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# GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

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GATHERING IN CHRIST ✝ SHARING HIS LOVE

**THE GLORION**

**November 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**

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**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**

**OFFICE MANAGER: MARY BETH MORRIS**

**SEXTON: TINA JANOSA**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP – 9:30 A.M**



November, 2022

Did you know that every day you pray about politics? Or at least you should. You might not think you do, but if you pray the Lord's Prayer every day (and the assumption of the Catechism is that you would: in the morning, with meals, in the evening, etc.) you are praying about politics. The Second Petition says, "Thy kingdom come." A kingdom is a political realm. Jesus does say that it is not "of" this world, but that doesn't make it any less political. A "kingdom" is by definition political. We're to desire and pray for God's will in ALL of life, in all of the world. In our situation, as citizens of these United States, that means, that we take our faith into the ballot booth this coming month.

As a newcomer to Florida, I find voting to be intimidating. I haven't been here long. I don't know the politicians. I haven't gotten a feel for how things go here. Consequently, when I look at the ballot, I honestly feel intimidated. Unless you're a person that votes merely by party affiliation – and I assume that some of us do that – for some offices it can end up being "Eeny, Meeny, Miny, Moe." Even when I research some candidates and their positions, there's always some people I vote for just on the luck of the draw.

Does anyone actually pray in the voting booth? It certainly wouldn't hurt. I think I'm going to try to pray the Second Petition this time. "Thy Kingdom Come." I'll probably throw in a few "Lord, have mercies" for good measure.

Luther teaches us that "God's kingdom comes on its own without our prayer, but we ask in this prayer that it may also come to us." I might add, I hope not heretically, that in the prayer we would ask that God's kingdom might come through us as well. May God in his providence bless us as we continue to pray and vote for godly government.



Pr Ed Barnett

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

**Kirk Kirkpatrick** died **October 11, 2022** in Ponte Vedra, FL. Our condolences and prayers to Bernadine and her family. The funeral service for Kirk will be Saturday, November 12 at Gloria Dei Church. Visitation is at 11:00 a.m., the service at 12:00 noon followed by a luncheon.

**Hanna Mann** died **October 5, 2022**. Our condolences and sympathy to The Mann family. Funeral arrangements are not known at this time.

## RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

Members or friends hospitalized or had surgery in October: Leon Ellis, Dick Healy, Elizabeth Snyder

## GIFTS OF REMEMBRANCE

### In loving memory of:

Ernie Mann, Love Never Ends  
Romund & Harriet Madson  
Clarence (Kirk) Kirkpatrick,  
Love Never Ends

Pat & Doug Bressler/1<sup>st</sup> Impressions  
cj & Michael Clark/Mem.-Music  
Pat & Doug Bressler/1<sup>st</sup> Impressions

### In honor of:

Reformation Sunday  
Our 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, 11/30

Ritch & Debbie Cassem/Flowers  
Pat & Doug Bressler/Candle

## PRAYERS

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

- 11/6** Margi Geiger, Jacki Goding, Leone Goding,  
Larry Goerke, Barbara Goins
- 11/13** Dottsie Grins, Mary Grissom, Rose Gulbrandsen,  
Ralph & Sylvia Hallberg, Gerry Haller
- 11/20** Debbye Halligan, Northilt Handwerck, Kay Hawtin,  
Dick & Bev Healy, Rollie & Pat Heimbach
- 11/27** Jean Heitz, Linda Hide, Martin & Martha Holleran,  
Betty Ann Huebner, Lorraine Hughes

## **Gloria Dei Women of the ELCA**

November 2022

The WELCA Board met on October 4, 2022. We discussed the upcoming events; Church Women United will be celebrating World Community Day on Friday, November 4, 2022 at Zion Lutheran, 347 Main Street, Groveland. Snacks and coffee will be at 9:30 and the program will begin at 10:00. All women of the church are invited. We can carpool if you are interested in attending this event.

Mary/Martha leader Carol Marshall reported they had completed 104 quilts. Ruth Circle continues to work on personal care kits to be sent to Lutheran World Relief.

