

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:**  
Monday 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm  
Wednesday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm  
Thursday 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm

# THE DEILY NEWS

## May 2020

Joy – Sorrow – Depression – Bewilderment – Exhilaration .....

Joy – Sorrow – Depression – Bewilderment – Exhilaration – Excitement – Reflection – Spontaneity – Compliance – Rebellion... Each of these emotions (and more) I have experienced over the last several weeks. I have also heard the phrase that we are “living in unprecedented times”. And I realize that those sentiments are intended to provide me (and others) some comfort, some solace. But also at times, when I hear that phrase, I am not comforted. In fact I become a little angry. Instead of hunkering down in comfort and strength, I hunker down into a deep self-pity party. Why must I be so deeply affected? Why does my life have to be so altered because of something done on the other side of the world? Why? Why? Why? After, God allows me to wallow in that self-pity for a while, I just happen see a news report or read an article of someone who has been much more deeply and personally affected than I was (or am). As my heart breaks for that person and their family. I become sad again; not because of self-pity this time, but from the shame of not putting others ahead of myself. I forget the basic message that God reminds me of... that God has not abandoned me. God will not forsake me. The story of Easter screams that message loud and clear. The Apostles were wallowing in their own forms of self-pity, worry, and doubt. The miracle of Easter, revealed to the women first, provides a sense of hope and new life. Easter, like spring-time, reveals a sense of new life and new beginnings.

We (Gloria Dei) have live much of the last three years thinking outside the box. We have been very creative in our worship and practice of our ministry. We live for now (and in the foreseeable future) in a new normal and as a result we again worship differently. We commune differently. We celebrate differently. However, we continue to support “The Church”. Thankfully we are continuing our offering and tithes. We are supporting the community by practicing proper social distancing. We support the greater Church by our generous gifts to those in need (through food and gift card donations). God has not abandoned us and continues to bless us, even in these difficult times.

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Speaking of our Easter Food Drive, I have enclosed a picture of the food that was recently picked up by the United Ministries Food Bank of New Holstein / St. Nazianz. In addition to the food, this congregation has donated \$650 in Gift Cards and Cash – and one member has donated a month's worth of Kwik Trip milk to the program. God bless each of you who have contributed through your resources, time, and prayers.



Speaking of Easter, once again, Jim and I communed 14 people on Maundy Thursday and 39 on Easter Sunday, in our curbside communion distribution. I thank Jim Liddle, Tim Argall, and Doug Everson for their on-going talents. We will continue recording a message for Sunday morning and for Wednesday evening. These messages are available on Facebook. If you don't have Facebook, but have email, I can send you the messages by email. Is anyone willing to take our MP4 video files and burn them to a DVD for people who do not have internet? That would be really helpful for our members who do not have computer access.

Scrip is still active. If you are interested in buying Scrip and you are not comfortable in leaving your home, contact me or the Church office and we can help you with your Scrip purchases.

Gloria Dei, like many other churches around the world, will bounce back. And just as God has not abandoned us, let us not abandon God or God's work.

Grace, peace, and love to each of you.

"Whoever is generous  
to the poor lends to the  
Lord, and he will repay  
him for his deed."

Proverbs 19:17



"Give thanks in all  
circumstances; for this  
is God's will for you  
in Christ."

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Dave &  
Congregation  
of Gloria Dei Lutheran,

YOUR GENEROSITY IS  
OVERWHELMING!

THANK YOU SO MUCH

Please know: your food collection  
& gift cards are helping to feed  
many in your community!  
Your help is so greatly appreciated  
as we continue with our Mission  
To Serve, Feed, & Clothe God's People.  
Thank you + God Bless  
you All! :-)  
United Ministries Board, staff  
& Volunteers

From the Pastor,

I trust that you all are bearing up under these trying circumstances. Betty and I are doing okay. She is working from home, putting in 40-45 hours per week. This makes me the chief cook and dishwasher. During the past week I've made hamburger casserole, sweet and sour chicken, various sandwiches, and a chocolate cake (from a mix).

I have also finished some old puzzle magazines. I did my favorite puzzles when I first got the magazines but I'm going back and doing many of the other puzzles. Betty and I frequently work on various 500-piece jigsaw puzzles. Want to trade puzzles, anyone?

In other words, I am bored. I'm ready to get back to normal church work. But it looks like it is going to be another month before I am preaching to a congregation, instead of preaching to a camera. I miss having children in front of me for the children's chat. Oh yeah, I also miss the laughing (or groaning) at my jokes.

Gloria Dei is doing well. Dave and I have been getting good responses from our broadcasts and our drive-thru communions. We are considering other options as well. The church's finances are doing OK. While we are certainly behind our normal giving from where we were when we were having regular church services, we are not in trouble. Our giving of food and money to food pantries and other special needs is gratifying.

