

# THE GLORION

**NOVEMBER 2024**

# www.gloriadeielca.com

**IN CASE OF PASTORAL EMERGENCY**

**Contact the office during regular office hours:**

**9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Monday thru Friday**

**After office hours contact:**

**Pastor Lynn M. Fonfara via email:**

**pastorgloriadeileesburg@gmail.com**

**ADDRESS: 130 S. Lone Oak Drive, Leesburg, FL 34748**

**OFFICE PHONE: (352)787-3223**

**OFFICE EMAIL: gloriadeilutheranleesburg@gmail.com**

**WEB SITE:** [**www.gloriadeielca.com**](http://www.gloriadeielca.com)

**OFFICE HOURS: Monday – Friday from 9:00-1:00 PM**

**PASTOR: LYNN M. FONFARA**

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: LEONARD CREMISIO**

**OFFICE MANAGER: EVELYN ROLLINS**

**SEXTON: TINA JANOSA**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP – 9:30 A.M**



November, 2024

**Influencers**

If you pay attention to social media, Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, X, and so forth, you know who an influencer is. In case you don’t know, influencers are people or groups who produce writings and videos that express their opinions about music or products or political candidates, etc. They become influencers when lots of people “like” them, indicating they appreciate the content.

So, who are the influencers in your life? They don’t have to be well-known to the world, just to you. I’ll tell you about three influencers in my life, to help you think about your own.

First, my fifth-grade teacher, Mrs. Hewes. My fourth-grade teacher had recommended having me repeat the grade, but we moved to a new school district and new teachers. My new teacher quickly understood that I had been finishing my work, learning the lessons, and I was bored with repeating the same lessons for several days in a row. So, she put me and a few similar students into a special group creating and acting out plays based on stories. We made our own props and costumes, and had a great time, and I was rarely bored in school that year.

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Second, the women of Sarah Circle: I didn’t grow up in the church, though as a family we did attend worship once in a while. After college, I decided (with God’s help!) that it was time to connect to a church. The women of Sarah Circle were persistent in inviting me to join them despite my reluctance. Most of us were young mothers, though one or two were single young women. I valued their friendship. Over the months and years, they taught me the value of weekly worship, and of asking questions of scripture and of what we had been taught.

Third, a few pieces of music. Peter, Paul and Mary’s “If I Had a Hammer” called to me to try to create a different world that the one I was living in, with the Vietnam War, the Watergate scandal, and so many race riots. About a decade ago, I added another song to my list of musical influencers: Brandon Heath’s “Give Me Your Eyes.” This song calls us to see through God’s eyes what people are really going through. We are to ask ourselves what might be their heart story, how are they broken inside? Now that I think about it, these are the same values that led me to become a Franciscan.

Who are your influencers? In what ways have they shaped your life? Tell someone the stories!

Pax

Pastor Lynn

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**THANKSGIVINGS**

This month is when we give thanks for many things and eat a lot of high-calorie foods. We also observe All Saints Day on the first Sunday of November. So, this time, let’s take a few moments to remember those who have gone before us to show us the way, especially those we call Grandma and Grandpa, Aunt and Uncle, Mom and Dad, sisters and brothers and friends, or a special teacher. They took us to worship and Sunday School, and catechism class. They introduced us to Jesus at Youth Group meetings.

Our saint may have been a stranger, someone with a word that gave us new insight into Jesus.  Our saints may have been songwriters, singers or poets or novelists. Whoever they are, take some time to think of the saints in your life, and give thanks for them. If they are still living, send them a note about what they meant to you.

Who are the saints at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church? Why are they saints for you? Remember to tell them thanks with a note or a conversation.

**BIBLE STUDY**

**Monday Zoom Bible study**

Each Gospel writer has a unique story-telling style. While Mark is mostly short and to the point, except when he wants to emphasize something, Luke tells lots of stories, and gives us lots of details, except when he doesn’t want to.

Here are a few things we’ll talk about as we read Luke’s Gospel.

* Holy Spirit mentioned often (Holy Spirit is the main character in Acts)
* Important stuff happens at mealtime
* Women are generally treated well in Luke
* Concern with poor and oppressed
* Believed that Jesus was fulfillment of Hebrew Scriptures
* Salvation is for both Jews and non-Jews

Join us weekly or whenever you can as we read through Luke’s version of the story of Jesus’ life and ministry.

