



GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

GATHERING IN CHRIST ✝ SHARING HIS LOVE

THE GLORION

MAY 2025

www.gloriadeielca.com

IN CASE OF PASTORAL EMERGENCY
Contact the office during regular office hours:
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – Monday thru Friday
After office hours contact:
Pastor Lynn M. Fonfara via email:
pastorgloriadeileesburg@gmail.com

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WEB SITE: www.gloriadeielca.com

OFFICE HOURS: Monday – Friday from 9:00-2:00 PM

PASTOR: LYNN M. FONFARA

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: LEONARD CREMISIO

OFFICE MANAGER: EVELYN ROLLINS

SEXTON: TINA JANOSA

SUNDAY WORSHIP – 9:30 A.M



May, 2025

Lead

I continue to reminisce, recalling my 1987 trip to Eastern Europe. It was late Saturday night, nearing midnight in Moscow. The readings and prayers of the Vigil service were drawing to a close. The thin, long candles were close to melting in our hands, we had been holding them for so long. It was dim in the sanctuary and crowded as more and more worshipers arrived.

The priests took the icon of the body of Jesus outside and circled the building three times. Suddenly, all the lights in the place were turned on and priests shouted from the doorway, “*Khristos voskrese!*” (Christ is risen!) And the worshipers shouted back, “*Voistinu voskrese!*” (He is risen indeed!)

The long wait of Lent, holy week, and the vigil was over. The celebration of Easter had begun. Whatever language we speak, Easter is a cause for celebration. The tomb is empty. If God can raise Jesus from death and have him appear to the disciples for 40 days after that, God must be powerful indeed!

We often doubt that we can do something, because we doubt that God will help us do it, whatever “it” is. Jesus taught the disciples that much is possible, through prayer and trust in God.

As we at Gloria Dei continue with this time of transition, trusting God is important. We trust and pray that God is helping us prepare ourselves for the next pastor, and at the same time that God is preparing the next pastor to be here.

Pax
Pastor Lynn

Order of Lutheran Franciscans, Continued

Franciscans, like most religious orders, take vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. Last month, I briefly described poverty as a dependence on God for all we need, and a resistance to allowing “things” to own us.

This month, we consider chastity. This vow begins with what it implies – chasteness. Cloistered friars live chaste, as in celibate, lives. Friars who are in the world are also chaste, but not necessarily celibate. Married siblings are faithful to their spouses and enjoy all the benefits of marriage.

Chastity can also be understood to mean faithfulness to God and all of God’s children. We practice chastity as we have relationships with people of all sorts. Welcoming all, respecting all is a key aspect of chastity. We remember that each person is created in the image of God.

Chastity can also extend to the practice of Believing the Best. We are chaste when we assume the best possible interpretation of someone’s words and actions. Chastity can even extend to our business dealings, making sure that all our activities are fair and just.

Pax
Pastor/Sister Lynn

THANK YOU

I give my heartfelt thanks to all who made this Lent and Holy Week a blessing to the congregation. Thank you to soup preparers and servers and cleaners. Thank you to Len and the choir for the special music. Thank you to Chris for singing the prayers each week. Thank you to Crystal and Bryant and Craig for all the little and big tasks, mostly behind the scenes, that make worship easy for the leaders. Thank you to Pat and Leone and Loraine for your willingness to be the leaders and readers. And thank you to all who came to worship each week, and during Holy Week. Especially, I give thanks to Evelyn for cheerfully managing the extra workload of Lent and Holy Week, with all the extra bulletins, corrections, and updates, along with her regular weekly tasks.

Above all, thanks be to God who gave us the reason for our gathering.
Christ is risen! Alleluia! Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia, alleluia!

Pastor Lynn

PRAYERS

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

- 5/4** Linda Steege, Jeanne Talts, Jon and Marva Tetting, Bill and Loraine Van Haecke, Susan Veraska.
- 5/11** Nancy Vogel, Marilyn Wahl, Judy Weigel, Joel and Sharon Weinhardt, Kenn and Marti Yance.
- 5/18** Charles and Joy Yonko, Arthur Zerbel, Donald and Helen Ames, Forrest Berg, Bill and Kathleen Birdsall.
- 5/25** Gayle Bloom, John and Janet Braun, Patricia Bressler, Brian and Chelsea Buescher, Craig and Christine Carlson.

