

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

GATHERING IN CHRIST + SHARING HIS LOVE

THE GLORION

JANUARY 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:
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

WEB SITE: 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



January, 2024

For those that read this column consistently, you might remember last summer when I mentioned doing an intensive study of the topic "evangelism," during June to August. I learned a lot and I suspect that I'll be led (hopefully by the Spirit of God) during 2024 to share some of what I learned. This is, of course, with the goal of educating, inspiring, challenging, us to be come more what Lutherans say they are: evangelical. This is evangelical in its true Biblical sense of sharing the Good News (as opposed to some American, sectarian, political type thing). The Good News as summarized in John 3.16: "God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

Here's a fundamental rub for us: when we American Lutherans think of "evangelism" we tend to think first about talking about our church congregation and recruiting people to come to it. That's a short-sighted understanding. Evangelism is about God, the person of Jesus and our relationship to him. Whereas our church, the people and programs there, are pretty easy to talk about and describe, it's much more difficult when it comes to our relationship with God. That relationship with God, because it's something deep in our hearts, seems almost too personal to talk about with others. Many Lutherans even find that it might border on blasphemy to do so — like a too familiar use of the name of God warned about in the 2nd Commandment.

So that's our challenge: talk about God first. Who is this God we love and worship? This can't be separated from Church because that's the living community this God creates. What people are hungry for ultimately is God, not necessarily a church. If we share with them the Living God, then the church ends up being needed, necessary.

The biggest thing that we didn't achieve last year was the establishment or at least trial period for Small Group ministry. We're not going to give up though. We're going to try to get everyone committed to participate in a Small Group for five sessions. These will be places where, in a non-threatening and safe way, we can begin to express and talk about that faith which God has placed in our hearts. Don't worry, we'll wait on this until later in February. Already, our January will be packed with many activities. Let us look forward to what God will be doing with us this 2024 at Gloria Dei!

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom;" Colossians 3.16a

Pr Ed Barnett



COMMUNITY NOTICES

Martha Ellis (Crystal Kirkpatrick's aunt) died Sunday, **December 10**, **2023**. Our hearts, prayers and sympathy to Crystal and Byron. There will be a service on Monday, January 8th at 11:00 am at Gloria Dei outside in the memorial garden. Memorials may be made to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church.

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

Members or friends hospitalized or had surgery in December: Janet Braun, Chuck Yonko.

GIFTS OF REMEMBRANCE

In loving memory of:

Our parents.
Marlene Farris's grandson, Tucker resting in peace!

Joel & Sharon Weinhardt/Wine Pat Bressler/Candle/1st Impressions

PRAYERS

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

- 1/7 Carol Figi, Diana Frederick, Jim & Jayne Gable, Ron Galloway, Margi Geiger
- 1/14 Jacki Goding, Leone Goding, Larry Goerke, Barbara Goins, Bill Grese
- 1/21 Dottsie Grins, Mary Grissom, Rose Gulbrandsen, Ralph & Sylvia Hallberg, Gerry Haller
- 1/28 Nortie Handwerck, Kay Hawtin, Dick & Bev Healy, Jean Heitz, Linda Hide

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

N/A

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

01/02	Kay Hawtin	01/04	Margi Geiger
01/09	Bess King	01/10	Jeanne Talts
01/10	Dennis Marcotte	01/12	James Menchaca
01/15	Nancy Kancel	01/27	Bev Healy
01/30	Irv Johnson	-	•

Gloria Dei Women of the ELCA

Welcome 2024!! The new year is here with new beginnings. Exciting things happening at Gloria Dei. Watch the church bulletin and the Glorion for the happenings.

Our meetings resume in January, both Board, Circles, and the Quilters. The quilts that were made last year were 45 plus. They will be Blessed along with the Personal Kits and other items that will be sent to Lutheran World Relief.

Shrove Tuesday will be a Pancake Supper on February 13th and the Lenten Soup Suppers will begin February 21st.

The WELCA Annual Spring Luncheon Fashion Show will be on April 16 with Maxine from Fashion Labels.

We would love to have you plan on joining us in the coming year. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or any member of the WELCA Board.

Wishes for each of you a Blessed, Happy, Healthy and Safe New Year!

Loraine Van Haecke - Leader

Cell: 407-252-4692, Home: 352-787-1407

loraine.vanhaecke@gmail.comope you had a good holiday!