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**GLORIA DEI WOMEN OF THE ELCA**

It is time for the FL/BA SWO Fall Gathering. This event will be at the Warren Willis Conference Center in Fruitland Park on November 8th, 9th and 10th. “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands” is the theme for the weekend. This will be a great time being with old friends and making new friends. There will be Worship, Bible Study, Workshops, Fellowship, good food, and a fun and spirit filled weekend.

Baskets for our Home Bound will be prepared on December 20th at 9:30 AM. If you can help or if you have any questions, call Arlene Kelly.

The WELCA Annual Christmas Luncheon hosted by Mary/Martha Circle at

Chesapeake Bay Grill at Arlington Ridge on December 5, 2024. We are asking you to bring Little Debbie’s to the luncheon (or you may bring them to the church) for Joining Hands. More details will follow. SAVE THE DATE!!

Loraine Van Haecke

WELCA Leader WELCA Leader

**THANKOFFERING**

Thankoffering gifts are made in gratitude for blessings received. The gifts are a longstanding custom of Women of the ELCA. Your generous thank offerings go to support the on-going ministries of the churchwide expression of Women of the ELCA. Undesignated gifts make it possible for the churchwide organization to act quickly in response to current needs. Every generous gift you make helps Women of the ELCA continue to inspire, support, and mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

Thankoffering gift envelopes will be included inside the inserts on November 3rd. Please contribute what you can.

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**NOVEMBER COUNCIL CORNER FOR 2024**

By Vaike O’Grady

We are thankful for the many blessings during the recent hurricanes.  While some of us suffered minor damage and had to deal with power outages, we were very fortunate compared to others in Florida and in North Carolina. The ELCA has a page on its website ([elca.org](http://elca.org/)) if you would like to prayerfully consider a donation to the Hurricane Response.

In other news, the Church Council held a special meeting on October 13 to complete the required Bahamas Synod checklist and to begin the Sustainability Assessment for Gloria Dei.  The Assessment must be

 completed before we establish a Call Committee for our permanent

pastor.  Various Council members are working diligently to complete the Assessment in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, we are grateful for our interim pastor Lynn Fonfara and for others who have stepped forward to lead the Congregation.  A special thank you to Pastor Nancy Vogel, who led the service on Sunday, October 20.

The next Council meeting will be held Sunday, November 3, 2024.

**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

Joining Hands is once again asking for donations of Little Debbie Christmas Cookies/Cakes to hand out at our December Food Distribution on December 13. Please bring them either to the church or to the WELCA luncheon on December 5th. We need approximately 200 to give one package to each family. There will be a collection bin by the front door of the church starting in November with a Little Debbie sign on it.
Thank you!

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**RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED**

Members or friends hospitalized or had surgery in September: Madalon Ritter.

**PRAYERS**

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

**11/3**  Margi Geiger, Jacquelyn& Douglas Goding, Leone Goding, Lawrence Goerke, Barbara Goins

**11/10** Bill Grese, Dottsie Grins, Mary & John Grissom, Rose Guibrandsen, Ralph & Sylvia Hallberg

**11/17** Gerry Haller, Debbye Halligan, Northilt Handwerck, Kay Hawtin, Richard Healy

**11/24**  Jean Heitz, Linda Hide, Roger Hollands, Martin & Martha Holleran,

 Loraine Hughes

**NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

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

**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

11/01 Jim Rieb 11/11 Andy Mincer

11/04 John Kelly 11/18 Dock Lias

11/10 Craig Carlson 11/27 Lynn Crane

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**STEWARDSHIP**

 **Tell Us a Story**

The Stewardship Committee decided a while back to go with a year-round Stewardship emphasis here at Gloria Dei rather than the traditional fall Stewardship Drive. The theme this year will be “Tell Us a Story”. We are hoping members will tell us about your life and a little about your relationship with Gloria Dei and how that connection has impacted your life.  This could be done either as a write up for the Glorion or a short temple talk during announcement time after worship. If you are not comfortable speaking in front of the congregation, a short video may be made and shown instead.

To start this theme off, we thought it would be a good idea to tell you a story about the “Journey of Generosity” taken by members of Gloria Dei and to thank you for your time, talent and treasure. Our list will include a lot of the workers and giving members of this congregation who have provided time, talent and treasure over the years and I am sure there are others that have not been listed.   Whenever there has been a need, our members respond immediately and generously.  We appreciate you all.