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

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

5/8	Donald & Helen Ames	66 years*
5/18	John & Arlene Kelly	40 years
5/25	Dock & Barb Lias	45 years

MAY BIRTHDAYS

5/5	Jeffery Berg	5/22	Dick Healy
5/6	Carolyn DeLong	5/27	Jayne Gable
5/13	Susan Johnson	5/28	Chelsea Buescher
5/14	Freddy Farris		
5/20	Linda Steege		

GLORIA DEI WOMEN OF THE ELCA

By: Dianne Marcotte

On the first Sunday in May, Women of the ELCA observe Rachel's Day. This is a time set aside to mourn the loss of our children and to renounce the forces of violence and fear.

This initiative began in 1996 to remember and grieve the loss of children from all sources of violence and evil. Physical abuse, gun deaths, neglect, all forms that result in death of children.

ELCA Women encourage their congregations to recognize the first Sunday in May each year as Rachel's Day, based on Jeremiah 31:15–17 wherein Rachel grieved for her children, to mourn the loss of our children and to renounce the forces of evil and fear that plague our nation.

A second collection will be taken on May 4 th to benefit Haven House. Haven House is a local program with their Mission: to help youth be safe, supported and successful. Their Vision is: to help all youth reach their full potential. Their belief is that all youth deserve opportunities to succeed.

Isaiah 49:25: “For thus says the Lord: ‘Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken, and the prey of the tyrant be rescued, for I will contend with those who contend with you, and I will save your children.’”

Next WELCA meeting will be held on Tuesday May 6th at 10:30. This will be last business meeting until Sept. 2. However, the Women of the ELCA will be working during summer, making quilts, collecting personal care kits and assisting needs of Leesburg Elementary and Oak Park middle school.

Timothy 5:9-10, the word kind is linked to the good deeds of godly women—not just bringing up children, but also showing hospitality, serving others, and caring for the needy. A godly woman’s home should not only be a secure refuge for her family but also a base for loving, serving, and reaching out to others.

APRIL COUNCIL CORNER

By Vaike O’Grady

Easter Reflections: Living in the Light of Resurrection

As the flowers bloom across our beautiful community and spring settles in, we find ourselves in that meaningful time of reflection after our Easter celebrations. The empty tomb still echoes with promise, even as we've put away the Easter decorations and returned to our regular routines.

Easter isn't simply a day on the calendar—it's a reality that transforms how we live every day. Christ is risen! And because He lives, we can face tomorrow with hope, courage, and purpose.

In the weeks following that first Easter morning, the disciples were forever changed. They moved from fear to boldness, from confusion to clarity, from despair to joy. This same transformation is available to each of us today. The resurrection power that conquered death continues to work in our lives,

helping us overcome challenges, find healing in brokenness, and discover purpose in our daily walk.

As we move forward from Easter, let's carry its message with us: death does not have the final word. In a world that often feels overwhelmed by darkness, we are called to be bearers of resurrection light. This might mean extending grace to a difficult neighbor, serving in our congregation, distributing food to those in need, or simply sharing God's love through a kind word to someone who needs encouragement.

Let us continue to gather in worship, grow in faith, and go in service, knowing that the risen Christ walks with us each step of the way.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

2025 First Impressions Task Force Report

The campaign to renovate the exterior of our church commenced on March 23rd, and donations have been consistently received. As of April 27th, we have collected \$21,118.00, which accounts for 76% of our goal of \$27,700.00. We are highly satisfied with the progress of this project and extend our gratitude to all contributors thus far. The exterior carpentry repairs are nearing completion, and we will conduct an inspection of the work within the next few weeks.



Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Birdsall, Chair

BIBLE STUDY/EDUCATION

Thanks

First, we give thanks to Ellen Clement who shared her gifts by leading a study on Sunday mornings on the Book of Revelation, using the N.T. Wright book, Revelation for Everyone. For those who were able to attend these classes I think it is true that though this book is full of complex imagery, we have come away with a better understanding of the message of Jesus the Messiah that it reveals.

We look forward to future studies with Ellen.

Zoom Bible Study

As usual, at 7:00 pm on Monday nights, Pr Lynn is continuing our study of Luke, chapters 12 and 13. Jesus challenges us to pray and trust God for all that we need and gives examples of how to do that through some familiar stories and warnings. If you are interested in joining this study, contact Forrest Berg at fberg1210@gmail.com, or call our church office.

