



GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

GATHERING IN CHRIST † SHARING HIS LOVE

THE GLORION

APRIL 2024

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:

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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



April, 2024

Happy Easter!

One of the latest trends among pastors is podcasting. Some of you have even brought this up to me. However, given how difficult it is for me to be creative with my monthly Glorion article, I'm not anxious to try it. I must say however, that I listen to a few podcasts. Some of these tend to be political in nature. I don't share my political perspectives much. That's deliberate. But let it suffice to say that the political podcasts that I listen to are both on the left and the right. One of the reasons I so dislike politics is that it's all absolutized opinion. And if you know anything about history, politics flips and flops so much as to be pretty undependable. In one decade, the Democrats/Republicans favor certain things, then in another decade or two they have long sense forgotten that but the point has been adopted by their Republican/Democrat opponents (and vice versa as well!).

I listen to a variety of Christian podcasts though. The one that represents the best of our ELCA tradition is one called Queen of the Sciences Podcast. It's a dialogue between two ELCA pastor/theologians, a father daughter duet, Pr Sarah Hinlicky Wilson and Pr Paul Hinlicky. She is the associate pastor at our parish serving Tokyo, Japan. (She's there with her husband, who is a lay historian teaching at the Lutheran seminary there). He's a retired professor at our ELCA Roanoke College in Virginia. Sometimes they will host guests as well. While the episodes can be highly theological at times, there are others which are more accessible to a general audience. Give it a try. Just Google it and then scroll through the episodes until you see a title that might interest you. I've used some of it in my Monday night Zoom classes.

One of the reasons I like Queen of the Sciences Podcast is that even with the two hosts the listener gets a sense that theology is in itself a conversation. That's very important for us to remember. All too often theological opinions become doctrinaire (pun intended). Theologians, particularly us Lutheran ones, feel like the "Here I Stand" is the only place that the truth can exist. Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life (John 14.6). The Holy Spirit leads us

into all Truth. (John 16.13). Beyond that, we're at best like the disciples in the New Testament: conversing, questioning, and disagreeing. It's through that conversation that the Holy Spirit is at work leading us to and revealing Jesus' Truth. Our life as Christians is much better when we respect each other, understand that our opinions are just that, and together search for the Truth that God reveals to us as his Body.

PS: Thanks so much for the many great cards and gifts that I received on the occasion of my recent 60th birthday. What a blessing you all are! I'm so looking forward to my luncheon this coming Thursday. I'm so blessed to have all of you in my life.

Pr Ed Barnett

COMMUNITY NOTICES

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

Members or friends hospitalized or had surgery in March: Marlene & Fred Farris.

GIFTS OF REMEMBRANCE

In loving memory of:

Missing my Dad, Doug

Love Laura Olszewski/1st Impress.

In honor of:

In Celebration of Pastor Barnett's 60th birthday and to his dedication and love of God and Gloria Dei! Pat Bressler/Building Fund

PRAYERS

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

- 4/7** Ed Thompson, Loraine Van Haecke, Susan Veraska & Hank Stennes,
Nancy Vogel, Marilyn Wahl
- 4/14** Joel & Sharon Weinhardt, Celia Wollner, Kenn & Marti Yance,
Chuck & Joy Yonko, Don & Helen Ames
- 4/21** Richard Anderson, Sue Anderson, Ted & Dorothy Baehmann,
Pastor Edward Barnett, Forrest Berg
- 4/28** Bill & Kathleen Birdsall, Dale Blass, Gayle Bloom,
John & Janet Braun, Patricia Bressler

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 04/21 Jerry & Julie Eld 63 years*
- 04/23 Craig & Christine Carlson 47 years
- 04/26 Richard & Debbie Cassem 55 years*

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

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|-------|------------------|-------|---------------|
| 04/05 | Vaike O'Grady | 04/05 | Susan Veraska |
| 04/06 | Sharon Weinhardt | 04/10 | Sylvia Mackey |
| 04/14 | Ted Baehmann | 04/16 | Barbara Goins |
| 04/22 | Kenn Yance | 04/24 | Joy Yonko |
| 04/25 | Sandy Kolb | 04/27 | Jim Gable |

Gloria Dei Women of the ELCA

The WELCA Board met on March 5. We opened our meeting with our Purpose Statement: 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.

