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# GLORIA DEI

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

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GATHERING IN CHRIST ✝ SHARING HIS LOVE

### THE GLORION

**December 2022**

[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, Wednesday, Thursday**

**After office hours contact:**

**Pastor Edward Barnett 516-610-6676**

**Bill Birdsall – 732-773-2680**

**ADDRESS: 130 S. Lone Oak Drive, Leesburg, FL 34748**

**OFFICE PHONE: (352)787-3223**

**OFFICE EMAIL: [gloriadeilutheranleesburg@gmail.com](mailto:gloriadeilutheranleesburg@gmail.com)**

**WEB SITE: [www.gloriadeielca.com](http://www.gloriadeielca.com)**

**FAX (352)787-7597**

**OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday-9:00-4:00 PM**

**PASTOR: THE REV. EDWARD G. BARNETT**

**CANTOR: CHARLENE CRANMER**

**PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: MARY BETH MORRIS**

**SEXTON: TINA JANOSA**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP – 9:30 A.M**



December, 2022

The legendary cellist Pablo Casals was asked why he continued to practice at age 90. "Because, I think I'm making progress," he replied.

We think of "progress" as something we can see, things that are readily apparent. Some of us remember the advent of television. We remember the old black and white tube sets; and also, how happy we were to finally acquire our first color unit. Then a few years back there was the arrival of "flat screen" units. We think, "well that's progress!" We can think of such progress because it is seen.

With Advent this year, many in our community are entering more than 60, 70, 80, 90, even 100 times through the Church year cycle! Think of all the amazing work that God has done with us over those years! How do we think about that "progress?" We often fail to realize that progress because it is largely unseen. Our Christian faith life consists of repetition and seasons. This process of making us holy, or sanctifying us, is something that we are to be active participants in. But it is largely God's work alone. (Please recall Luther's explanation to the 3<sup>rd</sup> article of the Creed in the Small Catechism!)

"Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel."

2 Timothy 1.8-10

The work that God does interiorly rarely is seen, but it's there. As we look for the Advent of our Lord once again this December, do so by giving thanks for the "progress" that's already been made.

Pr Ed Barnett

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

**Elizabeth Snyder** died **11/10/22**. Our condolences and prayers to Elizabeth's family. The funeral service will be on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am at Gloria Dei.

## RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

Members or friends hospitalized or had surgery in November: cj Clarke, Joe LaHood

## GIFTS OF REMEMBRANCE

### In loving memory of:

Harriet Madson  
Kirk Kirkpatrick

Gail Madson/flowers  
cj & Michael Clarke/Memorials

### In honor of:

My daughter Ruth's birthday  
My sister Delores's birthday  
To celebrate our children's birthdays-  
Rich, Chris & Maria

Hank Stennes/flowers  
Jeanne Talts/flowers  
Ritch & Debbie Cassem/flowers

## PRAYERS

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

**12/4** Mary Humphries, Irv & Sue Johnson, MaryJean Kancel,  
Nancy Kancel, John & Arlene Kelly

**12/11** Bess King, Byron & Crystal Kirkpatrick, Bernadine Kirkpatrick,  
Sandy Kolb, Helga La Cava,

**12/18** Barb & Dock Lias, Jan Liljestrand, Judy Lorenz,  
Sylvia Mackey, Gail Madson

**12/25** Dianne & Dennis Marcotte, Carol Marshall, Evelyn Matthes,  
James, Quiana & Julian Menchaca, Andy & Taeko Mincer

## Gloria Dei Women of the ELCA

December 2022

Since the women met on November 1, 2022, six of our ladies attended World Community Day with Church Women United at Zion Lutheran in Groveland to celebrate. It was a very meaningful celebration.

The FL/BA Synodical Women's Organization was held on November 11 – 13. Myself being on the Planning Committee and Leone Goding as a Board member were there on Thursday to help get ready for the week end. Leone was a commuter along with three others. Charlene Cranmer was our music leader for the week end. This was her first time attending and she stayed overnight. The music was wonderful!! It was a week end filled with fellowship, meeting new friends, reconnecting with old friends, worship services, Bible study, workshops, good food and a wonderful time Saturday evening playing games. The Saturday night event was entitled Step by Step walking with your sister. Fun was had by all.

