



GLORIA DEI

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GATHERING IN CHRIST ✝ SHARING HIS LOVE

THE GLORION

January, 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 for the January, 2021 Glorion

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

Happy New Year! Yes, we made it through 2020, the year of COVID-19, with a lot of help from God.

What is in store for Gloria Dei in the coming year? When will we be free from the stress of COVID-19? Will the new vaccines speed up the demise of the pandemic?

We don't know the answers to these questions. But we continue to trust that our God, who loved us enough to send Jesus Christ to be our Immanuel, has the answers. As long as we keep our eyes and ears open and continue to watch and listen for the Holy Spirit to move among us, we will be OK.

One committee that has spent the last 7 months listening for the leading of the Holy Spirit has been our Pastoral Call Committee. We are very blessed to have such a conscientious and dedicated group of disciples working for the Lord and for our church. Please continue to keep them in your prayers. You can read a report from them elsewhere in the Glorion.

We will hold our **Annual Meeting** on Zoom on January 24, 2021 at 11:00am. If you don't have a computer, you will still be able to join us via phone. Another alternative is to ask someone who has a computer if you might join them for the meeting.

At the Annual Meeting we will discuss and vote on the proposed 2021 budget. Estimated amounts for the new pastor's pay and benefits will be included in the budget. Our finances have been holding their own during 2020 due to the fact that supporting a parttime interim pastor doesn't cost as much as providing for a fulltime minister. When a new pastor is called the church's expenses will go up. I ask each of you to prayerfully consider an increase in your giving for 2021 to keep pace with this increase. Without the faithful stewardship of your treasures as well as your time and talents, Gloria Dei will be unable to continue its vital and vibrant ministry to the Leesburg area and to the larger church.

As we begin the new year, I would like to thank our staff members: Administrative Assistant Mary Beth Morris, Music Director Paul Motto, Sexton Tina Janosa, and Grounds Caretaker Bob Keim, for their dedicated service to Gloria Dei. They have provided valuable and continuous ministry support, especially during this time of pandemic.

To our hardworking Congregation Council President Bill Birdsall and the rest of the council, my hat is off to all of you. You have done the Lord's work in the best way. May God continue to bless you richly.

Last but certainly not least, my heartfelt thanks to the Worship Team. Week after week, they have been Gloria Dei's "congregation." Their selfless contribution of individual talents, hard work, prayerfulness, teamwork, and laughter filled our sanctuary with life as we prepared worship services for the coming Sunday. With the post-production expertise of Irv and Sue Johnson, I believe that Gloria Dei provides the best online worship experience on the internet.

I have been blessed beyond measure to have been your interim pastor for the past 20 months and I look forward to serving you until the new pastor is called. Gloria Dei will always have a very special place in my heart.

Have a safe and healthy New Year! *Pastor Jim*

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Hazel Wolfgram died sometime this fall. We did not get any other information from Lake Harris rehab. If anybody has any other information regarding Hazel, please call the church office at 352-787-3223.

Andy Talts died Monday, **December 7, 2020**. Our thoughts, prayers and condolences to Jean and her family at this difficult time.

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

Members or friends hospitalized or had surgery in December: John Braun

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:

For the love of Jesus and our Family Pat & Doug Bressler/Candle

In honor of:

Our son, Rich’s birthday Debbie & Ritch Cassem/Flowers

PRAYERS

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

01/03 Jacki Goding, Leone Goding, Larry Goerke,
 Barbara Goins, Dottsie Grins

01/10 Mary Grissom, Rose Gulbrandsen, Ralph & Sylvia Hallberg,
 Ray & Gerry Haller, Debbie Halligan

01/17 Northilt Handwerck, Kay Hawtin, Dick & Bev Healy,
 Rollie & Pat Heimbach, Bernice Heiser

01/24 Jean Heitz, Linda Hide, Martin & Martha Holleran,
 Ethel Holmes, Betty Ann Huebner

01/31 Lorraine Hughes, Mary Humphreys, Irv & Sue Johnson,
 Sue Johnston, Mary Jean & Nancy Kancel

ANNUAL MEETING, January 24, 2021

The Gloria Dei Annual Meeting will be held via Zoom on Sunday, January 24, 2021 at 11:00am. If you don't have a computer there are two options: Join someone who has a computer or join via your phone. Instructions will be included in an email prior to the meeting. New council members will be elected and we will vote on the budget. Please plan to be there.

