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# GLORIA DEI

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

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GATHERING IN CHRIST † SHARING HIS LOVE

**THE GLORION**

**MAY 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**

**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)**

**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**



May, 2023

It's really hitting me this year. I knew about the "Snow Birders" phenomenon when I came to Gloria Dei in Florida, but the effect of it didn't impact like it is now. I will miss you all who are heading north and I will look longingly for your return. May you have a great few months seeing the folks you know up and haven't seen in a while.

Things have been great for us in 2023 so far. We have challenges, but there's a great spirit and energy. God has revealed direction for us in our Congregation Council. We've had many great things moving spiritually in this time. We're sort of at a place where we're asking the question, what next? May the summer give us a chance to further explore what our next moves are as a congregation. Psalm 27.14 says: "Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!" Waiting for the Snow Birders to return; waiting for the Lord to reveal his intentions. Both are holy and salutary.

As we enter these summer months, let us remember Colossians 3.1-4 (New Living Translation):

Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. <sup>2</sup> Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. <sup>3</sup> For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

Pr Ed Barnett

**St. Helena**, (born c. 248, [Bithynia](#), Asia Minor—died c. 328, Nicomedia). In our ELCA she is commemorated on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May (which this year is a Sunday). This is also the day she is commemorated, along with her son Constantine, in the Eastern Orthodox Church. She was the Roman empress who was the reputed discoverer of [Christ's](#) cross. Helena was married to the Roman emperor [Constantius I Chlorus](#), who [renounced](#) her for political reasons. When her son [Constantine I the Great](#) became emperor at [York](#) in 306, he made her empress dowager, and under his influence she later became a Christian. She was devoted to her eldest grandson, [Crispus Caesar](#), whom Constantine made titular ruler of [Gaul](#), but a mysterious embroilment in the imperial family culminated with the execution of Crispus and Fausta, Constantine's second wife and Crispus's stepmother. Thereafter, the story became current that Fausta had accused Crispus of attempting to seduce her—hence Crispus's execution in 326. Fausta, in turn, was denounced by the grief-stricken Helena and was executed shortly afterward. The historicity of that explanation remains questionable. Immediately after the double tragedy, Helena made a [pilgrimage](#) to the Holy Land. She caused churches to be built on the reputed sites of Christ's Nativity (in [Bethlehem](#)) and [Ascension](#) (near Jerusalem). Before 337 it was claimed in [Jerusalem](#) that Christ's cross had been found during the building of Constantine's church on [Golgotha](#), under a temple of [Venus](#) that had been demolished at the site. Later in the century Helena was credited with the discovery. Many subsequent [legends](#) developed, and the story of the "invention," or the finding of the cross, [enhanced](#) by romances and confusions with other Helens, became a favorite throughout Christendom.

Who said saints only live boring and ordinary lives! (Adapted from Britannica online)

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

**Jan Liljestrand** died **April 10, 2023**. With sympathy and condolences to Lynn Crane and her family. The funeral will be Thursday, May 11 @ 11:00 a.m. at Gloria Dei Church with refreshments to follow. Donations may be made to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church.

## RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

Members or friends hospitalized or had surgery in April: Joel Weinhardt,

## GIFTS OF REMEMBRANCE

### In honor of:

Joy's birthday.  
54<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
64<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Chuck & Joy Yonko/flowers  
Ritch & Debbie Cassem/flowers  
Don & Helen Ames/flowers

### In loving memory of:

Our dear friend Doug Bressler  
Our dear friend Doug Bressler  
Doug Bressler  
Doug Bressler  
Doug Bressler  
Doug Bressler  
Doug Bressler  
Doug Bressler  
Doug Bressler  
Doug Bressler  
Doug Bressler  
Jan Liljestrand, love never ends.

