

FROM THE PASTOR

Often, when a church is asked to evaluate its ministry, the question is asked, “If this church were to close tomorrow, would the community notice?” Let me tell you a true story that might inform Gloria Dei’s answer to that question.

I was sitting in my office on Wednesday and the Joining Hands in Food Ministry people were doing what they do best, shuffling and stocking much needed foodstuffs between our church and the Presbyterian Church. One of the workers came into my office and told me that there was a young lady outside, distraught and sobbing so uncontrollably that no one could understand her, and would I see what I could do for her. So, I walked outside to assess the situation.

I introduced myself and spent the next several minutes trying to calm her down. I invited her into my office so that she could sit and compose herself enough to let me know what was going on in her life and how she happened upon our church. She said that she had walked her two children to elementary school earlier in the day and had just been out walking around, hoping that God would find a way to help her. She was living in a local motel and, even though she had a job, she wasn’t going to get paid until the next day and the manager of the hotel had threatened to lock her and her kids out of their room if she didn’t pay. I called the motel to verify her story and, sure enough, the manager was a pretty tough cookie and said that he needed \$80.00 before 11 AM or he would lock her out.

I made a call to 211, a help service clearinghouse of United Way, but they have no agency that provides rent assistance. I had no funds readily available to help her. But then I thought, “We are called to do God’s work with our hands, right? What if some of those hands reached into their wallets and pocketbooks to help this young lady out?”

So, I walked into the food pantry room and announced that I was taking up a special offering. Before I knew it I had over \$200.00 in my hand. In addition, the Joining Hands folks made up two bags of groceries for her and gave her flyers about community services and the monthly food distribution. I took her and the groceries over to the motel and paid her rent for that night, said a prayer with her, and handed her the rest of the money. Her tears of sadness had turned to tears of joy because a handful of Christians had answered their calling to care for the less fortunate.

If Gloria Dei were to close tomorrow, would the community notice?
You bet they would!

See you in church, *Pastor Jim*

March, 2020



COMMUNITY NOTICES
RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

Members or friends hospitalized or had surgery in February: Jane Kunde, Michael Clarke, Rachel Lesser.

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.	Ed & Peg Chandler/March Wine
Allen, Emma, & Helen Weber	Nancy & MaryJean Kancel/flowers
To the Glory of God.	Ed & Peg Chandler/Flowers
Our loving parents.	Ed & Peg Chandler/March Candle
In honor of:	
Happy Valentine’s Day & Birthday Linda,	Ron Riikonen-Flowers-2/16/20
Love Ron	
My son James Brewer’s birthday.	Jan Rudolph-Flowers-2/23/20

PRAYERS

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

- 03/01** Lois Parsch, Terri Pawelski, Paul & Helen Petit,
Paul Proulx, Linda Rapatas
- 03/08** Sandy Retz, Mary Rhoades, Jim & June Rieb,
Ron & Linda Riikonen, Madalon Ritter
- 03/15** Jan Rudolph, Robert Rumpf, Anne Rusk,
Lillian Russo, Elizabeth Sanguedolce
- 03/22** Fred Schenck, Alice Shriver, Alberta Siepiela,
Lillian Skilbred, Maureen Skurecki
- 03/29** Richard & Mary Lou Smith, Russell & Virginia Smith, Sam & Donna Smith,
Carol Snyder, Elizabeth Snyder

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.

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.

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

03/03	Irvin & Susan Johnson	37years
03/08	Jim & June Rieb	51 years*
03/09	Byron & Crystal Kirkpatrick	27 years
03/21	Paul & Helen Petit	39 years

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

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

03/01	Arlene Kelly	03/03	Helga La Cava
03/03	Janine Wurzer	03/06	Carol Marshall
03/08	Karen Mundy	03/08	MaryJean Kancel
03/09	Donna Smith	03/14	Nancy Almquist
03/15	Elizabeth Sanguedolce	03/16	Anne Rusk
03/17	Patricia Bressler	03/17	Jerry Eld
03/19	Andy Talts	03/20	Rudolph Trapiss
03/22	Byron Kirkpatrick	03/24	Carol Berg
03/27	Linda Rapatas	03/31	Myrna Ware

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)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS LADIES

Church Women United World Day of Prayer will be at St. Paul’s Catholic Church, 1330 sunshine Avenue, Leesburg on Friday March 6, 2020 at 9:30 AM.

