

FROM THE PASTOR

Grace and peace be yours from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

“See, I am making all things new.” (Revelation 21:5)

A new year. A new beginning. A new set of challenges.

What is in store for Gloria Dei as we seek to serve the Kingdom of God in this new year?

And the answer is: We don’t have a clue! As much as we work and plan and give and share and pray and worship and all of the things that we do as a congregation, we still have no idea what’s going to happen in the days, weeks, and months to come.

But one thing we know for sure. God will always be present with us. God will always guide us and direct our paths. And there will be nowhere on earth or in heaven that we will find ourselves outside of the love of God through Jesus Christ our Savior.

One of the greatest gifts that God has given us is the power of prayer. Over and over again we have witnessed the healing, the comfort, the peace that has been given to those who we pray for. We have seen lives turned around, illnesses vanish, and even little everyday miracles happen because of our prayers. God will always answer every one of our prayers. This is most certainly true!

Yet, we still want to rely on our own earthly time (*chronos*) to judge how well God answers our prayers. And we have our own idea about the way that God should answer our prayers. But God has God’s own time (*kairos*) in which to answer our prayers. And God has a certain way that our prayers will be answered. It is our calling as Christians to be faithful, to be patient, to let God do what God will do in God’s time and in God’s way.

It is a new year! And in this new year we will be focusing on prayer to guide us through the transition process. From finishing the initial work by council to forming a call committee to interviewing candidates and finally calling a new pastor, it will be a daunting task and one that will take tons of prayer as well as a lot of hard work.

Knowing that prayer is crucial to everything that we do, I will be starting a weekly prayer time that will begin on January 20. I hope that many of you will join me in speaking to God and listening for God’s voice so that we might be prepared for the awesome, wonderful things that God has in store for us in 2020.

See you in church, *Pastor Jim*

January, 2020



COMMUNITY NOTICES

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

Members or friends hospitalized or had surgery in December: Jane Kunde, Ernie Mann, Ron Werner.

Please note: When being admitted to the hospital, please indicate “Lutheran” or “Gloria Dei” when asked about your religion. It helps our visitation team members know who is hospitalized so that visits can be arranged.

GIFTS OF REMEMBRANCE

In loving memory of:

Ella Zoellner, dear member of Priscilla Circle	Priscilla Circle/Memorial
Ella Zoellner, special friend we adored.	Renny & Nancy Almquist/Memorial
Jim Russell, Crystal Kirkpatrick’s father,	Pat & Doug Bressler/JHIFM
Love Never Ends	
My husband Dave	Lorraine Hughes/Flowers-12/1/19

In honor of:

Our children’s birthdays, Chris, Rich & Maria	Ritch & Debbie Cassem/Flowers 12/22/19
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PRAYERS

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

- 01/05** Betty Ann Huebner, Lorraine Hughes, Mary Humphreys, Irvin & Susan Johnson, Sue Johnston
- 01/12** MaryJean Kancel, Nancy Kancel, John & Arlene Kelly, Mary Kelp, Kathleen Kepler
- 01/19** Bess King, Byron & Crystal Kirkpatrick, Vernon & Jean Kluge, Ray & Roseanne Knudsen, Sandy Kolb
- 01/26** Jane Kunde, Helga La Cava, Joe & Sharon LaHood, Edith Leaf, Rachel Lesser

FUNERAL PLANNING

While we may resist and avoid end of life decisions, such planning makes it much easier for a family dealing with the loss of a loved one. Please note the following resources are available to you:

1. **Funeral/Memorial Planning Sheet**-available at Welcome Desk
2. **Columbarium**-Niches are available at a cost of \$2,500.
Please contact Mary Beth if you would like further information.
3. **Prayer Garden**-Available for interment of cremains.
The cost is \$100 for engraving on the memorial stone.

AMAZON SMILE

Just a reminder to use when shopping on Amazon. **Login: smile.amazon.com.** You access your account in the same way you normally do and then can designate a charitable organization. Gloria Dei and Joining Hands in Food Ministry are registered as recipients.

