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# GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

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GATHERING IN CHRIST ✝ SHARING HIS LOVE

**THE GLORION**

**May, 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:**

**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**

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: PAUL MOTTO**

**OFFICE MANAGER: MARY BETH MORRIS**

**SEXTON: TINA JANOSA**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP – SUSPENDED DUE TO COVID**

## **Pastor's Message**

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



My beloved Gloria Dei family,  
I rejoice with you that a new shepherd for Gloria Dei has been called. I will continue to keep you all in my prayers as you enter a new chapter in your walk of faith.

I have been extremely blessed to have been a part of the life and transition process of Gloria Dei for the past two years. We have laughed and cried together, and we have persevered through the pandemic. I am extremely pleased to have had an outstanding worship team that was both talented and faithful. They kept our worship life vibrant, inspirational, and accessible to all who could use electronic media.

Thanks especially to the Council and the Call Committee for their diligence, painstaking attention to detail, and commitment to the process of calling a new pastor. I am eternally indebted to the countless volunteers who lead and serve on the various committees. Thanks to all the tireless workers who kept Joining Hands in Food Ministry a beacon of light to those who otherwise would not have access to nutritional food.

Patti and I are grateful for the kindness and generosity you have shown to us. Gloria Dei is truly a welcoming and friendly congregation, and we will cherish our memories of you.

This said, I must share with you the sad (but not unexpected) news of my departure. My final day will be Wednesday, May 5. I will be spending my final days at Gloria Dei preparing the sermons and pre-recording worship services for Sunday May 2, 9, and 16. I will also be presiding at Drive In Communion on Tuesday, May 4. Our final Sunday morning for Virtual Coffee Hour will be Sunday, May 2. Pastor Jim Gable has agreed to preach the sermon and record services for May 23 and 30.

May God richly bless you. May Jesus Christ walk with you. And may the Holy Spirit fill you with love.

Peace,  
*Pastor Jim*

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

**Edith (Sue) Leaf** died **March 28, 2021**. She was cremated and buried in Michigan. Our thoughts and prayers to Edith's husband Ron and the Leaf family.

## RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

Members or friends hospitalized or had surgery in April: Chuck Yonko, Janet Braun, Anne Rusk

***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:**

Gayle Teerman, Love Never Ends  
Andy Talts  
Gayle Teerman  
Edith Leaf

Doug & Pat Bressler/Memorials  
Gayle Bloom/Memorials  
Gayle Bloom/Memorials  
Doug & Pat Bressler/JHIFM

## PRAYERS

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

- 05/02** Marilyn Wahl, Darby Walbon & Karen Schaefer, Bill & Diane Wasser,  
Joel & Sharon Weinhardt, Earl West
- 05/09** Celia Wollner, Chuck & Joy Yonko, Jim & Patti Young,  
Art Zerbel, Dennis & Jane Zimmerman
- 05/16** Nancy Almquist, Don & Helen Ames, Sue Anderson,  
Ted & Dorothy Baehmann, Jean Baer
- 05/23** Janet Bauer, Forrest & Carol Berg, Bill & Kathleen Birdsall,  
Gayle Bloom, Joyce Brandt
- 05/30**

## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

05/08	Donald & Helen Ames	61 years*
05/13	Ed & Peg Chandler	53 years*
05/17	James & Terri Pawelski	57 years*
05/18	John & Arlene Kelly	35 years
05/18	Bill & Phyllis Swinford	60 years*
05/25	Barb & Dock Lias	40 years

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

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

05/02	Kathy Kepler	05/03	Gladys Mull
05/03	Russell Smith	05/06	Carolyn DeLong
05/08	Fred Schenck	05/11	Doug Bressler
05/13	Sue Johnson	05/14	Freddy Farris
05/17	Diana Frederick	05/17	Karen Schaefer
05/20	Linda Steege	05/20	Bill Wasser
05/22	Dick Healy	05/24	Sue Anderson
05/26	Rollie Heimbach	05/27	Jayne Gable
05/28	Earl West	05/31	Richard Smith

## 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**

Since COVID 19 we have not been planning for future events. Things are looking better and we are making plans. Hopefully most everyone has had their vaccines. First, we are planning to resume our monthly meetings in September. WELCA Board will meet the first Tuesday of each month from September through May. The Circles will also plan to meet monthly beginning in September.

Ladies, “SAVE THE DATE” November 12,13,14, 2021 for the FL/BA SWO Fall Gathering at Lake Yale in Leesburg. The theme is “Faith can move Mountains”. There will be Worship, Bible Study, Workshops, Fellowship, quilting by our ladies and some other fun things to participate in. Come for the three days or come for just one day. It is an awesome spiritual and social event. Meet ladies from our sister congregations that are using their talents for God’s work as we are. Registration details will be available soon.

