



GLORIA DEI

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GATHERING IN CHRIST ✝ SHARING HIS LOVE

THE GLORION

November, 2020

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

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 – 9:30 a.m.

FROM THE PASTOR

November, 2020

In addition to the Zoom meetings that I attend to take care of Gloria Dei business and fellowship, I attend 3 or more Zoom video conferences every month with my fellow interim pastors around the synod. These are highly informative and helpful meetings during which we have an opportunity to pray and to share ideas and concerns that are unique to our transitional ministry. I hear all different kinds of stories that reflect the myriad congregational dynamics and situations that occur in parish life.



Just before I wrote this, I attended one of those virtual interim pastor meetings hosted by Deacon Connie Schmucker, Assistant to the Bishop for Leadership. I heard uplifting reports that two or three other congregations are interviewing candidates and the joyous news that one church recently called a new pastor who will start at the end of November. Conversely, I heard the sad news that two of my colleagues had decided that their ministry at their present site was coming to an end because they felt that, due to conflict and tension amongst the members, their ministry was no longer effective. I also heard talk of congregations that are no longer able to support their ministry financially and are faced with the prospect of merging with another congregation or closing altogether.

So, when it was my turn on the “Hollywood Squares” (those of you who join our Sunday Virtual Coffee Hour know the drill) you can imagine how elated I was to share all of the good news that is ours at Gloria Dei. I praised the call committee for their diligence and attention to detail in developing the Ministry Site Profile and the report on the 7 Reflections on Ministry that was recently submitted to the Office of the Bishop for approval. I let my colleagues know that I have the absolute best Worship Team in the synod, that our weekly worship service is outstanding and that our first attempt at Drive-in communion was extremely successful due to their efforts.

Yes, there is a lot happening at Gloria Dei. And the work keeps getting done, worship keeps happening both virtually and now also in the parking lot, all because the members of our church family care about each other. We are staying connected because we take the time to reach out.

Phone calls are being made by countless members to offer a word of support and love. Hearing someone’s voice on the other end of the phone brings comfort, peace, and wholeness. You never know when that 5-minute phone call will make all the difference in someone’s day or in someone’s life. During the pandemic I think this is the best way that we can keep our family connected.

Emails and Zoom meetings keep our brothers and sisters in touch and continue the work of the Kingdom. If you haven't joined us on Sunday morning at 11 for virtual coffee because you don't know how to work Zoom, please call me and I'll guide you through the steps to get connected.

We are about to embark on a new and exciting chapter in our ministry together which will lead us to calling a new shepherd for our wonderful congregation. It will get tough at times. At other times there will be such joy that we will not be able to contain it. When the new pastor is called I will praise God that I have been given the opportunity to lead such a great congregation but sad that I will have to say "good-bye."

And through it all, the Lord God will be there in the midst of it, touching our souls with heavenly peace, filling our hearts with goodness, healing our ills through the power of the Holy Spirit, and giving us strength to persevere through the pandemic.

God is good. All the time. All the time. God is good.
See you in the parking lot and on the internet! *Pastor Jim*

COMMUNITY NOTICES RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

Members or friends hospitalized or had surgery in October: Richard Smith, Jane Kunde, Madalon Ritter, Diane 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.

5

GIFTS OF REMEMBRANCE

In loving memory of:

Ruby Wanland

Gayle Bloom/Be Prepared Fund

In honor of:

To the Glory of God

Debbie & Ritch Cassem/Flowers

WELCA CHRISTMAS PARTY-CANCELLED

The WELCA Christmas Party scheduled for December 2020 has been cancelled due to COVID-19. We hope for the best to have it next year in December 2021. Stay Safe & God Bless.

