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# GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

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GATHERING IN CHRIST ✝ SHARING HIS LOVE

**THE GLORION**

**FEBRUARY 2023**

[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**



February, 2023

Luther said the church is a “mouth house.” By this he was alluding to the ministry of the Word, i.e., preaching, reading scripture and singing in worship. Beyond that though, our life as a parish church, a communion, a family of friends requires communication. From the time of services, to people in need of prayer, to even when the WELCA Circles meet, it all requires communication. We even have a Communication/Technology Group at Gloria Dei. One of the cardinal principles of communication is: direct is best. You don’t want to have too many detours from the initiation of a message to its reception. In other words, if you’ve scheduled a choir rehearsal, it’s most efficient and best to get that message straight to the choir members, rather than going up the Quilters meeting and telling them, “There’s a special Choir rehearsal on Thursday morning. Pass that along, won’t you?”

Before any of our programmatic communication, in the Christian Congregation (that would most certainly be our dear Gloria Dei), interpersonal communication is essential. One of the basic forms of communication is conversation. Conversation is necessary. It gives us an ability to relate to others, share with others, and for ourselves to be known by others. It can be a source of pure joy; however, it’s not morally neutral, our conversations can also be bad. James 3.10 warns us, “From the same mouth come blessing and cursing.” What then is the difference, how are we to discern between blessing and cursing, sharing and gossip? The first things to ask yourself, “am I communicating or gossiping? Am I blessing or cursing? Is what I’m thinking about good or bad, freeing or restraining, does it come from anger or love?” Where’s the emotional energy for it?

Secondarily, it’s always good to remember the principle of “direct is best.” Occasionally we republish a sheet adopted and reaffirmed by the Council that’s based around Matthew 18. Verse 15 tells us: “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one.”

And finally, God’s Commandments provide an excellent guide for us. Luther explains the 8<sup>th</sup> Commandment this way: “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. *What does this mean?* We are to fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations. Instead we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light.” I like the old translation where it says to “put the best construction on our neighbors’ words and actions.” Go to the good and away from the bad.

I want conversation and communication to flourish. It is the gift of God and the means by which our congregational family is connected and strengthened. Let us join in fervent prayer that God might be glorified in our speech!

Pr Ed Barnett

## **Saints of the month: Sr Elisabeth Fedde & Sr Emma Francis**

These two are special to me for two reasons: one, they're US Lutheran saints, and two, they both ministered in Metropolitan New York.

Sr Elisabeth Fedde was born in Vest-Agder, Norway in 1850. She trained as a deaconess at the Mother House in Christiania (now known as Oslo). Fedde spent much of her early ministerial career Norway's newest and northernmost [diocese](#) of Tromsø. She worked there for awhile until challenged by her brother-in-law to set up a ministry in New York City for Norwegian seaman. In the course her time there not only did she minister selflessly to the Scandinavian immigrants, she also established a Deaconess House and a nine-bed hospital which eventually became Lutheran Medical Center. For a while, Pr William Passavant of Pittsburgh tried to recruit her to come there and work in his hospital. She later moved to Minneapolis, establishing a Mother House and opening another hospital. Her work also led to the opening of Lutheran Medical in Chicago.

Eventually, exhausted by her thirteen years working in America, Sister Elisabeth returned to Norway in November 1895. She died on 25 February 1921.

Excellent further reading:

[Lutheran Saints #11: Elisabeth Fedde — Sarah Hinlicky Wilson](#)

Sr Emma Francis was the first black deaconess to serve in North America and the first deaconess from the West Indies. She did a similar ministry to Fedde's, but amongst the Caribbean immigrants in Manhattan. Her work involved the establishment of one of Black Lutheranism's historic churches, Transfiguration, Harlem.

Excellent further reading on Francis:

[Sister Emma Francis, First Black Deaconess to Serve in North America and the First Lutheran Deaconess from the West Indies - Lower Susquehanna Synod \(lss-elca.org\)](#)

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

### RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

Members or friends hospitalized or had surgery in January: Debbie Cassem

### GIFTS OF REMEMBRANCE

**In honor of:**

Jeanne Talts's birthday  
To the Glory of God.