Church Women United will celebrate MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY on May 3rd at 9:30 for a continental breakfast with the program beginning at 10:00 at United Methodist Church, 309 College Avenue in Fruitland Park. It is usually finished by noon. All ladies are invited.

Mary/Martha Circle completed nine quilts on the last Friday in February with five ladies attending. Ruth Circle is collecting items for the personal care kits to be put together along with the quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

The Soup Suppers have been a huge success. Thanks to Ruth Circle, Church Council, Mary/Martha Circle, the Choir and the WELCA Board for providing and hosting the suppers with their delicious soups. It could not have been done without all of you. Thanks!!

Coming up soon is our Annual Spring Fashion Show and Salad Luncheon!! April 16 at 11:30! Maxine from FASHION LABELS will provide the fashions and our own ladies will model. Please bring a salad for six servings to share. The Board provides the desserts and beverages. Our guest speaker will be from ANGEL FLIGHT. They provide free flights for children to needed hospitals.

Next event is the WELCA HEART OF FLORIDA SPRING GATHERING!! April 20th 9:00AM to 1:00PM at St. Stephens Lutheran Church, 2140 Hwy 434, Longwood, Florida 32779. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:6-7

The cost is \$15.00 (cash only). We will have continental breakfast and lunch. Plan to join us, we will plan to carpool. There will be a signup sheet beginning April 7th, see Loraine Van Haecke with any questions. Please sign up by April 13.

Peace and Blessings,
Loraine Van Haecke, WELCA Leader
Cell: 407-252-4692
Home: 352-787-1407
loraine.vanhaecke@gmail.com

Ruth Circle— Next meeting Thursday April 4th at 10:30. Gayle will lead bible study using March Gather magazine. Pastor Barnett's birthday celebration is later that afternoon, if you are not attending that event, bring lunch or snack as needed.

Mary-Martha Circle-will meet on the 2nd Tuesday, April 9. We will start our Mission Quilting at 9:00 AM and have a break at 10:30. Bible Study at 11:00 will be out of the Gather Magazine. We will have copies of the lesson for anyone who needs one. We will also be Mission Quilting on the 4th Friday which is April 26 at 9:00 am. Please come and join us for fun & fellowship, its not just about tying. Carol Marshall, Leader Phone 352-787-0435.

QUILTING

The Quilters are asking for volunteers to sew quilt tops, so that when they resume quilting, there will be tops to start the process. If you have any questions, please see Leone or Jacki Goding.

THANK YOU LETTERS

Letter from Lutheran World Relief

Dear Friends,

Thank you and Pastor Gail Madson for your recent generous gift of \$460.00 to Lutheran World Relief's Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund!

The kindness and love you show your neighbors in Christ is truly transformational. Quilts and kits are both practical and comforting. Wherever they are in the world and whatever challenges they face, the families who receive them can truly feel the love and care that quilters and it makers put into them.

In colder regions of Tanzania, quilts are actually helping children grow! Researchers recently discovered that many children in these regions did not have adequate bedding and were using too many calories to keep their bodies warm—taking away valuable energy they need to grow. For children who are already hungry or malnourished, this can create long-term problems with their physical growth and mental development. But, wrapped in a warm and cozy quilt, they can sleep soundly and grow up healthy.

And that is just one example of how your generosity helps. Whether a quilt or kit reaches a family in a refugee camp, a new mother in an urban slum or a child in a remote villages, your kindness brings comfort and hope to people when they need it most.

I am so grateful for the love you are bestowing on our neighbors around the world.