Loraine Van Haecke

PRAYERS

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

- 11/01** Darby Walbon & Karen Schaefer, Bill & Diane Wasser,
Joel & Sharon Weinhardt, Earl West, Hazel Wolfgram
- 11/08** Celia Wollner, Mike & Janine Wurzer, Chuck & Joy Yonko,
Jim & Patti Young, Art Zerbel
- 11/15** Dennis & Jane Zimmerman, Nancy Almquist, Don & Helen Ames,
Sue Anderson, Ted & Dorothy Baehmann
- 11/22** Jean Baer & Fred Schenck, Janet Bauer, Forrest & Carol Berg,
Bill & Kathleen, Gayle Bloom
- 11/29** Joyce Brandt & Ron Werner, John & Janet Braun,
Doug & Pat Bressler, Craig & Christine Carlson,
Ritch & Debbie Cassem

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- | | | |
|-------|------------------------------|-----------|
| 11/03 | Richard & Marilyn Czaprynski | 66 years* |
| 11/30 | Patricia & Doug Bressler | 63 years* |

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

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|-------|------------------|-------|---------------|
| 11/01 | Jim Rieb | 11/04 | John Kelly |
| 11/07 | Terri Pawelski | 11/10 | Craig Carlson |
| 11/10 | Elizabeth Snyder | 11/11 | Andy Mincer |
| 11/18 | Dock Lias | 11/22 | Hanna Mann |
| 11/22 | Jane Zimmerman | 11/27 | Lynn Crane |

MEDIA TEAM

CHECK OUT OUR CHURCH WEBSITE AT: 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.

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

Last month's article was about the symbolism of birds in the stained-glass windows throughout the church. This month we'll talk about the process of creating and installing the windows.

Several years prior to the dedication of the church in 1984 a committee of church members was formed to commission the creation of stained-glass windows. They visited White Stained Glass, Inc. in Sarasota, FL. This is a family-run business that originally started in Canton, OH in 1966 and moved to Sarasota in the late '70s. I interviewed Ron Estep, the owner of White for this article.

The church members and the White company met numerous times to discuss themes and color schemes. The church members would give their ideas and the White company artists would create renderings which would go through numerous revisions.

Eventually, everything was in place and production began. The first windows were those in the body of the church, which were installed in 1984. Each large window cost approximately \$2,000. In today's dollars that is \$5,000. The setting sun clerestory window in the loft was \$2,800 or \$7,100 in today's dollars.

The nave stained-glass windows of Saints Peter and Paul, two angels, and the symbols for the four writers of the gospels were not installed until 1994 at a cost of \$7,800 or \$20,000 in today's dollars. There is no record of where the money came from for the windows, but it was probably through individual donations, fund raisers, and capital campaigns.

This is the last installment of Gloria Dei history. I hope you have enjoyed learning more about your church. Thank you for your many positive comments about these articles.

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 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: Everyone should have received information regarding how the Salvation Army Christmas angel tree will be managed. If you have any questions you can contact Joyce Brandt -joyce.brandt56@gmail.com or 352-787-9639.

Lake Children's Advocacy: \$500 was donated to Lake Children's Advocacy. Lake Children' Advocacy provides a friendly facility where a child victim can be safely interviewed, receive medical care and long term specialized counselling if needed.

Salvation Army Holiday Meals. \$300 was donated to Salvation Army to support Holiday Meals provided to needy.

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

Joyce Brandt, Chairman

JHIFM (JOINING HANDS IN FOOD MINISTRY)

Thank you to the 35 Joining Hands in Food Ministry (JHIFM) volunteers who turned out this beautiful fall morning to feed 511 individuals from 154 needy families a total of 10,225 pounds of nutritious food! Great work today! I have posted some photos 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" on the left side of the page. Be sure to "Like" us on Facebook! Ritch Cassem

Pastor's Report for September 2020

During September 2020 I:

