

GLORIA DEI
LUTHERAN CHURCH

GATHERING IN CHRIST † SHARING HIS LOVE

THE GLORION

September, 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

September, 2020

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

What is the word that God wants us to hear today? I ponder this question as I'm preparing my sermons each week. It helps me to listen for the "still small voice" of God and then try my best to bring God's word(s) to you.

Mostly, God wants us to know that we are loved with a love that is constant, that is comforting, that is unconditional. Everything that we have is from God, including this boundless love and compassion. God knows that these are drastic times that call for drastic measures. Yet, in the midst of all our mask-wearing, hand-sanitizer-using, social-distancing world, God's love still surrounds us.

God also wants us to know that everything is going to be all right! Yes, it's true. And we Christians believe this at the very core of our being. The Psalmist knew this very well and wrote in Psalm 30:5b,

*"Weeping may linger for the night,
but joy comes with the morning."*

God wants us to know that we're never alone, that God is walking in front of us, showing us the way. God is walking behind us, covering our back and supporting us. God walks beside us with a gentle touch, an encouraging word, a promise of God's constant presence. Even when we stray, God walks with us.

God wants us to know that we are allowed to "cut ourselves a break" now and then. Too often we tell ourselves that we have to be strong for others, that we can't show our true selves when we feel down and discouraged or just plain tired. But we are not God, we are not invincible, and sometimes we simply set the standard for ourselves too high. Remember, God loves you no matter what you're doing or what you're feeling or where you are physically, emotionally, spiritually, financially. And, with that love comes the permission to be vulnerable, to let our guard down every once in a while, to simply be at peace while "leaning on the everlasting arms."

I pray daily for each of you. We will get through this pandemic together and emerge from it even stronger than we were before. We will face the challenge of a new "normal" side by side, hearts bound tightly together in Christian love. We will share with each other the same words of love, peace, and compassion that we have heard from God through his son, Jesus Christ.

May God bless you and keep you and may God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you all the days of your life.

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

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Ruby Wanland died **August 22, 2020**. Our hearts and prayers to Ruby's family and Charlotte Christensen and her family at this difficult time. There will be a private graveside ceremony at Greenwood Cemetery in Groveland. A memorial service will be held when we open up for in-person worship.

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

Members or friends hospitalized or had surgery in August: Betty Ann Huebner, Anne Rusk, Sharon LaHood, Carol Marshall

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 honor of:

Our birthdays

Debbie & Ritch Cassem/Flowers

PRAYERS

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

09/06 James, Quiana & Julian Menchaca, Andy & Taeko Mincer,
Mary Moore, Merle & Rita Moritz, Gloria Moulton

09/13 Gladys Mull, Brian & Karen Mundy, Marilyn Nelson,
Clarence & Ples Norris, Terri Pawelski

09/20 Paul Proulx, Linda Rapatas, Sandy Retz,
Mary Rhoades, Jim & June Rieb

09/27 Ron & Linda Riikonen, Madalon Ritter, Jan Rudolph,
Anne Rusk, Lillian Russo

VACATIONS

Pastor Jim will be on vacation September 12-19. I will be on vacation the same week. Therefore, the office will be closed Monday, September 14 through Friday, September 18th. I will be checking my email daily, so if you need anything, please email me at gloriadeilutheranleesburg@gmail.com. For emergency pastoral care, please call Jim Gable @717-475-5822.