Ruth Circle – Next regular meeting will be at the church at 1:30 pm on Thursday January 5th. Deb will lead bible study and Gayle will provide refreshments.

Mary-Martha Circle-will meet on the 2nd Tuesday, January 9. We will start our Mission Quilting at 9:00 am and have a break at 10:30. Bible Study at 11:00 am 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 January 26 at 9:00 am. Please come and join us for fun and fellowship.

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

To My Gloria Dei friends,

Thank you very much for the beautiful and delicious gift basket! I very much appreciate it.

Evelyn Matthes

To the Lovely Ladies of Gloria Dei,

I am writing on behalf of my stepdad, Lawrence Goerke. He thanks you from the bottom of his heart. He especially loved that you thought of him at this special time of year. Thank you and Merry Christmas,

Bethann, Larry's stepdaughter

Dear Ladies of Gloria Dei,

We thank you so very much for the lovely holiday basket and the beautiful quilts. Your generosity is so appreciated. Thank you with love and God's blessings for a wonderful holiday and a blessed 2024.

Dock & Barb Lias

Thank you, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church for your hospitality for The World Community Day Celebration. The kindness that you have shown Church Women United is a blessing. Personally we wish to thank Pastor Barnett for his gracious welcome and song.

Sincerely, Lake County Unit Church Women United

To the Ladies of Gloria Dei,

Many thanks for the beautiful "Prayer Quilt". What a wonderful gift. The basket of fruit, cookies and sweets were delightful. God's many blessings.

Celia Wollner

JOINING HANDS IN FOOD MINISTRY

Joining Hands in Food ministry has seen a substantial increase in number of individuals and families who are in need and coming to the monthly food distribution. One of the most important aspects of the ministry is obtaining funds to purchase additional food each month.

One of the ways funds are received are by Thrivent Action team grants of \$250. It has recently been learned that three Thrivent team grants per month may be applied to the different tasks required for JHIFM to be successful. This would provide an additional \$6,000 per year for JHIFM.

If you are not a current member of Thrivent and do not own any of their insurance products, you may help by becoming an associate member! If you are a current member of Thrivent (not an associate member) you are entitled to start an action team with accompanying grant twice a year. Please contact Dianne Marcotte djrm718@gmail.com or at 352-933-5517 for more information or if you are a member but have not been using this important benefit of your Thrivent membership.

BECOME A THRIVENT ASSOCIATE MEMBER AND GET IN ON THE ACTION!

There are many benefits to becoming a Thrivent Member including the ability to start a Thrivent Action Team. Action teams are designed to help Christians live generously. Approved action teams receive promotional resources and seed money to jump start your fundraiser, educational event or service project. As an associate member, you are eligible to host an Action team event once a year. Approved Action teams receive a \$250 gift card to purchase needed supplies for your event.

You can become a member by purchasing a product from Thrivent Financial or by paying an annual fee of \$19.95 to become an associate member. All adults and children sixteen years old or older who are Christians seeking to live out their faith, or spouses of Christians seeking to live out their faith are eligible to become an Associate Member and start an action team.

SUGGESTION: Instead of donating \$20 to Joining Hands in Food Ministry, please consider joining Thrivent as an annual associate instead. Your \$19.95 will then allow JHIFM to purchase \$250 of food.

Members of Gloria Dei who are familiar with Thrivent Action Teams are available to help guide you through the very easy application process. If you have futher questions or you need directions of how to apply. Please contact Dianne Marcotte dirm718@gmail.com or 352-933-5517

JOINING HANDS IN FOOD MINISTRY

THHHHHHAAAAAANK YOOOOUUUUU to the 70 volunteers from Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, First Presbyterian Church of Leesburg, and from around our local community who turned out this beautiful December 8th morning to distributed 14,613 pounds of nutritious food to 827 individuals from 237 Lake County families.

Joining Hands in Food Ministry (JHIFM) is a certified 501(c) (3) public charity that holds a monthly free food distribution from 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM on the second Friday of every month during which families in need receive one week's supply of food. JHIFM is also an authorized partner agency of Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida as well as an authorized partner agency of Farm Share. We are an equal opportunity food provider and are an all volunteer organization with no paid employees. If you would care to support our mission of fighting hunger in our local community you may mail your check payable to Joining Hands in Food Ministry, 130 S. Lone Oak Drive, Leesburg, FL.34748. Lake County Florida Farm Share, Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church ELCA, Thrivent Chevron, First Presbyterian Church of Leesburg, Lake and Sumter Style Magazine, FedEx

Also Joining Hands is collecting *canned fruit and cereal*, any kind will be a big help! Please put your donations in the Narthex on the shelf. Thank you for your support.

