

FROM THE PASTOR

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

March, 2020, began our adventure with COVID-19. The stay-at-home orders issued by the governor prompted our church to rethink our ways of worshipping and reaching out to each other. Video recording and posting services on our website and Facebook pages replaced our congregational gatherings on Sunday (and Wednesdays during Lent).

Visits to hospitals and nursing homes were strictly prohibited. Facemasks Phone calls, texts, and emails replaced face-to-face physical contact, a vital part of our church family's normal interaction with each other. In keeping with our ELCA Lutheran tradition of celebrating communion only when gathered together physically we suspended the sacrament of Holy Communion until such a time as we can gather together again.

It has been a tragic time, the virus taking its toll in loss of human life. As I write this on April 21, 2020, there have been more than 2.4 million cases of COVID-19 around the world with more than 168,000 deaths. In the US, there have been more than 766,000 reported cases with over 40,000 deaths. In Florida there have been nearly 27,000 cases reported with nearly 800 deaths. No one in our Gloria Dei family has contracted the virus but most know someone close who has fallen ill from it.

Since mid-March, we have been recording our services on video. This has been well-received and our members who have internet have been pleased with both the quality of the video and the presentation. They are especially pleased that we record in the sanctuary because it makes it feel like they are actually attending worship. Many thanks to my wonderful team: Irv & Sue Johnson, Paul Motto, Mary Greer, Byron & Crystal Kirkpatrick, Arlene Kelly, Pat Bressler and Mary Beth Morris.

Even in the midst of the storm that has been caused by COVID-19 we know that our Lord is there to bring us peace and calm the storms that rage in our lives and in our world. We are Easter people. We have walked with Christ to the upper room, to the judgment hall, to the cross, and now we join Him in the resurrection.

May 6, 2020 marks my one-year anniversary as the interim pastor at Gloria Dei. It has been an eventful year and I look forward with great joy to continuing my service to this wonderful congregation as we discern God's will for the future of our church.

May God richly bless you as together we weather this storm. I keep you all in my prayers constantly.

See you ~~in church~~ on the internet! ☺ *Pastor Jim*

May, 2020



COMMUNITY NOTICES

Reverend Sam Goins died Wednesday, **April 1, 2020**. Our hearts and prayers go out to Barbara and her family. Celebration of Life arrangements are pending.

Ken Schultz died **April 12, 2020**. A memorial service will be planned when travel restrictions are lifted. Memorials are preferred to a cancer society of one's choice. Memories and condolences may be left at thomasfamilyfuneralhome.com. The Schultz's address: The View, 2905 Elk Drive, Apt. 215, Minot, ND 58701.

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

Members or friends hospitalized or had surgery in April: Jane Kunde, Bernice Heiser.

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:

Renny Almquist

Anne Rusk/Memorials

In honor of:

Our 57th anniversary

Andy & Jeanne Talts/May Wine & Flowers

PRAYERS

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

05/03 Chuck & Joy Yonko, Jim & Patti Young, Art Zerbel,
Dennis & Jane Zimmerman, Nancy Almquist

05/10 Don & Helen Ames, Sue Anderson, Ted & Dorothy Baehmann,
Jean Baer, Janet & C. Lloyd Bauer

05/17 Forrest & Carol Berg, Bill & Kathleen Birdsall, Gayle Bloom,
Joyce Brandt, John & Janet Braun

05/24 Doug & Pat Bressler, Craig & Christine Carlson, Ritch & Debbie Cassem,
Ed & Peg Chandler, Charlotte Christensen

05/31 Josephine Cichoracki, Michael & cj Clarke, John & JoAn Cleary,
Lynn Crane, Richard & Marilyn Czuprynski

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

05/08	Donald & Helen Ames	61 years*
05/11	Andy & Jean Talts	57 years*
05/13	Ed & Peg Chandler	53 years*
05/17	James & Terri Pawelski	57 years*
05/18	John & Arlene Kelly	35 years
05/18	Bill & Phyllis Swinford	60 years*
05/25	Barb & Dock Lias	40 years