Mary Beth Morris, Office Manager

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

9/03	Forrest & Carol Berg	60 years*
9/08	Bill & Diane Wasser	24 years
9/09	Steve & Mary Greer	26 years
9/14	Rollie & Pat Heimbach	52 years*
9/16	Donald & Kathleen Eisinger	71 years*
9/19	Ernest & Hanna Mann	67 years*
9/20	Janine & Mike Wurzer	7 years
9/27	John & Janet Braun	59 years*
9/28	Ray & Roseanne Knudsen	63 years*

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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/02	Kathleen Birdsall	9/04	Lorraine Hughes
9/05	Michael Clark	9/05	Martha Ellis
9/09	Donna Tarnok	9/10	Sandy Retz
9/11	Richard Cassem	9/13	Martin Holleran
9/16	Debbie Cassem	9/18	Bernice Heiser
9/19	Celia Wollner	9/22	Sue Engel
9/22	Carol Snyder	9/23	Dottsie Grins
9/25	Quiana Menchaca	9/26	Crystal Kirkpatrick
9/28	Judy Eads	9/28	Mary Grissom

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 the church directory and volunteer for Worship Ministries or make a Worship Donation.

JHIFM (JOINING HANDS IN FOOD MINISTRY)

A BIG THANK YOU to all the volunteers who turned out on a hot morning August 14 to help distribute 7,235 pounds of food to 417 individuals from 125 local families in need. You can see photos of today's distribution on our Facebook page at [Facebook.com/feedinghopenow/](https://www.facebook.com/feedinghopenow/). Just click on "Posts" on the left side of the page.

Ritch Cassem

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

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

In 2006 Gloria Dei supported a mission church in Wildwood, FL, which eventually became Rock of Ages Lutheran Church. In 2019 Rock of Ages opened their new worship center and invited Gloria Dei members to attend the opening. Gloria Dei assisted a volunteer in the new church to become a minister.

Gloria Dei also supported Lutheran Outdoor Ministries for camperships and Luther Springs Activities.

Joining Hands in Food Ministry, a cooperative effort between Gloria Dei and the First Presbyterian Church of Leesburg held its first food distribution in October of 2010. In 2013, JHIFM was granted 501(c)(3) status. Thanks to a bequest from a GDLG member, a new van was purchased in 2017. JHIFM is an authorized partner agency of Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida and a 2018 Grant Recipient of the United Way of Lake and Sumter Counties. Gloria Dei Thrivent Financial members use their Action Team grants to fund \$250 of food for each month.



(Editor's note: The above picture was taken pre-COVID-19)

In 2015, Funeral Plan booklets were implemented and made available to GDLC members to complete. These books contained information about funeral wishes making it easier for survivors of the deceased. Members retain a copy and another copy is kept in the church office.

The Welcome Desk in the narthex continued to be refined with the addition of a welcome bag filled with goodies, such as a newsletter, a Gloria Dei brochure, information about the Joining Hands in Food Ministry, the Lord's Prayer bookmark, and a Gloria Dei pen. The most popular item in the bag is the packet of M&Ms that represents Missional Ministries.

In 2017 Gloria Dei participated in the Traveling Martin Luther (aka Flat Luther) project, which was a fun



way to keep Martin's Good News message of God's grace moving. Congregation members enjoyed taking small paper figures of Martin on vacation and to church activities. This was in conjunction with the 500th anniversary of the Reformation that was celebrated on Sunday, October 31, 2017.

Gloria Dei members also make time to have fun. The social time after worship continues to be well attended. Periodic events such as Mardi Gras, Bingo, and Octoberfest give us all the opportunity to enjoy time with each other.

In 2016 Paul Motto joined Gloria Dei as the new organist and music minister. In addition, hearing enhancers were purchased to assist people with hearing aids who still have difficulty hearing the worship service.

In 2018, a multimedia sign was installed in front of the church. Its colorful graphics highlight the many activities and sermon series that take place at Gloria Dei.

As of this date, the narthex is being updated with new paint, name tag holders, and a streamlined area with containers for donations of items, such as personal care items, warm weather clothing, and other seasonal donation items.