Hospitality Sign-Up:

To sign up for our weekly after-service hospitality, please use a sheet on a clipboard that is posted on the wall at the opening of the kitchen serving counter. **This applies to hospitality sign-up ONLY. Sign-Up Genius isn't available for this item.**

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

01/12 Arlene & Ray McGuire *63 years

**Special congratulations to these couples that have celebrated fifty or more years of marriage.*

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

01/02	Kay Hawtin	01/02	Jean Kluge
01/04	Margi Geiger	01/05	Charlotte Christensen
01/07	Paulette Smith	01/09	Bess King
01/10	Jeanne Talts	01/11	Ray Knudsen
01/11	Patti Young	01/11	Dennis Zimmerman
01/15	Nancy Kancel	01/27	Bev Healy
01/28	Paul Petit	01/30	Irv Johnson
01/31	Ronald Galloway		

MINISTRY NEWS

WELCA (Women of the ELCA)

We had a very busy month and year.

Church Women United had their meeting in Leesburg at The United Methodist Church, five ladies attended. The next meeting will be in Mt Dora at St .Phillips on January 17th at 9:30 a.m. This will be Human Rights Day. Oak Park School will continue to need sweaters, jackets and socks. There is a box in the fellowship hall for any donations.

Beer and Hymns was a success in November at MoJo's Grill; Circles have been busy with their projects and all will be displayed in February in the sanctuary to be blessed by Pastor Jim then sent on their way to USA and World Wide needy families.

Spring Fashion Show will again have a leader of Leone Goding. Maxine of Fashion Label will be showing off their Spring Collection.

Ladies Christmas Luncheon had about 52 attending at Rodello's with good food, lots of door prizes and a huge collection of treats for the JHIFM Food Pantry.

Elections took place and we have a change in officers. Loraine Van Haecke is our new President and Donna Tarnok will serve as Vice President. The remaining officers are Sharon LaHood Treasurer and Charlotte Christensen as Secretary. Pastor has been asked to do a recognition on January 19 for these special officers of the WELCA Board.

Christmas Fruit Baskets were assembled and distributed on Dec. 20.

This is my final report and I want to thank the many who helped in our projects and will still be seen quilting and occasionally making coffee and treats after the church service.

Thanks to ALL

Madalon Ritter

RUTH CIRCLE-will meet on the 2nd Thursday in January instead of the first Thursday. That is January 9th at 1:30 at Janet's - Highland Lakes, 5614 Rosewall Circle. Bible Study will be led by Charlotte and Ruby from the *GATHER* magazine. Please let me know if you will be attending at 352-314-5042. Hope to see you there. All ladies in the church are invited.
Janet Braun, 352-314-5042

PRISCILLA CIRCLE-will meet Monday, January 13, 2020 at Debbie Cassem’s home at 32759 Timberwood Drive, Pennbrooke. Please call Debbie to let her know if you are coming 787-0631. Thank you.
Nancy Almquist, 321-4208

MARY MARTHA CIRCLE-will meet on Tuesday, January 14th @ 9:00a.m. Quilting until 10:30, then coffee and snacks. Our Bible Study will be out of the JANUARY/FEBRUARY *Gather* where we will study together" We are called!" starting on page 24. If you do not subscribe to the magazine, we will share at our study. On Friday, January 24th at 9:00 a.m. we will again be quilting in the morning. Anyone in Gloria Dei's area is welcome to join us for fun and fellowship in the Gathering Hall.
Carol Marshall, Leader Phone 787- 0435

Fellowship Committee

The Church Council is pleased to announce Pat Heimbach's acceptance of the position of leader of the Fellowship Committee Weekly Coffee Hour. Pat will be responsible for signing up weekly volunteers and she will describe the ways that congregants may do that in a future notice. Please note that on any Sunday where there is no one signed up, there may be no refreshments and there may be no coffee as we can't reasonably expect leaders constantly to fill in, often at the last minute. Please contribute your food and labor to this long-standing and valued Gloria Dei tradition. New participants always are needed and welcomed.

The Council extends its appreciation to June and Jim Rieb for three years of focused and faithful service and participation as leaders of the Coffee Hour. June's baked goods were delicious and Jim made sure that the Congregation had refreshments practically every Sunday!