FL/BA SWO Fall gathering is coming up very soon at Lake Yale in Leesburg on November 11 – 13. We have planned an exciting weekend with opportunities to reconnect with old friends, make new friends, Worship, Bible Study, Workshops, good food and also a fun Saturday night. Looking forward to seeing some of you there. Our goal for the weekend is that all will go home with a spiritual uplifting, feeling closer to Jesus as we go “Step by Step” in our daily lives.

The annual WELCA Christmas Luncheon is on Thursday, December 1, at 11:30 at Arlington Ridge, Chesapeake Bay Grille. Tickets will be on sale, October 30th through November 30<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are \$20.00 cash only. This will include Lunch with 3 Entrees Selections, Tax, Gratuity, Coffee, Ice Tea, Water and Pumpkin Pie for dessert. Please bring “Little Debbie” Christmas treats for JHIFM.

Happy Thanksgiving and Blessings,

Loraine Van Haecke  
WELCA President  
352-787-1407 Home  
407-252-4692 Cell  
[loraine.vanhaecke@gmail.com](mailto:loraine.vanhaecke@gmail.com)



**WELCA CHRISTMAS PARTY** will be held on Thursday, December 1, 11:30 am at Arlington Ridge, Chesapeake Bay Grille. Poster for this event and tickets will be available for sale the 30th of October through November 20th. Tickets will be \$20.00 cash only. This will include Tax, Gratuity, Coffee, Iced Tea, Water with Pumpkin pie for dessert. Soft drinks are not included.

There will be 3 Entree Selections, Baked Stuffed Cod served with Arlington Rice, Chicken Parmesan served over bed of Linguine, Cobb Salad with either Ranch or Balsamic dressing Please advise which entree when purchasing tickets. Please bring "Little Debbie" Christmas treats for JHIFM.

**Ruth Circle** - Next meeting of Ruth Circle will be Thursday Nov 3rd at 1:30. Please consider joining this group of Women for Bible Study, Fellowship and Snacks.  
Dianne Marcotte, Leader

**Mary-Martha Circle** will meet on the 2nd Tuesday, November 8th, starting at 9:00 am. We will be quilting until 10:30 am, have snacks and 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, November 18th 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)**

Here's a big THHHHHHAAAAAANNNNK YOOOOOUUUUUUUUUU to the over 50 volunteers from Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, First Presbyterian Church of Leesburg, and from around the local community who joined hands this beautiful October 14th morning to distribute 13,064 pounds of nutritious food to 721 individuals from 194 local families. That is a 44.2% increase over October 2021. Well done hunger heroes!

I posted photos of this morning's food distribution at [Facebook.com/feedinghopenow/](https://www.facebook.com/feedinghopenow/).

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.

## **NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

11/03	Richard & Marilyn Czaprynski	68 years*
11/30	Patricia & Doug Bressler	65 years*

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

## **NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

11/01	Jim Rieb	11/04	John Kelly
11/10	Craig Carlson	11/10	Elizabeth Snyder
11/11	Andy Mincer	11/18	Dock Lias
11/22	Jane Zimmerman	11/27	Lynn Crane

## **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

## **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.



## FINANCIAL CORNER

	September, 2022	Year to date 2022
Contributions	\$14,669.17	\$146,011.84
Expenditures	\$32,067.61	\$217,294.81

### RESTRICTED FUNDS

	9/01/2022	Donations	Expenditures	Ending 9/30/22
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	0	0	580.00
Fellowship	94.38	31.00	25.51	99.87
JHIF	0	233.00	233.00	0
World Hunger	0	338.00	338.00	0
ELCA	0	80.00	80.00	0
Flowers	583.09	0	70.00	513.09
Altar wine/bread	11.98	0	0	11.98
AV Equipment	4,733.77	0	0	4,733.77
Evangelism	570.00	0	0	570.00
Choir/Music	500.00	0	0	500.00
First Impressions fund	110.00	100.00	210.00	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$11,811.46</b>	<b>782.00</b>	<b>956.51</b>	<b>\$11,636.95</b>

## **Council Corner for November 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 obvious, especially in the gathering hall. The work will continue in Pastor's and Mary Beth's new offices through the end of the year as well as the new activities room for the Quilters downstairs.