Beginning in June, I will be trying something different in sermon selection. I will be choosing a section of the Old Testament that is not found in the lectionary and will use that as my primary scripture for sermons. I will continue to read the gospel lesson and will usually tie it in with the sermon but the main focus will be on the Old Testament reading.

The lessons will be taken from the story of Gideon in Judges 6-8. Some of you might want to read these chapters ahead of time. The series will focus on **"How to Know God's Will for Your Life."**

Sermons will include such subjects as:

- How to hear or feel God's will,
- Full obedience,
- Fleeing God,
- God's will, God's way,
- Handling victory,
- After the victory

I am hoping to see you all in church in the near future, when it is safe.

God Bless You,

Pastor Jim



# ACTION TEAM

*All Thrivent members* are eligible to lead a Thrivent Action Team. However, the number of teams each member can lead per year depends on his or her membership type. Benefit members are eligible to lead two Thrivent Action Teams per calendar year, and associate members are eligible to lead one per calendar year. You must be 16 years or older to lead a Thrivent Action Team.

One action team - one project

Multiple members cannot apply to receive a Thrivent Action Kit to be used toward the exact same project.

## HOW IT WORKS

Think about an unmet need in your community and how you could help. Apply to lead your volunteer team in a one-time fundraiser, service activity or educational event that can be completed within 120 days. Once your project application is approved, you'll receive a customized kit of resources which includes a Community Impact Card with funds up to \$250 to kick-start your project.

Contact the Thrivent Website or your Thrivent representative for more information.

### Suggestions for Action Teams at Gloria Dei:

Mulch for flower beds/gardens

Women's retreat

Cleaning Supplies

Brat Fry

VBS- Food supplies

VBS- non food supplies

Interior Paint & supplies

Exterior Paint & supplies

Bake Sale Supplies

Please contact Council/Committee members before creating an Action Team to avoid duplication.

## Karen's Korner

### May 2020

Not much activity at the church, the spring weather is not cooperating, and everyone is spending a lot of time at home. I like to share good news, but where to find it right now? AH YES - the Lord is Risen and so we will also live! Give thanks for the Lord is good and he has blessed us abundantly! He is with us through this trial.

I hope you are finding a way to worship each Sunday. Thanks to Dave and Pastor Jim for providing that opportunity at our church, and you can find other church sites as well. Many of you may also have devotional material. Personally I like to mix and match and do a few in the course of a week. New ideas from different sources and food for thought in the comparison.

I pray you stay well, stay safe, and find great ways to pass the time at home.

## **Gloria Dei Church Council Meeting March 10, 2020**

**Present:** Karen Ebert, Barb Spiegel, Roxie Ruechel, Dave Kohls, Julie Schaefer Ruth Camomilli, Bryce Larson, Nealey Janicek,

**Absent:** David Hoban,

**Call to Order-** Karen called meeting to order at 6:00pm and opened with prayer.

**Approval of Agenda-** Motion to accept Bryce, second Ruth. Motion carried.

**Secretary's Report-** Motion to accept last month's minutes and special meeting minutes Julie, second Nealey. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report-** Motion to accept as presented Barb, second Dave. Motion carried.

### **Committee Reports**

-**Education-**(Dave) Monday Morning Bible Study continues. First Communion classes are in progress. VBS funding donations are going well.

- **Outreach/Fellowship-**(Roxie) Empty Bowls was successful. Six churches participated. Profits will be divided between those churches for donations to Food Pantry of their choice. **Fellowship** welcome Potluck dinner for Pentecostal Church is scheduled for March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Cookies for College were sent. The Lions Club @ Road America have inquired as to availability to work in food stand this year. Motion Dave/second Nealey to decline Road America Food Stand invitation. Motion carried.

- **Property** – report emailed/ building repair estimates mailed(Bryce) Committee is working on status & focus of projects identified.

-**Stewardship/Long Range Planning-**(Nealey) Committee met February 27<sup>th</sup>. The committee (Jerry) has been in contact with Mission Investment. With current payment and capitol campaign donations we should see the mortgage paid off in 7+ yrs.

- **Worship-** (Dave)- Met March 9, 2020. Lent/Easter season is planned. Congregation will process with palms on Palms Sunday. There will be no procession on Easter.

- **Director of Ministries-**(Dave) The shaking of hands for "peace" will be discontinued for the future. Dave has continued contact with all committees. The calendar for 2021 includes a member wedding. Motion Roxie, second Julie to accept as new members – Shalan, Peter and Lillian Larson. Motion carried. Pastor Jim is doing "Holy Humor Sunday" after Easter. Dave will discuss format with Pastor Jim.

### **Old Business**

**Special Congregational Meeting-** Meeting to elect Call Committee is scheduled for March 22, 2020. Notice has been sent.