The Gloria Dei Home Communion/Visitation Team continues to share the love of Christ with those who can’t be with us in worship. Each week the team comes forward to receive the sacraments and our blessing at the end of Sunday service. These dedicated disciples then deliver healing and Holy Communion to our homebound members. Their care and compassion are vital links that keep our people connected with one another.

In order to make sure that necessary hospital and urgent home visits are made during the three days that Pastor Jim is not here (Thursday, Friday and Saturday), the team has developed an “on-call” list so that a designated team member can be contacted in an emergency. Each team member will serve one week. Their names and phone numbers will be printed monthly in the Glorion and weekly in the bulletin.

If you know of anyone who desires or would benefit from a visit when Pastor Jim isn’t here, please call the designated team member and they will be happy to arrange a visit.

January On-call Ministers

Thursday-Saturday	Name	Phone
Jan 2-4	Pat Bressler	352-406-4896
Jan 9-11	Forrest Berg	352-787-1787
Jan 16-18	Jim Gable	717-475-5822
Jan 23-25	Leone Goding	352-223-1925
Jan 30-Feb 1	Elizabeth Sanguedolce	352-250-8056

Visitation Ministers in addition to Pastor Jim Young:
Forrest Berg Patricia Bressler Jim Gable
Leone Goding Mary Lou Smith Elizabeth Sanguedolce
Sharon Maxwell Loraine Van Haecke
Please let us know if you are interested in serving.

Visits, communion and healing made for December:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| (2) visits to Doug Bressler | (1) visit to Bernice Heiser |
| (1) visit to Betty Ann Huebner | (1) visit to Ray & Roseanne Knudsen |
| (1) visit and (1) call to Jane Kunde | (1) visit to Rachel Lesser |
| (1) call to Ernie Mann | (1) call to Sharon Maxwell |
| (2) visits to Gladys Mull | (1) visit to Mary Rhoades |
| (4) visits to Gayle Teerman | (2) visits & (1) call to Renny & Nancy Almquist |
| (1) visit to Marilyn Wahl | (1) call & (1) visit to Ron Werner |
| (1) call to Marilyn Czuprynski | (1) prayer with Crystal & Byron Kirkpatrick |

LIFESTREAM NEEDS DONATIONS

Often, children come into the Foster Care/Adoption Program with their personal items packed in plastic garbage or grocery bags. The goal is to ensure that every child feels loved and respected throughout the permanency process. Having a suitcase, back pack or duffle for their belongings can help a child achieve normalcy and self-worth in a situation that is not in their control.

Their family Connection Program is in need of linen donations-towels, sheets, and blankets. If you are “cleaning out”, LifeStream would certainly appreciate your donation! Paul Motto will pick up weekly from the church or you can call 518-469-3790 for pickup.

FAITH FORMATION CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

After Sunday morning worship service

YOUTH FAITH MINISTRY meets downstairs in the counting room. Charlotte Christensen and Ruby Wanland will be team-teaching.

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP – “The Wired Word - Ripped from the Headlines”. Discussion on what scripture says about current events. Meets downstairs in the conference room. Led by Forrest Berg.

On weekdays

TUESDAYS 11:00am – 12:30pm – DEVELOPING DISCIPLES

What does it mean to live as an everyday follower of Jesus? Meets downstairs in the bible study room.

WEDNESDAYS 10:00am – GOSPEL DISCUSSION GROUP

A discussion on the Gospel lesson for the upcoming Sunday. No book is required but please bring your bible. Meets in the Gathering Room. Led by John Braun.

Faith formation takes life-long learning and the leaders of these groups are diligent in their preparation. Please support their gift of time and consider attending at least one of these classes.

New Small-Group Opportunity

“Companions in Christ”

Last Call for Companions in Christ

If you missed signing up for the new Companions in Christ group, there is still an opportunity to join during the first session. This will be held in the Council Room (Sunday School room) on Thursday morning, January 23, 2020, from 10 to 12.

Participants are asked to bring their Bibles and a pen or pencil. Other materials will be available at the first group meeting. This is an exciting program of faith formation, in a new format. Any questions, contact cj Clarke at (352) 365-6290 (leave a message) or (716) 672-9552 or email at legacyhippo@gmail.com. Thank you.