The O'Gradys/Flowers  
Ritch & Debbie Cassem/Flowers

### PRAYERS

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

- 2/5** Joel & Sharon Weinhardt, Celia Wollner, Kenn & Marti Yance,  
Chuck & Joy Yonko, Art Zerbel, Dennis & Jane Zimmerman
- 2/12** Don & Helen Ames, Sue Anderson, Ted & Dorothy Baehmann,  
Pastor Edward Barnett, Forrest Berg
- 2/19** Bill & Kathleen Birdsall, Gayle Bloom, John & Janet Braun,  
Doug & Patricia Bressler, Craig & Christine Carlson
- 2/26** Ritch & Debbie Cassem, Ed & Peggy Chandler, Charlotte Christensen,  
Josephine Cichoracki, Michael & cj Clarke

### FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

02/02	Ted & Dorothy Baehmann	66 years*
02/14	Joel & Sharon Weinhardt	34 years

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

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

02/02	Bill Birdsall	02/03	Gerri Haller
02/11	Marilyn Czuprynski	02/11	Joel Weinhardt
02/12	Mary Lou Smith	02/14	Linda Riikonen
02/18	Marti Yance	02/20	Taeko Mincer
02/25	Ralph Hallberg	02/26	Maureen Skurecki

## **HAVE YOU HEARD OF WELCA? Women of the ELCA HAVE YOU HEARD OF RUTH CIRCLE?**

Women of the ELCA- Purpose- As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves, to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, And promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.

Have you been looking for a place to find purpose, meaning, fellowship and show how one person CAN make a difference in the church, the neighborhood, the country and the world?

If so, please join the women of Ruth circle on First Thursday of each month (except summer months) for a time of study, discussion, action, friendship and fellowship.

You are INVITED as a woman of Gloria Dei, you ARE a woman of the ELCA even if you have never attended a meeting. Come and see if this group can give you greater sense of faith, sense of purpose in action and great fun and fellowship. There are always delicious treats at the end of each meeting!

Looking forward to seeing you in 2023, come once, I think you will keep coming!

Dianne Marcotte- Leader

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

February 2023

The WELCA ladies are now getting prepared for the display of the quilts and blessing of the quilts and personal care kits to be sent to Lutheran World Relief distribution center. These items will be a blessing to families in need. A big thank you to all the ladies that has had a part in these projects. And let's not forget to thank the men that will transport the boxes to the Good Shepherd Church in Clermont for pickup. We use our hands to serve God.

The planning meeting for the Pinelands Conference Spring Gathering will be on February 4th at 9 AM and the Spring Gathering will be on March 18<sup>th</sup> , 9 AM til 2 PM at St. Matthews in Ocala. All ladies are invited to attend either or both of these events. Please contact me if you have an interest in joining us.

Our annual Spring Fashion Show Salad Luncheon is scheduled for April 18, 2023. Watch for more details. All guests bring a salad to share and the WELCA board provide the desserts. This is always a fun day and the food is always delicious. SAVE THE DATE!!!

If you have not joined one of our groups; we would love to have you. We use the Gather Magazine for our Bible Study. Carol Marshall is the leader of Mary/Martha Circle and they meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 9 AM at the church. The Quilters meet twice a month at the church on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday and the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month at 9 AM. Dianne Marcotte is the leader of Ruth Circle and they meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month at 1:30 PM at the church. Come visit us and find out what WELCA is about.

A special thanks to the quilters for packing their fabric and their sewing supplies to be moved down stairs to their new working area. THANK YOU ALL!!!!!!!

Peace and Blessings,  
Loraine Van Haecke, WELCA President

**Ruth Circle** -Next meeting to be held on Thursday February 2nd NOTE TIME 12:30. The earlier time is to gather, prepare and pack Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief which will be shipped out of church on February 6th. Regular monthly meeting will be held following this special activity at approximately 1:30.

**Upcoming event-** Lutheran World relief project for 2023 will begin during lent. Personal Care Kit items will again be collected. Items needed: thin towels, bath-size soap bars, nail clippers, comb and toothbrush (in individual packaging). Please DO NOT donate travel size soap bars or toothpaste. The support of the congregation is appreciated as we care for the well being and good hygiene of those in need during times of crisis.