Fred & Marlene Farris/memorials  
Taeko & Andy Mincer/Easter lilly  
June & Jim Rieb/memorials  
Elizabeth Sanguedolce/memorials  
Marva & Jon Tetting/memorials  
Gail Madson/memorials  
Elizabeth Sanguedolce/memorials  
Northilt Handwerck/memorials  
Gail Madson/memorials  
John & Janet Braun/memorials  
Jon & Marva Tetting/memorials  
Pat Bressler/1<sup>st</sup> impressions

## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

05/08	Donald & Helen Ames	64 years*
05/18	John & Arlene Kelly	38 years
05/25	Barb & Dock Lias	33 years

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

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

05/03	Gladys Mull	05/03	Russell Smith
05/06	Carolyn DeLong	05/13	Sue Johnson
05/14	Freddy Farris	05/17	Diana Frederick
05/20	Linda Steege	05/22	Dick Healy
05/24	Sue Anderson	05/27	Jayne Gable

## PRAYERS

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

- 5/7** Jane Kunde, Helga La Cava, Barb & Dock Lias  
Judy Lorenz, Sylvia Mackey
- 5/14** Gail Madson, Dianne & Dennis Marcotte, Carol Marshall,  
Evelyn Matthes, Ray & Arlene McGuire
- 5/21** James, Quiana & Julian Menchaca, Andy & Taeko Mincer,  
Merle & Rita Moritz, Gloria Moulton, Gladys Mull
- 5/28** Brian & Karen Mundy, Vaike O'Grady, Sandy Retz,  
Jim & June Rieb, Ron & Linda Riikonen

## Gloria Dei Women of the ELCA

Our last board meeting was held on April 6 with 5 of us attending. Ten of our ladies attended the Pinelands Conference Spring Gathering at St. Matthews in Ocala. The theme was 'LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE' based on Matthew 5:16. It was a very enjoyable day with Bible Study, a special speaker, music, fellowship and of course, good food.

The Fashion Show Salad Luncheon on April 18, was a huge success with our family and friends from churches in our community. I believe there were about 63 that attended. The models did a marvelous job, and I understand they took some of the clothes home with them!! Denise Burry was our speaker from Forward Paths, describing how they started and their type of ministry. Donations were made for Forward Paths in the amount of \$600.00. A big thank you to all of you for your contributions and your participation. We could not have done that without you all. And we cannot forget the delicious food!!

The board is presently working on a new WELCA of Gloria Dei Directory. We are also working on revising the Constitution and By-Laws for our Gloria Dei Unit. Hoping to have both completed by our September meeting.

Mark your calendars for our Annual WELCA Christmas Party on December 7 at 11:30 am at the Chesapeake Grill in Arlington Ridge. Ruth Circle will be the host this year and I am sure we will have a wonderful time. Invite your family and friends to join us.

The Board and Circles will resume their regular meetings in September. This is the time for vacations or to move back to your other home. Be safe in your travels and stay healthy! Have a great summer and remember to Let your Light Shine.

Everyone have a Blessed Summer!!

Lorraine Van Haecke, WELCA President

**Ruth Circle** – The next meeting will be held on September 7<sup>th</sup> @ 1:30 p.m. **SAVE THE DATE**-Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. there will be an event held to fund raise for an as yet unchosen organization. Tentatively planned as a lunch with salads, guest speaker and entertainment. More information to follow.

**Personal care kit project for LWR**-Thank you to all who donated personal care items during Lent. The large box in Narthex has been removed. Still need: thin towels, combs and nail clippers. We have received lots of soap and toothbrushes. Please leave donations in cube style box in Narthex. Thank you!

**Mary-Martha Circle** – Mary Martha Circle will meet on the 2nd Tuesday, May 9 at 9am. Bible Study will be out of the Gather Magazine. Quilting date has not been established. Carol Marshall, Leader Phone 352-787-0435

**KIDS NEED SHOES**- In support of Leesburg Elementary school and it's students, members of Gloria Dei will be collecting NEW shoes from June to August. The children of 73 homeless families in Leesburg attend the Elementary school. Often shoes have to be purchased in emergent situation. Last week 7 pairs of shoes were purchased for children in need. Ages of children are 4 to 12. Sizes needed range from 11 toddler size up to women's size 7 and men's size 9. Also requested are gift cards to Walmart for emergency purchases. A box to collect shoes will be placed in narthex. Any questions please see Dianne Marcotte or Pat Bressler. We are blessed to be a blessing!

### **THANK YOU LETTERS**

Dear Gloria Dei Lutheran Church,

Thank you for sharing your love with neighbors devastated by the earthquake in Turkey. Your \$600.00 emergency gift is a godsend to families in desperate need.