The ladies completed eight quilts that were given to Pastor Hauck for the SOZO kids. The SOZO kids are the SWO Love Offering recipient for the balance of 2022. Mary/Martha Circle reported that they had 108 completed quilts to date. Usually there are 9 to 11 people working on quilts. Ruth Circle reported they had enough personal care items to make 70 Personal Care Kits.

Planning Meeting for the Pinelands Spring Gathering is scheduled for February 4 at 9am at St. Matthews in Ocala. If you are interested in attending, please contact me or Leone. The Pinelands Spring Gathering will follow on March 18, 2023, 9am to 2pm at St. Matthews in Ocala. All women are invited.

*Wishing all of you a Merry Christmas and a very  
Blessed and Happy New Year!!*

*Loraine Van Haecke, WELCA President*

*352-787-14070 Home*

*407-252-46920 Cell*

**Ruth Circle** – will meet on Thursday Dec 1 at 11:30 am for annual Christmas party. Party to be held at Chesapeake Bay Grille in Arlington Ridge. Remember to bring your purchased ticket as this lists your food choice and will help the servers. Please bring a box of Little Debbie's Christmas cakes to benefit JHIFM December food distribution. Christmas baskets will be assembled on Dec 16th. Next regular meeting will be at the church at 1:30 pm on Thursday January 5th. Deb will lead bible study and Gayle will provide refreshments.  
Dianne Marcotte, Leader

**Mary-Martha Circle** will meet on the 2nd Tuesday, December 13th, starting at 9:00 am, we will be quilting until 10:30 am, have snacks & coffee. At 11:00 am we will have Bible Study from November/December *Gather* magazine. If you don't have one, we will share. We will also be quilting on Friday, December 30th at 9:00 am. Please come and join us.  
Carol Marshall 352 787 0435

### **AMAZON SMILE**

Just a reminder to use when shopping on Amazon. **Login: smile.amazon.com.** You access your account in the same way you normally do and then can designate a charitable organization. Gloria Dei and Joining Hands in Food Ministry are registered as recipients.

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

Many thanks to the approximately 43 intrepid volunteers from Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, First Presbyterian Church of Leesburg, and from around our community who turned out the morning of November 11 to serve 634 individuals from 176 local families 10,615 pounds of nutritious food. I posted photos of the food distribution at Facebook.com/feedinghopenow/. Our next monthly food distribution is scheduled for Friday, December 8th so mark your calendars!

Richard Cassem, Joining Hands in Food Ministry COO

## **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, 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.

## **DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

12/13	Loraine & Bill Van Haecke	25 years
12/18	Andy & Taeko Mincer	38 years
12/23	John & Mary Grissom	29 years

*\*Special congratulations to those celebrating fifty or more years of marriage.*

## **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

12/03	John Braun	12/05	Bill Van Haecke
12/06	Madalon Ritter	12/08	Gayle Bloom
12/08	Linda Hide	12/10	Forrest Berg
12/16	Loraine Van Haecke	12/18	Joyce Brandt
12/24	Richard Czuprynski	12/27	Mary Kelp
12/27	Gail Madson	12/30	Marlene Farris
12/30	Larry Goerke		

## **EDUCATION-DEVELOPING DISCIPLES**

You are cordially invited to join our Bible study, Women of the Bible. We meet on Wednesdays from 2:00-3:30 pm at church.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact Christine Carlson at [skauvold.carlson@gmail.com](mailto:skauvold.carlson@gmail.com) or by phone at (516) 458-7355

## **SOCIAL MINISTRIES COMMITTEE**

The Social Ministries Committee met October 26 and approved a \$500 donation from the 2022 budget to each of the following organizations:

- Esther House Re-entry
- Lake-Sumter Children's Advocacy
- So-Zo Kids in Ocala National Forest
- Education Foundation
- Forward Paths
- ELCA World Hunger

A \$1,000 donation to Salvation Army Food and Christmas Angels and a \$410 donation to Haven House were approved. This completes the budgeted Social Ministry Funds of \$8,000 for 2022.

Elizabeth has agreed to be the Social Ministries liaison to Leesburg Elementary School. She and Gayle will work together to cover both the elementary school and the middle school.

Oak Park Middle School has requested a supply of index cards and several items of clothing for the students. The items were purchased with designated funds and delivered to the school. Total designated funds for this donation were \$85.88.