Pinelands Conference WELCA Spring Gathering will be at Rock of Ages Lutheran Church, 4957 E CO RD 462, Wildwood on Saturday, March 7, 2020. Theme for the day is “Faith, Hope and Love Abides” based on Isaiah 54:10. Continental breakfast and registration at 8:00 AM with program to be 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM. If you would like to go and need a ride, please contact me at Loraine.vanhaecke@gmail.com or 352-787-1407.

Annual Spring Fashion Show will be on Tuesday, March 31, 2020 at 11:30 AM. Leone Goding is the Coordinator and this event is always enjoyed! Beall’s will provide the fashions modeled by six of our ladies. Forward Path is the charity chosen to receive the donated funds at the luncheon. Forward Path helps 18-year olds who have aged out of foster care. Bring a salad to share and bring a friend!!

All women are invited to the Florida Bahamas Synodical Women’s Organization 2020 Fall Gathering – November 13 -15, 2020 at the Lake Yale Baptist Retreat Center in Leesburg. Theme for the week end is “Faith Can Move Mountains” based on Corinthians 23:2b, I may have all the faith needed to move mountains – but if I have no love, I am nothing. There will be Bible Study, Worship, Workshops, Fellowship and more! Registration information will be available on line in early summer. Pastor Young blessed the quilts and boxes of personal care kits on Sunday, February 9, 2020 and thanks to all of you the quilts and personal kits are on their way to the distribution center for Lutheran World Relief. **THANKS TO ALL OF YOU!!!!**

Respectfully submitted by Loraine Van Haecke, President WELCA

WELCA CIRCLES

RUTH CIRCLE-will meet on Thursday, March 5 at 1:30 at the home of Elizabeth Sanguedolce. Address: 5005 Sawgrass Lake Circle (Plantation). Please let her know if you will attend at 352-250-8056. Bible Study will be from the *GATHER* magazine. Looking forward to seeing you there. Janet Braun, Leader 314-5042

PRISCILLA CIRCLE-will meet Monday, March 10, 2020 at the 9:00 a.m. at the home of Jeanne Talts. Please call Jeanne to let her know you are coming 352-787-3287. Nancy Almquist, 321-4208

MARY MARTHA CIRCLE- will meet on Tuesday, March 10th @ 9:00 A.M. Quilting until 10:30, then coffee and snacks. Our Bible Study will be out of the *March Gather* where we will study together "We are called!" Session Three starting on page 20. If you do not subscribe to the magazine, we will share at our study. On Friday, March 27th 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.

March On-call Ministers

Thursday-Saturday	Name	Phone
Mar 5-7	Jim Gable	717-475-5822
Mar 12-14	Leone Goding	352-223-1925
Mar 19-21	Elizabeth Sanguedolce	352-250-8056
Mar 26-28	Mary Lou Smith	678-458-8056

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 January & February:

(3) visits to Renny Almquist	(1) call to Nancy Almquist
(1) visit to Doug Bressler	(2) visit to Goins
(1) visit to Bernice Heiser	(2) visit to Betty Ann Huebner
(1) visit Ray & Roseanne Knudsen	(3) visits to Rachel Lesser
(4) visits to Gladys Mull	(2) visits to Mary Rhoades
(2) visits to Trapiss/Rapatas	(1) call to Craig Carlson
(1) call to Michael Clarke	(1) call & (1) visit to Jan Liljestrand
(2) visit to Emil Mack	(1) call & (1) visit to Andy Mincer
(1) call to Diana Wasser	(1) visit to Sue Engel

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:

Mar. 5-10:00-12:00	March 12-no meeting (could be on 3/13)
March 19-10:00-12:00	March 26-10:00-12:00

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

Community Hunger Project: Again your continued support of the Community Hunger Project is greatly appreciated. Need continues to be greater than available resources. WOW! Thanks for all the soup and Crackers-2 trunk loads to feed the poor in Lake County.

Hats, Scarfs, Socks etc. Thanks to everyone who donated cold weather gear. It is much appreciated and was needed several days last month.

Thank You Cards for December-January Donations: Gloria Dei received Thanks You notes from Salvation Army for the generous gift, Sozo Kids, Deliver the Difference, Educational Foundation.