(The Gloria Dei history articles this year have been based on research by Bill Swinford)

Pastor's Report for July 2020

During July 2020 I:

- ✠ Prepared and preached 4 sermons
- ✠ Scheduled personnel for 5 video recording sessions
- ✠ Developed scripts for 5 video recording sessions
- ✠ Recorded 5 Sunday services
- ✠ Reviewed and approved 5 worship videos
- ✠ Prepared Pastor's report for June
- ✠ Attended one Zoom Executive Committee meeting
- ✠ Attended one Zoom Council meeting
- ✠ Planned for and attended one special Zoom Council meeting
- ✠ Edited 4 bulletins
- ✠ Contributed articles to and edited the August Glorion.
- ✠ Attended 3 Zoom interim minister's COVID-19 conferences
- ✠ Made numerous phone calls and wrote numerous emails.
- ✠ Worked a total of 19 days.
- ✠ Planned for and hosted 4 Sunday morning Zoom Virtual Coffee Hours.
- ✠ Provided ongoing consultation with Call Committee
- ✠ Travelled 594 miles commuting and visiting parishioners.
- ✠ Continued the research on the video system.
- ✠ Developed a \$50K capital improvements campaign entitled "Be Prepared."
- ✠ Researched the special features of Zoom conferencing.
- ✠ Had prayer with the Wired Word virtual class each Sunday morning.
- ✠ Coordinated deliver of another 500 free masks from the Department of Health.
- ✠ Coordinated review of updated constitution with the Office of the Bishop. Made additional corrections/additions. Planned Zoom congregational meeting for August 23, 2020.
- ✠ Coordinated purchase of new lighting for video production
- ✠ Attended 2 Pinelands Conference Rostered Leader Zoom Gatherings
- ✠ Reviewed and approved hymns for August
- ✠ Coordinated production of PowerPoint slides for video sessions

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

FINANCIAL CORNER

GENERAL FUND

	July, 2020	Year to date 7/31/2020
Contributions	\$16,379.43	\$140,998.24
Expenditures	\$23,731.41	\$131,050.62

RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Beg. 7/01/2020	Donations	Expenditures	Ending 7/31/20
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 \$	2,868.04	54.00	0	2,922.04
Basket Social	282.51	0	0	282.51
Eternal Light	515.00	0	0	515.00
Fellowship	295.21	0	5.99	289.22
JHIF	0	50.00	50.00	0
World Hunger	0	62.00	62.00	0
ELCA	0	105.00	105.00	0
Flowers	(125.00)	0	0	(125.00)
Quilt shipping	0	0	0	0
Altar wine/bread	107.79	0	0	107.79
TOTALS	\$5,502.72	271.00	217.00	\$5,556.72

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.

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

Council Corner for September 2020

By William Birdsall, council president

When I was a child, playing with my toy trucks and cars, I would zoom them around the house and also outside. I would say zoom, zoom, zooooom and away they would go. Well, lately, “zoom” has a whole different meaning than it did 65 years ago. As adults we now use Zoom in a completely different way. These days we “Zoom” on our computers and/or our cell phones to communicate with our families, friends and fellow congregants.

With the aid of Zoom, the church council and executive committee meet at least once monthly to conduct the business of the church. And just last Sunday we held a Zoom congregational meeting. What a wonderful piece of technology to have available to us during these times of the COVID-19 pandemic.

What I want to stress today is how valuable the Zoom Virtual Coffee Hours are to me, as they allow me and the others who attend an opportunity to see our friends and get up on what’s going on in this world around us. It sure beats watching the same old reruns and reality shows on TV. I really hope you would take some time on Sundays at 11:00am, to sign on to zoom and join in on the fun.

This last month the council regretfully accepted the resignation of Leone Goding and appointed Rollie Heimbach to fill her vacancy until the end of the year. We felt that Rollie was a good choice since he has served on the Council in the past. Welcome aboard, Rollie!

If you think you would be interested in serving on the Council next year, now is the time to start preparing. I suggest you make your interest known to the council so we can include you as a guest in future council Zoom meetings.