Tell me your story

At the recent Council Retreat, we learned that we all have faith stories, and that it's a good thing to share them with others. It was decided that the congregation should also have this opportunity. Though there were three sessions at the retreat, the congregational version will have two sessions.

Participants will be invited to remember and share brief versions of some of their stories: for example, from early in one's faith journey, and a time when it was hard to stay faithful. We will share stories in small groups of 2 or 3, so participants won't need to tell it to the whole room.

Please plan to join us at 11am on May 4 and 18 for a fun experience sharing stories of your encounters with God and God's people.

If you have questions, please ask Pr Lynn.

Interested in Leading a Bible Study?

We are looking for individuals who feel called to lead a Bible Study group. If you have a passion for scripture and a desire to help others grow in their faith, we encourage you to consider this opportunity.

If you're interested or would like more information, please speak with Christine Carlson.

CALL COMMITTEE

The Gloria Dei Call Committee began meeting on March 12, 2025. Kathleen Birdsall is our Chairman, Richard Healy is our computer specialist, Chris Carlson is our chaplain, Linda Steege is our communication specialist, and the remaining three members are members at large: Leone Goding, Pat Bressler and Bob Pierce. It was decided that we would meet weekly on Wednesday at 10 AM.

As our chaplain, Christine Carlson opens our meetings with prayer and devotion from the book of Acts so that we might understand the importance of working together with the Holy Spirit to work towards finding the best pastor for Gloria Dei.

We have begun working on the Ministry Site Profile for the Synod which will give a profile of our church membership and demographics for our community. The Ministry Site Profile consists of 5 parts as follows:

Part I is "Who We Are,"

Part II is "Our Vision for Mission" which includes Trends in the Community Context of the Congregation and Ministry Site Characteristics and our Purpose, Giftedness and Mission.

Part III of the Ministry Site Profile is on "Leadership Needs".

Part IV is "Commentary" which encourages our committee to help a prospective pastor appreciate the vision, opportunities, challenges and nature of our ministry at Gloria Dei.

Part V of the profile entails describing the process used to gather information, formulate responses and officially adopt this document to submit to Synod.

Each of these sections of the Ministry Site Profile needs to be completed and forwarded to our church council for approval and then on to Synod prior to the Synod beginning its task of locating potential interviews of prospective candidates. We will be spending a considerable amount of time completing the Ministry Site Profile. Prospective pastors also complete a large profile document, so that the Synod can identify the best match for our Congregation.

We have recently sent out and received the surveys that were sent to every member of our congregation. These have been tabulated, and the Congregation will receive an update on the survey results at church on April 27. We would like to thank every member who completed the survey and returned it to us for review. This was an important part of our work towards understanding our members' preferences for a new shepherd for our congregation.

Please keep our committee in your prayers as we continue our important work to bring the best possible candidate for Gloria Dei. In accordance with Lutheran Theology, a pastor is called to serve a congregation, not hired. The Lutheran call process is unique because it is an effort to discern what God wants for Gloria Dei and for the whole church in order that the Gospel may be proclaimed and the sacraments administered in accordance with the Gospel.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Steege on behalf of the Call Committee of Gloria Dei

RUTH CIRCLE

Although Ruth Circle will not be holding bible study or business meetings during June, July and August, "God's work, our hands" will still be happening. Please look for our "Kindness Tree" to be in the Narthex. Items for Personal care kits will still be collected. The summer project of collecting items for our local elementary and middle school will be announced. The family liaison of these schools will be contacted to see in which way the congregation of Gloria Dei can support the families of these schools.

FELLOWSHIP

By Loraine Van Haecke

Thanks to all of you that are stepping up to help with our Sunday Fellowship/Coffee. Craig Carlson and Pat Bressler make sure we have all the paper goods, coffee, sweeteners, and cream. They do a wonderful job. However, help is needed to make coffee, have snacks, set up and clean up each Sunday. The fellowship committee organizes social and recreational

activities to foster the community. Help will be needed for these events to be successful. There are many opportunities for all of us to volunteer to use our gifts that God has given us. Thanks again to All!!

JOINING HANDS IN FOOD MINISTRY

Joining Hands in Food Ministry continues its mission to feed the food insecure people of Lake County. So far this year, we have given out almost 35,000 pounds of food to about 2,400 people. This is made possible because of the dedication of MANY volunteers and various types of monetary contributions received. For this, I am EXTREMELY GRATEFUL!