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

MAY BIRTHDAYS

05/02	Kathy Kepler	05/03	Gladys Mull
05/03	Russell Smith	05/06	Carolyn DeLong
05/08	Fred Schenck	05/11	Doug Bressler
05/13	Sue Johnson	05/14	Freddy Farris
05/17	Diana Frederick	05/17	Helen Petit
05/17	Karen Schaefer	05/20	Linda Steege
05/20	Bill Wasser	05/21	Virginia Smith
05/22	Dick Healy	05/22	Hazel Wolfgram
05/24	Sue Anderson	05/27	Jayne Gable
05/28	Earl West	05/31	Richard Smith

MEDIA TEAM

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

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

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

FELLOWSHIP

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

FAITH FORMATION

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

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

JHIFM (JOINING HANDS IN FOOD MINISTRY)

JHIFM is facing many challenges in April 2020 as we experience a heavier than normal turnout of individuals and families in need due to the effects of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) related unemployment and small business closings. Additionally, we are experiencing a shortage of free TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program run by the USDA) food at Second Harvest Food Bank in Orlando since so many local food banks are competing for limited TEFAP product. Both of these issues have resulted in JHIFM having to purchase more food to feed more people. Another complication is caused because we are being required to limit the number of distribution day volunteers due to social distancing guidelines.

At our April 10th food distribution JHIFM volunteers distributed 11,620 pounds of food to 568 individuals from 165 local needy families. That is nearly a 45% increase over our March 13th food distribution and portends an even larger client turnout in May as more individuals face continued job and income losses.

That is enough bad news. Now for the good news. JHIFM has been accumulating both TEFAP and purchased food for the past several months and has an adequate supply of food to handle the anticipated larger client turnouts. We also have been carefully managing our finances and have adequate cash reserves to purchase more food. JHIFM would like to thank all the individuals who have so generously contributed money and food items during the past month. We especially wish to thank Pastor Jim Young for applying for the ELCA Matching Daily Bread Grant which has resulted in a \$2,500 donation to our food ministry. Also, our gratitude goes to our grant writer, Jon Tetting, who was chiefly responsible for our success in obtaining a \$10,000 grant this year from the Lake County Department of Health & Human Services as well as a recent \$1,000 grant from the Lady Lake SAM's Club. Additionally, JHIFM volunteers continue to apply for and receive smaller grants from Thrivent Financial, Chevron Corporation and Snap On Tools Corporation.

On April 21st we received a delivery of 600 emergency food boxes from Lake County Support and Emergency Response (LASER), and we are in the process of applying for more emergency food boxes from FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency) through the ELCA. And finally we must not forget Mary Greer and our wonderful seamstresses who sewed so many beautiful face masks to protect our volunteers at our monthly food distributions. We are truly blessed to be able to help so many people during this difficult time.

Ritch Cassem

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 70's

The physical church continued to change to accommodate the growth of the congregation. Among the most notable changes was the addition of a gabled roof, a narthex, additional pews and the first organ.

Gloria Dei's outreach ministry was increased to include World Hunger Appeal, Lutheran World Relief, sponsorship of several children in other countries, and the benevolence work of the Mary-Martha and Dorcas circles.

Gloria Dei reflected the change in the surrounding community with the recent influx of "snowbirds" into the area. These seasonal worshipers wanted to fully participate in Gloria Dei's rich spiritual life and Gloria Dei welcomed them with enthusiasm.

A Welcome Desk was implemented in the narthex where visitors were greeted by an usher and asked to sign the guest book.

In 1977, Gloria Dei celebrated its 25th anniversary.



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 APRIL:

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.

