



GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

GATHERING IN CHRIST ✝ SHARING HIS LOVE

THE GLORION

February, 2021

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 – 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



As I write this, I realize that we have entered the 11th month of the COVID-19 pandemic. So much has changed in our world that it's hard to keep up with everything.

One thing we can all rely on is God's love for us. In the midst of all of the change our Lord stays constant, constantly walking beside us, in front of us and behind us, constantly supporting us, listening to each prayer, drying our tears, and, in those times of joy, hearing our songs of thanksgiving.

It's hard to imagine that a microscopic virus has forced our worship to take on such a completely different look and feel. But it's working. From recording the weekly Sunday service to celebrating Holy Communion in the parking lot each Tuesday we have risen to the challenge of meeting the spiritual needs of our Gloria Dei family. We are reaching more people with the Gospel of the Lord than we have in the past. On average, our internet outlets, YouTube and Facebook, receive over 160 views every week.

According to the ELCA metric for calculating Sunday worship attendance, this means that we have more than 300 people in worship each week. And even though we can't be together physically for socializing, the Sunday Morning Virtual Coffee Hour has brought us closer together and in a much different, and in some ways, deeper way than before.

There was some concern voiced during our recent congregational meeting that we should return to in-person worship on Sunday mornings. However, when asked who would show up for in-person worship there were only about half a dozen folks who raised their hands. It seems that the council's decision to refrain from in-person worship until the numbers of new cases and deaths from this disease start to decline considerably is shared by a majority of the people.

The leadership of this congregation is and has always been concerned first and foremost with the safety and health of our family. To date, there has only been one case of COVID-19 reported throughout our congregation. I believe that this is because we have been faithful in keeping contact to a minimum.

Every time we ignore proper mask and social distancing protocols, we put others in harm's way. Thanks to all of you who understand that we must stay vigilant in our fight against this virus. May God bless us now and always.

See you ~~in church~~ on the internet and in the parking lot. -*Pastor Jim*

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Former member **Dolores (Dee) Church** passed away sometime in the **spring, 2020**. Our condolences to Jo Church and her family.

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

Members or friends hospitalized or had surgery in January: Virginia Smith, Josephine Cichoracki, Gayle Teerman

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:

My birthday

Jeanne Talts

In memory of:

To the Glory of God

Evelyn Matthes/Flowers

PRAYERS

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

02/07 John & Arlene Kelly, Mary Kelp, Kathleen Kepler,
Bess King, Byron & Crystal Kirkpatrick

02/14 Ray & Roseanne Knudsen, Sandy Kolb, Jane Kunde,
Helga La Cava, Joe & Sharon LaHood

02/21 Edith Leaf, Barb & Dock Lias, Jan Liljestrand,
Judy Lorenz, Sylvia Mackey

02/28 Gail Madson, Ernest & Hanna Mann, Carol Marshall,
Evelyn Matthes, Sharon Maxwell

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

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

02/02	Ted & Dorothy Baehmann	64 years*
02/14	Joel & Sharon Weinhardt	32 years

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

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

02/01	Betty Ann Huebner	02/02	Bill Birdsall
02/03	Gerri Haller	02/09	Darby Walbon
02/09	Mike Wurzer	02/10	Sue Leaf
02/11	Marilyn Czuprynski	02/11	Joel Weinhardt
02/12	Mary Lou Smith	02/14	Linda Riikonen
02/15	Gayle Teerman	02/16	Arlene McGuire
02/18	Joe LaHood	02/20	Taeko Mincer
02/22	Jan Rudolph	02/25	Ralph Hallberg
02/26	Maureen Skurecki	02/27	Bill Swinford

Webmaster Needed!

Gloria Dei's presence on the internet is a valuable part of our ministry. We have tried to find a volunteer to assume Mary Greer's position as webmaster, but no one has come forward. We are converting the position to a paid position and will continue our outreach online. Mary has furnished the following job description. If you know anyone with these skills who would like to earn a little money each week, please have them email their resume to the church via the link below.

Job Description for Part-time Webmaster

This part-time position is for a Lutheran Church in Leesburg, FL and can be a work-at-home position. You will have assistance in learning the ropes and website maintenance usually takes 3-4 hours a week.

Required Skills:

- Some familiarity with the liturgical year to assist in planning changes to the website.
- Ability to create and format online content. Experience with MS Word is helpful.
- Website is maintained by a third-party company who can also assist with any questions.
- Ability to work with graphics.
- Knowledge of Facebook and YouTube.

This position pays \$25/hr. and is a 1099 position. You can view the church website at: gloriadeielca.com.

Interested persons should send their resume to:

gloriadeilutheranleesburg@gmail.com. Please put "Webmaster" in the subject line. A more detailed job description will be furnished upon request.

JHIFM (JOINING HANDS IN FOOD MINISTRY)

Thank you to all the hard-working Joining Hands in Food Ministry (JHIFM) volunteers from Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, First Presbyterian Church, and from around the local community who on the morning of Jan. 8 fed 420 individuals from 123 local families in need a total of 7,448 pounds of food.

You can see photos of the food distribution at

[Facebook.com/feedinghopenow/](https://www.facebook.com/feedinghopenow/).