Dianne Marcotte, Leader

**Mary-Martha Circle** - will meet on the 2nd Tuesday, February 14th at 10:30am. We will have Bible Study from January/February Gather magazine. If you don't have a copy we will share. There will be no quilting the month of February as we are moving downstairs. Please come and join us in Fellowship Hall on the 14th to celebrate Valentines Day too.

Carol Marshall 352 787 0435

## THANK YOU LETTERS

To the Women of the Circles at Gloria Dei,  
I wish to thank you for the Christmas food basket of fruit, cookies and sweets. Am  
enjoying all of it.  
Sincerely, Celia Wollner

To the Gloria Dei Ladies Circles,  
Thank you so very much for the bowl of fruit, candy and homemade cookies. I am  
truly blessed to have friends like you. May all of you have a happy and blessed new  
year.  
Mary Kelpé

Dear Gloria Dei Circles,  
Many thanks for the Christmas basket of fruit and cookies. God's blessings!  
Barbara Goins

Dear Friends of LIRS,  
Thank you for your generous gift of \$500.00 to Lutheran Immigration and  
Refugee Service (LIRS).  
We've made several changes to our donor platforms in the past several  
months that will enhance your experience with LIRS going forward. As a result, were  
delayed in acknowledging your generous gift. Please accept our sincere apologies.  
Your support means so much to us and we are profoundly grateful to have you with  
us.

Because of your generous stewardship, we can continue to provide much-  
needed help to refugee and migrant children and families. Through affiliate  
partnerships and direct service, grassroots mobilization, and advocacy, we are:

- Continuing support to our new neighbors from Afghanistan;
- Standing in solidarity with our Ukrainian neighbors and offering  
essential services to those who have arrived;
- Supporting unaccompanied children and reunifying them with their  
families; and
- Welcoming refugees in over 50 cities through our growing national  
affiliate network.

Since LIRS began in 1939, congregations like yours have helped more than  
500,000 migrant and refugee men, women and children rebuild their lives in  
communities across the country. And even now, as that legacy of welcome is  
threatened, we are standing united in hope. Together, we welcome families  
and advocate for people who've suffered so much.

Together in Christ's love for the stranger,  
Andrew G. Steele, V.P. for Development and Mobilization



## 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)

Thank you to the 45 volunteers from Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, First Presbyterian Church of Leesburg, and from around the local community who turned out this cool and rainy January 13th morning to serve 613, individuals from 167 local families in need a total of 10,310 pounds of nutritious food. This was an 18% increase over the 468 individuals we served in January 2022. I posted photos of today's food distribution on Joining Hands in Food Ministry's Facebook page 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.

## 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. In February, we will be studying Acts.

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

## FINANCIAL CORNER

### GENERAL FUND

	December, 2022	Year 2022
Contributions	\$19,818.12	\$200,575.41
Expenditures	\$27,939.67	\$298,341.61

### RESTRICTED FUNDS

	12/01/2022	Donations	Expenditures	Ending 12/31/22
Elementary School	135.59	25.00	0	160.59
Oak Park Middle	0	0	0	0
Thrivent Choice \$	3,683.76	0	0	3,683.76
Basket Social	282.51	0	0	282.51
Eternal Light	600.00	0	0	600.00
Fellowship	148.97	167.00	302.46	13.51
JHIFM	0	153.50	153.50	0
World Hunger	0	200.50	200.50	0
ELCA	0	40.00	40.00	0
Flowers	378.09	334.00	150.71	561.38
Altar wine/bread	61.98	0	36.96	25.02
AV Equipment	4,733.77	0	0	4,733.77
Evangelism	660.00	120.00	0	780.00
Choir/Music	550.00	0	0	550.00
First Impressions fund	20.00	694.00	714.00	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$11,254.67</b>	<b>1,734.00</b>	<b>1,598.13</b>	<b>\$11,390.54</b>

## **Council Corner for February 2023**

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

The Gloria Dei Council met in January as did the Executive committee. The Council was successful in negotiating a new agreement with Comcast to provide internet phone service at a lower cost than our present carrier affording considerable yearly savings. This was approved at the council meeting. With these savings and some other minor changes, the Council approved the 2023 Mission spending Plan in the amount of \$287,085.01. However, the plan also includes an increase in insurance costs of \$10,118.00. At this time this is an estimated increase, and many factors could cause that to change.