- ✚ Prepared and preached 4 sermons
- ✚ Scheduled personnel for 3 video recording sessions (one double session)
- ✚ Developed scripts for 3 video recording sessions (one double session)
- ✚ Recorded 4 Sunday services
- ✚ Reviewed and approved 4 worship videos
- ✚ Prepared Pastor's report for August
- ✚ Hosted one Zoom Executive Committee meeting
- ✚ Hosted one Zoom Council meeting
- ✚ Planned for and attended one Emergency Council meeting
- ✚ Edited 4 bulletins
- ✚ Presided at the graveside interment for Ruby Wanland
- ✚ Contributed articles to and edited the October Glorion.
- ✚ Attended 2 Zoom interim ministers' conferences
- ✚ Made numerous phone calls and wrote numerous emails.
- ✚ Worked a total of 16 days.
- ✚ Planned for and hosted 3 Sunday morning Zoom Virtual Coffee Hours.
- ✚ Provided ongoing consultation with Call Committee
- ✚ Travelled 629 miles commuting and providing pastoral care.
- ✚ Continued the research on the video system.
- ✚ Had prayer with the Wired Word virtual class each Sunday morning.
- ✚ Reviewed and approved hymns for October
- ✚ Coordinated production of PowerPoint slides for video sessions
- ✚ Continued to provide technical assistance to parishioners wishing to join Zoom meetings and coffee hour
- ✚ Initiated plans for special congregational meeting on October 11.
- ✚ Took 4 non-paid days off.
- ✚ Planned for and hosted one Zoom Social Ministries committee meeting.
- ✚ Installed the Pastoral Call Committee during the video session on Sept. 9
- ✚ Arranged for pastoral care during my vacation.
- ✚ Helped Leesburg High School Student Matthew Hill with his Eagle Scout project to gather personal care items, clothing, and backpacks for victims of human trafficking. Social Ministries allocated \$500 to the project and I coordinated purchase and delivery of the items.

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

FINANCIAL CORNER

GENERAL FUND

	September, 2020	Year to date 9/30/2020
Contributions	\$16,982.95	\$173,825.47
Expenditures	\$19,185.59	\$169,813.05

RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Beg. 8/01/2020	Donations	Expenditures	Ending 8/31/20
Elementary School	383.36	0	0	383.36
Oak Park Middle	812.22	100.00	0	912.22
Coffee Project	394.58	0	0	394.58
Thrivent Choice \$	1,734.04	0	0	1,734.04
Basket Social	282.51	0	0	282.51
Eternal Light	515.00	0	0	515.00
Fellowship	244.12	0	5.99	238.13
JHIF	0	50.00	50.00	0
World Hunger	0	22.00	22.00	0
ELCA	0	90.00	90.00	0
Flowers	(125.00)	0	0	(125.00)
Altar wine/bread	107.79	0	0	107.79
TOTALS	\$4,348.62	262.00	167.99	\$4,442.63

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	\$6267.35

Council Corner for September 2020

By William Birdsall, council president

The work never stops for the Church Council. There is always something for us to consider, debate and make decisions on. Our most current issues are the 2021 budget and how our call for a new pastor, as well as needed repairs to our church, is challenging our council. It appears that our Call committee efforts over these last 5 months have impressed our Synod representatives and they are anxious to move things forward faster than we anticipated. Therefore, we must fashion our 2021 budget to include our new Pastor's salary, benefits, moving expenses and other costs. We expect to have the 2021 budget ready for the congregation's review and comment by late November. The vote on the budget will take place at the Annual Congregational meeting in January, 2021.

I am happy to report that the new HVAC system has been installed in the downstairs offices with little disturbance and is working as expected. Currently all seven HVAC systems in the building are working well.

Arlene Kelly, Council Vice President, who headed up the church deep cleaning project reports that all the cleaning of high surfaces, carpets and pew cushions has been successfully completed. This completes all of the cleaning items for the "Safeguard the Sanctuary from COVID-19" project.

The Council is seeking a new Maintenance Supervisor to assume the position that I currently hold. I assumed this position late last year but have found that I cannot do both jobs. Since we have hired Bob Keim to maintain the grounds including the lawn and landscaping, the Maintenance Supervisor will focus mainly on the interior and exterior of the church building. If you or someone you know is interested in assuming this position please let me, any council member, or Mary Beth know.

As we move forward during and after the pandemic the council knows that evangelism will be paramount to growing and maintaining our congregation. We need additional new members for this committee as the pandemic has challenged our traditional thinking and we need to do things differently than we have in the past. If you are interested in participating in this new challenge please let me, any council member or Mary Beth know.

Lastly, there will be a vacancy on the Council at the end of this year as Rollie Heimbach's term is ending. If you are interested in serving Gloria Dei in this position, please contact me or any council member.

In closing you should know that the Executive Committee and the Church Council will continue to meet monthly to attend to the business of our church. God

Bless you and please stay safe and healthy. - *Bill*

2020 Call Committee News

Temple Talk

2020 Call Committee

October 14, 2020

Good Morning. I am Elizabeth Sanguedolce, one of the Call Committee members. My specific job on the Call Committee is communications, so I write the Glorion articles you see each month.