Due to the budget cuts to the USDA, Joining Hands has started to feel the effect. The amount of free food (TEFAP) that we receive monthly has been cut by more than half for the last 2 months' deliveries. The order that is placed with Second Harvest Food Bank is likely to face shortages in the coming months. An increase in the food cost due to the tariffs imposed on imports, like some of the canned goods we distribute, is going to affect us as well.

If you would like to help, there are several ways. Volunteering for any of the three “events” that we have monthly will show you facets of our operation. Financially, we gratefully accept any gas or grocery gift card, cash, check (made out to JHIFM), or Thrivent gift card. See Leone Goding for details about Thrivent associate memberships for \$19.95 to be able to donate a \$250 gift card.

The most important way you can help us is through your prayers for our continued success in this very important ministry.

Thank you,
Arlene Kelly

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

A Pancake Breakfast Car Show Monday, May 3rd

Join us for Cakes & Cars – A Pancake Breakfast Car Show on May 3rd from 8:00 am to 10:00 am. Enjoy a delicious pancake breakfast while checking out some amazing cars. There is a \$5.00 charge, and everyone is invited. We hope to see you all on May 3rd!

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

You are invited to Church Women United May Friendship Day and Fellowship of the Least Coin which will be held on Friday, May 9 at St. Paul Catholic Church. There will be snacks served at 9:30am and the service will begin at 10am. Any questions see Leone 352 223 1925

MARY-MARTHA CIRCLE

Mary Martha Circle will meet on the 2nd Tuesday, May 13. 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 May 23 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

STEWARDSHIP OF FAITH

By Dianne Marcotte

1 Peter 4:10

Almighty and sovereign Father, Jesus my Savior, and the Holy Spirit, thank You for giving me spiritual gifts to bless Your people and bring You glory. Help me know my gifts and use them to honor You and bless my fellow believers in Christ.

Thank you to all who gave of their time, talent and treasure to make the recently held WELCA events of Spring Fashion Show and The Spring Gathering a successful event. Fellowship, worship, and generosity were all displayed at these two events.

Stewardship team continues to encourage members of our congregations to "Tell the Stories". Do you have a story about how you practice good stewardship during the summer? A story about where you met God and his people during your travels. Please share the story, whether by written word in the Glorion, during a Stewardship moment at church or in video form. We realize not everyone is comfortable standing in front of the congregation. Please speak to Pr. Lynn, Linda Steege, Arlene Kelly or Dianne Marcotte. We know you have stories that all want to hear!

FINANCIAL CORNER

GENERAL FUND

	March, 2025	Year to date 2025
Contributions	\$20,765.00	\$53,631.00
Expenditures	\$21,663.00	\$50,087.00

RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Beg. Bal. 1/1/2025	Donations	Withdrawals	Ending Bal 3/31/25
Altar Wine/Bread	267.90	70.00	0	337.90
AV Equipment	138.33	0	0	138.33
Choir/music	550.00	0	0	550.00
ELCA	0	45.00	45.00	0
Eternal Light	785.00	0	0	785.00
Evangelism	1,720.00	0	0	1,720.00
Fellowship	544.19	633.00	357.02	820.17
1* Impressions Ph 3	17,128.63	4,490.00	0	21,618.63
Flowers	400.00	513.00		913.00
JHIF	0	430.00	430.00	0
Leesburg Elementary	14.69	0	0	14.69
Oak Park Middle	0	0	0	0
Quilting	300.00	0	0	300.00
Thrive Choice \$\$	1,372.64	225.00	0	1,597.64
Trees & Landscaping	0	5,000.00		5,000.00
World Hunger	0	193.00	193.00	0
TOTALS	23,221.38	11,599.00	1,025.02	33,795.36