I am pleased to report that the third stained glass window for Pastor's new office is near completion and should be installed before Thanksgiving. It was a surprise that Great Lakes Carpets & Tile donated the material and labor for the floor in Pastor's new office. A new area rug has been purchased for Pastor's office as well as bookcases and a used desk to compliment the new room. New LED lighting will be installed to replace the old lighting to complete his office.

Work will then begin to repurpose Pastor's old office into much needed storage space for the church which will help keep the clutter from accumulating around the building as well as provide temporary storage for the Quilters while their present room is reconfigured for Mary Beth's office.

The council is working on the 2023 Operating Budget with an eye on making cuts where necessary to avoid an increase in the next year. Since the church is not receiving the levels of giving that were anticipated, cuts and reductions will be necessary in 2023.

The congregation retreat was a very well-prepared program and the twenty-seven people who attended indicated that they were pleased with the presentation. It was a learning experience for all the attendees. The council looks forward to doing more retreats in the future as we deal with our drops in membership, giving and participation.

If you have not noticed, a recycling bin has been placed near the kitchen serving area so please dispose of your plastics and paper in the bin. Please no paper plates or coffee cups.

The Fall Car Show will be held on November 5<sup>th</sup> at Gloria Dei Church to help benefit JHIFM and our Evangelism. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall as we still need volunteers.

We will be working on a new directory for 2023 as many members have either left the church or passed as well as new members have joined which are not listed in the present directory. This work will be done in house by volunteers and staff. Please let Mary Beth know if you would like to help.

Lastly, we will be holding another Gloria Dei Yard Sale in the parking lot on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, so start to gather up those unwanted items and participate in this fun activity.

*Bill*

## NOVEMBER CALENDAR

<b>Tues.</b>	<b>11/1</b>	<b>10:00 a.m. WELCA Board Meeting</b>
		<b>4:30 p.m. Catechism</b>
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>11/2</b>	<b>2:00 p.m. Developing Disciples</b>
		<b>4:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>11/3</b>	<b>1:30 p.m. Ruth Circle</b>
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>11/5</b>	<b>10:00 – 2:00 p.m. Fall Car Show/Bingo</b>
		<b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME END—</b>
		<b>TURN <u>BACK</u> CLOCK 1 HOUR BEFORE BED</b>
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>11/6</b>	<b>9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship-All Saints Day</b>
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>11/8</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. Quilting/Mary Martha Circle</b>
		<b>4:30 p.m. Catechism</b>
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>11/9</b>	<b>10:00 a.m. Eucharist/Council Meeting</b>
		<b>1:00 p.m. First Impressions Task Force</b>
		<b>2:00 p.m. Developing Disciples</b>
		<b>4:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b>Fri.</b>	<b>11/11</b>	<b>8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast @ H.P. Grill</b>
		<b>8:30-10:30 a.m. JHIFM</b>
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>11/12</b>	<b>11:00 a.m. Kirkpatrick Visitation</b>
		<b>12:00 noon Kirkpatrick funeral service</b>
		<b>followed by a luncheon</b>
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>11/13</b>	<b>9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship</b>
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>11/15</b>	<b>Healing Service-St. Luke</b>
		<b>4:30 p.m. Catechism</b>
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>11/16</b>	<b>10:00 a.m. Social Ministries Meeting</b>
		<b>2:00 p.m. Developing Disciples</b>
		<b>4:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b>Fri.</b>	<b>11/18</b>	<b>8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast @ H.P. Grill</b>
		<b>9:00 a.m. Quilting</b>
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>11/20</b>	<b>9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship-Hunger Offering</b>
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>11/22</b>	<b>4:30 p.m. Catechism</b>
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>11/23</b>	<b>2:00 p.m. Developing Disciples</b>
		<b>4:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>11/24</b>	<b>THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY</b>
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>11/27</b>	<b>9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship</b>
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>11/29</b>	<b>4:30 p.m. Catechism</b>
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>11/30</b>	<b>2:00 p.m. Developing Disciples</b>
		<b>4:00 p.m. Vespers</b>
		<b>4:30 p.m. Choir</b>