Thank you, Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard, President and CEO

EDUCATION-DEVELOPING DISCIPLES

You are cordially invited to join our Bible study. We meet on Wednesdays from 2:30 -4:00 pm at church. Starting in April, we will be learning about the Psalms. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Christine Carlson at skauvold.carlson@gmail.com or by phone at (516) 458-7355.

Mary Kelpé hosts a bible study “Hebrews” @ Lake Port Square on Wednesdays @ 10:00 a.m. in the card room at 821 Lake Port Blvd. Feel free to join the group!

There is also a bible study on Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. by zoom. If you would like to attend, please email Pastor Barnett at egbarnett@hotmail.com or Mary Beth Morris at gloriadeilutheranleesburg@gmail.com and one of us will send you the link.

JOINING HANDS IN FOOD MINISTRY

Many thanks to the 56 volunteers from Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, First Presbyterian Church of Leesburg, and from around our community who joined hands to distribute over four tons of food to 528 individuals from 162 families on March 8, 2024 at our monthly free food distribution.

Richard. Cassem

Joining Hands in Food Ministry Chief Operating Officer

JOINING HANDS IN FOOD MINISTRY

Joining Hands is collecting **canned fruit, cereal (hot or cold), peanut butter & jelly**, any kind will be a big help! Please put your donations in the Narthex on the shelf. Thank you for your support.

JHIFM NEEDS YOUR HELP

JHIFM is looking for a volunteer with basic math and computer skills to prepare and electronically submit our quarterly Lake County Human Services grant report. This is a very important job as our food ministry currently receives significant financial support from Lake County. This is a wonderful opportunity to volunteer from your home and leave the heavy lifting to other volunteers. You will need a computer and access to the internet to send and receive email messages, as well as access to a scanner and printer. It is not necessary to be an accountant, but if you know how to use an Excel spreadsheet, you are the person for whom we are looking. Interested persons should email Ritch Cassem at richardcassem@gmail.com to schedule mutually agreeable training sessions at either Gloria Dei Lutheran Church or First Presbyterian Church. Thank you.

Richard, Cassem,
Joining Hands in Food Ministry Chief Operating Officer

Stewardship

Stewardship and Fellowship are related.

Recently a change was made in how treats are provided for Sunday Fellowship time. Previously, folks who were hosting on a given Sunday provided Juice/Lemonade or Sweet tea in addition to baked goods or other treats. This can be expensive. Hosts are also responsible for set up, clean up and making coffee.

Currently, there is a sign up list for each week to identify who will bring in an item. Thus, sharing the load. Thank you to those who have been using the list. If you have not yet signed up. Please consider sharing your time/talent or money by signing up to bring in a baked item/fruit/deviled eggs/cheese and crackers or any other yummy snack.

Thank you! Dianne

APRIL CALENDAR

Mon.	4/1	NO Zoom Bible Study
Tues.	4/2	10:00 a.m. WELCA Board meeting 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
Wed.	4/3	10:00 a.m. Bible Study “Hebrews” @ 821 Lake Port Blvd. card room 2:30 p.m. Developing Disciples Bible Study 4:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Thurs.	4/4	10:30 a.m. Ruth Circle 1:30 p.m. Pastor Barnett’s 60th Birthday Party @ Rose Plantation in Fruitland Park
Sat.	4/6	9:00 a.m. Car Show, Breakfast, Lunch, Bingo
Sun.	4/7	9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
Mon.	4/8	7:00 p.m. Zoom Bible Study
Tues.	4/9	9:00 a.m. Mary Martha Circle/Quilting 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
Wed.	4/10	10:00 a.m. Bible Study “Hebrews” @ 821 Lake Port Blvd. card room 2:30 p.m. Developing Disciples Bible Study 4:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Thurs.	4/11	10:00 a.m. 1st Impressions Task Force Meeting
Fri.	4/12	8:30-10:30 a.m. Joining Hands in Food Min.
Sun.	4/14	9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship-Temple Talk
Mon.	4/15	7:00 p.m. Zoom Bible Study
Tues.	4/16	10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer 11:30 a.m. Spring Fashion Show/Luncheon
Wed.	4/17	10:00 a.m. Bible Study “Hebrews” @ 821 Lake Port Blvd. card room 2:30 p.m. Developing Disciples Bible Study 4:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Sat.	4/20	Heart of Florida Conference for Women

