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# GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

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GATHERING IN CHRIST ✝ SHARING HIS LOVE

**THE GLORION**

**April, 2021**

[www.gloriadeielca.com](http://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](http://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 – SUSPENDED DUE TO COVID**

**DRIVE-IN COMMUNION: TUESDAYS @ 2:00 P.M.**

## Pastor's Message

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

This joyful Eastertide, away with sin and sorrow!  
My love, the Crucified, has sprung to life this morrow.  
Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day prison,  
our faith had been in vain.  
But now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen, arisen.

*(Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymn #391)*

What joy these words bring to my heart! This is one of my favorite Easter hymns, and it seems even more joyous this year because, in ways, it seems like we have just been through an entire year of Lent. Our world has been in a dark place, too many changes have been made in our lives (by necessity), too many loved ones have become ill, and many have died from COVID-19.

But, as I said in my homily during Drive In Communion on Tuesday, March 23, we are called to see the silver lining in the clouds that come our way. One of those silver linings has been in the new shape of our worship and our congregational life.

In the past year we have improved our online worship experience. We started out our journey with just a short service with me standing in the pulpit reading the lesson, giving the sermon and offering prayers. It progressed with the addition of readers (Byron Kirkpatrick and Arlene Kelly), an assisting minister (Pat Bressler), music and lyrics led by our Music Director Paul Motto, and after a few months of making software and hardware adjustments and additions, our dynamic duo Irv and Sue Johnson can now record the service, assemble it in a beautiful video, and our online presence has become an experience that we can be proud of. Working behind the scenes to make sure that our sanctuary was adorned with the season-appropriate paraments, candles, palms, lilies, etc. was Crystal Kirkpatrick. And, thanks to Mary Beth Morris, Mary Greer, and, most recently, our new webmaster Paityn Miller, our videos have been uploaded and featured on our website and Facebook page.

In July 2020 we added our Virtual Coffee Hour which has been enjoyed by our members ever since. Zoom has become our internet platform of choice and has served us well as we come together to share our stories and our concerns on Sunday morning at 11.

By late September 2020 it became very apparent that Holy Communion was being seriously missed by the congregation. So, with the addition of an FM transmitter and some other electronics we were able to take our worship "to the streets." (Well, maybe just into the parking lot.) The comments about this Holy Communion service have all been positive and it has been a welcome experience that has kept us close to our Lutheran heritage and nourished on our Lord, Jesus Christ's body and blood.

Keep praying for an end to this pandemic, keep wearing your masks and washing your hands.

See you on the internet and in the parking lot, *Pastor Jim*



## COMMUNITY NOTICES

Former member and Gloria Dei organist **Harlan Ayers** died **March 16, 2021**. Our sympathy and prayers to Connie and her family.

**Gayle Teerman** died **March 20, 2021**. Funeral arrangements are indefinite at this time. May he rest in peace.

## RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

Members or friends hospitalized or had surgery in March: Kay Hawtin

*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:**

Virginia Smith, Love Never Ends

Doug & Pat Bressler/Memorials

## PRAYERS

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

**April:**

**04/04** Lillian Russo, Elizabeth Sanguedolce, Fred Schenck,  
Alberta Siepiela, Lillian Skilbred

**04/11** Maureen Skurecki, Richard & MaryLou Smith, Russell Smith,  
Sam & Donna Smith, Elizabeth Snyder

**04/18** Linda Steege, Michael Stewart, Bill & Phyllis Swinford,  
Jean Talts, Mike & Donna Tarnok

**04/25** Jon & Marva Tetting, Ed Thompson,  
Loraine Van Haecke, Nancy Vogel

## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

04/21 Jerry & Julie Eld 60 years\*

04/23 Craig & Christine Carlson 44 years

04/23 Pastor Jim and Patti Young 44 years

04/26 Richard & Debbie Cassem 52 years\*

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

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

04/06	Sharon Weinhardt	04/10	Sylvia Mackey
04/13	Steve Greer	04/13	Sharon Maxwell
04/14	Ted Baehmann	04/16	Barbara Goins
04/19	Raymond Haller	04/22	Kenn Yance
04/24	Joy Yonko	04/25	Sandy Kolb
04/27	James Gable		

## MEDIA TEAM

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

The church website is where you will find the latest information about church events. The homepage contains the link for our online worship services, 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 Paityn Miller at [m.paityn@yahoo.com](mailto:m.paityn@yahoo.com)

## WELCA

As more vaccines become available it may seem safer to venture out. However, it is important that we remain cautious. The WELCA Board is beginning to make a few plans. If the conditions make it possible, we would like to start Circle Meetings in September 2021. The Annual Christmas Luncheon is planned for December 2, 2021. More details will follow as they materialize.