As was discussed in the last Glorian article, the insurer is dropping wind and hail damage coverage and at this time we have no idea if we will be able to find that coverage or what the costs might be. We are waiting for Church Mutual our present carrier to respond regarding our insurance issues. We will also look for other alternatives.

Work is starting in the Quilters room to transform it into our administrative office. 90 percent of the Quilters supplies have been relocated into the new storeroom on the lower level and work has begun on demolition of the existing cabinetry. After the blessing of the Quilts on February 5<sup>th</sup> the remainder of the supplies will be relocated, and demolition completed. New flooring will be installed, the walls painted, new cabinetry installed along with electrical and telephone modifications. This phase of the project is anticipated to be completed by mid March. Work will then begin on the lower-level activities room.

Work is under way promoting the Saints and Sinner spring car show to be held on March 4<sup>th</sup> here at the church. This show is organized and run by the Evangelism committee, but there are several opportunities for church committees to raise money including the Pancake breakfast, Bingo and quilt raffle(quilters). JHIFM usually provides the hotdog lunch which has become a well known among the car enthusiasts. Let's do the same with our pancake breakfast!

Pastor and I will continue to attend the monthly Chamber of Commerce breakfast meetings to continue our efforts to make the community more aware of who Gloria Dei is and what we do. God Bless

*Bill*

## **FEBRUARY CALENDAR**

<b>Wed.</b>	<b>2/1</b>	<b>2:00 p.m. Developing Disciples</b>
		<b>4:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>2/2</b>	<b>1:30 p.m. Ruth Circle</b>
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>2/5</b>	<b>9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship-Quilt Blessing</b>
<b>Mon.</b>	<b>2/6</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. Quilt Packing</b>
		<b>10:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast @ Wolfy's</b>
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>2/7</b>	<b>10:00 a.m. WELCA Board Meeting</b>
		<b>10:00 a.m. Executive Meeting-Zoom</b>
		<b>4:30 p.m. Catechism</b>
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>2/8</b>	<b>12:00 noon First Impression Meeting</b>
		<b>2:00 p.m. Developing Disciples</b>
		<b>4:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b>Fri.</b>	<b>2/10</b>	<b>8:30-10:30 a.m. JHIFM</b>
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>2/12</b>	<b>9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship</b>
<b>Mon.</b>	<b>2/13</b>	<b>1:30 p.m. Leaders Lunch at Perkins</b>
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>2/14</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. Quilting/Mary Martha Circle</b>
		<b>4:30 p.m. Catechism</b>
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>2/15</b>	<b>2:00 p.m. Developing Disciples</b>
		<b>4:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>2/19</b>	<b>9:30 a.m. Consecration Sunday w/luncheon</b>
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>2/21</b>	<b>4:00 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper</b>
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>2/22</b>	<b>2:00 p.m. Developing Disciples</b>
		<b>4:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service</b>
		<b>5:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>2/23</b>	<b>1:00 p.m. Council Meeting</b>
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>2/26</b>	<b>9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship</b>
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>2/28</b>	<b>4:30 p.m. Catechism</b>

## **FEBRUARY WORSHIP LEADERS**

### **Assistant Ministers**

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

#### **9:30 a.m.**

<b>2/5</b>	R=Vaike O'Grady += C= A=	<b>2/12</b>	R=Jim Gable += C=Jayne Gable A=
<b>2/19</b>	R= += C= A=	<b>2/26</b>	R= += C= A=

### **Ushers**

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

#### **9:30 a.m.**

<b>2/5</b>	Crystal Kirkpatrick Byron Kirkpatrick John Kelly Craig Carlson	<b>2/12</b>	Crystal Kirkpatrick Byron Kirkpatrick John Kelly Craig Carlson
<b>2/19</b>	Crystal Kirkpatrick Byron Kirkpatrick John Kelly Craig Carlson	<b>2/26</b>	Crystal Kirkpatrick Byron Kirkpatrick John Kelly Craig Carlson