Richard. Cassem Joining Hands in Food Ministry Chief Operating Officer

EDUCATION-DEVELOPING DISCIPLES

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

JANUARY CALENDAR

		SANCARI CALENDAR
Mon.	1/1	NO BIBLE STUDY ON ZOOM
Tues.	1/2	10:00 a.m. WELCA Board meeting
	•	10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
Wed.	1/3	10:00 a.m. Bible Study "The Real Heaven"
	, 0	@ 821 Lake Port Blvd. card room
		2:30 p.m. Developing Disciples Bible Study
		4:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Thurs.	1/4	1:30 p.m. Ruth Circle
Fri.	1/5	4:00 p.m. Epiphany Service w/reception
	70	The Francisco American
Sun.	1/7	9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship-New Member
Mon.	1/8	11:00 a.m. Funeral Service-Martha Ellis
	•	1:00 p.m. Leaders Luncheon @ Perkins
		7:00 p.m. Bible Study Zoom
Tues.	1/9	9:00 a.m. Mary Martha Circle/Quilting
		10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
Wed.	1/10	10:00 a.m. Bible Study "The Real Heaven"
	•	@ 821 Lake Port Blvd. card room
		2:30 p.m. Developing Disciples Bible Study
		4:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Fri.	1/12	8:30-10:30 a.m. Joining Hands in Food Min.
Sun.	1/14	9:30 a.m. Consecration Sunday
- C	-/ - -	Followed by a luncheon
Mon.	1/15	7:00 p.m. Bible Study Zoom
Tues.	1/16	10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
Wed.	1/17	10:00 a.m. Bible Study "The Real Heaven"
· · · ca·	-/-/	@ 821 Lake Port Blvd. card room
		2:30 p.m. Developing Disciples Bible Study
		4:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Thurs.	1/18	9:30 a.m. Ruth Circle packing care kits
111015	1,10	10:30 a.m. Lake Port Square Eucharist Service
Sat.	1/20	11:30 a.m. Healthcare Seminar-Chili luncheon
	•	
Sun.	1/21	9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship-Hunger Offering
Mon.	1/22	7:00 p.m. Bible Study Zoom
Tues.	1/23	10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
Wed.	1/24	10:00 a.m. Bible Study "The Real Heaven"
		@ 821 Lake Port Blvd. card room
		2:30 p.m. Developing Disciples Bible Study
		4:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Fri.	1/26	9:00 a.m. Mission Quilting
		Q

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Sun.	1/28	9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship followed
		Annual Congregational meeting
Mon.	1/29	7:00 p.m. Bible Study Zoom
Tues.	1/30	10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
Wed.	1/31	10:00 a.m. Bible Study "The Real Heaven"
		@ 821 Lake Port Blvd. card room
		2:30 p.m. Developing Disciples Bible Study
		4:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

ANNUAL REPORTS

All 2023 annual reports are due to me by <u>January 15</u>, <u>2024</u>. Please email them to:

<u>gloriadeilutheranleesburg@gmail.com.</u> If you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you.

Mary Beth Morris

FINANCIAL CORNER

GENERAL FUND

	November, 2023	Year to date 2023
Contributions	\$15,923.39	\$191,863.96
Expenditures	\$21,938.79	\$252,387.16

RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Beg. Bal.	Donations	Withdrawals	Ending Bal
	1/1/2023			11/30/2023
Elementary School	160.59	50.00	195.90	14.69
Oak Park Middle	0	0	0	0
Thrivent Choice \$\$	3,683.76	555.00	2,097.42	2,141.34
Basket Social	282.51	0	282.51	0
Eternal Light	600.00	65.00	0	665.00
Fellowship	13.51	1,263.01	905.54	370.98
JHIF	0	908.00	898.00	10.00
World Hunger	0	1,247.00	1,247.00	0
Flowers	561.38	1,036.00	1,434.48	162.90
ELCA	0	170.00	170.00	0
Altar wine/bread	25.02	146.00	0	171.02
AV Equipment	4,733.77	2,000.00	6,595.44	138.33
First Impressions	0	1,447.51	116.88	1,330.63
Disaster Relief	0	420.00	420.00	0
Evangelism	780.00	628.00	60.00	1,348.00
Choir/music	550.00	0	0	550.00
TOTALS	11,390.54	9,935.52	14,423.17	6,902.89

Council Corner for January By Bill Birdsall Treasurer

The Gloria Dei Council Executive Committee met in December, but the regular Council meeting had to be rescheduled for December 29th due to Pastor's illness. However, the executive Committee and Council did meet in November to conduct our usual business.