SHOES, SHOES, SHOES:

- Oak Park Middle school will be needing tennis shoes for students in the near future.
- Elementary School will also be requesting shoes for their students!
- SM is requesting used and new Women’s, Men’s, and Children’s shoes to be rejuvenated, sold and proceeds used to assist needy here and abroad.

GLORIA DEI ALSO SUPPORTS:

Camp for the Menchaca Children: Gloria Dei is pleased to again sponsor Julian and Quiana for Summer Camp at Luther Springs the week of June 14th.

Day Camp: Money was donated to Joy Lutheran church in Ocala in support of a Day Camp at Luther Springs this summer.

LUTHER SPRINGS

Luther Springs is located in Hawthorne, outside of Gainesville. Luther Springs is a small camp with less than 60 campers at camp each week, making it an ideal place for children to be introduced to a week at summer camp! The children get to grow closer to God, to their church friends and make friends from other churches. The students experiences are great, just ask the Menchaca children.

Thanks:

Social Ministry Members thank the congregation for their support of special activities: Local Elementary and Secondary schools, Salvation Army, and other agencies doing good in the community! You at Gloria Dei are much appreciated in this community.

Committee: Leone Godding, Charlotte Christensen, Ruby Wanland, Elizabeth Sanuedolce, Pat Bressler, Linda Steege, Gayle Bloom, Diane Wasser. Donna Tarnok, Joe LaHood, Pat Heimbach, Pastor Jim, Joyce Brandt

JHIFM (JOINING HANDS IN FOOD MINISTRY)

A big Thank You to the approximately 40 volunteers from Gloria Dei and First Presbyterian churches who turned out on a rainy February 14 morning to feed 444 individuals from 122 local families a total of 9,879 pounds of nutritious food. These wonderful volunteers worked really hard to fight hunger in our community. Thank you for a great job, and may the love you showed on Valentine's Day come back to you one hundred fold.

I posted photos of the February 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" or "photos".

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.

MARCH CALENDAR

Sun.	3/01	9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship-Healing Service Following worship-Youth Faith Formation Following worship-Bible Fellowship
Mon.	3/02	11:30 a.m. Brown Bags & Prayer
Tues.	3/03	9:30 a.m. WELCA Board Meeting
Wed.	3/04	10:00 a.m. Gospel Discussion Group 4:00 p.m. Lenten Service/Soup Supper 5:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Thurs.	3/05	10:00-12:00 Companions in Christ 1:30 p.m. Ruth Circle
Fri.	3/06	8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast @ H.P. Grill
Sun.	3/08	9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Following worship-Youth Faith Formation Following worship-Bible Fellowship
Mon.	3/09	9:00 a.m. Priscilla Circle
Tues.	3/10	11:30 a.m. Brown Bags & Prayer 9:00 a.m. Mission Quilting/Mary Martha Circle 11:00 a.m. Developing Disciples 11:00 a.m. Executive Committee Meeting 1:00 p.m. Evangelism Committee Meeting
Wed.	3/11	10:00 a.m. Gospel Discussion Group 4:00 p.m. Lenten Service/Soup Supper 5:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Fri.	3/13	8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast @ H.P. Grill 9:30-11:30 a.m. Joining Hands in Food Ministry
Sun.	3/15	9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Following worship-Youth Faith Formation Following worship-Bible Fellowship
Mon.	3/16	11:30 a.m. Brown Bags & Prayer
Tues.	3/17	1:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting
Wed.	3/18	10:00 a.m. Gospel Discussion Group 4:00 p.m. Lenten Service/Soup Supper 5:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Thurs.	3/19	10:00-12:00 Companions in Christ GLORION DEADLINE-APRIL
Fri.	3/20	8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast @ H.P. Grill

Sun.	3/22	9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship-Hunger Offering Following worship-Youth Faith Formation Following worship-Bible Fellowship
Mon.	3/23	11:30 a.m. Brown Bags & Prayer
Tues.	3/24	11:00 a.m. Developing Disciples
Wed.	3/25	10:00 a.m. Gospel Discussion Group 4:00 p.m. Lenten Service/Soup Supper 5:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Thurs.	3/26	10:00-12:00 Companions in Christ
Fri.	3/27	8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast @ H.P. Grill 9:00 a.m. Mission Quilting
Sun.	3/29	9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Following worship-Youth Faith Formation Following worship-Bible Fellowship
Mon.	3/30	11:30 a.m. Brown Bags & Prayer
Tues.	3/31	11:30 a.m. WELCA Spring Fashion Show/Luncheon