## NOVEMBER WORSHIP LEADERS

### Assistant Ministers

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

#### 9:30 a.m.

**11/6** R=Steve Cranmer  
+=Leone Goding  
C=  
A=Pat Bressler

**11/13** R=Jim Gable  
+=James Menchaca  
C=Jayne Gable  
A=Arlene Kelly

**11/20** R=  
+=James Menchaca  
C=  
A=Arlene Kelly

**11/27** R=Byron Kirkpatrick  
+=  
C=  
A=Pat Bressler

### Ushers

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

#### 9:30 a.m.

**11/6** Crystal Kirkpatrick  
Byron Kirkpatrick

**11/13** Crystal Kirkpatrick  
Byron Kirkpatrick

**11/20** Crystal Kirkpatrick  
Byron Kirkpatrick

**11/27** Crystal Kirkpatrick  
Byron Kirkpatrick

### Altar Guild for November:

**11/6** Crystal & Byron Kirkpatrick

**11/13**

**11/20**

**11/27**

**Post Worship Secretary for November:** Maureen Skurecki

**Greeters**

**11/6**

**11/13** Sandy Kolb

**11/20**

**11/27**

**Fellowship**

**11/6** Madalon Ritter, Mary Grissom

**11/13** Chuck & Joy Yonko

**11/20** Jerry & Julie Eld

**11/27** Dick & Bev Healy

**Counters – Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.**

**11/6** Jeanne Talts & Linda Riikonen

**11/13** John & Janet Braun

**11/20** Diane Wasser & Pat Heimbach

**11/27** Madalon Ritter & Arlene Kelly

# Minutes of the Gloria Dei Congregation Council

Tuesday, 4 October 2022, 2:00 pm

We opened with a Eucharistic service by Pastor Barnett.

I. **Call to Order – NOTE:** This meeting was rescheduled from 29 September due to Hurricane Ian. The meeting was called to order at 2:27 pm by President Bill Birdsall.

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

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

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

V. **Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting** – Minutes of the 25 August 2022 meeting were reviewed. Motion to accept the minutes by Arlene, second by Crystal. **Motion carried.**

VI. **Correspondence** – Linda Hide reported that our custodian, Tina is requesting a \$15/week increase in salary.

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

- Pastor reported that Consecration Sunday will be rescheduled to 19 February 2023. This is necessary to promote good stewardship formation in the congregation. We must push forward with stewardship when we have budgetary issues.
- Pastor is requesting council members to target members to volunteer for a ministry/activity.

VIII. **Unfinished Business** –

- A. Update on First Impressions Task Force and Funding for Next Phase – Kathleen emailed the report prior to this meeting. Bill reported that the fellowship hall is complete. Bill will invite the board members of JHIFM to a special council meeting to discuss future renovations. Bill requested we allocate \$2,500 to complete the vestry/pastor's study. Motion to allocate \$2,500 for vestry/pastor's study by Loraine, second by Linda Steege. **Motion carried.**

- B. Covid Update – Bill reported that Covid cases have decreased to a 13% positivity rate.
- C. Financial Advisor – Bill reported this is still on the table.
- D. Web Master – Pastor and Bill will schedule a meeting with the candidate.
- E. Evangelism – Pastor reported that the committee is working on continuing resolutions and prayer concerns.
- F. Disaster Preparedness – Bill Reported that Dianne Marcotte is continuing work on the plan.
- G. Congregation Retreat – The retreat will be held on Saturday, 15 October at Gloria Dei. Pastor Eberhardt will facilitate; coffee and donuts for breakfast; Publix sandwiches for lunch. Crystal will contact Janet Braun to arrange for food for the retreat. Mary Beth will send email notice to members asking for responses for attendance.
- H. Chamber of Commerce – Pastor and Bill will attend a meeting.
- I. New Directory – Mary Beth will look into self-publishing a new directory.
- J. Roof Update – McHale has completed the roof repairs.

