



GLORIA DEI
LUTHERAN CHURCH

GATHERING IN CHRIST † SHARING HIS LOVE

THE GLORION

March, 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

“And the Beat Goes On!” Most of us can remember back to 1967 when Sonny and Cher released their hit song that reminded us that, no matter what the current rage or fad, time keeps marching on.

The reason I mention this is that, during this pandemic and in the midst of all the changes that it has brought, the beat of God's love goes on. . . and on and on. It never stops. It never ceases to comfort us when the isolation gets us down. It's always there to raise us up “as on the wings of eagles.”

Praise God for the Holy Spirit that brings us God's love. It was that same Holy Spirit that brought about 75 of us together to worship in the parking lot on Ash Wednesday, to remember that “we are dust and to dust we shall return,” to be nourished by the living Word and the sacrament. It was a little touch-and-go in the weather department, but we ended up with just an annoying drizzle. The video is on our website.

Praise God for the gift of technology that brings us together even though we are separated by the miles. Our worship services go out over the internet and it seems that we are spreading the Gospel to hundreds of people each week. Zoom is the new conference table around which our Council and committees gather to share devotions and conduct the business of the church. Our Call Committee is also using Zoom for its deliberations with another prospective pastoral candidate. Recently, the Social Ministries Committee met in the Gathering Space and were able to Zoom with a member that couldn't make it. And I thank God that we can get together for “virtual coffee” on Sunday mornings to share our joys and concerns and our stories.

Praise God for faithful disciples whose service to the Lord and to Gloria Dei make such a huge difference in so many lives. As we enter the 12th month of the COVID-19 pandemic I am certain that God's hand has been guiding all of our hands as we do God's work. From our outstanding video worship team to the dozens of volunteers who take part in the Joining Hands in Food Ministry, these dedicated men and women make sure that God's grace and love are spoken, seen, and heard.

And the beat goes on! I pray that all of you will be a part of the beat of God's love by attending worship, virtually or on Tuesday afternoon in the parking lot. As always, stay in touch with each other by phone. That friendly voice on the other end of the line can be the voice of Jesus to someone who is struggling, who is hurting, who is in need of human companionship.

May God richly bless us as we share ourselves and our message of love, peace, and comfort to the world.

See you on the internet and in the parking lot,

Pastor Jim



COMMUNITY NOTICES

Virginia Smith died peacefully at home on Tuesday, **February 16, 2021**. Prayers for Russell and family.

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

Members or friends hospitalized or had surgery in February: Angela

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:

Andy Talts

Pat & Doug Bressler/Candle
Love Never Ends

PRAYERS

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

March:

- 03/07** Ray & Arlene McGuire, James Menchaca, Julian Menchaca, Quiana Menchaca, Andy & Taeko Mincer
- 03/14** Merle & Rita Moritz, Gloria Moulton, Gladys Mull, Brian & Karen Mundy, Marily Nelson
- 03/21** Clarence & Ples Norris, Terri Pawelski, Paul Proulx, Sandy Retz, Mary Rhoades
- 03/28** Jim & June Rieb, Ron & Linda Riikonen, Madalon Ritter, Jan Rudolph, Anne Rusk

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 Tithely, 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.

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

03/03	Irvin & Susan Johnson	38 years
03/08	Jim & June Rieb	52 years*
03/09	Byron & Crystal Kirkpatrick	28 years

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

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

03/01	Arlene Kelly	03/03	Helga La Cava
03/03	Janine Wurzer	03/06	Carol Marshall
03/08	Karen Mundy	03/08	MaryJean Kancel
03/09	Donna Smith	03/14	Nancy Almquist
03/15	Elizabeth Sanguedolce	03/16	Anne Rusk
03/17	Patricia Bressler	03/17	Jerry Eld
03/22	Byron Kirkpatrick	03/24	Carol Berg

Meet Our New Webmaster

Paityn Miller of Minneola, FL is our new webmaster. She is a 2017 graduate of Lake Minneola High School and recently graduated from Full Sail University with a Bachelor of Science in Graphic Design. Her experience with a broad range of software, web design and graphics along with her pleasant personality and willingness to keep our website as attractive and user-friendly as possible made her the best candidate.