Now that September is here the council will be starting to work on the 2021 budget. We believe this will require some time and hard work mainly because we are in different times and are not sure what lies ahead of us in the coming year, but I feel confident that we will get the job done. Also, If you have not yet made a contribution to the Be Prepared fund raising campaign please do so, as this will help us accomplish the campaign’s goals without taking the money from our reserves.

Well life must go on, maybe not as usual, but if we can all stay safe and healthy, we will do this together with a little help from our friends. Hope to see you soon!

2020 Call Committee News

Ministry Site Profile Survey

Thank you very much for your survey response! We are so excited that Gloria Dei members returned at a 60% rate, considered excellent in the survey world. We are now in the process of applying your responses to the Synod requirements, a daunting task.

The Call Process

The process itself has twelve steps and within these steps there are numerous sub steps, questions to be answered and different people to be contacted. It is a lengthy process, which is somewhat frustrating for us and for you as we await a new pastor. Here are the steps:

1. Current pastor resigns or retires...there is a celebration of ministry together
2. Congregation receives a transition or interim pastor
3. A ministry assessment and discernment process occurs
4. The call process begins and the call committee is formed
5. The Congregational Ministry Site Profile (MSP) is created
6. A Call List is formed
7. Candidate interviews
8. Primary candidate identified and interviewed by Council
9. Congregation meets primary candidate
10. Congregation votes to extend a call; pastor accepts or declines (if declines, back to step 8)
11. Installation
12. Evaluation of the process

Progress

The call Committee was formed (step 4) in May of 2020, a little more than a year after step 1 occurred. Using an 80-page manual, we have managed to get through the major part of the MSP, step 5, in just 3 months. We want our responses to be thoughtful and concise, giving a true picture of Gloria Dei. When the MSP is completed, the Council will critique and vote on it. The document will then be sent to the membership of Gloria Dei so that you can see the progress and what will be sent to Synod for their consideration.

(continued on next page)

If you are interested in seeing a sample of the MSP just go to www.ELCA.org/Call-Process/Ministry-Sites and look for Ministry Site Profile in the “sample forms” box.

Uniquely Lutheran

The Lutheran Call Process is unique because it is an effort to discern what God wants for Gloria Dei and the whole church, so that the Gospel may be proclaimed and the sacraments administered in accordance with the Gospel.

Prayer

The Call Committee continues to meet weekly and share devotions about the Holy Spirit (Book of Acts, Chapter 17) coming to early Christians and guiding their decisions in church issues of the time. The committee is praying fervently for the guidance of the Holy Spirit during this process that is very laborious. We believe the Holy Spirit is holding our hands as we proceed.

The foremost question the Call Committee keeps in mind is: “are we doing the work that God desires for our congregation?” Human preferences and personalities never come before the mission to which God calls His people. That is why every meeting of the Call Committee begins with prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the work that is being done.