The Women’s Annual Christmas Luncheon is planned for December 2, 2021 at the Crown and Shield in Royal Highlands. More details will follow. Precautions will be taken and the CDC Guidelines will be followed at all events to the best of our ability. Keep in mind that plans could change due to the circumstances in our lives. We will keep everyone informed of any changes.

Loraine Van Haecke  
S Vice President WELCA

### **Mary-Martha Circle**

Mary-Martha Quilters met at Pennbrooke Community building where they put together 25 quilts using their facilities. We enjoyed food, fun and fellowship and thanks go to Sandy Goodwill for making these wonderful arrangements.

Carol Marshall, Leader

## SOCIAL MINISTRIES

The Social Ministries Committee met April 13 and reviewed the current status of various projects.

1. The Oak Park Middle School project for low income and homeless children is being handled very well by their new staff. She is using money very wisely to purchase as much as possible by visiting thrift stores for new merchandise for the children. Gayle Bloom and Elizabeth Sanguedolce will begin to team lead this committee with Charlotte Christensen's assistance. Charlotte will deliver the next donation April 15.
2. Joe LaHood has delivered 47 quilts to Leesburg Elementary. They have distributed the quilts provided by our congregation, letting each child select their own in a private meeting. The school sent a thank you note, which will be printed in The Glorion.
3. No items have been donated for Salvation Army this month. Pat Bressler continues to lead this liaison.
4. Linda Steege reported that all of the remaining coffee from the Lutheran World Relief coffee project has been purchased. Thank you, coffee drinkers! Joining Hands purchased the remainder after the congregation sale after communion services last month. Linda suggested we end the coffee project, as we haven't had very many sales this year, due to Covid and not meeting for church services. The committee voted to end the project and to notify the congregation with a note in the Glorion that those interested in purchasing Lutheran World Relief coffee could do so through the Lutheran World Relief website. The balance in the coffee project fund is \$525.58. The committee voted to send the entire balance to "Mission Partner 100" ELCA program specifying that the money will go to St. John's Lutheran Church in Jacksonville. Pastor Jim Young explained the specific needs at St. John's, an inner city church founded in 1877. He will handle this donation.
5. Pastor Jim thanked the committee for providing Luther Springs camperships for three children. James Menchaca's children, Quiana and Julian, will attend the July 18-25's 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 Ministries Committee is very pleased that all 4 cousins can attend together.

The next meeting of the Social Ministries Committee is May 18 after the drive-in communion service.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Sanguedolce  
Social Ministries Publicity

### **Gloria Dei Coffee Drinkers:**

It was the decision of the Social Ministry committee at its April meeting to discontinue selling Farmers Market coffee at church. Due to this past year of COVID-19 the coffee we had on hand “sell by” date was expiring and there had been a reduced number of members who had been purchasing LWR Farmers Market coffee even before COVID.

If you wish to continue purchasing Farmers Market coffee you may do so online by going to [lwrfarmersmarket.org](http://lwrfarmersmarket.org).

We appreciate your past support for this Lutheran World Relief’s mission.

Linda Steege  
Social Ministry Committee

### ***Thank you from Leesburg Elementary School***

Dear Parishioner of Gloria Dei Church,

Once again we would like to thank you for all you continue to do for our kiddos. Thank you for all the time and effort you put out making quilts for our needy students. I would like to thank all the people who donate the fabric, cut the pattern out and sew the quilts together.

Without your continued support, we would not be able to supply the items that are kiddos need.

Thank you again for helping Leesburg Elementary be the best that it can be.

Thankfully yours,  
Florence Katzenberger

### ***Thank you letter from Lake Sumter Children’s Advocacy Center:***

Dear Leone,

I want to thank you and your group for 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 victims and their family during the entire process.

We thank you for your compassion and generosity.  
Sincerely, Brenda Crellen, M.A.,  
LMHC Executive Director



***Thank you letter from the Florida-Bahamas Synod***

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church:

We thank you for your generous Mission Partners 100 gift of \$525.58 to benefit St. John's Lutheran Church in Jacksonville. Because of your generosity, St. John's is experiencing rebirth with an expansive vision of the Gospel of Jesus. Your gift is helping to make this happen.

Members of the congregation are stepping forward with excitement to participate in fresh and creative ministry as we emerge from the protocols of the pandemic. Our food pantry is caring for dozens of hungry households. Our facilities are being made available to neighborhood ministries. Plans for performing arts events are in the works. Our relationships with the local hospital and grade school are strengthening. Our community garden is preparing for rejuvenation to help overcome the local food desert. All of this is possible because of your generosity.

We are grateful that you have shared the vision, and that God has stirred in you the desire to help. Your gifts and prayers are a blessing to St. John's and to all of Jacksonville.