Pat Bressler collected the donations for Haven House from the Narthex and has delivered them. She also collected and delivered donations for Salvation Army.

The Salvation Army has requested our participation in the Angel Tree Project. We agreed to take 60 individual "Angels" and asked that they be split between children and seniors. The donations for the Angel Tree Project are due back to the church or to Salvation Army by December 8<sup>th</sup>.

The next meeting will be January 18 at 10:00 am.

Elizabeth Sanguedolce  
Social Ministries Secretary



Social Ministries (cont'd)

### THANK YOU

With gratitude we thank you for your donation of \$500.00 to Forward Paths Foundation. Generosity such as yours make it possible for our youth to continue on their paths to independence. We, and they, are blessed by your support of our mission and thank you again for this special gift.

Sincerely, Arlene

Dear Leone Goding,

I wanted to thank Gloria Dei Lutheran Church for your generous donation of \$500 to the Lake Sumter Children's Advocacy Center. Please utilize this letter as a receipt for your donation.

These funds will be used to provide direct services to our local community Lake and Sumter Counties to child victims of physical and/or sexual abuse. These services include forensic interviews, crisis counseling, long term therapy and medical exams. Because of donations like yours, we are able to provide all of our services to child victims and their non-offending family members at no charge.

Thank you for your kindness, compassion and generosity.

Sincerely, Brenda Crellan, LMHC, NCC, Executive Director

Leone,

Thank you so much for the recent donation. This \$500 will truly help make an impact on the work we do. We are so lucky to have community support all around Lake County.

With gratitude, Kacey and the Foundation Team  
Education Foundation of Lake County

Dear Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Thank you for your gift of \$500 to ELCA World Hunger.

*Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God (Romans 5:1-2).*

As a church, we believe that God's grace is freely given to us. This brings us peace and hope. It makes a difference in our lives. Through your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, you are sharing this amazing grace with others. You are helping people around the world feel the transformational power of God's love.

Your generosity is getting at the root cause of hunger and poverty in over 60 countries including the United States. It is providing access to clean water, health care, agriculture, livestock, education, and peace and justice. Through your gifts, you are joining with the whole church as we work toward a just world where all are fed.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God is shining through you.

In Christ,  
Daniel Rift, Director, Mission Funding, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response

### **DISASTER PLAN**

As a way of protecting members of Gloria Dei congregation, stewarding our property and as requested by our Bishop Pedro Suarez, members of Gloria Dei are gathering information to put together a Disaster plan specific to our church.

Topics will include Hurricane Preparedness, Fire Safety and Active shooter safety. Handouts on various topics will be available over the next few months as part of overall plan.

If you have an interest in this topic or a suggestion of what you would like to see included in a disaster plan, please speak with Dianne Marcotte 508-723-2073. Your input is welcomed and important.



Starting in January, Gloria Dei will be updating our online directory called Instant Church Directory. Linda Steege and Bev Healy have graciously volunteered to be our photographers. They will be taking new pictures of our members after each Sunday service beginning January 8th and continuing through January 29th. They will also be collecting any information that may have changed within the last 3 – 4 years, including mailing addresses, email addresses, birth date (month and day) and phone numbers. More information will be forthcoming.

## FINANCIAL CORNER

### GENERAL FUND

	October, 2022	Year to date 2022
Contributions	\$21,400.12	\$167,411.96
Expenditures	\$25,789.35	\$243,084.16

### RESTRICTED FUNDS

	10/01/2022	Donations	Expenditures	Ending 10/31/22
Elementary School	196.47	0	0	196.47
Oak Park Middle	0	0	0	0
Thrivent Choice \$	4,149.26	0	0	4,149.26
Basket Social	282.51	0	0	282.51
Eternal Light	580.00	20.00	0	600.00
Fellowship	99.87	56.50	72.70	83.67
JHIF	0	156.05	156.05	0
World Hunger	0	356.05	356.05	0
ELCA	0	180.00	180.00	0
Flowers	513.09	69.00	0	582.09
Altar wine/bread	11.98	25.00	0	36.98
AV Equipment	4,733.77	0	0	4,733.77
Evangelism	570.00	0	0	570.00
Choir/Music	500.00	50.00	0	550.00
First Impressions fund	0	20.00	0	20.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$11,636.95</b>	<b>932.60</b>	<b>764.80</b>	<b>\$11,804.75</b>

## **Council Corner for December 2022**

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

Gloria Dei Council has continued to meet monthly as has the Executive Committee. The Council's work is ongoing and the improvements we implemented are moving along on schedule. The work in Pastors new office/Vestry is complete except for the upgraded lighting. Pastor expects to move into this new space in early December. All the costs associated with that project were donated by two of our members. The work will then be focused on converting his old office into a storage room which is sorely needed. First Impression Task force is collecting Crosses for the Cross wall through the end of November, donate a cross and be part of this new project.