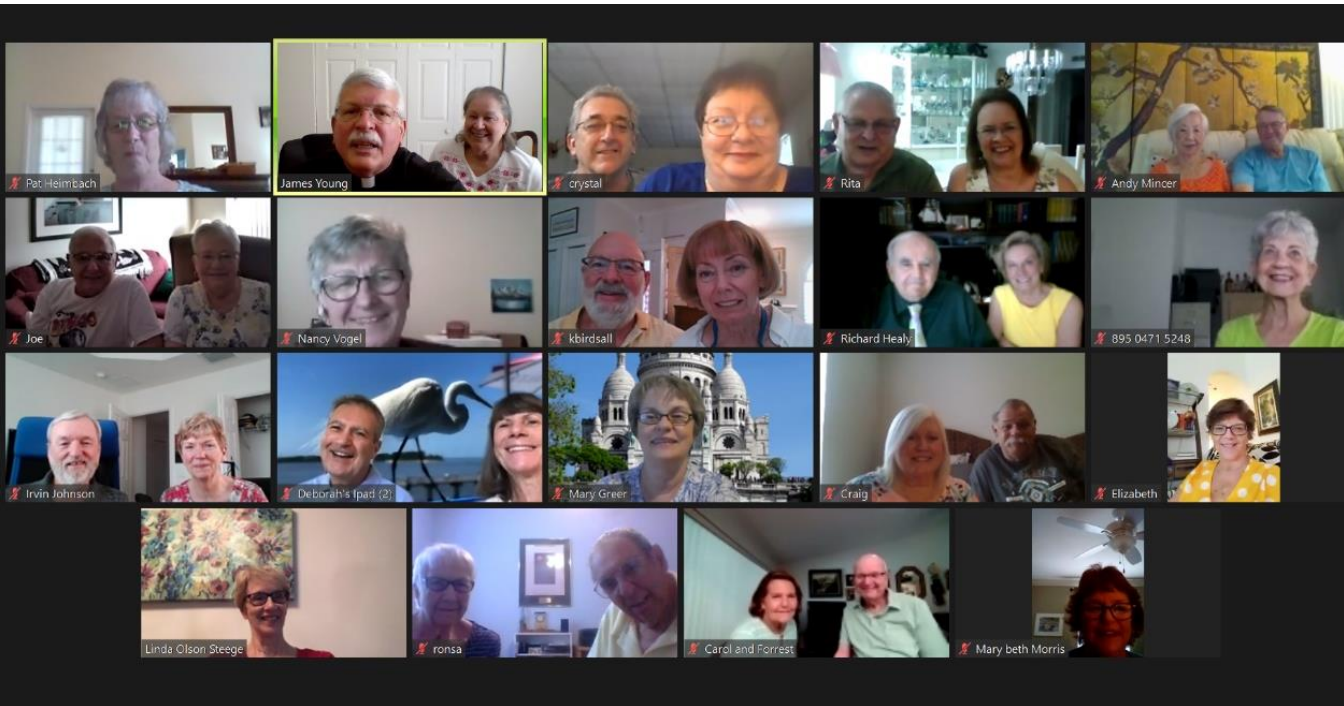
Your continued prayers are so appreciated! The Call Committee gives you continued thanks as we work diligently to develop the needed information to prepare for our call of a new pastor for Gloria Dei.

--Elizabeth Sanguedolce,
Communications Chair
2020 Call Committee

(Editor’s note: The members of the call committee are: Kathleen Birdsall, Pat Heimbach, John Braun, Elizabeth Sanguedolce, Sharon LaHood, Chris Carlson, and Art Zerbel,)

Zoom Virtual Coffee Hour

Something new at Gloria Dei has been our Zoom Virtual Coffee Hour that goes from 11:00am to Noon every Sunday. Below are the smiling faces of those who attended on Sunday, August 2, 2020. The Coffee Hour is fun and allows everyone a chance to tell the group what's been happening in their lives for the past week. Especially during these times of disconnection due to quarantine and social distancing it's good to connect with each other. If you need help getting into Zoom please go to the homepage on our website under "Coffee, Anyone?"



Top row: Pat Heimbach, Pastor Jim and Patti Young, Byron and Crystal Kirkpatrick, Merle and Rita Morita, Taeko and Andy Mincer
Second Row: Joe and Sharon LaHood, Nancy Vogel, Bill and Kathleen Birdsall, Dick and Bev Healy, Pat Bressler
Third Row: Irv and Sue Johnson, Ritch and Debbie Cassem, Mary Greer, Christ and Craig Carlson, Elizabeth Sanguedolce
Bottom Row: Linda Steege, Joyce Brandt and Ron Werner, Carol and Forrest Berg, Mary Beth Morris

Be Prepared

By Pastor Jim

Many of you have been asking lately, “What will the chancel of Gloria Dei look like with TV screens on the wall?” “Will it look like a sports bar?” “Will I feel like I’ve joined a Hip-Hop church?”

(Disclaimer: This picture is for demonstration purposes only and was produced by computer graphic software.)