BROWN BAGS AND PRAYER

MONDAYS STARTING JAN. 20 @ 11:30 A.M.

BRING YOUR LUNCH. JOIN YOUR FELLOW DISCIPLES IN THE GATHERING SPACE FOR A TIME OF FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP. THEN AT NOON, JOIN PASTOR JIM IN THE SANCTUARY FOR A TIME OF PRAYER AND MEDITATION THAT WILL BE FOCUSED ON THE CALL PROCESS.

EVERYONE IS INVITED AND WELCOME!

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

The Social Ministry committee and the Salvation Army thanks you for the many, many Christmas gifts donated by Gloria Dei for the Angel Tree Project.

Social Committee,

Linda Steege, Pat Bressler, Charlotte Christensen, Ruby Wanland, Donna Tarnok, Pat Heimbach, Diane Wasser, Elizabeth Sanguedolce, Joe LaHood, Gayle Bloom, Pastor Jim, Leone Goding member and Counsel Liaison, Joyce Brandt – Chairman.

JHIFM (JOINING HANDS IN FOOD MINISTRY)

Here is a big THANK YOU to all the volunteers that turned out on December 13th to feed 505 individuals from 128 local needy families a total of 9,675 pounds of nutritious food. I have posted several photos of our food distribution on JHIFM's Facebook page which you can access by typing [Facebook.com/feedinghopenow/](https://www.facebook.com/feedinghopenow/) in the address bar of your internet browser. Just click on "Photos" on the left side of the screen. Remember to "Like" us on Facebook!

Ritch Cassem

MEDIA TEAM

CHECK OUT OUR CHURCH WEBSITE AT: www.gloriadeielca.com

Stay current with church events by visiting the website on a regular basis. Help us keep the calendar of events current by sending information about any functions and club events to Mary Beth Morris. Please remember to take pictures of all events and send them to Mary Greer for posting on the website.

The Member Access menu is just for our disciples. Here you can view videos of sermons and Temple Talks, the church directory, and volunteer for Worship Ministries or make a Worship Donation.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS.....

If you haven't volunteered for a ministry yet, it's easy using the church website at www.gloriadeielca.com. Just go to the Member Access menu and complete the registration form. Within 24 hours you will be approved to access this secure portion of the website. Just click on Worship Ministry Sign-ups to volunteer for a ministry.

A few tips when signing up:

- When signing up for a Worship ministry, do not enter any information into the comments box. Enter your name and email into the spaces that are provided.
- If you are signing up for two people, you must go through the signup procedure twice. After you enter the first person, you can click on Return to Sign Up to sign up the other person. Entering information into the comments box does not reserve a spot.

Feel free to contact Mary Greer (407-340-0414 or mkgreer@earthlink.net) with any questions. She can walk you through the signup process while you are in front of your PC at home.

Who We Are: Gloria Dei's History-by Mary Greer

Every month during 2020, an article about Gloria Dei's history will appear in the Glorion. It's history is an interesting and colorful one and one we think you will enjoy reading.

A Seed is Planted...

On November 6, 1951, a group of 22 Lutherans held a meeting at the Leesburg Recreation Center with the Reverend A. M. Himes, D.D., of Fruitland Park, FL and the Reverend Martin L. Swanson of Zion Lutheran Church in Groveland, FL to discuss the viability of a Lutheran church in Leesburg.

Services began on Sunday, November 25, 1951 at the Woman's Club of Leesburg. On April 27, 1952 the congregation began to worship in the upstairs auditorium of the Lassiter-Ware Insurance Building in downtown Leesburg. Sunday School classes began as well.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church continued to grow under the guidance of Duane Carlson, an intern from the Augustana Theological Seminary in Rock Island, IL. It was officially organized on October 26, 1952, as a mission of the former Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church with 48 adults and 15 child members. The charter membership roll was closed on January 1, 1953 with 50 charter members.

Stay tuned for next month's Who We Are installment and see how the church grows.