### **Altar Guild for January:**

<b>2/5</b>	Crystal & Byron Kirkpatrick
<b>2/12</b>	Crystal & Byron Kirkpatrick
<b>2/19</b>	Crystal & Byron Kirkpatrick
<b>2/26</b>	Crystal & Byron Kirkpatrick

**Post Worship Secretary for February:** Julie Eld

**Greeters**

**2/5** Sandy Kolb

**2/12**

**2/19**

**2/26**

**Fellowship**

**2/5** Bill & Kathleen Birdsall

**2/12**

**2/19**

**2/26**

**Counters – Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.**

**2/5** Jeanne Talts

**2/12** John & Janet Braun

**2/19** Diane Wasser & Pat Heimbach

**2/26** Madalon Ritter & Arlene Kelly

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

Thursday, 12 January 2023, 10:00 am

We opened with a Eucharistic service by Pastor Barnett.

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 10:45 am by President, Bill Birdsall.
2. **Roll Call:** - Present: - Pastor Edward Barnett, Bill Birdsall, Craig Carlson, Linda Hide, Arlene Kelly, Crystal Kirkpatrick, Linda Riikonen (excused), Linda Steege, Loraine VanHaecke (excused), Diane Wasser
3. **Promise** - The Covenant Promise was recited by the Council.
4. **Adoption of Agenda** – The agenda was reviewed and revised to add item 9F – Acrylic Box. Motion to accept the revised agenda by Craig, second by Crystal. **Motion carried.**
5. **Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting** – Minutes of the 15 December 2022 meeting were reviewed. Motion to accept the minutes by Arlene, second by Linda Steege. **Motion carried.**
6. **Correspondence** – memo from Kathleen Birdsall regarding First Impressions Task Force; letter from Church Mutual regarding notice in change of policy terms; quote from Comcast regarding computer/phone service.
7. **Pastor's Report** – Pastor Barnett distributed his report prior to the meeting.
  - Advent/Christmas very good
  - Two priorities for next months:
    - o Consecration Sunday
      - Leader Team (Council) dinner @ Perkins
    - o Prayer Team/Lent
  - Still in discernment with Dianne Marcotte re: Council election; John Braun another possible candidate
  - Website?
  - Rotation for Worship Leadership?
  - Week of Prayer for Xian Unity – 19 January w/1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian
  - Health person in contact

- Letter of Call—Pastor handed out a copy of his Letter of Call. It was suggested that Pastor's report contain a list of things he accomplished during the month, i.e., number of hospital/homebound visits, sermons prepared, meetings attended, etc. Pastor Barnett indicated this is not something he has done in the past. After a lengthy discussion among Council members and Pastor, Pastor decided to address any issues during the one-on-one meetings with individual Council persons.
- One-on-one meetings with each Council person

## 8. **Unfinished Business** –

### A. Update on Pastor's Office, electrical work and storeroom –

- Bill reported the Pastor's new office has been completed. He also reported that Pastor's old office has been set up as a storage room. Bill has begun moving the quilters' supplies to the storage room; so far, he has moved 19 tubs.
- Linda Hide reported she has received donations for shelving units.

### B. Final Review of 2023 Budget –

- Linda reviewed the budget.
- Linda indicated that the property insurance premium will probably double from 2022. Bill has been investigating alternatives to replace our current carrier, if necessary.
- Linda reported that we will realize a \$4,800 annual savings by switching to Comcast for computer/phone service.

Motion to accept the 2023 budget by Bill, second by Crystal. **Motion carried.**

### C. New Candidates for Council – Pastor reported he is in discussions with Dianne Marcotte and John Braun.

### D. Annual Meeting and Final Agenda, Annual Report – Pastor submitted a draft agenda for this meeting. Bill submitted his Annual Report.

### E. Medical Awareness Presentation with Potluck – Advent Health has agreed to make a presentation. Pastor will contact person from Advent Health to schedule a date.