The FL/BA SWO Fall Gathering at Lake Yale in Leesburg will be on November 12, 13 & 14, 2021. Theme is "Faith can move Mountains." Precautions will be taken, and the CDC Guidelines will be followed to the best of our ability. More information will be available soon.

**Proverbs 16:9 (NLT) says "We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps".**

So that we can continue this upturn in our lives, please continue to wear masks, wash your hands, practice social distancing and pray for this pandemic to end.

**STAY SAFE AND STAY HEALTHY!**

Blessings,  
Loraine Van Haecke,  
WELCA President

## **SOCIAL MINISTRIES**

The Social Ministries Committee communicated through email in March and approved Luther Springs camperships for three children. James Menacha's children, Quiana and Julian, will attend the July 18-25 Middle School camp, "Ropes and Zips". One of their cousins from Georgia will also attend. James is funding a fourth child, another cousin from Georgia, who will go to the Elementary School camp, "Discoverer's". The Social Committee is very pleased that all 4 cousins can attend together. Total cost from Social Ministries budget is \$1,605.

Special thanks to Pastor Jim for doing the legwork and making this a reality!

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> after drive-in communion.

Respectfully Submitted, Elizabeth Sanguedolce  
Social Ministries Publicity

## **JHIFM (JOINING HANDS IN FOOD MINISTRY)**

Thank you to the 45 volunteers from Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, First Presbyterian Church of Leesburg, and from around the local community who joined hands to feed 401 individuals from 127 local needy families nearly four tons of nutritious food on Friday, March 12. Thanks also to Tim Smith, our local Thrivent Financial representative, who joined us as a volunteer. I posted photos of today's food distribution at [Facebook.com/feedinghopenow/](https://www.facebook.com/feedinghopenow/). Enjoy the photos!

Ritch Cassem

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## **Changes in April**

No Virtual Coffee Hour on Easter Sunday, April 4.

No Virtual Coffee Hour on April 11.

No Drive In Communion on Tuesday, April 6.

## Pastor's Report for February 2021

During February 2021 I:

- ✚ Prepared and preached 7 sermons
- ✚ Presided at 3 Tuesday afternoon Drive-In Communion services
- ✚ Planned and presided at special Ash Wednesday Drive In Communion
- ✚ Edited 4 PowerPoint presentations for video recording sessions
- ✚ Scheduled personnel for 4 video recording sessions
- ✚ Developed scripts for 4 video recording sessions
- ✚ Developed scripts for 2 Tuesday Communion services
- ✚ Developed script and bulletin for special Ash Wednesday service
- ✚ Reviewed and approved 4 worship videos
- ✚ Prepared Pastor's report for January
- ✚ Hosted one Zoom Council meeting
- ✚ Hosted one Zoom Executive Committee meeting
- ✚ Planned for and hosted 2 Zoom training sessions for the Call Committee
- ✚ Edited 5 bulletins
- ✚ Contributed articles to and edited the March Glorion.
- ✚ Attended 3 Zoom interim ministers' conferences
- ✚ Made numerous phone calls and wrote numerous emails.
- ✚ Worked a total of 18 days.
- ✚ Planned for and hosted 4 Sunday morning Zoom Virtual Coffee Hours.
- ✚ Travelled 943 miles on official business
- ✚ Had prayer with the Wired Word virtual class 4 times
- ✚ Reviewed and approved hymns for March
- ✚ Coordinated production of PowerPoint slides for 4 video sessions
- ✚ Planned March/Lent worship
- ✚ Planned for and attended one Webmaster interview
- ✚ Took no vacation days
- ✚ Researched/coordinated purchase and return of video and audio equipment/consulted on setup in sanctuary including preparing mockup of proposed screen and projector location
- ✚ Hosted one combination live/Zoom Social Ministries committee meeting
- ✚ Edited minutes of Annual Congregational meeting, Council meeting, Council election meeting and disseminated same
- ✚ Conducted Annual Membership Roster review with Mary Beth Morris and prepared Annual ELCA Parochial Report
- ✚ Cancelled Tuesday Drive In Communion for Feb. 9. However, 9 people still showed up so I prepared communion and served them in the parking lot.