JANUARY CALENDAR

Wed.	1/01	OFFICE CLOSED-NEW’S YEAR DAY
Fri.	1/03	8:00 a.m. Men’s Breakfast @ H.P. Grill
Sun.	1/05	9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship-Healing Service Following worship-Youth Faith Formation Following worship-Bible Fellowship
Mon.	1/06	10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Council Retreat
Tues.	1/07	9:30 a.m. WELCA Board Meeting 11:00 a.m. Executive Committee Mtg.
Wed.	1/08	10:00 a.m. Gospel Discussion Group 5:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Thurs.	1/09	1:30 p.m. Ruth Circle @ Janet Braun’s
Fri.	1/10	8:00 a.m. Men’s Breakfast @ H.P. Grill 9:30-11:30 a.m. Joining Hands in Food Ministry
Sun.	1/12	9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship-Pastor Jim on vacation. Pastor Gable preaching and presiding. Following worship-Youth Faith Formation Following worship-Bible Fellowship
Mon.	1/13	9:00 a.m. Priscilla Circle @ Gloria Dei
Tues.	1/14	9:00 a.m. Mission Quilting/Mary Martha Circle 11:00 a.m. Developing Disciples 1:00 p.m. Evangelism Committee Meeting
Wed.	1/15	10:00 a.m. Gospel Discussion Group 5:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Fri.	1/17	8:00 a.m. Men’s Breakfast @ H.P. Grill
Sun.	1/19	9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship-Install. of WELCA officers Following worship-Youth Faith Formation Following worship-Bible Fellowship GLORION DEADLINE-FEBRUARY
Mon.	1/20	11:30 a.m. Brown Bags & Prayer
Wed.	1/22	10:00 a.m. Gospel Discussion Group 1:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting 5:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Thurs.	1/23	10:00 a.m. Companions in Christ
Fri.	1/24	8:00 a.m. Men’s Breakfast @ H.P. Grill 9:00 a.m. Mission Quilting

Sun.	1/26	9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship-Hunger Offering Following worship-Youth Faith Formation Following worship-Bible Fellowship
Mon.	1/27	11:30 a.m. Brown Bags & Prayer
Tues.	1/28	11:00 a.m. Developing Disciples
Wed.	1/29	10:00 a.m. Gospel Discussion Group
Thurs.	1/30	10:00 a.m. Companions in Christ
Fri.	1/31	8:00 a.m. Men’s Breakfast @ H.P. Grill

JANUARY WORSHIP LEADERS

Assistant Ministers

Legend: L=Lector, +=Crucifer, C=Communion Assist., A=Liturgy Assist.

9:30 a.m.			
1/05	L=Pat Heimbach +=Ted Baehmann C=Leone Goding A=Brian Mundy	1/12	L=Arlene Kelly +=Arlene Kelly C=Jayne Gable A=Pat Heimbach
1/19	L= +=Leone Goding C= A=Ted Baehmann	1/26	L=Arlene Kelly +=Arlene Kelly C=Leone Goding A=Patricia Bressler

Ushers

9:30 a.m.			
1/05	Ritch Cassem Debbie Cassem Jeanne Kluge Sandy Retz	1/12	Dick Healy Bev Healy Carol Davis Craig Carlson
1/19	Ritch Cassem Debbie Cassem Pat Heimbach Rollie Heimbach	1/26	Dick Healy Jan Rudolph Quiana Menchaca Bev Healy

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

Altar Guild for January: Crystal & Byron Kirkpatrick

Post Worship Secretary for January: Gayle Bloom

Greeters

1/05 Christine & Craig Carlson
1/12 Lillian Skilbred & Gayle Bloom
1/19 Taeko Mincer & Andy Mincer
1/26 Sandy Kolb & Bess King

Counters – Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.

1/05 Jean Talts & Linda Riikonen
1/12 Vernon & Jean Kluge & Arlene Kelly
1/19 Arlene Kelly & Steve Greer
1/26 Pat Heimbach & Diane Wasser

Sunday Hospitality Hosts-Sign-up sheet on wall outside kitchen window.

1/05 Pat Heimbach
1/12 John & Janet Braun
1/19
1/26

Please note, if nobody signs up, there will be no coffee hour that day. If you have any questions, please contact Pat Heimbach at 610-737-0333.