Your gift is being put to use immediately to get lifesaving care to families. Because of you, families will get the urgent support they need, like medical care, food, water and other critically needed items. It's because of your compassion and generosity that we are able ready to deliver urgent relief aid.

Please check our website for updates about the response to this tragic situation.

Thank you for extending God's love where it's needed most.  
In gratitude, Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard, President & CEO  
Lutheran World Relief

## **THANK YOU**

I love my Gloria Dei Family! I have been overwhelmed by the love and support shown me from you in my grief and loss of my Doug. His illness has stretched six years and you have been by me through it all. Thank you all for your words, cards, prayers, love, hugs and being with me and my family at his service. What a tribute for him! We as a family felt so blessed! Thank you Pastor Barnett for all the right words! Doug's at peace – all is well. Love never ends, 1 Corin. 13:8.

Pat, Laura, Gene and Family

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

Many thanks to the approximately 41 volunteers from Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, First Presbyterian Church of Leesburg, and from around our local community who joined hands this morning to feed 546 individuals from 147 local families nearly 9,702 pounds of nutritious food.

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. We meet on Wednesdays from 2:00 -3:30 pm at church. In May, we are continuing our study in the book of 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

	April, 2023	Year to date 2023
Contributions	\$21,937.19	\$70,493.45
Expenditures	\$24,913.79	\$94,593.52

### MAY CALENDAR

<b>Tues.</b>	<b>5/2</b>	<b>11:30 a.m. WELCA Board Lunch 4:30 p.m. Catechism</b>
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>5/3</b>	<b>2:00 p.m. Developing Disciples Bible Study 4:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>5/4</b>	<b>11:30 p.m. Ruth Circle-Lunch @ McCracken's</b>
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>5/6</b>	<b>4:00 p.m. New Member/Council Wine &amp; Cheese Mixer</b>
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>5/7</b>	<b>9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship-New Member Svc</b>
<b>Mon.</b>	<b>5/8</b>	<b>10:00 a.m. Prayer Team</b>
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>5/9</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. Mary Martha Circle 4:30 p.m. Catechism</b>
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>5/10</b>	<b>2:00 p.m. Developing Disciples 4:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>5/11</b>	<b>11:00 a.m. Jan Liljestrand funeral followed by refreshments</b>
<b>Fri.</b>	<b>5/12</b>	<b>8:30-10:30 a.m. Joining Hands in Food Min.</b>
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>5/14</b>	<b>9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship</b>
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>5/16</b>	<b>4:30 p.m. Catechism</b>
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>5/17</b>	<b>NO DEV. DISCIPLES BIBLE STUDY NO CHOIR REHEARSAL</b>
<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>5/18</b>	<b>11:00 a.m. Ascension Eucharist</b>
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>5/21</b>	<b>9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship</b>
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>5/23</b>	<b>4:30 p.m. Catechism</b>
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>5/24</b>	<b>2:00 p.m. Developing Disciples 4:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>5/28</b>	<b>9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship</b>
<b>Mon.</b>	<b>5/29</b>	<b>MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY</b>
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>5/31</b>	<b>4:30 p.m. Catechism</b>

# MAY WORSHIP LEADERS

## Assistant Ministers

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

### 9:30 a.m.

<b>5/7</b>	R=Vaike O'Grady +=Leone Goding C= A=Patricia Bressler	<b>5/14</b>	R=Jim Gable +=James Menchaca C=Jayne Gable A=Arlene Kelly
<b>5/21</b>	R=Steve Cranmer +=Julian Menchaca C= A=	<b>5/28</b>	R=Linda Hide +=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>5/7</b>	Crystal Kirkpatrick Byron Kirkpatrick John Kelly Craig Carlson	<b>5/14</b>	Crystal Kirkpatrick Byron Kirkpatrick John Kelly Craig Carlson
<b>5/21</b>	Crystal Kirkpatrick Byron Kirkpatrick John Kelly Craig Carlson	<b>5/28</b>	Crystal Kirkpatrick Byron Kirkpatrick John Kelly Craig Carlson