MAY CALENDAR

Thurs.	5/1	10:30 a.m.	Ruth Circle
Sat.	5/3	8:00 a.m.	Cakes & Cars
Sun	5/4	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship/Healing Service
		11:00 a.m.	Story Telling
Mon.	5/5	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues.	5/6	10:30 a.m.	WELCA Board Meeting
		10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Wed.	5/7	10:00 a.m.	Call Committee Meeting
		4:30 p.m.	NO Choir Rehearsal
Fri.	5/9	8:30 a.m.	Joining Hands in Food Ministry
Sun.	5/11	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship
Mon	5/12	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues.	5/13	9:00 a.m.	LWR Quilting
		9:00 a.m.	Mary Martha Circle
		10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Wed.	5/14	10:00 a.m.	Call Committee Meeting
		4:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Thur.	5/15	9:30 a.m.	First Impressions Meeting
Sun.	5/18	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship/Hunger Offering
Mon	5/19	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues.	5/20	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		10:00 a.m.	Scheduling Committee Meeting
Wed.	5/21	10:00 p.m.	Call Committee Meeting
		4:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Fri.	5/23	9:00 a.m.	LWR Quilting
		9:00 a.m.	Mary Martha Circle
Sun.	5/25	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship
		11:00 a.m.	Council Board Meeting
Mon	5/26	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues.	5/27	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Wed.	5/28	10:00 a.m.	Call Committee Meeting
		4:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal

MAY WORSHIP LEADERS

Assistant Ministers

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

9:30 a.m.

5/4	R= Don Ames += Leone Goding C= A= Patricia Bressler	5/18	R= Quiana Menchaca += Leone Goding C= A= Vaike O'Grady
5/11	R= Quiana Menchaca += C= A= Vaike O'Grady	5/25	R= += C= A= Ellen Clement

Ushers

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

9:30 a.m.

5/4	Byron Kirkpatrick Ritch Cassem Craig Carlson John Kelly	5/18	Byron Kirkpatrick Ritch Cassem Craig Carlson John Kelly
5/11	Ritch Cassem Byron Kirkpatrick Craig Carlson John Kelly	5/25	Ritch Cassem Byron Kirkpatrick Craig Carlson John Kelly

Altar Guild for May: Crystal & Byron Kirkpatrick
Craig Carlson

Post Worship Secretary for May: Joan Davis

Greeter for May:

5/4

5/11

5/18

5/25

Fellowship

5/4 Ritch & Debbie Cassem, John & Arlene Kelly, Christine Calson

5/11

5/18

5/25

Counters – Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.

5/4 Jeanne Talts

5/11 Linda Steege & Janet Braun

5/18 Arlene Kelly

5/25 Arlene Kelly

THE BELIEVE THE BEST PRINCIPLES

The Basics:

Every relationship has spoken and unspoken expectations. And then there are the actual experiences within the relationship. Sometimes the expectations and experiences match up, and sometimes they don't. When they don't it creates a gap:



EXPECTATION

EXPERIENCE

gap

When a gap occurs between what we expect and what we experience, we can choose to fill the gap with one of two things:

BELIEVING THE BEST or **ASSUMING THE WORST**

Believing the Best is based on trust and goodwill

Assuming the Worst is based on distrust and suspicion.

Five Principles for being a “Believe the Best” community:

1. When there is a gap that forms between what I expect and what I experience, I will BELIEVE the best. *(We will start with trust and goodwill).*
2. When other people assume the worst about you, I will come to your DEFENSE.
*(Gossip is not permitted; we will put the best construction on what our neighbor does-
the Eighth Commandment).*
3. If what I experience begins to erode my TRUST, I will come directly to you about it.
(We won't let issues fester or be shared with others, nor will we ignore them).
4. When I'm convinced I will not be able to deliver on a promise, I will inform you AHEAD of time.
(We will keep our commitments to one another).
5. When you confront me about the gaps I've created, I will tell you the TRUTH.
(We will be open to hearing others' concerns, and respond to them with integrity).

Adapted from Celebration Lutheran Church- Cypress, Texas.

2025 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pastor	Lynn M. Fonfara	352-249-8533
President	Loraine Van Haecke	407-252-4692
Vice President	Allen Francis	614-565-1844
Secretary	Vaike O'Grady	512-827-6344
Treasurer	Linda Hide	253-740-3063
Financial Secretary	Janet Braun	412-445-7774

Members:

John Braun	412-926-3381
Joel Weinhardt	330-936-8451
Bill Birdsall	732-773-2680
Christine Carlson	516-458-7355
Crystal Kirkpatrick	352-552-3983

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Worship & Music	Pastor Lynn M. Fonfara	352-249-8533
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	352-933-5517
WELCA	Dianne Marcotte (contact only)	352-933-5517
Christian Education	Christine Carlson	516-458-7355
Finance	John Braun	412-926-3381
	Joel Weinhardt	330-936-8451