**ANNUAL
REPORT**

ANNUAL REPORTS

If you haven't yet done so, please have your annual report for your committee to me no later than **January 15, 2020**. Please note that all reports can be emailed to me at gloriadeilutheranleesburg@gmail.com. Thank you!

Mary Beth Morris

Pastor's Report for December 2019

During November 2019 I:

- ✚ Prepared and preached 3 sermons and one memorial service homily
- ✚ Led 3 Sunday worship services and one memorial service
- ✚ Edited 4 bulletins.
- ✚ Created and printed bulletin for memorial service
- ✚ Coordinated personnel for memorial service
- ✚ Coordinated memorial service with the family
- ✚ Made 3 hospital/rehab/home visits (Smith, Zoellner - 2)
- ✚ Contributed articles to and edited the December Glorion.
- ✚ Attended one council meeting
- ✚ Participated in the Annual Congregational Meeting
- ✚ Welcomed 6 new members on Nov. 10
- ✚ Attended one budget meeting
- ✚ Coordinated supply pastor for November 24
- ✚ Attended one Evangelism Committee meeting
- ✚ Participated in one Interim Ministers conference call
- ✚ Made many phone calls and wrote numerous emails.
- ✚ Led 1 new members class
- ✚ Filed the monthly Interim Ministry report with the synod
- ✚ Worked a total of 11 days.
- ✚ Began planning for Advent services
- ✚ Took off 6 non-paid vacation and holiday days.
- ✚ Travelled 673 miles commuting and visiting parishioners.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. James F. Young, Interim Pastor

**COUNCIL CORNER-by Dick Healy,
Congregational Council President**

Good Morning.

This is the LAST temple talk of 2019!

Generally, when I think about Gloria Dei, I believe that this is a wonderful Church. Overall, this is a wonderful Congregation, a wonderful community. I think to myself, “Don’t mess it up!” I ask you to think the same thoughts. I ask you to support your Pastor and your Church Council and Church staff. Avoid gossip, avoid negative thoughts and actions. Avoid any destructive approaches and keep building a community that welcomes everyone and lifts those in need as well as the comfortable. Go to the Pastor and Council to get the straight story and to learn accurate information. Congregational unity and peace are vital elements of your community. In part, they are what holds us together in faith and mission. We don’t seek to mirror the divisions in our society nor to bring strife and disunion into our body of faith.

We are experiencing another period of disruption as we go through the procedure of calling another Pastor. Very fortunately this time, we have the high competence, focus and love of Pastor Jim and Patti to guide us through this difficult procedure. We have a more united community and the energy of many congregants. We have devoted and centered Council members. We have loyal and effective staff. We have the guidance of faith.

Where are we in the process of discovering God’s will for us? The Bishop’s Office and Synod organization’s method is hardly simple, and it is long. It seeks to discover the “best candidate” to call. That “best candidate” may be found mostly or only in part. Council will meet in January under Pastor Jim’s guidance to complete the few remaining items to do in the Synod’s checklist and in reflection, to seek counsel from God. Following that and subject to the approval of the Office of the Bishop, we will be ready to form the Call Committee.

However, before the Call Committee is constituted, the Council and the Congregation will have meetings to discuss the ways we can discern God’s will for us. You will have the opportunity to articulate your feelings and thoughts about how Gloria Dei should express itself in the form of its Pastor and how we should organize and fund that office, with a full or perhaps two part-time pastors. Maybe, maybe by the second or third month of 2020 we can begin to establish a vision for the Call Committee and make the Committee a reality. The vision and instructions would come from the Congregation, Pastor Jim and Church Council.

Lay leadership is changing. There is a newly-elected President, Bill Birdsall and a newly-elected Vice President, Arlene Kelly, Together with the existing members of the Executive Committee, Treasurer Linda Hide, and Secretary Diane Wasser, I believe that they represent a necessary renewal of our mission and of our existence. There are five new Council members- half of the Council- and they will inject renewed and perhaps refocused energy on behalf of our faith community. A primary mission that Gloria Dei supports, Joining Hands in Food Ministry, receives a new Church Council liaison, Diane Wasser. She has the knowledge and experience including as a member of Joining Hands, to effectively respond to the needs and challenges of Gloria Dei in its support of that mission. Additionally, Diane will become the liaison between the Council and our loyal and effective staff members who serve the Congregation so well.