## Altar Guild for May:

<b>5/7</b>	Crystal & Byron Kirkpatrick
<b>5/14</b>	Crystal & Byron Kirkpatrick
<b>5/21</b>	Crystal & Byron Kirkpatrick
<b>5/28</b>	Crystal & Byron Kirkpatrick

**Post Worship Secretary for May: Janet Braun**

**Greeters**

5/7 Gayle Bloom, Lillian Skilbred  
5/14  
5/21  
5/28

**Fellowship**

5/7 Joan Davis & Helen Ames  
5/14 The Carlson Family  
5/21 Dick & Bev Healy  
5/28 John & Janet Braun

**Counters – Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.**

5/7 Jeanne Talts & Arlene Kelly  
5/14 John & Janet Braun  
5/21 Arlene Kelly  
5/28 Madalon Ritter & Arlene Kelly

*Welcome,*  
**New Members**

**May 7, 2023**

**Vaika O'Grady**

1015 Forest Breeze Pass  
Leesburg, FL 34748  
512-827-6344

**Bill Grese**

2169 Locklin Lane  
The Villages, FL 32163  
352-661-3563

**Dale Blass**

26250 Newcombe Circle  
Leesburg, FL 34748  
407-252-1247

**Richard Anderson**

603 Coachwood Central  
Leesburg, FL 34748  
352-459-3625

**Hank Stennes**

800 Lake Port Blvd  
Apt L-109  
Leesburg, FL 34748  
215-431-8994

## **Council Corner for May 2023**

**By Loraine Van Haecke**

The Gloria Dei Council met on April 20 while on retreat at San Pedro Spiritual Development Center in Winter Park. This place is filled with the beauty of God's Creations. Upon arrival and room check-in, we had our first among several more Eucharist Services in the Chapel. As we worshiped, we felt calm and peace.

We discussed how to pray individually and together, Gloria Dei's congregational health and our Spiritual gifts. All our congregation has spiritual gifts that we may not recognize. For your own Spiritual Growth Assessment think your spiritual development related to six specific spiritual disciplines; abiding in Christ, living in the Word, praying in faith, fellowshiping with believers, witnessing to the world, and ministering to others.

Progress is being made with the renovations. The Administrator's office has been painted, new flooring, ceiling, lights and electrical are completed. Thanks to the volunteers for their help and for the funding of private donors. The annual Spring Fashion Show Salad Luncheon sponsored by WELCA was a huge success. There were 60 plus attending from several local churches (including our neighbor First Presbyterian). Denise Burry our featured speaker from Forward Paths explained how they started and the services they are providing to those in need. There were donations from the ladies attending of \$600.00 given to Denise for Forward Paths to use as needed. We would ask that you prayerfully consider volunteering to help with the work of our church. There are opportunities to volunteer to usher, assist with worship and music, council members, Sunday fellowship coffee, choir members, quilters, property committee, run video equipment for Sunday and special services. If you can give a few of your hours, it would be appreciated. Have a safe and healthy Summer.

# Minutes of the Gloria Dei Congregation Council

Thursday, April 20, 2023

The meeting was opened by Pastor Barnett with a prayer.

I. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by Pastor Barnett at 8:27am.

II. **Roll Call** - Present were: Pastor Barnett, Bill Birdsall, Craig Carlson, Arlene Kelly, Linda Steege, Crystal Kirkpatrick, and Loraine Van Haecke. Linda Riikonen was excused. Also present were guests Christine Carlson, Charlene Cranmer, and Joel Weinhardt.

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

IV. **Adoption of Agenda** - The agenda was reviewed and a motion to accept the agenda was made by Pastor Barnett and approved by all. **Motion carried**

V. **Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings** - Minutes of the March 2 meeting were reviewed and approved by a motion made by Craig and seconded by Bill. **Motion carried**

VI. **Correspondence** – Pastor received a letter from St. James Episcopal Church which he read. Arlene read a note from Madalon Ritter that was received in the offering plate regarding placement of the eternal candle. Pastor stated that he would speak to her.