Thanks to the webmaster search committee comprised of Mary Greer, Irv Johnson, Bill Birdsall, and Pastor Jim. Mary and Irv will be getting her up to speed on posting our weekly worship service to our website, Facebook page, and YouTube, as well as keeping our website up-to-date. Many thanks to Mary Greer for her devoted service as webmaster for the past several years.

Special Congregation Meeting (via Zoom) March 14, 2021

Several recent developments have prompted our council to call a special congregational meeting for March 14, 2021 at 11:00AM. Here are the topics to be considered:

1. An anonymous donation of \$26,000.00 was given to Gloria Dei with the restriction that it be used for audio/video equipment. This amount fully covers all of the equipment that was originally proposed including video projection equipment. Following a discussion on this issue a vote will be held. A majority affirmative vote will authorize the purchase and installation of this equipment.
2. The call committee is in conversation with a prospective pastoral candidate. This candidate brings much experience and advanced education requiring higher compensation than was originally budgeted. Should the call committee wish to proceed with the call of this individual the congregation will be asked to approve the increase.

Please plan to attend this very important meeting on Sunday, March 14, 2021 at 11:00AM.

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

The Social Ministries Committee met on February 2nd after drive-in communion service, which worked out really well.

We heard from Charlotte about the Oak Park Middle school, which she advised they needed notebooks & markers. She will place a box in Mary Beth's office for your donations.

Joe reported that the Leesburg Elementary was doing well since he spoke with Leesburg Food bank to advise them to be sure to give the school food every week for approximately 60 homeless kids.

Pat Bressler advised she will bring over to Salvation Army things that are in the boxes in the church. We moved to send Salvation Army \$500. for their continuing effort to feed Leesburg. Pat also would like a Super Soup day because of Super Bowl. Bring cans of Soup on Tuesdays when we have Communion and Mary Beth will have a collection box for them. JHIFM always needs soup.

Linda Steege said we need to sell the coffee as it is running out of date. She will bring it to the drive-in communion service for anyone to purchase.

We will meet again on Tuesday, April 13 after drive-in communion service.

If you have charities that we can help, please notify me.
Leone Goding, Chair, Social Ministry

The following are various thank-you notes from many of the ministries that Gloria Dei donates money to:

Salvation Army:

Dear Gloria Dei Lutheran Church,

We recently received your gift of \$1,000.00. Thank you! Your gift will help us continue our efforts to provide comfort, hope, and much-needed assistance to thousands of families and individuals. As always, we pledge to do the most good with the resources that you have entrusted to our care.

You play a significant role in the Salvation Army's mission of meeting human needs, for it is only possible because of your compassion and generosity. We are thankful that you have chosen to place your confidence in us through your generous gift, and for your partnership in assisting those in need. With friends like you, we can continue to do our work in areas where it is needed—as long as it is needed.

May God bless you as you continue to bless others.

Lieutenant Chris Doborwicz, Salvation Army Officer

(Salvation Army cont'd)

Dear Gloria Dei Lutheran Church,

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to you for your generous donation for our needs. Your gift of \$300.00 was received and for which you received no goods or services in exchange.

Your support helps the ongoing efforts of The Salvation Army Leesburg Corps to provide food, clothing, and social services to those in great need who look to us for assistance in this Thanksgiving season in Lake County.

We are committed to using your donation wisely. To learn more about The Salvation Army of Lake & Sumter and how your donation is making a difference, we invite you to follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SalvationArmyLeesburg or by searching "The Salvation Army of Lake & Sumter County."