At our meetings we discussed the Stewardship Program which has now started with Loraine Van Haeckes' Temple talk, with another one scheduled for December 31st. We discussed a health care luncheon potluck featuring a program by Arlene Kelly on Saturday January 20th at 11:30 am.

We also talked about progress on the new website and funding the cost. It was decided that proceeds from the car shows would be used to pay this expense as those funds went to Evangelism and the website is considered part of Evangelism.

At the recommendation of the executive committee and finance committee the council has decided to ask the First Impressions Task Force to obtain cost estimates for necessary repairs and improvements to the exterior and interior of the church. These estimates will be used as the basis for a special fundraiser in the future.

The council discussed the need for Council members to rotate at the Welcome desk to relieve some of the burden for Crystal. The council also discussed the need for volunteers for the council as there will be four seats vacated this new year. The council is considering a consistent date for executive committee and Council meetings. Peace

JANUARY WORSHIP LEADERS

Assistant Ministers

Legend:	R-Reader, +-Crucife	, C-Communion Assist.	, A-Liturgy Assist.
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9:30 a.m.

1/7 R=Sylvia Mackey 1/14 R=Steve Cranmer

+=James Menchaca +=Leone Goding

C=

A=Vaike O'Grady A=Pat Bressler

1/21 R=Vaike O'Grady 1/28 R=Linda Hide

+=Julian Menchaca +=Vaike O'Grady

C=

A= 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.

1/7	Crystal Kirkpatrick	1/14	Crystal Kirkpatrick
	Byron Kirkpatrick		Byron Kirkpatrick
	Craig Carlson		Craig Carlson
	John Kelly		John Kelly

1/21Crystal Kirkpatrick
Byron Kirkpatrick1/28Crystal Kirkpatrick
Byron KirkpatrickCraig Carlson
John KellyCraig Carlson
John Kelly

Altar Guild for January: Crystal & Byron Kirkpatrick

Post Worship Secretary for January: Gayle Bloom

Greeter for January:

1/7

1/14

1/21

1/28

Fellowship

Hosts: Pat Bressler & Taeko Mincer 1/7

1/14

Hosts: Jim & June Rieb 1/21

1/28

Counters - Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.

1/7 Jeanne Talts

John & Janet Braun 1/14

1/21 1/28 Arlene Kelly

Madalon Ritter & Arlene Kelly

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 LUTHER CHURCH RULE OF LIFE



RULE OF LIFE Living in Community at Gloria Dei Gathering In Christ ~ Sharing His Love

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

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

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

LIVE FOR THE LORD - Follow

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

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

PRAY

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

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

ADORATION, CONFESSION, THANKSGIVING, SUPPLICATION

WORSHIP

We worship God regularly in love.

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

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

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

STUDY

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

CONTRIBUTE /SERVE

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

Healthy responses to disagreements and conflicts

As disciples of Jesus, we embrace the following:

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

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

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Pastor/President	The Rev. Edward G. Barne	tt 516-610-6676			
Vice President	Loraine Van Haecke	407-252-4692			
Secretary	Arlene Kelly	605-999-4555			
Treasurer	Bill Birdsall	732-773-2680			
Financial Secretary	Janet Braun	412-445-7774			
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	Bill Birdsall	732-773-2680			
& Communications/Webmaster					
Christian Education	Linda Steege	815-222-6195			
Mission Endowment	_	- , ,			

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Worship & Music	Crystal Kirkpatrick	352-552-3983
Evangelism/Technology/	Bill Birdsall	732-773-2680
& Communications/Webn	naster	
Social Ministry		
Property	Bill Birdsall	732-773-2680
Fellowship	Loraine Van Haecke	407-252-4692
Stewardship	Dianne Marcotte	508-723-2073
Church Staff Liaison		
Joining Hands Liaison	Arlene Kelly	605-999-4555
WELCA	Loraine Van Haecke	407-252-4692