Thanks be to God for the ways our members practice generosity. These are examples of how members of Gloria Dei respond.

**1.** Ordering and Caring for Eucharistic vessels, Altar Linens, Paraments, Wine, Juice and Hosts.

**2.**  Members who pull a tag from the kindness tree for Joining Hands or a needed school item.

**3.**  Members who volunteer their time and skill to be on Church Council.

**4.**  Members who work on our Committees:  Stewardship, Finance, Worship and Music,    Evangelism, Technology and Communications, Property, Fellowship and WELCA.

**5.**  Women who study the Bible in our Circles.

**6.**  Choir Members who enhance our worship with music.

**7.**  Volunteers who make quilts for LWR and those who donate items and assemble personal care kits for those in need worldwide.

**8.**  Our Bible Study and Faith formation Leaders

**9.**  Kitchen helpers for Fellowship, funeral lunches and special events.

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**10.**  Assisting Ministers, Communion Assistants, Readers and Crucifers leading worship.

**11.**  Worship Planners

**12.**  Members who contribute for Flowers and eternal candle for our sanctuary.

**13.**  Our Ushers

**14.**  Members who provide Special Music for our Worship on Sunday

**15.**  Financial Helpers, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Office Help and Endowment Fund

**16.**  JHIFM and Car Show Volunteers

**17.**  Sitting at the Welcome Desk on Sunday morning and Greeters

**18.** Cookie and goody bakers who bring after worship snacks on Sunday for Fellowship.

**19.** Coffee makers

**20.**  Christmas Basket volunteers for our Homebound.

**21.**  Those who send cards out for healing and to our homebound for birthdays

**22.**  Our weekly offering money counters

**21**.  Members who have made giving to Gloria Dei a part of their estate planning.

**22.**  Anonymous donations for building maintenance and improvements

**23.**  Members who provide Salvation Army Christmas Gift Tag items for adults/children in need.

**24.**  Our Interim Pastor Lynn Fonfara

**25.**  Members who work to beautify our indoor space especially First Impressions team.

**26.** Members who either do maintenance or accompany vendors who are checking on roof, gutter, fire system, plumbing, electric or various other issues to keep our building in good working order.

**27.** Christmas and Easter decorating teams.

**28.** Individuals who visit homebound and bring them communion.

**29.** Our members who regularly attend worship to praise and Thank our Lord.

**30.** Members who financially support Gloria Dei in order to keep our church running smoothly and our ministries moving forward.  Even the seemingly small tasks of time and talent mean so much and we appreciate each of you who are helping.  Thank you for your generosity.

1st Thessalonians 5:18 - Let us come before him with Thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

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**FELLOWSHIP**

By Loraine Van Haecke

Thanks to all of you that joined us on October 6 for the presentation from Pastor Plumley and Pastor Frank. They shared some very important information that could be beneficial to us.

We need volunteers!! Please prayerfully consider where you can use your gifts to serve.

**Listed below are the areas where help is needed:**

Readers, Crucifer, Communion Assistant, Liturgy Assistant, Ushers, Altar Guild, Post Worship Secretary, Greeters, Fellowship and Counters.

You may sign up on the clipboards in the Fellowship area or tell Evelyn in the

office where you would like to serve.

**RUTH CIRCLE**

Cards needed- Ruth Circle needs cards to use for Gloria Dei card ministry. If you have any greeting cards that you may not be using, please consider leaving cards in card box in Narthex. The type of cards needed are Get Well, Thinking of you and Sympathy Cards.

Next Ruth Circle meeting is Thursday November 7th at 10:30. All women of the church are invited for a time of Bible Study and Fellowship.

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**THE KINDNESS TREE**

Same idea, better name! The Giving Tree in Narthex will now be known as

"The Kindness Tree". Ruth Circle members felt the change expresses the intent better and avoids a "giver and receiver" attitude.

In the month of November tags will be for Sturdy Combs and Bar soap only.

These tags will be removed when Leone receives the 40 Angel tags from Salvation Army gift program.

**EDUCATION-BIBLE STUDIES**

 There is bible study on Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. by zoom. If you would like to attend, please email the church office at gloriadeilutheranleesburg@gmail.com and we can send you a link.