Wed. 3/4 @ 4:00 p.m. Supper hosted by: WELCA Board
 Wed. 3/11 @ 4:00 p.m. Supper hosted by: Ruth Circle
 Wed. 3/18 @ 4:00 p.m. Supper hosted by: Mary/Martha Circle
 Wed. 3/25 @ 4:00 p.m. Supper hosted by: Priscilla Circle
 Wed. 4/1 @ 4:00 p.m. Supper hosted by: Church Council

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

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

The '60s

The '60s were a time of change in politics, music, entertainment, and social structures. Change also came to Gloria Dei.

In 1962, the year of Gloria Dei's 10th anniversary, the Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church joined with three other Lutheran church bodies to become the Lutheran Church in America. Since Gloria Dei was a member of the Florida District of the Augustana Lutheran Church, the name was formally changed to Gloria Dei Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Growth in Leesburg was reflected in Gloria Dei's full pews. A second service was added to the regular 9:30 a.m. service. Gloria Dei attracted not only full-time members, but also seasonal members from the North.



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. IF
 YOU CAN'T MAKE IT TO LUNCH PLEASE JOIN US AT NOON FOR PRAYER.

EVERYONE IS INVITED AND WELCOME!

MARCH WORSHIP LEADERS

Assistant Ministers

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

<u>9:30 a.m.</u>			
3/01	L=Diana Frederick +=Leone Goding C=Kathy Kepler A=Patricia Bressler	3/08	L= += C= A=Patricia Bressler
3/15	L=Arlene Kelly +=Leone Goding C=Arlene McGuire A=Arlene Kelly	3/22	L= +=Arlene Kelly C=Jayne Gable A=Brian Mundy
3/29	L= += C=Taeko Mincer A=Brian Mundy		
<u>Ushers</u>			
3/01	Dick Healy Jerry Eld Julie Eld Bev Healy	3/08	Ritch Cassem Debbie Cassem Mike Stewart Bess King
3/15	Dick Healy Bev Healy Diane Wasser Bill Wasser	3/22	Ritch Cassem Debbie Cassem Mike Stewart Craig Carlson
3/29	Crystal Kirkpatrick Byron Kirkpatrick Sandy Retz Dottsie Grins		

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

Altar Guild for March:

3/01	Julie Eld & Arlene McGuire
3/08	Crystal & Byron Kirkpatrick
3/15	Crystal & Byron Kirkpatrick
3/22	Crystal & Byron Kirkpatrick
3/29	Crystal & Byron Kirkpatrick

Post Worship Secretary for March: Donna Tarnok

Greeters

3/01	Vernon & Jeanne Kluge
3/08	Linda & Ron Riikonen
3/15	Peggy & Ed Chandler
3/22	Lillian Skilbred & Sandy Kolb
3/29	Jan Rudolph & Madalon Ritter

Counters – Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.

3/01	Jean Talts & Linda Riikonen
3/08	Vernon & Jean Kluge & Arlene Kelly
3/15	Arlene Kelly & Steve Greer
3/22	Pat Heimbach & Diane Wasser
3/29	Chuck & Joy Yonko

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

3/01	Steve & Mary Greer
3/08	John & Janet Braun
3/15	
3/22	
3/29	Ritch & Debbie Cassem

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.

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

Pastor’s Report for January 2020

- ✚ Prepared and preached 3 sermons
- ✚ Led 3 Sunday worship services
- ✚ Edited 4 bulletins.
- ✚ Purchased new communion kits for visitation team.
- ✚ Planned for Lenten midweek services.
- ✚ Coordinated Mission Insite presentation with Pr. Jefferson Cox
- ✚ Arranged for one supply pastor.
- ✚ Made 1 hospital/rehab/home visit (Lesser)
- ✚ Distributed Holy Communion to 1 person during that visit
- ✚ Contributed articles to and edited the February Glorion.
- ✚ Attended one Executive Committee meeting
- ✚ Attended one council meeting
- ✚ Installed the WELCA Officers
- ✚ Planned and led one Council Retreat
- ✚ Held the first Brown Bags and Prayer session
- ✚ 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 13 days.
- ✚ Took four non-paid vacation days off.
- ✚ Travelled 699 miles commuting and visiting parishioners.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. James F. Young, Interim Pastor