Ritch Cassem

Pastor's Report for December 2020

During December 2020 I:

- ✝ Prepared and preached 7 sermons
- ✝ Presided at 3 Tuesday afternoon Drive-In Communion services
- ✝ Planned and led one Drive-In Christmas Eve Communion service
- ✝ Scheduled personnel for 3 video recording sessions
- ✝ Developed scripts for 3 video recording sessions
- ✝ Recorded 4 Sunday services
- ✝ Reviewed and approved 4 worship videos
- ✝ Prepared Pastor's report for November
- ✝ Hosted one Zoom Council meeting
- ✝ Edited 4 bulletins
- ✝ Contributed articles to and edited the December Glorion.
- ✝ Attended 1 Zoom interim ministers' conference
- ✝ Made numerous phone calls and wrote numerous emails.
- ✝ Worked a total of 15 days.
- ✝ Planned for and hosted 3 Sunday morning Zoom Virtual Coffee Hours.
- ✝ Travelled 709 miles on official business
- ✝ Had prayer with the Wired Word virtual class 3 times
- ✝ Reviewed and approved hymns for January
- ✝ Coordinated production of PowerPoint slides for video sessions
- ✝ Planned for and hosted one Zoom Social Ministries committee meeting
- ✝ Planned January worship with Mary Beth
- ✝ Coordinated production of presentation check for JHIFM
- ✝ Discovered shed break-in and helped Bill Birdsall with reporting to police and reviewing security camera footage
- ✝ Took 5 non-paid vacation days

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. James F. Young, Interim Pastor

FINANCIAL CORNER

GENERAL FUND

GENERAL FUND

	December, 2020	Year to date 12/31/2020
Contributions	\$24,034.09	\$231,013.86
Expenditures	\$17,490.35	\$222,225.63

RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Beg. 1/01/2020	Donations	Expenditures	Ending 12/31/20
Elementary School	228.36	155.00	313.56	69.80
Oak Park Middle	812.22	100.00	500.00	412.22
Coffee Project	440.83	48.00	94.25	394.58
Thrivent Choice \$	3,893.18	1,214.00	3,346.14	1,761.04
Basket Social	500.00	0	217.49	282.51
Eternal Light	430.00	85.00	0	515.00
Fellowship	417.05	247.05	443.94	220.16
JHIF	0	7,448.22	7,448.22	0
World Hunger	0	1,939.88	1,939.88	0
ELCA	0	1,862.00	1,862.00	0
Flowers	0	515.50	640.50	(125.00)
Altar wine/bread	0	175.00	42.21	132.79
Tree/Landscaping	0	650.00	859.96	(209.96)
Instant Church Directory	0	239.40	239.40	0
Quilt Shipping	0	1,084.00	1,084.00	0
Be Prepared	0	18,037.35	0	18,037.35
TOTALS	\$6,721.64	33,800.40	19,031.55	\$21,490.49

The table above shows contributions to our special funds for the entire year of 2020. It reflects the generosity and caring of this wonderful congregation. Thank you all for these contributions. They meet the needs of our community in so many ways.

Council Corner for January 2021

By William Birdsall, council president

The Church council has been continuing its meetings and hard work and is dealing with various issues and solving them in a timely manner. We just had our annual congregational meeting this last Sunday, January 24, where we re-elected three existing council members but had no candidates for the fourth vacancy. This leaves us short one council member and that position needs to be filled. Please, if you think you are at all interested in serving on the Council, let me know.

The congregation also approved the 2021 Mission spending plan, but, as Linda Hide, our treasurer, stressed at the meeting, we need to increase our giving for 2021 to support the costs of our future new full-time pastor. Last year we asked that everyone increase their giving by 10% to show we could support the cost of a fulltime pastor, but we fell short. Please try to support this year's Spending Plan.

We were unable to find a volunteer to serve as a Maintenance supervisor to manage maintenance work of the church building interior and exterior. After much consideration, the Council choose to hire Bob Keim, our present outdoor grounds keeper, to perform the duties of the maintenance supervisor. He will work under the Council's supervision to perform minor repairs and oversee work performed by outside contractors.

After the recent robbery of equipment from our shed we had two additional security cameras installed on the exterior of the church, one at the front entrance and one at the rear of the building directed at the storage sheds. We will also be adding additional lighting directed at the sheds and at the front of the building within the next month.

Finally, as we all know, the pandemic is getting worse and not better. The original projections for vaccine availability have fallen short of their goals and the situation doesn't appear to be getting any better soon. Also, with new strains of COVID-19 popping up around the world and in our country, no one can really predict when the virus will be under control. With that being said, the Council still feels that we are not in a position to open up the church to Sunday service for the near future. We review this situation at every Council meeting, basing our decision on local, county, state, and county-wide information. We are committed to assuring the safety of our congregation and pastor before we make the decision to reopen in-person services.

Bill

2020 Call Committee News

Progress

At this writing, January 21st, the call committee has been on hiatus since the middle of December. Due to the holidays and the continued rise of COVID-19, not many pastors may be ready to make a move to leave their current congregation and head into a new, unknown area. This is not meant to be a negative, as it is always possible that someone will surface on any given day! We continue to pray to The Holy Spirit for a suitable shepherd to lead Gloria Dei to future glory.

Plans

This much is certain: Synod will be very careful as they validate the candidates that are available and only send us names of those who fit our criteria. This is because they want to make the best fit possible to save everyone's time and effort.

Always remember it is God's time when things happen, not ours....have patience.

--Kathleen Birdsall,
2020-21 Call Committee Chair

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

This new year starts with new Chair Leone Goding for Social Ministries. Thank you, Joyce Brandt, for your many years of service as Chair. Charlotte Christensen will be taking minutes and keeping track of what we do to for charities in the community and ELCA.

If there is any charity that anyone feels we should help, please notify any of us and we will discuss it. Our Committee: Charlotte Christensen, Joyce Brandt, Elizabeth Sanguedolce, Pat Bressler, Linda Steege, Gayle Bloom, Diane Wasser, Donna Tarnok, Joe LaHood, Pat Heimbach, & Interim Pastor Jim Young.

Thank you for your support.
Leone Goding Chair

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	Art Zerbel	352-255-6191
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