I am pleased to announce that the third stained glass window has been installed in Pastor's new office which completes that project. The work took 1 year and 2 weeks to complete. Congratulations are due Kathleen Birdsall for all her hard work.

The council has been working hard on the 2023 Operating Budget and it appears that with some cuts and adjustments there will be little increase. Many of our costs have increased due to inflation, energy costs, insurance increases, vendor cost increases and employee's salaries. However, with loss of membership and few new members our weekly offerings are showing a concerning decrease which is causing us to tap our reserves to meet expenses. Reserves are not meant to be used for day to day operating expenses but are for unexpected repairs, maintenance and building improvements.

The fall car show was again a success as we able to raise \$775.00 for JHIFM and \$90.00 for the Evangelism committee. The Bingo was a big hit until the Bingo computer program stopped operating. I want to thank all the volunteers who participated and helped make the show a success. The Spring Car Show will be in early March 2023.

The Fall Yard Sale will be held on December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9am until 2pm in the parking lot. Please come out and participate and remember to bring a table to set up on.

Work on the new directory is under way and pictures of our members are scheduled to be taken in January, so stay tuned. Also remember that the Salvation Army Angel Tree is now in the Narthex and that your gifts must be in the church by December 7<sup>th</sup>.

*Bill*

## **DECEMBER CALENDAR**

<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>12/1</b>	<b>11:30 p.m. WELCA Christmas Party</b>
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>12/3</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Church Yard Sale</b>
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>12/4</b>	<b>9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship-Advent 2</b>
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>12/6</b>	<b>10:00 a.m. WELCA Board Meeting</b>
		<b>10:00 a.m. Executive Committee</b>
		<b>4:30 p.m. Catechism</b>
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>12/7</b>	<b>NO DEVELOPING DISCIPLES</b>
		<b>4:00 p.m. Vespers</b>
		<b>4:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b>Fri.</b>	<b>12/9</b>	<b>8:30-10:30 a.m. JHIFM</b>
		<b>11:00 a.m. Elizabeth Snyder funeral service</b>
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>12/10</b>	<b>11:00 a.m. Kirk Kirkpatrick visitation,</b>
		<b>12:00 noon funeral, followed by luncheon</b>
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>12/11</b>	<b>9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship-Advent 3</b>
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>12/13</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. Quilting/Mary Martha Circle</b>
		<b>4:30 p.m. Catechism</b>
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>12/14</b>	<b>2:00 p.m. Developing Disciples</b>
		<b>4:00 p.m. Vespers</b>
		<b>4:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>12/15</b>	<b>10:00 a.m. Eucharist/Council Meeting</b>
<b>Fri.</b>	<b>12/16</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. Christmas Baskets for Shut-ins</b>
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>12/18</b>	<b>9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship-Hunger Offering</b>
		<b>10:30 a.m. Hanging of the Greens</b>
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>12/20</b>	<b>4:30 p.m. Catechism</b>
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>12/21</b>	<b>12:00 noon Developing Disciples Bible Study</b>
		<b>And lunch at Carlson's House</b>
		<b>4:00 p.m. Vespers</b>
		<b>4:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b>Fri.</b>	<b>12/23</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. Mission Quilting</b>
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>12/24</b>	<b>5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service</b>
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>12/25</b>	<b>9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship</b>
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>12/28</b>	<b>NO DEVELOPING DISCIPLES</b>
		<b>4:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>12/31</b>	<b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b>

## DECEMBER WORSHIP LEADERS

### Assistant Ministers

Legend: R-Reader, +-Crucifer, C-Communion Assist., A-Liturgy Assist.