I hope that the above picture, which was prepared using computer graphics software and is not representative of what the chancel looks like now, will help you all to understand how beautiful our church will be when inspiring, tasteful images are projected. The image shown on these screens is a stained-glass window depicting the Nativity of Christ which might be used to enhance our Christmas Eve service.

An upgraded video system is one part of our “Be Prepared” capital funds program. Please consider your donation to support all three facets of this program: the video system, COVID-19 safety upgrades, and a Moving/Move-in fund for our new pastor. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

The Benefits of Singing

BY MADISYN TAYLOR

The act of singing is one of the easiest ways to raise the vibration of your body as you harmonize with the universe.

Singing is an act of vibration. It takes music from the realm of the unformed - - whether that is in your mind or from that magical space of inspiration -- and moves it from within to without. From the first breath, singing moves the energy in a circular way inside your body. As the breath fills your lungs, it brushes against the second and third chakras -- the centers of creation and honoring self and others. Instead of merely exhaling, pushing the air past the fourth and fifth chakras where heart chakra and the center of will and intention reside, singing engages both the heart and mind. Sound vibrations from vocal cords resonate in the sinus cavities, filling the head with motion and sound while the brain lights up with the processing of the mathematics of music. This marriage of activities brings the third eye into play and opens the door for inspiration from the crown chakra before sending the sound out into the world.

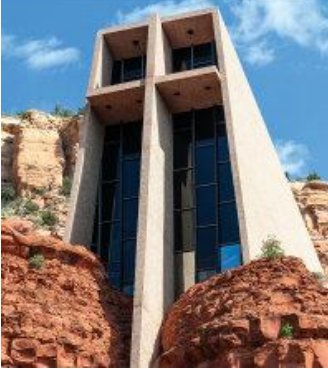
Once the vibration begins, it is sustained with each note, moving throughout your body and the space around you. This can help you to harmonize your frequency with the world and with the divine. The use of the voice can bring about catharsis, a cleansing from the expression of emotion, which is why we feel better after singing certain types of songs. All of this occurs even if we are not conscious of what we are singing, but when we really connect with an intention, the power of the voice and music together are powerful tools in creation.

Even if you are not a singer by nature or talent, you are not left out. If you have a voice, it is your birthright to celebrate life with song. It doesn't matter if you don't feel you have a nice voice. Chanting or humming, singing solo or with others, your voice is yours to enjoy. Whether you sing along to the radio or use vocalization as part of your meditation time, singing and harmonizing are healing activities that bring your body's vibrations into alignment with the universe.

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Christ in Our Home

July, August, September
2020



Christ in Our Home Devotionals by E-mail (for free!)

Did you know that you can receive the “Christ in Our Home” devotional by email? Augsburg Fortress, the ELCA publishing house, has made this available without charge through the end of September, 2020. This complimentary service is being provided because of COVID-19. If you would like to get the daily devotional sent to your email each morning, simply visit <http://www.augsburgfortress.org>, click on the “Worship” tab at the top, then click on “devotionals.” Under Christ in our home, click the “Shop Now” tab. Under “Christ in Our Home: Email Edition” click on the “Sign Up” button, fill in your

name and email address, and you’ll start receiving a free devotional every morning to start your day.

Having trouble getting your free email subscription? Just call Pastor Jim at 352.425.4889.

The church will continue to get regular and large print versions of this devotional. Stop by the church office on Tuesday or Wednesday to pick up your copy.

General Election Voting

The general election is approaching on November 3, and I am getting together a volunteer team of drivers to help those in need to get to the voting station.

Do you need help getting to the polling station?

Are you concerned about mailing your ballot because of the slowdown of the postal service?

If so, maybe I can help, either with a ride so that you can cast your ballot in person, or a ride to deliver your mail-in ballot to the drop box.

If you would like help or are willing to join the team of drivers, please contact me by phone at 253-740-3063 or email at lindagloriad@gmail.com

Linda Hide

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		