I thank the Congregation for its support in the four years I have been President and look forward to increased spiritual, emotional and community harmony as we move through the years ahead. Our new and continuing leaders, as always with the guidance of God, will direct us into even greater service and growth in faith.

Thank you.

On behalf of the Church Council

Dick Healy

Council President



FINANCIAL CORNER

GENERAL FUND

	November 2019	Year to date 11/30/19
Contributions	\$18,969.49	\$224,003.38
Expenditures	\$14,795.71	\$223,428.82

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

October 31, 2019 balance \$4,423.18
Deposits -
Withdrawals \$ 530.00
November 30, 2019 Balance \$3,893.18

If you are a Thrivent member, don’t forget to designate your Choice Dollars to Gloria Dei or a charity of your choice.

2019 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Please call the church office if you need a 2019 contribution statement and it will be mailed to you. Thank you!
Mary Beth Morris 787-3223

Why do we need a Full-time Pastor?

Written by Rev. Tom Weitzel, Head of the Florida-Bahamas Synod Transition Ministry Leadership Team and Interim Pastor, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Spring Hill, FL

FULL-TIME PASTOR

- † Lives in the area with the people
- † The people & the ministry are priorities
- † 6-day work week (40-60hrs)
- † Generally younger with lots of energy
- † Quick responses to hospitalizations, etc.
- † Regularly spends time in member homes
- † Builds relationship in community (with leaders, pastors, potential members)
- † Strengthens relationships in the church
- † Part of most committees & ministries
- † Assists in planning for the future

Critical:

Leads to STRENGTHENED CHURCH
with lots of possibilities

PART-TIME PASTOR

- Lives elsewhere, commutes in
- Time away from the church is priority
- 3-4-day work week
- Likely retired, limited energy
- May not be able to respond at all
- Little time for member visits, irregular
- No time for community efforts
- Works mostly with council, few others
- Generally limited to council and worship
- Mostly maintains status quo

Critical:

Leads eventually to CLOSURE
with no possibilities

How Are Churches “Grown”?

- † It starts with a Congregation that is Committed to Growth and Looking Outward
- † It takes Council Leadership that never lets a Congregation forget this priority
- † It takes a Friendly and Welcoming Congregation that lives the love of God in all that they do

Ah, but wait! There’s more!!

- † It also takes a Pastor who is Committed to Growth and appreciates the value of Home Visits

Home visits, home visits and more home visits

- † Building Relationships = Building Congregations
- † The more time a Pastor spends at this, the more the church will grow.
- † That’s why churches that have full-time Pastors are more likely to grow than those having part-time Pastors

WELCA Christmas Baskets



On Friday, December 20, Linda Steege, Pat Bressler, Holly Mueller, Arlene Kelly, Bess King, Peggy Chandler, Ruby Wanland, Charlotte Christensen, Loraine Van Haecke, Janet Braun, Diana Frederick, Carol Marshall, Gayle Bloom, and Leone Goding got together to assemble 22 Christmas baskets for our homebound members. WELCA ladies donated homemade cookies and treats. Leone purchased fruit, baskets, candy, and wrapping with help from Jacki Goding and a Thrivent Action Team card.



This truly was put together by our ladies at Gloria Dei. Each of you who delivered to our shut-ins is so appreciated. Thanks also to Jim Gable for his support. This is a wonderful, giving church. Thank you all again. -Leone Goding

Photos by Charlotte Christensen and Ruby Wanland

The Hanging of the Greens - December 23



Linda Steege, Byron Kirkpatrick, Anne Rusk, Crystal Kirkpatrick, and Gayle Bloom prepare the wreaths.

Ed and Peggy Chandler and Judy Lorenz put the finishing touches on the tree. The Chrismons are white and gold: white symbolizes that Jesus was pure and perfect, and gold symbolizes his majesty and glory.