#### 9:30 a.m.

<b>12/4</b>	R=Linda Hide += C= A=Patricia Bressler	<b>12/11</b>	R=Steve Cranmer += C= A=Arlene Kelly
<b>12/18</b>	R=Byron Kirkpatrick +=Leone Goding C= A=Arlene Kelly	<b>12/24</b>	R= += C= A=
<b>12/25</b>	R= +=Leone Goding C= A=Patricia Bressler		

### Ushers

**If you are able to serve or have any questions, please contact Crystal Kirkpatrick at 552-3983.**

#### 9:30 a.m.

<b>12/4</b>	Crystal Kirkpatrick Byron Kirkpatrick	<b>12/11</b>	Crystal Kirkpatrick Byron Kirkpatrick
<b>12/18</b>	Crystal Kirkpatrick Byron Kirkpatrick	<b>12/24</b>	Crystal Kirkpatrick Byron Kirkpatrick
<b>12/25</b>	Crystal Kirkpatrick Byron Kirkpatrick		

**Altar Guild for December:**

**12/4** Crystal & Byron Kirkpatrick  
**12/11** Crystal & Byron Kirkpatrick  
**12/18** Crystal & Byron Kirkpatrick  
**12/25**

**Post Worship Secretary for December:** Bess King

**Greeters**

**12/4**  
**12/11**  
**12/18**  
**12/25**

**Fellowship**

**12/4** Marva & Jon Tetting  
**12/11** Madalon Ritter & Pat Bressler  
**12/18** Bill & Kathleen Birdsall  
**12/25** **NO COFFEE HOUR**

**Counters – Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.**

**12/4** Jeanne Talts  
**12/11** John & Janet Braun  
**12/18** Diane Wasser & Pat Heimbach  
**12/25** Madalon Ritter & Arlene Kelly



## **Minutes of the Gloria Dei Congregation Council**

Wednesday, 9 November 2022, 10:00 am

We opened with a Eucharistic service by Pastor Barnett.

I. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 10:35 am by Pastor Barnett.

II. **Roll Call:** - Present: - Pastor Edward Barnett, Bill Birdsall, Craig Carlson, Linda Hide, Arlene Kelly (excused), Crystal Kirkpatrick, Linda Riikonen (excused), Linda Steege, Loraine VanHaecke, Diane Wasser, Dianne Marcotte (disciple guest)

III. **Promise** - The Covenant Promise was recited by the Council.

IV. **Adoption of Agenda** – The agenda was reviewed. Motion to accept the agenda by Bill, second by Loraine. **Motion carried.**

V. **Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting** – Minutes of the 4 October 2022 meeting were reviewed. Motion to accept the minutes by Linda Steege, second by Bill. **Motion carried.**

VI. **Correspondence** – Nothing to report.

VII. **Pastor's Report** – Pastor Barnett distributed his report prior to the meeting.

- Pastor reported the following service times for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany:
  - o Advent Vespers – Wednesdays at 4:00 pm, beginning 30 November 2022
  - o Christmas Eve – 5:00 pm
  - o Christmas Day – 9:30 am
  - o Epiphany – Friday, 6 January 2023 at 11:00 am, followed by a pot luck.
- Christmas decorating/hanging of the greens (tree, pews, poinsettia tree) will be on Sunday, 18 December 2022, after church.
- Pastor suggested having a holiday party for staff, council members and spouses. Bill will check with Kathleen about hosting it at their home.

- The congregation retreat was discussed. Bill reported that there was a good response, although we need to advertise better next time. Pastor suggested we have another retreat in one (1) year.
- Pastor will look into a telephone calling system for members who do not use internet.
- Pastor suggested a system for carpooling homebound members. Mary Beth will create a list of members needing a ride to church.