#### IX. **New Business** –

- A. Portico Increases for 2023 – Linda Hide reported that there are small increases to the pension accounts for 2023. She requested the council approve the gold plan for Pastor and Mary Beth. Motion to approve gold plan by Bill, second by Crystal. **Motion carried.**
- B. Recycling – Crystal reported that she and Byron purchased new recycling cans. They will be responsible for taking the cans to the recycling center.
- C. Election of Council Members and Officer Positions – Bill reported he will remain on council, but no longer serve as president as of next year. Craig reported he will remain on council if we are unable to recruit someone to fill his position. Linda Steege, Bill, Linda Hide, Arlene, and Craig are up for re-election in 2023; Crystal and Loraine are up for re-election in 2024; Linda Riikonen and Diane are up for re-election in 2025.

D. Mutual Ministry – Executive Committee reviews were completed.

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 – Arlene emailed her report prior to the meeting.

D. Treasurer – Linda Hide emailed the financials prior to the meeting. She reported that giving and attendance are increasing.

- Linda suggested a salary increase of \$15/week for custodian, Tina. Tina has had no increase for four (4) years. Motion to increase Tina's salary by \$15/week by Bill, second by Craig. **Motion carried.**
- Bill suggested a salary increase for Bob Keim for lawn mowing and building maintenance. Bob is currently receiving \$40/week for lawn mowing and \$200/month for building maintenance and charges only for the weeks he works. Motion to increase Bob's salary to \$50/week for lawn mowing and \$225/month for building maintenance by Craig, second by Loraine. **Motion carried.**
- Linda reported she attended the Stewardship committee meeting and was tasked to report on giving units. Following is her report:
  - o 2018 – 113 giving units
  - o 2019 – 127 giving units
  - o 2020 – Covid
  - o 2021 – 110 giving units
  - o 2022 – 93 giving units
  - o 2021 – average - \$34/week
  - o 2022 – average - \$38/week

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 invite JHIFM board members to special council meeting.
- Pastor and Bill will meet with webmaster candidate.
- Mary Beth will email members about 15 October retreat.
- Pastor and Bill will attend Chamber of Commerce meeting.
- Mary Beth will look into self-publishing new directory.
- Council members will target members to volunteer.
- Crystal will contact Janet Braun to arrange for food for retreat.

Next Meetings – Executive – Thursday, 20 October 2022, 10:00 am via zoom.

Council – Wednesday, 9 November 2022, 10:00 am at church

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

We closed at 4:20 pm with a prayer by Pastor Barnett.

Respectfully submitted,

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Diane Wasser, Secretary

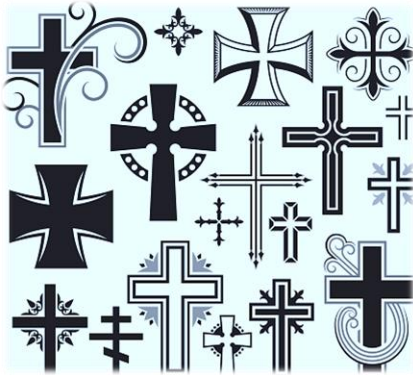
## **2022 First Impressions Task Force Report**

### **Meeting Wednesday, October 19, 2022, at 1:00 pm**

In Attendance: Kathleen Birdsall, Linda Steege, Pat Bressler, Arlene Kelly,  
Elizabeth Sanguedolce absent Crystal Kirkpatrick & Pastor Barnett

1. Arlene opened the meeting with prayer.
2. We have found most of the comments on the work done to date in the Gathering Hall as positive and has given us incentive to continue with such things as cleaning out closets, kitchen, and other areas in need of organizing.
3. Everyone will keep an eye out for a wall hanging quilt rod for the WELCA quilt of the month. We should be able to find one & install it by next meeting.
4. The committee will take on the task of working up a set of guidelines for accepting Gifts In-Kind. Items that are presented to the church need to be appropriate and have a use or purpose, otherwise they become clutter.
5. Signage – Restroom signs are on the proper doors, Kathleen will look into getting door signs for maintenance room, pantry, and fire system control box.
6. It has been brought to the committee's attention that members are making contributions for future upgrades to our building. This was a very pleasant surprise. Arlene and Pat will coordinate an effort to send thank-you cards to these members.
7. The committee is working on the placement of artwork and plaques to go back up on the walls as well as waiting for congregation crosses to come in to make the focal point in the gathering hall.
8. Next meeting November 9, 2022, at 1 PM
9. Closed meeting with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted  
Kathleen Birdsall, Chair