APRIL CALENDAR (cont'd)

Sun.	4/21	9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship-Hunger Offering
Mon.	4/22	2:00 p.m. Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. Zoom Bible Study
Tues.	4/23	10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
Wed.	4/24	10:00 a.m. Bible Study "Hebrews" @ 821 Lake Port Blvd. card room 2:30 p.m. Developing Disciples Bible Study 4:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Fri.	4/26	9:00 a.m. Mission Quilting
Sun.	4/28	9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
Mon.	4/29	7:00 p.m. Zoom Bible Study
Tues.	4/30	10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

FINANCIAL CORNER

GENERAL FUND

	February, 2024	Year to date 2024
Contributions	\$19,305.70	\$36,599.32
Expenditures	\$21,546.90	\$41,894.09

RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Beg. Bal. 1/1/2024	Donations	Withdrawals	Ending Bal 2/29/24
Elementary School	14.69	0	0	14.69
Oak Park Middle	0	0	0	0
Thrivent Choice \$\$	2,249.34	60.00	1,042.89	1,266.45
Eternal Light	665.00	40.00	0	705.00
Fellowship	504.98	294.00	86.06	712.92
JHIFM	0	30.00	30.00	0
World Hunger	0	44.00	44.00	0
Flowers	526.90	91.00	311.91	305.99
ELCA	0	30.00	30.00	0
Altar wine/bread	196.02	25.00	0	221.02
AV Equipment	138.33	0	0	138.33
First Impressions	2,430.63	0	1,050.00	1,380.63
Evangelism	1,123.00	0	0	1,123.00
Choir/music	550.00	0	0	550.00
TOTALS	8,398.89	614.00	2,594.86	6,418.03- +

2024 First Impressions Task Force Report

Meeting Thursday, February 8, 2024, at 10 AM

In Attendance: Kathleen Birdsall, Linda Steege, Pat Bressler, Crystal Kirkpatrick & Arlene Kelly

We opened our meeting with a word of prayer by Arlene.

1. Our goal, to gather quotes on the various needed repairs, upgrades and/or maintenance needs of our church building has been completed. We will now prepare a proposal of our findings and present the information to the financial committee and the council. The council will make the determination as to when and how First Impressions third project will be implemented.

As a reminder below are a list of the areas that need attention do to safety issues, wear & tear from age, and aesthetics.

- Rot – Portico ceiling, columns on front & side of building.
 - Rust – Metal doors on sides & back of building, and handrails.
 - Upgrade roof gutters (commercial as code requires)
 - Electrical in Nave – Ballasts are burning out, need to be replaced. The sanctuary above altar, light bulbs burned out & tile pieces ready to fall needs to be addressed.
 - Painting the outside of the building and the walls in nave and sanctuary.
 - Upgrade - flooring in the sanctuary (area around the altar & choir)
2. We talked about the concrete slab in the parking lot side of the church and would like the council to consider having it removed as it serves no real function.
 3. We discussed a tabernacle to house the communion elements. We will continue research on this item to find an appropriate fit for the sanctuary.

Next meeting tentatively set for April 11th at 10am.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Birdsall, Chair

APRIL WORSHIP LEADERS

Assistant Ministers

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

9:30 a.m.

4/7	R=Jon Tetting +=Leone Goding C= A=Ellen Clement	4/14	R=Jayne Gable +=Julian Menchaca C= A=Vaikke O'Grady
4/21	R=Linda Hide +=Leone Goding C= A=Pat Bressler	4/28	R=Steve Cranmer +=James Menchaca C= A=Vaikke O'Grady

Ushers

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

9:30 a.m.