## **VIII. Unfinished Business –**

- A. Update on First Impressions Task Force –
  - Bill reported a wall has been built near the kitchen.
  - A TV will be installed on the big wall.
  - Work is being done on the cross wall.
  - Electrical work is being completed.
  - Bill ordered bookcases to match desk in Pastor's office.
  - Bill reported that the cabinets originally planned for the quilters' room will be too expensive; an alternative of adjustable shelving is being considered. Bill is working with the quilters on finding plastic containers for the shelves.
  - Linda Hide said she doesn't need office space. Since she is only at church a short time, she will work in Mary Beth's office.
  - Pastor's old office will be used as church storage.
  - Bill is working with JHIFM to have a meeting to address concerns with Gloria Dei Council and JHIFM. Bob Glockler (First Presbyterian) will give Bill possible dates for a meeting.
- B. Covid Update – Bill reported that there are new variants of the virus and that a new booster is available.
- C. Disaster Preparedness Discussion – Dianne Marcotte handed out information on active shooter response. Bill, Pastor, and Dianne will work on a direct mailing to the congregation regarding the active shooter response. Dianne will compose a cover letter to the congregation. Mary Beth will mail information to the congregation. Dianne will look into FEMA active shooter training.

- D. Congregation Retreat – Discussed under Pastor’s Report. Another retreat will be held in one (1) year.
- E. Chamber of Commerce – Pastor and Bill will attend meetings.
- F. New Directory – This will be done in-house. Linda Steege and Bev Healy will coordinate.
- G. Evangelism – Bill reported the show went very well. There were 27 cars and \$775 was raised for JHIFM. The spring show will be on 4 February 2023. The next yard sale will be held on 3 December 2022.
- H. Council Candidates – We are still looking for four (4) new candidates. We may have to change the meeting times to accommodate new people.

## **IX. New Business –**

- A. 2023 Budget – Linda discussed several items in the budget. Linda suggested that numerous items will need to be reduced or eliminated.
  - 19-Property insurance renewal is in April 2023. Linda expects these rates to increase.
  - 22-We cannot afford a webmaster. This position will have to be eliminated. (-\$9,000)
  - 29-Utilities have increased.
  - 35-Sexton’s salary has increased. (+\$780.00)
  - 42-Music budget has increased. (+\$500.00)
  - 46-We cannot afford Security. This position will have to be eliminated. (-\$5,760.00)
  - 47-Social Ministry funds will have to be decreased. This should not be an operating budget item. These items should be sponsored by fund-raisers. (-\$6,000)
  - 48-Lutheran Services Florida – Will have to be eliminated. (-\$600.00)
  - 49-Synod Benevolence donation - Will be decreased. (-\$3,600.00)

Linda reported this is her first draft. Council will approve the budget in December. The budget will then be presented to the congregation in January for approval.

- B. Sound System Improvement for Choir and Organ – It's been reported that the choir and organ cannot be heard on live-stream with the current system. Bill will talk to Irv and look into obtaining a new sound system.
- C. Columbarium - Due to our current declining financial situation, Bill suggested a temporary hold on Columbarium sales and to consider all sales on a case-by-case basis. Linda reported that we have used \$75,000 from reserves for operating expenses this year. If this trend continues, Gloria Dei will have to close in three (3) years. Motion to put a temporary hold on Columbarium sales and consider sales on a case-by-case basis by Loraine, second by Craig. **Motion carried.**
- D. Employee Reviews – All reviews were completed in October and they went very well.

X. **Reports –**

- A. Pastor – Pastor Barnett reported on numerous items throughout the meeting as noted in the minutes, as well as distributing his report prior to the meeting.
- B. President – Bill reported on numerous items throughout the meeting as noted in the minutes, as well as emailing his report prior to the meeting.
- C. Vice President – Nothing to report.
- D. Treasurer – Linda Hide emailed the financials prior to the meeting. She reported in item IX-A during the meeting.

XI. **Committees/Task Forces –**

- 1. Evangelism/Technology and Communications/Webmaster – Bill Birdsall
- 2. Fellowship –
- 3. Finance – Linda Hide
- 4. Property – Bill Birdsall
- 5. Social Ministry – Linda Steege

6. Stewardship – Arlene Kelly
7. Worship and Music – Crystal Kirkpatrick
8. Christian Education/Faith Formation – Linda Steege
9. Mission Endowment – Linda Hide
10. Liaison to JHIFM and GD Office Staff –

## **Who Does What?**

- Bill will check with Kathleen about hosting the council/staff holiday party at their home.
- Pastor will look into a telephone calling system for members who do not use internet.
- Mary Beth will create a list of members needing a ride to church.
- Bill will work with Bob Glockner to arrange a meeting with JHIFM and Council.
- Bill, Pastor, and Dianne will work on a direct mailing to the congregation regarding the active shooter response.
- Dianne will compose a cover letter to the congregation.
- Mary Beth will mail active shooter information to the congregation.
- Dianne will look into FEMA active shooter training.
- Bill and Pastor will attend Chamber of Commerce meetings.
- Linda Steege and Bev Healy will coordinate the new directory.
- Bill will talk to Irv and look into obtaining a new sound system.
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Next Meetings – Executive – Tuesday, 6 December 2022, 10:00 am via zoom.  
Council – Thursday, 15 December 2022, 10:00 am at church.