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 Irv Johnson at irvjohnson@gmail.com

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

01/12 Arlene & Ray McGuire *64 years

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

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

01/02	Kay Hawtin	01/04	Margi Geiger
01/05	Charlotte Christensen	01/09	Bess King
01/10	Jeanne Talts	01/11	Ray Knudsen
01/11	Patti Young	01/11	Dennis Zimmerman
01/12	James Menchaca	01/15	Nancy Kancel
01/20	Ray McGuire	01/27	Bev Healy
01/30	Irv Johnson	01/31	Ronald Galloway

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

Christmas Angels: The modified process for the Angel Tree project worked out pretty well this year. Thirty to thirty-five members at Gloria Dei and some friends purchased angels through computer links. The gifts were returned to Gloria Dei and picked up by Salvation Army on the 8th to be prepared for distribution on the 10th. Thanks to everyone who participated. This was a year when the gifts were truly needed.

The Middle School appreciated the \$500 donated for food for homeless. The need is great with the number of homeless families in the area.

\$190 from monies previously donated to the Elementary School was used for clothing and shoes. Thanks to Joe LaHood who worked with local retirement communities. Funds were donated to the food bank and used to provide food for students from homeless families and hungry in the school district.

\$500 was donated to Novus Way specifically for Silver Springs.

It is my great pleasure to tell you that **Leone Goding** has agreed to chair the Social Ministry Committee. She is knowledgeable regarding community needs and resources and will be an asset for Gloria Dei and the community.

I thank the congregation and the Social Ministry committee for all of your assistance during the time I have been chair of the committee.

This is a ***Special Congregation*** which is demonstrated in all the ways you show your concern and love for others and your willingness to give yourselves.

The Social Committee wishes each of you a safe, peaceful Holiday Season!
Linda Steege, Pat Bressler, Charlotte Christensen, Donna Tarnok, Pat Heimbach, Diane Wasser, Elizabeth Sanguedolce, Joe LaHood, Gayle Bloom, pastor Jim, Leone Goding, , Joyce Brandt.

JHIFM (JOINING HANDS IN FOOD MINISTRY)

Many thanks to all the dedicated volunteers who made the December 14 food distribution a huge success. We served 683 individuals from 184 families 13,180 pounds of food. This is a new record for a monthly food distribution and will result in a new annual record as well. I will publish photos and videos of the December distribution on Facebook.

Next year will present many challenges to our food ministry due to the COVID-19 economy and the fact that Second Harvest Food Bank notified us that beginning January 1st, 2021 they will no longer be covering the cost of our monthly food purchases. That means more people in need and higher food expenses. Fortunately, JHIFM's Steering Committee has been managing its finances responsibly and is ready to meet these challenges.

Thank you all again for a job well done in December.

Ritch

JANUARY JHIFM FOOD DRIVE

The Leesburg Rotary Club is sponsoring a food drive on SATURDAY, JANUARY 9th from 10:00-2:00 and tables will be set up in Gloria Dei's parking lot to accept donations. Joining Hands in Food Ministry (JHIFM) is in especially great need of peanut butter, jelly and cereal. Please mark your calendars and pick up a few of these items at the grocery store during the next few weeks. JHIFM's food pantries have been severely depleted to the record-breaking number of clients that are turning out at our monthly food distributions due to the end of federal supplemental unemployment benefits and the moratorium on evictions. Also, much of the food we normally purchase from Second Harvest Food Bank is unavailable because of the heavy demand by partner agencies. Please help make this a happier New Year for so many local families in need. Thank you!