### F. Men's Breakfast – Pastor reported there will be a men's breakfast on 6 February at 10:30 at Perkins.

### G. Meeting with JHIFM – Arlene will talk to Bob Glockler regarding this meeting.



- H. New Directory – Linda Steege reported this project is underway. Linda and Bev Healy have taken 26 photos thus far.
- I. Sound System – It's been reported that the system is now working properly.
- J. Steeple – Craig reported that the steeple has been cleaned.

9. **New Business –**

- A. Insurance Update – A letter was received from Church Mutual regarding a change in policy terms. The new policy will contain an exclusion for wind and hail damage. Linda Hide is waiting to hear from Church Mutual regarding new rates. Bill is working with a broker on other rates. The renewal date is 15 April 2023.
- B. Replace Current Telephone Carrier (Centrylink) with Comcast – Linda reported she has received a quote from Comcast for computer/phone service for \$3,600/year. Arlene will look into the cost of purchasing three (3) new phones.
- C. First Impressions Task Force – The Council received a memo from Kathleen Birdsall requesting direction and funds for the next steps for this task force. Bill will ask the task force for their suggestions for next projects. Arlene reported the cross wall will be completed in March.
- D. Freezer Repairs – Bill reported that the freezer has been repaired.
- E. Saints and Sinners Car Show – Bill reported the car show will be held on Saturday, 4 March 2023, along with a pancake breakfast, bingo, quilt raffle, and bake sale. JHIFM will also sell hot dogs. Bill will do a temple talk about the car show.
- F. Organizational Flow Chart – Pastor handed out a sample flow chart. Bill nominated Arlene to work on updating this for Gloria Dei.
- G. Acrylic Lock Box – Crystal reported that an acrylic lock box for ballots has been purchased at no cost to the church.

10. **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.

- C. Vice President – Arlene reported she served as assistant minister numerous times throughout the month, as well as helping out with JHIFM.
- D. Treasurer – Linda Hide emailed the financials prior to the meeting. She reported that Gloria Dei had 89 giving units in 2022. She also reported there have been no large estate gifts in 2022.

**11. 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?**

- Pastor will talk with Dianne Marcotte and John Braun about serving on Council.
- Pastor will contact the Advent Health person regarding a presentation.
- Arlene will talk with Bob Glockler about a joint JHIFM/Council meeting.
- Bill will work with broker regarding insurance rates with other companies.
- Linda Hide waiting to hear from Church Mutual regarding new insurance premium.
- Arlene is looking into the cost to purchase three (3) phones.
- Bill will do a temple talk about the car show.
- Arlene will work on the organization chart.

Next Meetings – Executive – Tuesday, 7 February 2023, 10:00 am via zoom.  
Council – Thursday, 23 February 2023, 1:00 pm at church.

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

We closed at 12:45 pm with a prayer by Pastor Barnett.

Respectfully submitted,

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Diane Wasser, Secretary

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

### **Meeting Wednesday, January 11, 2023, at 12:00 pm**

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

1. Arlene opened the meeting with prayer.
2. Discussed the items that needed to go on a punch-list for the gathering space. We will look for some helping hands to work with us to complete this list in a timely manner.
  - Cross Wall
  - Trim (1/4 round) to go around the gathering hall baseboard.
  - Install cabinet under TV to hold equipment.
  - New EXIT sign over sanctuary door
  - Reception seating area by offices
  - Artifacts previously on display to be cleaned/restored and relocated.
  - The two small pews to be repurposed for continued use.
  - The wish list is a few computer tablets to be used for time & talent sign-up in the media center on the west wall of the gathering space.
  -
3. The remainder of the meeting consisted of us fitting and arranging the collected crosses to a scaled pattern. This will allow us to adjust before the backdrop of this project can be completed. At the time of completion, the backdrop will be hung, and all crosses will be attached in there designated spaces. The backdrop will take several weeks to complete.
4. Next meeting February 8, 2023, at 12 PM
5. Closed meeting with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathleen Birdsall, Chair

## Consecration Sunday Is Coming

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's finance committee has selected the *Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

*Consecration Sunday* is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and governing board members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.  
Stewardship Committee,

**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.**

### **2023 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	Bill Birdsall	732-773-2680
& Communications/Webmaster		
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/	Bill Birdsall	732-773-2680
& Communications/Webmaster		
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