Linda Hide moved to adjourn, second by Bill. **Motion carried.**

We closed at 12:42 pm with a prayer by Pastor Barnett.

Respectfully submitted,

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Diane Wasser, Secretary

## **2022 First Impressions Task Force Report**

Meeting Wednesday, November 9, 2022

This meeting was canceled due to Hurricane Nicole. The committee has decided to spend the time cleaning and organizing the kitchen. This clean-up will take place November 25<sup>th</sup> starting at 11 AM.

If anyone has any history of the kitchen, the task force would love to know the when and how it was planned and put in, as it would help us understand the reason for the present set-up.

The task force is looking forward to seeing all the crosses that are being donated for the cross wall that will be a focal point in the gathering hall. We are working on a way to display them in a unique way.

The third stained glass window was installed November 17<sup>th</sup>. The windows are lit after dark and are visible from the street; take a ride by if you are out and about.



Respectfully submitted  
Kathleen Birdsall, Chair



**“Lutheran” Saints: A Saint of the month profile from our Lutheran Calendar\*  
St. Lucy – 13 December – *How did a Sicilian girl become a Swedish patron???***

According to the traditional story, Lucy was born of rich and noble parents about the year 283 AD. Her father died when she was five years old, leaving Lucy and her mother without a protective guardian. Like many of the early martyrs, Lucy had consecrated her virginity to God, and she hoped to distribute her dowry to the poor. However, her mother, not knowing of Lucy's promise, and suffering from a bleeding disorder, feared for Lucy's future. She arranged Lucy's marriage to a young man of a wealthy pagan family.

Lucy's mother, Eutychia, was persuaded to make a pilgrimage to St. Agatha's Shrine in [Catania](#) in hopes of a cure. While there, St. Agatha came to Lucy in a dream and told her that because of her faith her mother would be cured and that Lucy would be the glory of Syracuse, as she was of Catania. With her mother cured, Lucy took the opportunity to persuade her mother to allow her to distribute a great part of her riches among the poor.

Eutychia suggested that the sums would make a good bequest, but Lucy countered, "...whatever you give away at death for the Lord's sake you give because you cannot take it with you. Give now to the true Savior, while you are healthy, whatever you intended to give away at your death."

News that the patrimony and jewels were being distributed came to Lucy's betrothed, who denounced her to Paschasius, the Governor of Syracuse. Paschasius ordered her to burn a sacrifice to the emperor's image. When she refused, Paschasius sentenced her to be defiled in a brothel.

The Christian tradition states that when the guards came to take her away, they could not move her even when they hitched her to a team of oxen. Bundles of wood were then heaped about her and set on fire, but would not burn. Finally, she met her death by the sword thrust into her throat.

Absent in the early narratives and traditions, at least until the fifteenth century, is the story of Lucia tortured by eye-gouging. According to later accounts, before she died she foretold the punishment of Paschasius and the speedy end of the persecution, adding that Diocletian would reign no more, and Maximian would meet his end. This so angered Paschasius that he ordered the guards to remove her eyes. Another version has Lucy taking her own eyes out in order to discourage a persistent suitor who admired them. When her body was prepared for burial in the family mausoleum it was discovered that her eyes had been miraculously restored.<sup>[7]</sup> This is one of the reasons that Lucy is the patron saint of those with eye illnesses.

In medieval Europe, Lucy's Day was the shortest day of the year, and the day was celebrated, especially in Scandinavia, as the turning point from the long nights. Swedish communities, including many in America, still have special festivities on this day, "Lussida'n." You girls in the household, dressed in white and wearing a crown of lighted candles, awakens the family in the morning and offers them coffee and cakes from a tray.