Yours, in service of the Risen Christ!

Pastor Rob Carlson,  
Director for Evangelical Mission/A2B

Pastor Russell Meyer  
St. John Lutheran Church, Jacksonville

***Thank you letter from Lutheran World Relief***

Dear Partner in Ministry,

Grace and peace to you from Lutheran World Relief

As you guide your congregation through this holy season and into the joyous celebration of Easter, please know that we have been praying for you, your leadership, your ministry and your congregation.

Throughout this pandemic as congregations might have been tempted to draw inward and take care of themselves, your love has continued to turn outward toward our most vulnerable neighbors in the world. Thank you.

Please accept this coffee as a small gift from us at Lutheran World Relief as an expression of gratitude to you and your team for making God's love known to so many. May it help keep you awake during these holy moments as you boldly proclaim the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

We thank God for your partnership in spreading the good news of Jesus.  
In gratitude,

Rev. Lisa Kipp  
Sr. Mgr. Congregations

Rev. David Wangaard  
Mgr. Church Relations

Emma Wagner  
Assoc. Congregations

## JHIFM (JOINING HANDS IN FOOD MINISTRY)

### THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS:

Thank you to the approximately 35 volunteers who gathered on April 9 morning to distribute 9,217 pounds of nutritious food to 338 individuals from 104 local needy families. I have posted photos of this morning's food distribution that you can view at [Facebook.com/feedinghopenow/](https://www.facebook.com/feedinghopenow/).

Ritch Cassem

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## FINANCIAL CORNER GENERAL FUND

	March, 2021	Year to date 2021
Contributions	\$18,962.14	\$53,490.39
Expenditures	\$18,551.75	\$51,159.64

### RESTRICTED FUNDS

	2/01/2021	Donations	Expenditures	Ending 2/28/21
Elementary School	119.80	0	0	119.80
Oak Park Middle	82.22	0	0	82.22
Coffee Project	525.58	0	0	525.58
Thrivent Choice \$	1,921.04	342.00	0	2,263.04
Basket Social	282.51	0	0	282.51
Eternal Light	535.00	0	0	535.00
Fellowship	208.18	0	5.99	202.19
JHIF	0	100.00	100.00	0
World Hunger	0	122.00	122.00	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	13,774.79	1,703.25	3,287.00	12,191.04
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$35,329.30</b>	<b>2,397.25</b>	<b>3,644.99</b>	<b>\$34,081.56</b>

## **Council Corner for April 2021**

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

Wow! Has this been an exciting month or what? So much has happened in the last 30 days that it is hard to believe that a year of hard work has finally come to an end. Our special Congregational meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup> was absolutely wonderful and very inspiring. The Holy Spirit was there, and I think we all felt it especially when the clouds left and the sun shone down upon us. We certainly sent our message when the votes were tallied and 71 of 73 members present voted yes to extend our call to the Reverend Edward Barnett. Please, if you see a member of the Call Committee take the time to thank them for all their hard work.

I have spoken with Rev. Barnett and he is planning to conduct his first church service in person on June 13<sup>th</sup>. I know we all cannot wait for that to happen. He told me his last service in his present church will be May 30<sup>th</sup>. Then he will have the movers come and move him down here to Florida and into his new home in Tavares. We all know that takes time, so be patient.

The Church council has been tending to church business matters as usual. However, the report from the roof inspection revealed many areas of the roof that need attention this year. In particular, the steeple is leaking and causing water damage over the front entrance which needs immediate attention. Also, we will be adding some lights to shine on the front entrance of the church at night as we have had several alarms at the front door during the evening hours usually between midnight and 5:00am. We hope that will deter that problem. We are also putting in new LED bulbs in the light fixtures around the perimeter of the building and burn them during the night to further deter the homeless from sleeping in the bushes and darker areas.

The Church Council is still short one member, so if you are interested in serving on the Council, please see any council member. It would be nice to start with a full council when Pastor Barnett joins us. There will be so much to do now we could really use the help.

When we did the Meet and Greet for Pastor Barnett, Councilmember Jan Rudolph polled our members as they came in and found that everyone had received a Covid 19 vaccination. With that information and all the precautions, we have taken, the Church council will be having a meeting next week to discuss reopening the church for the various committees, Bible studies and meetings.

Lastly, the Church Council thanks Pastor Jim for steering our ship through these very unusual times and for providing the glue that held us all together. Without his guidance, pastoral leadership, and technical knowledge we would have been lost in the storm. He showed us a new way to worship our Lord and to meet our church family weekly. It is not just magic but his relationship with God that made it all happen. From the Council, a heartfelt Thank you! *-Bill*



May 2021						
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

**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		