**JOINING HANDS IN FOOD MINISTRY, Inc.
130 South Lone Oak Drive
Leesburg, FL 34748**

December 19, 2020

SUBJECT: “Little Debbie” Christmas Snack Donations

Joining Hands in Food Ministry would like to express a heartfelt Thank You to everyone who donated “Little Debbie” snacks for the December food distribution. We received over 300 boxes which enabled us to hand out two boxes to each family.

A huge thank you to Janet Braun and the WELCA ladies who got the ball rolling at Gloria Dei. Also, a huge thank you to everyone at First Presbyterian Church who jumped right on the bandwagon, and in a big way. And thanks to all of our friends and neighbors who collected boxes for us. These two churches and our community are simply amazing. All you have to do is ask and it is done, and with such joy!

I hope these Christmas treats we were able to provide will bring as big of a smile to our clients’ faces as it did to ours when we handed them out.

Thank you everyone and Merry Christmas. 🎄🎄🎄

Pastor's Report for November 2020

During November 2020 I:

- ✝ Prepared and preached 5 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 October
- ✝ Hosted one Zoom Executive Committee meeting
- ✝ Hosted one Zoom Council meeting
- ✝ Planned for and hosted one Worship Team Zoom meeting
- ✝ Planned for and hosted one Ministry Site Profile and Budget Zoom meeting
- ✝ Edited 4 bulletins
- ✝ Contributed articles to and edited the December Glorion.
- ✝ Attended 3 Zoom interim ministers' conferences
- ✝ Made numerous phone calls and wrote numerous emails.
- ✝ Worked a total of 20 days.
- ✝ Planned for and hosted 5 Sunday morning Zoom Virtual Coffee Hours.
- ✝ Participated in one practice interview session with the Call Committee
- ✝ Travelled 726 miles commuting and providing pastoral care.
- ✝ Presided at 2 Tuesday afternoon Drive In Communion services
- ✝ Had prayer with the Wired Word virtual class 4 times
- ✝ Reviewed and approved hymns for December
- ✝ Coordinated production of PowerPoint slides for video sessions
- ✝ Planned for and hosted one Zoom Social Ministries committee meeting
- ✝ Planned Nov-Dec worship with Mary Beth

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

FINANCIAL CORNER

GENERAL FUND

	November, 2020	Year to date 11/30/2020
Contributions	\$20,236.36	\$194,061.83
Expenditures	\$17,813.78	\$187,626.83

RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Beg. 11/01/2020	Donations	Expenditures	Ending 11/30/20
Elementary School	189.25	0	0	189.25
Oak Park Middle	912.22	0	500.00	412.22
Coffee Project	394.58	0	0	394.58
Thrivent Choice \$	1,761.04	0	0	1,761.04
Basket Social	282.51	0	0	282.51
Eternal Light	515.00	0	0	515.00
Fellowship	232.14	0	5.99	226.15
JHIF	0	50.00	50.00	0
World Hunger	0	122.00	72.00	50.00
ELCA	0	115.00	65.00	50.00
Flowers	(125.00)	0	0	(125.00)
Altar wine/bread	107.79	25.00	0	132.79
Tree/Landscaping	400.00	250.00	859.96	(209.96)
TOTALS	\$4,669.53	562.00	1,552.95	\$3,678.58

Council Corner for January 2021

By William Birdsall, council president

The Council has been hard at work as always, approving the 2021 Mission Spending Plan and putting into motion the work that must be done in the New Year ahead of us. The Council is prepared for our part in the call process as the first candidate has already been interviewed by the Call Committee.

As we mentioned last month, the council feels that it is time to reinvent the Evangelism committee with more emphases on technology and modern communication. With that said we are looking for volunteers to chair as well as work on this very important committee.

The council is also still seeking a new Maintenance supervisor to manage the maintenance work of the church building and the grounds. Much of the physical work is now done by contractors do to the age of our congregation but someone still needs to determine what needs to be done. Since we have no volunteers to date, the council is considering hiring outside help to do this job.