We are committed to using your donation wisely. This commitment is the reason why we are America's most trusted charity. Please be assured that we will do our best to make a difference in the lives of so many who are in need of so much. May God bless you.

Sincerely, Lt. Chris Doborwicz

Dear Angel Tree Sponsor,

We wanted to take this opportunity to recognize and thank you for helping us Rescuing Christmas for a record 1,109 families who were in need across Lake & Sumter Counties this Christmas season.

2020 brought us great challenges and an even greater need in our community, we served 300 more families than we did in 2019. Through your participation as an Angel Tree Sponsor, 2,485 children's Christmas mornings were filled with joy as they unwrapped their new toys and clothing! 125 senior citizens were also blessed with gifts and necessities! In addition, each household received a Christmas food box to help alleviate their burden during the holidays.

We want to thank you for taking on the responsibility of being an Angel Tree Sponsor and promoting it so that we could accomplish such a huge endeavor as well for your flexibility with changes to the program this year. Your efforts not only brought joy to children and seniors in our community, but it also brought hope to their families as they received much needed clothing and other basic needs. That is what Angel Tree allows us to do for our community...bring hope and meet needs! Thank you for your part in making that happen!

(Salvation Army cont'd)

This October, we will begin our Angel Tree program again and look forward to working with you once more. Together, we can bring even more Christmas joy to families in need across our community in 2021!

God's richest blessings and a Happy New Year,
Lieutenant Elyse Doborwicz, Corps Officer

SoZo Kids

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you so much for your generous donation in helping children who live in rural poverty. It is because of people like you, that children will be able to receive food, hygiene, clothing and mentoring towards an education. We assure you that your donation will be exhausted to ensure a fighting chance for the future of the children in the forest. The total of your donation of \$500.00 to our organization for 2020. If for any reason you have any concerns about the accuracy of this amount, please contact us in order to change the amount immediately. We look forward to continuing our partnership with you to help the children of the forest. Once again, thank you for what you do for SoZo Kids.

Director of Services, David Houck

Children's Advocacy Center

Dear Gloria Dei Lutheran Church,

Please accept our sincere thank you for your generous \$500 donation. Our doors have not closed during this tumultuous time and children continue to need our help daily. The Center, a private not for profit corporation, advocates for the right of every child to access the services they need to begin the healing process following abuse. I have enclosed our newsletter as we want the community to know who we are and what we do to make a difference in children's lives.

"The two most important days in your life are the day you were born and the day you find out why." Mark Twain

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely, Brenda S. Crellen, LMHC, NCC, Executive Director

Children's Advocacy (cont'd)

Dear Pastor & Mrs. Young,

Please accept our sincere thank you for the lovely baby quilts. Many kids this year are struggling due to COVID-19 impact and mental health related issues have increased. Bringing joy to the children in our local community instills hope and compassion. You have touched the lives of many kids due to your kindness and generosity. Enclosed is a copy of our quarterly Newsletter. Please share with others to help support our mission.

On behalf of the children you are helping us serve, thank you again for your kindness and generosity.

Sincerely, Brenda S. Crellen, Executive Director



Patti at her sewing table



Pastor Jim and Brenda Crellen

Dear Leone,

I want to thank you and your group for your recent contribution and your continuing support of the Lake Sumter Children's Advocacy Center.

Your gifts help to support our mission to provide services as soon as possible following the disclosure of abuse, reduce the severity of the emotional impact of the child victim, facilitate the prosecution efforts and provide both the emotional and physical support to the victim's and their family during the entire process.

We thank you for your compassion and generosity.

Sincerely, Brenda Crellen, M.A., LMHC, Executive Director

Oak Park Middle School

Charlotte Christensen and Gloria Dei Lutheran Church,

Thank you so very much for your donation to the students in need at Oak Park Middle School! We appreciate your generosity! With your recent donation we have been able to provide many needed articles of clothing. Sneakers, fleece jackets and sweatshirts for the winter months, athletic joggers, pants and shirts to name a few!