VII. **Pastor's Report** – Pastor handed out his report to all present. He stated that there is a need for a stewardship leader to fill in while Pastor Gail is in Nebraska. There is to be a program with a monthly temple talk regarding some type of stewardship. There were no volunteers present at the meeting, so it will be brought to the congregation for a volunteer. The columbarium was discussed, and it was stated that we haven't been charging enough for each niche. Bill spoke with Mr. Beyer from the funeral home who gave information on how to better manage the columbarium. It was decided the charge for a niche is now \$2500. This subject is tabled until next meeting when more information has been gathered.

## VIII. **Unfinished Business** -

A. Update on building improvements – The painting, flooring, ceiling, lights, and electrical are all complete. Bill said that we are now waiting for the phone service from Comcast, the cabinets are on order, and the HVAC ductwork needs to be changed. On Thursday, April 27, the locksmiths are putting the new system upstairs. The funding for this is coming out of the A/V account, with a private donor covering the remaining cost.

B. Organization flow chart – Arlene brought a copy of the revised flow chart, and she still had some concerns about the accuracy of it. She gave it to Pastor for him to make the changes, and he will email it out when he is finished with it.

C. Medical awareness presentation – Pastor stated that we are waiting to get set up by a private company that doesn't want to sell anything to the congregation. The FL Dept of Elder Affairs was not able to help with this, and it was suggested to call AARP. Pastor said he will do this.

D. Men's breakfast – There needs to be a purpose for the meeting other than breakfast. It needs to be spiritual and fun, and the men of the congregation need to be invited to come out and join them.

E. Insurance update – Our new insurance policy is \$4000 less, since there is not wind and hail coverage on the policy.

F. New member reception – This will be held on Saturday, May 6 at 4pm. It will be in the fellowship hall at church and hosted by the church council. The council and their spouses, the new members and their spouses, the sponsors, and Pastor Barnett will be attending. We have four members joining in May. Each council member is to bring their own wine, cheese, and crackers to share with the others.

#### **IX. New Business –**

A. Prayer Team – Christine Carlson spoke about the newly formed prayer team. They are using an ELCA program to explore prayer and personal devotions. There are currently seven people on the team.

B. Responsibilities of bookkeeper, treasurer, and finance committee – This was discussed at the last meeting.

#### **X. Officers' reports –**

B. Loraine reported that the WELCA fashion show was successful. There were several attendees from other churches, which was very nice for everyone. She said that there is a salad luncheon/fundraiser planned for October 5<sup>th</sup>.

C. The treasurer's report was given by Bill. He proposed several changes to the financial reporting to show the accuracy of the reporting of actual income to the church rather than to other organizations within the church (i.e. JH). Bill did a longevity analysis for Gloria Dei, and if all remains status quo, we have 41 months left for our doors to be open. Arlene told the council that the hunger offering was split between world hunger and JH, and Bill made a motion to change that so the food ministry would receive the whole amount of the hunger offering monthly.-This was seconded by Arlene and unanimously approved. **Motion carried**

**XI. Committee reports –** No committee reports

**XII. Who does what?** Pastor will ask for a stewardship leader, write a letter to columbarium families, talk to Madalon about the eternal candle, call AARP about a speaker, and check the flow chart. Bill will check on Columbarium information and will get an estimate for the electrical work still needed upstairs. Loraine is coordinating the new members' reception.

Craig made mention about some lights in the sanctuary flickering. He also fixed the carpeting downstairs which was a possible hazard.

Thrivent Choice Dollars are going to be used for the electrical cost upstairs. Linda inquired about the additional cost. Bill is getting an estimate, and we will consider a funding appeal to cover the cost.

**XIV. Next meetings** - Executive committee meets on May 16, 2023 at 10am via Zoom; Regular council meeting will be on May 23, 2023 at 2pm.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Craig and seconded by Linda.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Arlene Kelly, Secretary



**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/President	The Rev. Edward G. Barnett	516-610-6676
Vice President	Loraine Van Haecke	407-252-4692
Secretary	Arlene Kelly	605-999-4555
Treasurer/Financial Secy	Bill Birdsall	732-773-2680
Fellowship	Loraine Van Haecke	407-252-4692
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	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	Loraine Van Haecke	407-252-4692
Stewardship	Pastor Gail Madson	402-525-7027
Church Staff Liaison		
Joining Hands Liaison	Arlene Kelly	605-999-4555
WELCA	Loraine Van Haecke	352-787-1407