**Audit Committee-** Committee finished audit. They also presented a report with suggestions for council to review. Tabled to next month, as it was not an agenda item.

### **New Business**

#### **Calendar review –**

Lenten Soup Suppers

Palm Sunday & First Communion

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Saturday Easter Vigil

Easter

Confirmation May 17th

**Temple Talk** – Thrivent Action Teams- Barb

### **Closed Session-**

Motion Dave, second Julie to go into closed session. Motion carried.

Motion Dave, second Roxie to return to open session. Motion carried.

### **Adjourn with Lord's Prayer**

Motion Roxie, second Dave to adjourn. Motion Carried.

**Executive Committee met after adjournment.**

**Next Meeting – April 14, 2020**

Respectfully submitted,

*Barb Spiegel*

Minutes subject to Council approval at next meeting.

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## Worship and Liturgy Meeting Minutes

### March 09, 2020

Present: Rev. Dave Kohls, Doug E., Ruth C., Barb S., Nealey Janicek and Raeline

Meeting was opened with a prayer lead by Dave.

February meeting was canceled due to members having other obligations that evening.

Committee reviewed worship plans for Holy Week. Palms and Flowers have been ordered. Palm Sunday is April 5<sup>th</sup>. First Communion will also be April 5<sup>th</sup>. Dave Hoban offered to play his trumpet while congregation processes in with palms. Review of assistants needed for Holy Week, Barb will coordinate the volunteers for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Dave will take care of asking for volunteers for Holy Saturday Vigil. Raeline will ensure we have candles and proper holders for the vigil. Holy Saturday Vigil will begin @ 7:00pm outside with the lighting of the Pascal Candle. Alter linens and banners will be changed out accordingly to the days of the seasons. Raeline will take responsibility for that. Doug will not be able to play for Easter Sunday; however, Dave and Barb will both be available to "push buttons" as needed. We reviewed the worship schedule through end of May.

Dave reported that we will be having a wedding on May 15<sup>th</sup> of 2021. Church calendar should be cleared and date approved.

Lastly, we discussed the world wide concerns related to the Coronavirus and if there are any precautions that we should take. It was agreed by all members of this committee that at this time of year when there are prevalent respiratory or gi viruses in the community we should go to individual cups for the wine at communion. Barb will notify the communion set up people for Sundays, Raeline will talk with Sue Erickson and between the 2 of them will make sure Wednesday Communion set up is completed.

Barb closed us out with a prayer.

Next meeting: April 13, 2020, 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted:

*Raeline Springstroh*



## OUTREACH 3/15/20

Present: Jim, Penny, Dianne, Mike

Raeline reports no visitors recorded yet this year.

Cookies to college kids—March 8, 6-7 packages were sent (Coleen)

Welcome lunch for Pentecostals is postponed probably until late May (Dianne)

Meals to members in need still being organized (Dianne)

Highway cleanup will be scheduled for a weekday in May (Mike)

Food drive to pantries continues. Sanitary products were collected for the homeless.

Tables of 8–three groups are beginning to meet.

Empty Bowls February 23 hosted more than 100 people with six local churches providing soup. Over \$900 raised will be distributed to local food pantries. A very nice article with color pictures of the event appeared in Tri-County News.

AED for church—nothing new

Sanctuary church—Jim reports ecumenical pastors' group not currently very active.

GD will host ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve service this year.

Service to immigrants in need—Immigrant Families Together is a helping agency where Penny's cousin Stephany works. Lutheran Church Charities is an agency which supports disaster victims, including therapy dogs, which Mike's cousin Tim leads. We will check if we can assist them.

Dinner Theater performances are scheduled April 24, 25, 26 and May 1 & 2.

Covid 19—we may want to share resources with members in need. We will keep in touch with Synod about suggested response.

Next meeting June 7.

### Karen's Korner

#### April 2020

I've seen the robins. The noisy sandhill cranes are in the fields behind my house. When I see the Wood Ducks flying among my trees looking for a nesting site, I'll know spring has arrived. All warm thoughts.

I'm also having warm thoughts about all the things happening at Gloria Dei.

- ◆ Welcomed new and energetic people to the council – Bryce Laron and Nealey Janicek
- ◆ Thanks to Roxie and her crew we hosted a very successful ecumenical Empty Bowls.
- ◆ The Audit Committee did an outstanding job of making sure all our financial records are in good order.
- ◆ Choir is sounding great – thanks Doug.
- ◆ Youth group is alive and active having just completed a mystery night.
- ◆ By the time you read this we will have elected a Call Committee.
- ◆ Things seem to be going well with sharing our building with the Pentecostals.
- ◆ Our attendance is holding steady with maybe a slightly upward trend.

How good God is to Gloria Dei. I pray that He is that active in each of our personal lives. Until next month.....