Pastor's Report for March 2020

During March 2020 I:

- ✚ Prepared and preached 9 sermons
- ✚ Prepared for and led 5 Sunday worship services
- ✚ Prepared for and led 4 Midweek Lenten Services
- ✚ Edited 9 bulletins
- ✚ Began our video ministry
 - Recorded one sermon at home
 - Established personnel for weekly taping sessions
 - Coordinated posting of videos on website and Facebook
 - Developed scripts for video sessions
 - Recorded 2 Midweek Lenten services in the sanctuary
 - Recorded 2 Sunday services in the sanctuary
- ✚ Filed the annual Retired Pastor's report with the Bishop
- ✚ Contributed articles to and edited the April Glorion.
- ✚ Attended one Executive Committee meeting
- ✚ Prepared and led two memorial services (Almquist and Lesser)
- ✚ Held 2 Brown Bags and Prayer sessions
- ✚ Participated in one Interim Ministers conference call
- ✚ Attended one Zoom synod interim minister's COVID-19 conference call
- ✚ Filed grant request for ELCA World Hunger Daily Bread matching grant on behalf of JHIFM
- ✚ Coordinated and held first Council Zoom trial run.
- ✚ Made many phone calls and wrote numerous emails.
- ✚ Worked a total of 23.5 days.
- ✚ Travelled 995 miles commuting and visiting parishioners.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. James F. Young, Interim Pastor

FINANCIAL CORNER

GENERAL FUND

	March, 2020	Year to date 3/31/2020
Contributions	\$19,821.89	\$61,857.30
Expenditures	\$18,064.80	\$57,945.11

RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Beg. 2/29/2020	Donations	Expenditures	Ending 3/31/20
Elementary School	228.36	130.00	0	358.36
Oak Park Middle	812.22	0	0	812.22
Coffee Project	394.58	0	0	394.58
Thrivent Choice \$	3,960.04	282.00	0	4,242.04
Basket Social	282.51	0	0	282.51
Eternal Light	450.00	65.00	0	515.00
Fellowship	266.89	39.30	4.99	301.20
JHIFM	0	50.00	0	50.00
World Hunger	0	126.00	66.00	60.00
ELCA	0	215.00	150.00	65.00
Flowers	(110.00)	25.00	240.50	(325.50)
Quilt shipping	884.00	0	884.00	0
Altar wine/bread	7.79	75.00	0	82.79
TOTALS	\$6,292.39	1,007.30	1,345.49	\$6,838.70

Notes (in case you're wondering)

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

Council Corner for May 2020 By William Birdsall, council president

Well, here we are another month later but now it's starting to feel like Groundhog's day every day. Remember the movie starring Bill Murray and Andie MacDowell, yes every day was the same as the day before and Bill Murray couldn't do anything to change the circumstances. It was always Ground Hogs day. With our stay at home orders I think many of us may feel the same way as Murray did in the movie. However we have been very fortunate that Pastor Jim and a crew of volunteers have worked hard to film and produce some very professional YouTubes of not only Sunday services but also all of the other Lenten services we would normally have during this season of the year. This is a job being well done and I'm sure has helped all of us get through these unusual times. Every day is not the same because of this effort. Thank You Pastor Jim.

Remember the butterfly that visited our church for the past few months, she came again and this time she did her magic in the Narthex. The walls and trim are freshly painted, the welcome desk has been redone and a brand new custom built, free standing tag stand has been added to replace the big old wall unit. I have to tell you the room is bright and cheery and feels much larger. The First Impressions Task Force has done a wonderful job in improving our first impression as we enter the church and I know you will all agree. Thanks also to our dedicated men who have been improving our landscaping including John Braun, Jon Tetting, Craig Carlson, Rollie Heimbach, Ritch Cassem, Byron Kirkpatrick and anyone else that I overlooked.

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 further notice. 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.

The church council has not had a formal meeting in the month of March so there is no council business to comment on at this time. However I have stayed in close contact with Pastor and council members regarding any items that need attention. God Bless you, stay healthy and safe. Can't wait to see you all again soon.