\*Adapted from Wikipedia and New Book of Festivals and Commemorations, P.H. Pfatteicher



**GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH  
CONTINUING RESOLUTION # \_\_\_\_  
GLORIA DEI LUTHER CHURCH RULE OF LIFE**

**RULE OF LIFE**

**Living in Community at Gloria Dei  
Gathering In Christ ~ Sharing His Love**



A Rule of Life does for our spiritual journey what a trellis system does for a grapevine - it creates a framework for growing in a consistent direction through our faithful response to God.

"Those who [have no intentional Rule] are like wild, untamed grape vines. They will produce some fruit, but they probably won't be as abundant as they could be. Instead, they become more vulnerable to

things that threaten their spiritual vitality. However, those who are intentionally reflective, prayerful, and attentively responsive are like cultivated vines... Our lives will produce an abundance of fruit for the glory of God." - from "Crafting a Rule of Life" by Stephen Macchia.

**LIVE FOR THE LORD** - Follow

**Love one another** - Set example – show others how to live

As a developing disciple of Jesus Christ and a member of the Gloria Dei Faith Community, we continually, actively, and intentionally live our lives for the Lord by loving one another and by setting the example for others in the world of how to live in that love through the following commitments.

**PRAY**

We pray intentionally, daily setting aside a time and space.

We pray continually, aware of our deep need for the promise of God's continuing presence with us.

We offer prayers of:

ADORATION, CONFESSION, THANKSGIVING, SUPPLICATION

**WORSHIP**

We worship God regularly in love.

We worship God individually and communally, joyfully participating with others in singing, praying, touching, listening, sharing, and communing at the Lord's Table.

**BUILD RELATIONSHIPS**

We intentionally welcome others and continually build relationships by: spending time together, listening without judgment, understanding without agreement; and always forgiving one another.

**STUDY**

We intentionally and continually read Scripture for faithful understanding through sharing with others by thinking, discussing, believing, and applying Jesus' teachings to our daily lives.

**CONTRIBUTE /SERVE**

We serve our Lord continually, intentionally, regularly, actively – seeking the passion God instills in each of us towards the least by contributing our time (volunteering, helping, serving), our talents (gifts and skills), and our treasure (our financial possessions.)

## **Healthy responses to disagreements and conflicts**

As disciples of Jesus, we embrace the following:

Five keys to healthy response to disagreements are: (based on Matthew 18:15-17)

1. We speak to each other, not about each other behind their backs.
2. If someone complains to you about another person, we ask them to speak to the person first and tell them it is so important that you will follow up in a week to see how the conversation went.
3. We don't respond to anonymous comments or letters.
4. We don't carry other people's mail. Ask, "What would you like me to do with your comment? You can come to council/meeting yourself or I can bring your comment with your name attached."
5. We explain each other's actions in the best possible light. We check with the person quoted or referred to for accuracy before we repeat the comment. (Luther's explanation to 8<sup>th</sup> Commandment)

Disagreements happen in any organization, including churches. Using healthy responses can stop the disagreement from spreading and engulfing the whole organization.

Thank you for practicing healthy responses and encouraging others to do the same.

**Approved by Gloria Dei Lutheran Church Council June 21, 2018.**

### **2022 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Pastor	The Rev. Edward G. Barnett	516-610-6676
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		
Stewardship	Arlene Kelly	605-999-4555
Property	Bill Birdsall	732-773-2680
	Craig Carlson	352-504-3138
Worship & Music	Crystal Kirkpatrick	352-552-3983
Social Ministry	Linda Steege	815-222-6195
Evangelism/Technology & Communications/Webmaster	Bill Birdsall	732-773-2680
Christian Education	Linda Steege	815-222-6195
Mission Endowment	Linda Hide	253-740-3063
Strategic Planning	Arlene Kelly	605-999-4555
Task Force		
	Loraine Van Haecke	407-252-4692
	Linda Riikonen	734-637-9727

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

Worship & Music	Crystal Kirkpatrick	352-552-3983
Evangelism/Technology/ & Communications/Webmaster	Bill Birdsall	732-773-2680
Social Ministry	Leone Goding	352-223-1925
Property	Bill Birdsall	732-773-2680
Fellowship		
Stewardship		
Church Staff Liaison	Diane Wasser	610-762-8895
Joining Hands Liaison	Diane Wasser	610-762-8895
WELCA	Loraine Van Haecke	352-787-1407