**DEVELOPING DISCIPLES**

You are cordially invited to join our Bible study that meets Wednesdays between 2:30-4:00 pm. For November we will continue watching The Chosen, Season 2, and examining related scriptures. If you are interested in joining us,

please contact Christine Carlson at (516) 458-7355 or email skauvold.carlson@gmail.com

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**JOINING HANDS IN FOOD MINISTRY**

Just a gentle reminder that Joining Hands in Food Ministry’s November food distribution will be on FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8th.  We need volunteers so please mark your calendars.  Set up begins at 7:00 AM and the opening prayer will be at 8:00 AM.  Please bring cookies.  See you there!  Thank you!

Congratulations to the approximately 40 volunteers from Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, First Presbyterian Church of Leesburg, and from around our local community who joined hands this beautiful October 11th morning to distribute 4,408 pounds of nutritious food to 359 individuals from 57 local families.

Joining Hands In Food Ministry is collecting the following items for November: Cranberry Sauce, Cereal, Gravy Packets, Stuffing.

Please put your donations in the Narthex on the shelf. Thank you for your support.

**MARY-MARTHA CIRCLE**

Mary-Martha Circle- will meet on the 2nd Tuesday, November 12.  We will start our Mission Quilting at 9AM and have a break at 10:30. Bible Study
at 11 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 November 22nd at 9am.  Please come and join us
for fun & fellowship.  Please continue to sew tops as we will continue
to need them.
Carol Marshall, Leader Phone 352-787-0435

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**Saints and Sinners Octoberfest Car Show**

Although fall is not yet in the air it is not too far away and will be here before we know it. So along with Labor Day, Columbus Day, Halloween, and Thanksgiving, we here at Gloria Dei have our annual Octoberfest car show on November 2nd from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

 Since we started doing the Car shows they have proven to be a great single day event which has successfully raised money for Joining Hands, Evangelism and Fellowship.  But the shows also bring people to our church who enjoy our pancake breakfasts, Bingo, the beautiful cars and trucks and of course the best hot dogs you can buy thanks to JHIFM volunteers.

Producing the car show is a lot of work, before the show, preparing the artwork for flyers, attending area car shows to hand out the flyers and of course collecting door prizes. The day of the show entails having the pancake breakfast, Bingo and of course running the car show. However, the most time-consuming job is collecting the door prizes that our show is known for. I found that when collecting door prizes this last spring, the vendors were not as responsive as they were in the past with many just turning us down. But with inflation, concerns about the elections and the economy there is a good reason for this.

 This brings me to the reason for this article. I am asking for support from the congregation regarding the door prizes. I am asking you to purchase a $20.00 gift card to a local restaurant of your choice that we can

use for a door prize. These can be purchased locally at drug stores, 7-11, Wawa and elsewhere. Give the card to Evelyn in the church office and she will see that we get them. I anticipate we will need at least 50 cards. We are anticipating 70 cars and I can depend on 20 door prizes from previous sponsors.

Thank you, and if you have any questions please see Bill Birdsall or call at 732-773-2680, or E-Mail at birdsallwmt@aol.com.

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**FINANCIAL CORNER**

FINANCIAL CORNER

**GENERAL FUND**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | September, 2024 | Year to date 2024 |
| Contributions | $16,812.23 |  $157,601.57 |
| Expenditures | $13,136.36 |  $181,464.08 |

**RESTRICTED FUNDS**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Beg. Bal. 1/1/2024 | Donations | Withdrawals | Ending Bal8/31/24 |
| Elementary School |  14.69 |  0 |  0 |  14.69 |
| Oak Park Middle |  0  |  0 |  0 |  0 |
| Thrivent Choice $$ |  2,249.34 | 468.00 |  1,385.70 | 1,331.64 |
| Eternal Light |  665.00 |  100.00 |  0 |  765.00 |
| Fellowship |  504.98 | 1,157.00 | 1,203.44 | 458.54 |
| JHIF |  0 |  695.00 |  695.00 |  0 |
| World Hunger |  0 | 159.00 | 159.00 |  0 |
| Flowers |  526.90 |  635.00 |  701.36 |  460.54 |
| ELCA |  0 | 60.00 | 60.00 |  0 |
| Altar wine/bread |  196.02 |  80.00 |  48.12 |  227.90 |
| Quilt Shipping |  0 |  400.00 |  400.00 |  0 |
| AV Equipment |  138.33 |  0 |  0 |  138.33 |
| First Impressions Phase 3 |  2,430.63 | 32,670.00 | 17,185.00 | 17,915.63 |
| Evangelism |  1,123.00 |  342.00 |  0 |  1,465.00 |
| Choir/music |  550.00 |  0 |  0 |  550.00 |
| TOTALS |  8,398.89 | 36,766.00 | 21,837.62 | 23,327.27 |