The nominating committee has been activated to find a candidate to fill one council position. If you are interested please inform Mary Beth and she will pass your name along to the committee. Our church Council is very active and dedicated, so it can be a rewarding experience to take part in the successful operation of our church.

We have to report that this last month we had break in and robbery of church property. Our new garden shed was broken into during one night by the robbers who used drills and crow bar to break the door and locks to gain entry. They stole lawn maintenance equipment worth over \$1,000.00. Leesburg police are working to solve this crime but in the mean time we had to replace the equipment. New security measures are being added.

Lastly, with the pandemic getting worse and not better, we will continue with our online services only, for the near future. The Council closely monitors the pandemic and hopefully things will get to a point when it will be safe to return to normal Sunday services something in the near future.

- *Bill*

2020 Call Committee News

The LORD says, "I will teach you the way you should go;
I will instruct you and advise you. Psalms 32:8

As a committee we have spent eight months preparing to hear The Holy Spirit speak to us when called upon to carefully consider a call candidate for Gloria Dei. The first week in December that very opportunity presented itself when the Assistant to the Bishop, Connie Schmucker, called and asked if we would consider a First Call Candidate, which is someone just about to graduate from seminary. First calls are considered before those pastors presently serving a church, looking to make a move. First Call Candidates are presented as a list of one. Because this particular first call candidate was making a career change and was older, not to be confused with being old, the committee decided to consider the profile and interview the candidate. This was new ground for everyone involved as well as a learning experience. As we have learned, we prayerfully considered the candidates credentials, experiences, gifts, and challenges through a five-hour question and answer session. We were also able to view the candidate's style, delivery, and message of three sermons videoed live from the church where the candidate is interning. After much prayer and reflection upon the needs of Gloria Dei, the call committee decided to release this candidate from further consideration as pastor of this congregation. It is not something to worry about, for when the Lord is ready He will lead us to the candidate that is the best choice for our congregation.

Synod will again notify the call committee when there are other qualified candidates for us to consider and the process will continue until our new pastor is found.

Kathleen Birdsall
Call Committee Chairperson

2020 Call Committee News

Update

December 18, 2020

The Call Committee has met several times in preparation for the interview process, conducting an interview, and follow-up to the interview. In addition, members have been asked to provide assistance/reports for the Annual Report.

- The Call Committee continued to share devotions at each meeting and pray that the Holy Spirit would lead us in all of our decisions.
- We have spent eight months preparing to hear the Holy Spirit speak to us when called upon to carefully consider a call candidate for Gloria Dei. The first week in December that very opportunity presented itself when the Assistant to the Bishop, Connie Schmucker, called and asked if we would consider a First Call Candidate. This is someone just about to graduate from seminary. The Committee decided to consider this candidate.
- The Committee reviewed the candidate's credentials, experience and gifts as well as challenges. Individually we reviewed the candidate's sermons online, looking at style, delivery and message. We then did a 5 hour question and answer interview of the candidate. Later, we reviewed again the experiences and challenges brought out in the interview. After prayerful consideration we decided to release this candidate from further consideration as pastor of our congregation.
- A few of us met the candidate prior to the interview day, to share dinner after the candidate arrived in town. Due to the constraints of Covid 19, we were very happy to find a restaurant to accommodate our needs. We also prepared the interview day in consideration of Covid 19 restrictions. The committee worked well together to share the responsibilities and the day worked out well.
- Kathleen wrote a letter to the candidate and received a response. The candidate also sent a thank you note for the interview. Kathleen communicated with Connie Schmucker and we are now waiting to receive additional potential candidates from Synod. With the holidays, we don't expect to hear from Synod until after the first of the year.
- Thank you for your continued prayers for the Call Committee and our work to find a pastor for Gloria Dei.

Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth Sanguedolce,
Communications Chair, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
2020 Call Committee



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