## **ATTENTION GLORIA DEI CONGREGATION**

**The first impressions task force would like your help with a project for our updated fellowship hall.**

We are looking to make a collage designed wall of crosses and crucifixes. We would like each family to donate one or more special cross or crucifix of their choice to be mounted on this wall.

The cross should be in good condition, as it will be on long term display.

The dimensions of the cross should be approximately 12” tall and 9” wide. It should be able to just about fit on a standard sheet of paper, however we are looking for various sizes and would consider larger crosses (or smaller) if they would fit into the overall artistic design. If we receive a very large number of crosses we may not be able to use them all and if that is the case, we would return any unused crosses to the donated family.

Please designate your cross with your family name and year you joined Gloria Dei on the back of the cross. Also, please make sure that there is a way to hang your cross, preferably on the back of it.

The crosses will be collected on the 4 Sundays in November. There will be a collection station in the narthex. Please wrap them to avoid any damage to your cross or others, bearing in mind that the wrapping (towel, cloth, etc.) will not be returned to you.

Thank you for your help with the beautification of our Gloria Dei fellowship hall area!

**THE FIRST IMPRESSIONS TASK FORCE**

**GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH  
CONTINUING RESOLUTION # \_\_\_\_  
GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN 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.**

## **Halloween is not a pre-Christian holiday, or a “day of the devil”**

1. People claim that Halloween came from a pagan Irish festival of the dead called Samhain. But that claim did not appear until the mid-20th century, and there are no records of the celebration of Samhain until the 10th century, almost 600 years after the coming of Christianity to Ireland. Even then, Samhain was a seasonal festival, the end of the harvest and beginning of winter. There ARE records of Irish Christians celebrating All Saints Day in 843 AD, however.
2. Halloween is based on All Saint's Day, not the other way around. Everything you read about October 31 being the time when ancient Celts believed the spirits walk the earth and must be placated with food or they will play tricks, and the living must dress up in disguise to fool the evil spirits--none of it is true. There is no primary-source evidence for it, and plenty that shows that this was something made up in the 20th century. There were indeed ancient Celtic festivals of the dead/spirits but they were not near the day we know as Halloween.
3. It is also not true that the Church tried to take over this supposedly-popular ancient Irish holiday of Samhain and "Christianize" it, stealing it from the non-Christian Irish. Pope Gregory III moved Hallowmas (what we know as All Saints' Day) to November 1st in the \*8th century\*, when leaders in Rome did not care one bit what the backwater Irish were doing. Before that, All Saints had been celebrated in May, and had been celebrated since the 2nd century. Keeping in mind calendar changes (Julian to Gregorian) and the fact that Samhain was a lunar festival, not solar--there is no evidence to support the fixed date of October 31 as being anything other than the Eve of All Hallows, shortened to "Hallow E'en."
4. Halloween is great fun--one of my absolute favorite holidays!-- but the traditions and backstory we associate with it are both modern and Anglo-American, not the 20th century inventions of ancient pagan roots portrayed in the media and popular culture. Don't believe everything you watch on the "History" Channel: Halloween is a child of the Church.
5. Christians should absolutely be free to observe Halloween, and All Saints Day (November 1) and All Souls Day (November 2) as a time to give thanks for the saints, and for all our beloved dead, and to tweak the nose of Satan, too, knowing that no matter what beasties and creepy clowns and ghosts may be lurking in the dark night, Christ always has the final victory over the devil, and death has no power over us ever again!

Copied from a FaceBook post by Rev Pari Bailey STS

*Fr Lawrence (Larry) Recla, STS*

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