FINANCIAL CORNER

GENERAL FUND

	January, 2020	Year to date 1/31/20
Contributions	\$21,190.07	\$21,190.07
Expenditures	\$19,372.31	\$19,372.31

RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Beg. 12/31/19	Donations	Expenditures	Ending 1/31/20
Elementary School	228.36	0	0	228.36
Oak Park Middle	812.22	0	0	812.22
Coffee Project	440.83	14.00	0	454.83
Thrivent Choice \$	3,893.18	0	0	3,893.18
Basket Social	500.00	0	217.49	282.51
Eternal Light	430.00	0	0	430.00
Fellowship	417.05	98.75	172.74	343.06
JHIF	0	309.87	309.87	0
World Hunger	0	371.88	371.88	0
ELCA	0	175.00	175.00	0
Flowers	0	40.00	200.00	(160.00)
TOTALS	\$6,721.64	1,009.50	1,446.98	\$6,284.16

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

Temple Talk given by Council President Bill Birdsall, February 23rd, 2020

Good morning. I hope by now most of you know me, my name is Bill Birdsall, your council president. Last month I started with a story about the caterpillar and the butterfly and I told you that “if nothing ever changed there would be no butterflies”. Well I think the butterfly has been around again, just look at our beautiful recoated parking lot and the new handicapped parking signs. We can all thank Arlene Kelly for overseeing that project as well as members of the first impressions task force for installing the signs. Also Craig Carlson was able to arrange for the power washing of the steeple at no cost to the church. And if you didn’t notice, the old tarnished front door hardware has been replaced with shiny new hardware. Let us give them all a round of applause.

I know you really want an update on the status of the Transition process. Well, we had our congregational meeting on February 9th after morning service and had 71 members present. We accomplished two important steps at that meeting. First, we discussed the question of part time vs. full time pastor, which resulted in a unanimous vote to call a full time pastor. Second, we accepted nominations for the call committee. Our next step is to ask for Bios from each nominee and then perform interviews. We expect this process to take 2 months. In the mean time other paperwork is being completed as well as conversations with the Bishop’s office.

As part of the transition process, members of council as well as other interested members of the congregation met with Pastor Jefferson Cox here on site for a presentation on Mission Insite. Mission Insite is an online service which the Synod subscribes to and is furnished for free to the church to use. This service provides demographic information based on government gathered data as well other independent sources, which is a great tool for the church when planning for the future. Forrest Berg’s Strategic Planning task force will be using this website to obtain much of the information they will need to develop the plan. This information will also be used by the Call committee when considering our future needs for a pastor.

The executive committee, which includes myself, the Pastor, Council Vice President Arlene Kelly, Treasurer Linda Hide and Secretary Diane Wasser, met again this month and discussed many subjects that effect the church and prioritized agenda items for this month’s council meeting and as well as future council meetings. Our church council met on Wednesday February 19th. Our agenda was full and we covered a lot of important subjects and are attending to the business of the church. However, one of our primary subjects is the Transition Process to call a new pastor. This was at the top of all of our agendas and much time, thought and prayer has been devoted to it.

Sunday, February 23 was Ted and Dorothy Baehmann’s last Sunday of Worship at Gloria Dei. They are moving back to Wisconsin. We wish them farewell and Godspeed.



On Sunday, February 23, Pastor Jim gave a demonstration on preparing the ashes for Ash Wednesday.



(Temple Talk cont'd)

Last month I asked everyone to increase their giving by 10% and we are seeing this increase in many cases. Remember the church needs this increase in order to meet our budget with a full time pastor we agreed to call. So keep up the good work.

I would like to touch on one more item of importance. Last Month, pastor started to conduct the brown bags and prayer session every Monday at 11:30am. These are poorly attended. However, those of us who attend are praying on behalf of the whole congregation, and it would be nice to see some new faces. This is an important time for our church and we all need to participate in active prayer sessions as we pray for the transition process and future of our church. I hope to see many of you here tomorrow.

Well I could go on and on, but I think I have taken enough time out of our Sunday service. But I will be back again next month. Thank You.