4/7	Crystal Kirkpatrick Byron Kirkpatrick Craig Carlson John Kelly	4/14	Crystal Kirkpatrick Byron Kirkpatrick Craig Carlson John Kelly
4/21	Crystal Kirkpatrick Byron Kirkpatrick Craig Carlson John Kelly	4/28	Crystal Kirkpatrick Byron Kirkpatrick Craig Carlson John Kelly

Altar Guild for April: Crystal & Byron Kirkpatrick & Craig Carlson

Post Worship Secretary for April: Joy Yonko

Greeter for April:

4/7	Madalon Ritter
4/14	Madalon Ritter
4/21	Madalon Ritter
4/28	Madalon Ritter

Fellowship

4/7 Don & Helen Ames, Joan Davis

4/14

4/21

4/28

Counters – Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.

4/7 Jeanne Talts

4/14 John & Janet Braun

4/21 Arlene Kelly

4/28 Madalon Ritter & Arlene Kelly

Council Corner for April **By Christine Carlson**

February 29, we had our first meeting of the new council that our congregation voted into office at the Annual Meeting. Like many groups that meet for the first time, we went around and shared a little about ourselves. About half of the council is serving in this capacity for the first time. It was interesting to hear about each person's history of service in the church at Gloria Dei and in other congregations prior to joining Gloria Dei. This listening is just one step towards the goal of creating a team that will work together to discern what God wants for Gloria Dei. Pastor Barnett has scheduled a leadership retreat for May 7-May 8 that will continue that process.

We noted that the congregation is enjoying the fellowship that is taking place over our Shrove Tuesday and Lenten soup suppers. Thanks to all the groups that put time into set-up, preparation of food, and clean-up.

Bill Birdsall would like to step down as Treasurer of the Congregation, and we have announced that we are looking for someone who could fill that position.

Work is progressing on the new church website, a healthcare potluck, the next car show is scheduled for April 6th and a birthday party for Pastor Barnett are among the highlights of things that are happening this year.

We, like other churches, are facing financial challenges, and we ask the congregation to pray for direction from the Holy Spirit for this council as we face them together. This scripture from John 15: 1-5 is a reminder that God is in control and that He works in each of us to bear good fruit.

1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. **2** He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes^[a] so that it will be even more fruitful. **3** You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. **4** Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

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

RULE OF LIFE

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



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

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

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

LIVE FOR THE LORD - Follow

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

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

PRAY

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

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

We offer prayers of:

ADORATION, CONFESSION, THANKSGIVING, SUPPLICATION

WORSHIP

We worship God regularly in love.

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

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

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

STUDY

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

CONTRIBUTE /SERVE

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

Healthy responses to disagreements and conflicts

As disciples of Jesus, we embrace the following:

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

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

2024 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pastor/President	The Rev. Edward G. Barnett	516-610-6676
Vice President	Loraine Van Haecke	407-252-4692
Secretary	Vaike O'Grady	512-827-6344
Treasurer	Bill Birdsall	732-773-2680
Financial Secretary	Janet Braun	412-445-7774
Fellowship	Loraine Van Haecke	407-252-4692
Property	Bill Birdsall	732-773-2680
Worship & Music		
Evangelism/Technology/ & Communications/Webmaster	Bill Birdsall	732-773-2680
Christian Education	Christine Carlson	516-458-7355
Finance		
	John Braun	412-926-3381
	Don Manfre	352-321-4050
	Joel Weinhardt	330-936-8451

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Worship & Music		
Evangelism/Technology/ & Communications/Webmaster	Bill Birdsall	732-773-2680
Property	Bill Birdsall	732-773-2680
Fellowship	Loraine Van Haecke	407-252-4692
Stewardship	Dianne Marcotte	508-723-2073
WELCA	Loraine Van Haecke	407-252-4692