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**NOVEMBER CALENDAR**

**Fri. 11/1 9:30 a.m. Church Women United Service**

**Sat. 11/2 10:00 a.m. Octoberfest Car Show**

**Sun.** **11/3**  **9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship/**

 **Brief Order For Healing**

 **10:30 a.m. Service for Healing**

 **11:30 a.m. Council Meeting**

**Mon. 11/4 7:00 p.m. Zoom Bible Study**

**Tues. 11/5 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer**

 **10:30 a.m. WELCA Board Meeting**

**Wed. 11/6 2:30 p.m. Developing Disciples Bible Study**

 **4:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal**

**Thurs. 11/7 10:30 a.m. Ruth Circle**

**Fri. 11/8 8:30 a.m. Joining Hands in Food Ministry**

**Sun. 11/10 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship**

**Mon. 11/11 7:00 p.m. Zoom Bible Study**

**Tues. 11/12 9:00 a.m. Mary Martha Quilting**

 **10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer**

**Wed. 11/13 2:30 p.m. Developing Disciples Bible Study**

**4:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal**

**Thurs. 11/14 10:00 a.m. First Impression Meeting**

**Sat. 11/16 11:00 a.m. Funeral Service**

**Sun. 11/17 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship /Hunger Offering**

**Mon. 11/18 7:00 p.m. Zoom Bible Study**

**Tues. 11/19 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer**

**Wed. 11/20 2:30 p.m. Developing disciples Bible Study**

 **4:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal**

**Fri. 11/22 9:00 a.m. Mission Quilting**

**Sun. 11/24 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship**

**Mon. 11/25 7:00 p.m. Zoom Bible Study**

**Tues. 11/26 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer**

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NOVEMBER WORSHIP LEADERS

**Assistant Ministers**

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

 **9:30 a.m.**

**11/3** R= Patricia Bressler **11/10** R= Jon Tetting

 += Leone Goding += James Menchaca

 C= C=

 A= Ellen Clement A= Ellen Clement

**11/17** R= Marva Tetting **11/24** R**=** Maryjean Kancel

 += Leone Goding += Julian Menchaca

 C= C=

 A= Patricia Bressler A= Vaike O’Grady

**Ushers**

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

 **9:30 a.m.**

**11/3** Crystal Kirkpatrick **11/10** Crystal Kirkpatrick

 Byron Kirkpatrick Byron Kirkpatrick

Craig Carlson Craig Carlson

 John Kelly John Kelly

**11/17** Crystal Kirkpatrick **11/24** Crystal Kirkpatrick

 Byron Kirkpatrick Byron Kirkpatrick

Craig Carlson Craig Carlson

 John Kelly John Kelly

**Altar Guild for November:** Crystal & Byron Kirkpatrick

**Post Worship Secretary for November:**

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**Greeter for November:**

**11/03**

**11/10**

**11/17**

**11/24**

**Fellowship**

**11/03**

**11/10**

**11/17**

**11/24**

**Counters – Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.**

**11/03** Jeanne Talts

**11/10** Linda

**11/17** Arlene Kelly

**11/24** John Braun

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**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.)



##### 2024 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pastor Lynn M. Fonfara 352-249-8533

President Loraine Van Haecke 407-252-4692

Vice President John Braun 412-926-3381

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 Bill Birdsall 732-773-2680

 & Communications/Webmaster

Christian Education Christine Carlson 516-458-7355

Finance

John Braun 412-926-3381

 Joel Weinhardt 330-936-8451

**COMMITTEE** **CHAIRPERSONS**

Worship & Music Pastor Lynn M. Fonfara 352-249-8533

Evangelism/Technology/ Bill Birdsall 732-773-2680

& Communications/Webmaster

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