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

## FINANCIAL CORNER GENERAL FUND

	February, 2021	Year to date 2021
Contributions	\$16,806.11	\$34,489.46
Expenditures	\$16,421.51	\$32,607.89

### RESTRICTED FUNDS

	2/01/2021	Donations	Expenditures	Ending 2/28/21
Elementary School	69.80	50.00	0	119.80
Oak Park Middle	412.22	70.00	400.00	82.22
Coffee Project	415.58	110.00	0	525.58
Thrivent Choice \$	1,801.04	120.00	0	1,921.04
Basket Social	282.51	0	0	282.51
Eternal Light	515.00	20.00	0	535.00
Fellowship	214.17	0	5.99	208.18
JHIF	0	293.75	293.75	0
World Hunger	0	162.00	162.00	0
ELCA	0	130.00	130.00	0
Flowers	( 80.00)	0	0	(80.00)
Altar wine/bread	132.79	0	0	132.79
Tree/Landscaping	(209.96)	0	0	(209.96)
Be Prepared	18,037.35	0	0	18,037.35
AV Equipment	26,000.00	0	12,225.21	13,774.79
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$47,590.50</b>	<b>955.75</b>	<b>13,216.95</b>	<b>\$35,329.30</b>

## **Council Corner for April 2021**

### **By William Birdsall, Council president**

This has been an exciting month for the Gloria Dei Church Council, as well as our congregation. As you know by now, the Call Committee has identified a prospective pastoral candidate with a lot of help from our Synod representative. At a joint meeting between the Call Committee and Council the call committee recommended this candidate and the council approved. The Council now has certain responsibilities to act in a timely manner to interview the candidate and negotiate compensation. Our interview (via Zoom) is scheduled for the first week in April and then, if all goes as planned, arrangements will be made for the congregation to meet the candidate in person. We expect that this will take place in April, hopefully the second or third week. The council is praying on this every day, so please join us and keep up all those good prayers!

The Council has been conducting business as usual, having our monthly meetings, solving problems and taking actions where necessary. Four significant actions were taken this month including replacing the hose bibbs on the outside of the building, installation of air purifying equipment in all the HVAC systems, inspection of the entire roof system on the Church and replacement of the downstairs water heater. The water heater was 36 years old and in bad shape. We also conducted a review of our insurance policy with our insurance company representative to assure that we had proper coverage.

We still have a vacancy on the Church Council and are badly in need of a volunteer to fill that position. With a new Pastor coming on board very soon we would like to start out with a full council. We know there will be a lot of work to do, and we need all the help we can get. This Council has been operating very smoothly and serving can be a very rewarding experience. So, please consider volunteering to serve your church.

With more vaccinations now available it appears that the pandemic may soon be getting under control. We have taken every precaution to assure that our church will be safe when we reopen. Our last endeavor was the installation of the air purifying systems, so we feel we will be ready to reopen once everyone is vaccinated. So please get those vaccinations.

*Bill*

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church  
2020-21 Call Committee  
**February 16, 2021**

2020-21 Call Committee News

**Progress**

The Call Committee has completed the interviewing and reference reviews of the primary candidate for pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. The committee met and determined that they would recommend this candidate to Council for further consideration. A joint meeting was held with Council on March 15. The Council had opportunity to review printed materials, review online sermons and to ask questions of the Call Committee.

At this point the Call Committee has completed their work in the process of approving this candidate and the Council will now move forward with the process. Look for updates from Council about their progress and procedures for calling our next pastor. The Call Committee wishes to especially thank our awesome leader, Chairman Kathleen Birdsall, for her exceptional effort and assistance in completing our work thus far.

Please pray for continued guidance of the Holy Spirit so that Council can make the best decisions for the future of Gloria Dei.

--Elizabeth Sanguedolce,  
Communications Chair  
2020-21 Call Committee

**2021 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		

**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

Worship & Music	Crystal Kirkpatrick	352-552-3983
Evangelism		
Social Ministry	Leone Goding	352-223-1925
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



In case of inclement weather, the  
service may be cancelled. Please  
contact the church office to find out  
if service will be held. 352-787-3223