This morning I'd like to share some of the work we have been doing and where we are in the process. We are finished with the document called a Ministry Site Profile, giving a picture of who we are as a congregation, where we are located in the community, our mission and our expectations for a new pastor. Based on this Profile, Synod will then locate a pastor looking for a congregation like ours. Pastors also complete a large profile document, so Synod can identify a match.

We are very excited to be this far in the process. The Ministry Site Profile now goes to our church Council to review and make any changes they would like. After their review and approval, the document will move to Synod. You will also be able to see this finished product. Your input was very helpful in preparing this document, because you responded to our survey in August. Thank you for your help and survey choices, which made a more accurate picture of our church's wishes. Now we are one step closer to calling our new pastor.

Covid 19 has changed all of our lives this year. We are not sure how our church will operate in the future. There are so many unknowns. We can only pray for God's guidance as we go forward. I like to say that this situation is not a surprise to Him. We need to trust in Him.

--Elizabeth Sanguedolce,
Communications Chair
2020 Call Committee

2020 Call Committee News

Progress

The Call Committee has completed the Ministry Site profile (MSP), Council has given it their blessing and it has been sent to Synod for their review. Preliminary conversations with a Synod representative indicate that our submission of the MSP has been very well received and it appears it may progress faster than originally anticipated.

As explained in the past, the MSP gives a picture of who we are as a congregation, where we are located in the community, our mission and our expectations of a new pastor. Based on this Profile, Synod will then locate pastors looking for a congregation like ours. Pastors also complete a similar profile document, so Synod can identify a match.

Next Step

The Call Committee is now in the process of preparing an information packet about our church. This packet will provide potential pastors a visual look of who we are as a congregation as well as information regarding our town and surrounding areas. The Ministry Site Profile will soon be available for you to see, and you will receive directions for accessing it on the website.

Prayer

The Call Committee continues to meet weekly and share devotions about the Holy Spirit coming to early Christians and guiding their decisions in church issues of the time. We feel that, as in those early times, the Holy Spirit has guided our committee through the MSP and will continue to speak to us through the rest of the call process. Every meeting of the Call Committee begins with prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the work that is being done.

Thank you for your continued prayers for our Call Committee work and for our new pastor. We are very excited to be this far in the process and look forward to our next steps.

--Elizabeth Sanguedolce,
Communications Chair
2020 Call Committee



Let us pray for all of our friends and relatives who have passed on since November 2019:

Ella Zoellner	November 8, 2019
Gordon (Russ) Russell	November 24, 2019
Rachel Lesser	March 2, 2020
Renny Almquist	March 6, 2020
Rev. Sam Goins	April 1, 2020
Kenneth Schultz	April 12, 2020
Bev Heinlen	April 30, 2020
Rudy Trapiss	May 23, 2020
Ardelle Fish	June 13, 2020
Carolyn Schirmer	July 12, 2020
Ruby Wanland	August 22, 2020
Dick Seitz	September 4, 2020
Cal Lauer	September 4, 2020
Carolyn Gordon	September 18, 2020

**THANK YOU NOTE
FROM
LEESBURG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Dear Gloria Dei Lutheran Church,

It is with great joy I write to you about your support for Leesburg Elementary. Your donation will put smiles on so many of our students.

Thank you for your great generosity! We at Leesburg Elementary greatly appreciate your donation and sacrifice. Together we are making a difference.

Your donation of sneakers will help so many of our needy families. Simply put, if it wasn't for faithful supporters like you, we wouldn't be able to help so many needy students.

With deepest gratitude, and warmest wishes.

Florence Katzenberger, Family School Liaison
Leesburg, Elementary School

**Thank you note to Gloria Dei Quilters
From Arlene Lauer**

God directs our paths in life, the places we will go, the many ways our lives are changed by everyone we know and sometimes He provides for us a very special friend. May God bless you always.

Thanks for your kindness and wonderful friendship. Again, thank you so much for the beautiful card and thoughts. May God bless you ladies always,
Arlene Lauer & The Lauer Family

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