Students have been visiting our Family Resource Center to pick out the items they need. Your mission to help others is making a difference and an impact on the students in our school!

Thank you again for all the ways you are helping!

Kristin Osterman, Family School Liaison

NovusWay Ministries

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$500.00 to NovusWay Ministries. While this has been a challenging year for the ministry emotionally and financially, we turn our hearts toward a plan to once again welcome campers back for a safe and faith filled summer. We are well on our way to reaching our \$1,800,000 Light the Fire Appeal goal by May 31, 2021, and YOU are helping make that happen!

We are doing the work to plan safe programming for children and adults who we know will need camp more than ever. They will need the positive relationships, vespers, campfires, hiking, climbing, canoeing and crafts. They will need the safe place to learn new levels of self-reliance and independence. Counselors will need the life-changing relationships and leadership skills learned from serving the summer camp staff. The church will need these strong, passionate leaders formed by our ministry. With God's help and the support of our strong camp community, we will meet these critical needs.

Please continue to tell your own camp stories as we lean on and encourage each other until we can gather again in these sacred spaces. Thank you for your generosity. Thank you for being a Spark!

Sincerely, Boyd W. Harris, IV, Executive Director-CEO

Mitzie Schafer, Deacon, V. P. for Advancement

JHIFM (JOINING HANDS IN FOOD MINISTRY)

Here's a big THAAAAAANK YOOUUUUUUU to all the dedicated Joining Hands in Food Ministry (JHIFM) volunteers who turned out for our February 12th food distribution. There were 95 cars that rolled through our parking today. We distributed 7,586 pounds of food to 465 people from 129 needy families. We also had the privilege of awarding Joel Weinhardt a certificate of appreciation for planting the seed of JHIFM by organizing Gloria Dei's first food distribution many years ago. Also, we were honored by the presence of the president of the Leesburg Rotary Club, Diane Treadway, who received a letter of appreciation today for her work in organizing food drives benefiting JHIFM.

I have posted photos of today's food distribution that you can see at [Facebook.com/feedinghopenow/](https://www.facebook.com/feedinghopenow/). Be sure to "Like" us on Facebook.

Ritch Cassem

WELCA

The WELCA Board met in January 2021 to discuss what had been accomplished and to plan for our future. Basically, we have decided since the church is not open for worship and activities because of COVID 19 and the CDC Guidelines, we will not have Board meetings each month. The next WELCA Board meeting will be on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 10:00 am in the fellowship hall. Social Distancing and Masks are required.

We had 39 Quilts, 4 Baby Care Kits, and 72 Personal Care Kits to send for Lutheran World Relief to help others. Many thanks to everyone that helped with this project. Not as much as last year but still very good considering the situation we have been in since March of 2020.

Pinelands Conference is planning a virtual Spring Gathering on March 6, 2021 at 10:00am. The theme is "Use Your You-ness." St Timothy's in Crystal River is hosting and there will be a Bible Study and Pastor Joanie Holden will be doing the worship service. Hope in the Villages will be hosting the 2022 Spring Gathering.

SAVE THE DATE: The FL/BA SWO is planning to have the Fall Gathering at Lake Yale in Leesburg November 12, 13, 14, 2021. More details will be coming soon. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. The CDC Guidelines will be followed during the weekend.

Peace and Blessings,
Loraine Van Haecke

Pastor's Report for January 2021

During January 2021 I:

