$2,500.00 through ELCA World Hunger Daily Bread matching grant on behalf of JHIFM
- ✚ Made over 110 phone calls and wrote numerous emails.
- ✚ Worked a total of 18.5 days.
- ✚ Travelled 594 miles commuting and visiting parishioners. (mileage is approximately one-half of normal month because I worked from home 2 days a week.)

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

## FINANCIAL CORNER

### GENERAL FUND

|               | April, 2020 | Year to date 4/30/2020 |
|---------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Contributions | \$20,683.53 | \$82,540.83            |
| Expenditures  | \$16,778.36 | \$74,723.47            |

### RESTRICTED FUNDS

|                    | Beg. 3/31/2020    | Donations       | Expenditures    | Ending 4/30/20    |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Elementary School  | 358.36            | 0               | 0               | 358.36            |
| Oak Park Middle    | 812.22            | 0               | 0               | 812.22            |
| Coffee Project     | 394.58            | 0               | 0               | 394.58            |
| Thrivent Choice \$ | 4,242.04          | 425.00          | 0               | 4,667.04          |
| Basket Social      | 282.51            | 0               | 0               | 282.51            |
| Eternal Light      | 515.00            | 0               | 0               | 515.00            |
| Fellowship         | 301.20            | 0               | 5.99            | 295.21            |
| JHIF               | 50.00             | 750.00          | 750.00          | 50.00             |
| World Hunger       | 60.00             | 155.00          | 215.00          | 0                 |
| ELCA               | 65.00             | 90.00           | 155.00          | 0                 |
| Flowers            | (325.00)          | 50.00           | 0               | (275.00)          |
| Quilt shipping     | 0                 | 0               | 0               | 0                 |
| Altar wine/bread   | 82.79             | 25.00           | 0               | 107.79            |
| <b>TOTALS</b>      | <b>\$6,838.70</b> | <b>1,495.00</b> | <b>1,125.99</b> | <b>\$7,207.71</b> |

Notes (in case you're wondering)

The hunger offering collected on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 May 2020 By William Birdsall, council president

Well, here we are another month later but now it's starting to feel like we are in a prison. However we have been very fortunate that Pastor Jim and a crew of volunteers have continued to worked hard to film and produce some very professional U-Tubes of Sunday services. This has helped Kathleen and I get through the weeks and I'm sure has helped all of us get through these unusual times. Thank you Pastor Jim and the crew of dedicated workers.

Remember the butterfly that visited our church for the past few months, she came again and completed her magic in the Narthex. The First Impressions Task Force has done a wonderful job in improving the narthex.

The church council at the April zoom meeting approved a contract to upgrade our fire alarm system in the church to bring it up to current fire codes. This work should begin in June. Also prior to reopening for services we will be cleaning and sanitizing all the carpets in the church as well as the pews. We will also be having the entire HVAC system cleaned and sanitized and better air filters installed. The council will be meeting again in June.

I know we all are anxious to get back to church, but we must remain vigilant until the health officials deem it safe to have large gatherings again. With that in mind we feel it is in all our best interests at this time to continue to suspend services and gatherings at the church until at until we reach phase 3 at which time we will reevaluate our situation. We have been fortunate that we have no reported cases of the Covid-19 among our congregation and I'm sure we would all like to keep it that way. So stay home and stay safe, and watch our online services as they will continue every week until we can meet in church again.

God Bless you, stay healthy and safe. Can't wait to see you all again soon.