- ✚ Prepared and preached 8 sermons
- ✚ Presided at 4 Tuesday afternoon Drive-In Communion services
- ✚ Installed new council members at Tuesday service on Jan 31.
- ✚ Scheduled personnel for 4 video recording sessions
- ✚ Developed scripts for 4 video recording sessions
- ✚ Developed scripts for 4 Tuesday Communion services
- ✚ Recorded 4 Sunday services
- ✚ Reviewed and approved 4 worship videos
- ✚ Prepared Pastor's report for December
- ✚ Hosted one Zoom Council meeting
- ✚ Hosted one Zoom Executive Committee meeting
- ✚ Hosted one Zoom Annual Congregational meeting
- ✚ Edited 4 bulletins
- ✚ Contributed articles to and edited the February Glorion.
- ✚ Attended 2 Zoom interim ministers' conferences
- ✚ Made numerous phone calls and wrote numerous emails.
- ✚ Worked a total of 17 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 4 times
- ✚ Reviewed and approved hymns for February
- ✚ Coordinated production of PowerPoint slides for video sessions
- ✚ Planned February worship
- ✚ Discovered shed break-in and helped Bill Birdsall with reporting to police and reviewing security camera footage
- ✚ Took 1 non-paid vacation day
- ✚ Coordinated purchase of new video equipment for sanctuary

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

**FINANCIAL CORNER
GENERAL FUND**

GENERAL FUND

	January, 2021	Year to date 2021
Contributions	\$17,683.35	\$17,683.35
Expenditures	\$16,186.38	\$16,186.38

RESTRICTED FUNDS

	1/01/2021	Donations	Expenditures	Ending 1/31/21
Elementary School	69.80	0	0	69.80
Oak Park Middle	412.22	0	0	412.22
Coffee Project	394.58	21.00	0	415.58
Thrivent Choice \$	1,761.04	40.00	0	1,801.04
Basket Social	282.51	0	0	282.51
Eternal Light	515.00	0	0	515.00
Fellowship	220.16	0	5.99	214.17
JHIF	0	240.00	240.00	0
World Hunger	0	75.00	75.00	0
ELCA	0	115.00	115.00	0
Flowers	(125.00)	45.00	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	0	26,000.00	0	26,000.00
TOTALS	\$21,490.49	26,536.00	435.99	\$47,590.50

Council Corner for March 2021

By William Birdsall, council president

The Church Council has continued to conduct our monthly Executive Committee meeting as well as our Council meetings as usual and continues to deal with the business at hand in a timely manner. However, we are currently short one Council member, as no one has volunteered to fill the vacant seat available on the Council. We find that disturbing since we cannot believe no one wants to serve our Gloria Dei as part of the Church Council leadership team. If you are interested in filling that position, please contact Council President Bill Birdsall.

We have been informed by the Call Committee that there are no candidates within our Synod that meet our requirements. However, they found a candidate which will meet our needs from out of state. We are told that this is an experienced pastor with years of experience and higher education, which will result in a higher compensation package than we originally planned for. Therefore, it is now even more important that we all increase our giving as we need to be able to support a new pastor this year and in the future.

Recently Gloria Dei received an anonymous donation in the amount of \$26,000.00 specifically for the purchase and installation of video recording, sound and projection equipment in the sanctuary of the church and fellowship hall. This will allow our worship team to record our services more efficiently and produce a higher quality product. This will also allow Gloria Dei to grow our mission to bring live streamed services into the homes of those who cannot attend live services when we go back to in-person church services.

Our new Maintenance Supervisor is working out well and has made some repairs around the building as well as arranging for and supervising licensed contractors to make other repairs. In general, our outside grounds look well maintained and should be colorful this spring.

Lastly, there may be some light at the end of the Pandemic tunnel. The number of new cases seems to be stabilizing and it appears that our government is getting a handle on the vaccine distribution. We will be carefully following the number of new cases in our county as well as the number of people vaccinated to determine if a safe trend emerges that would allow us to open again sometime in the future for in-person service. Of course, this will also depend on our ability to assure our congregation that the Gloria Dei sanctuary as well as the components of the service are as safe as we can possibly make them.

Bill

Call Committee News

February 16, 2021

The Call Committee is in the process of interviewing a pastoral candidate for Gloria Dei. The first interview will occur by Zoom. After that, the committee will meet to determine the next step. Please pray for the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit so that we 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	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	Lorraine 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