

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

July 2020

Karen's Korner—July 2020

By now, you should all be aware that our Dave Kohls will be leaving us at the end of July to take on a Chaplain Residency at Gundersen Memorial Hospital in La Crosse, WI. Three years ago Gloria Dei's future was uncertain. Congregational member Dave stepped forward and became Dave, Director of Ministry. Under his guidance we are now financial stable. ALL committees are fully functional and active in moving Gloria Dei forward. We have been able to sustain two services. Our membership is growing slowly. The council Dave has worked with is a strong and active one. With all these, and so many more that could be listed, there are not enough ways to express our thanks and appreciation for all he has accomplished in what, realistically, is a short amount of time. We wish you Godspeed Dave!

So how do we go forward starting in August? Over the next few months, the council will be considering whether we look for another Director of Ministry or decide if we are strong enough, and brave enough to fill Dave's large shoes. At this point we need three things from the congregation: prayers for the council as we move forward, input as to your feelings on this matter, and an indication that people are willing to step up and take on some of the roles that will need to be filled. **Talk to, email, text, or call any of the following council members with your input. We stand together, or we all fall apart together. Don't think your ideas don't count!**

Karen Ebert

Roxie Ruechel

Julie Schaefer

Bryce Larson

Barb Spiegel

Nealey Janicek

David Hoban

Ruth Camomilli

We have completed step one, the church profile, in our efforts to call a new minister. We will shortly elect our Call Committee. In addition, we have requested an interim pastor. But realistically we need to understand that our profile has not yet been posted on the synod website, and interim pastors are few and far between. In these uncertain times we can't be certain that will happen in the near future. This is another reason you need to understand how **you** must play an important part in our immediate future.

I asked Dave for any input he might have for us as we move forward. These are some of his comments:

Gloria Dei is beginning to become a congregationally led church, getting away from being pastor driven – but there is still more work to be done.

While we cannot worship inside the church, we are still the church alive.

We still have ministry to do – food to collect – money to raise for those basic needs

This is the time to show others that the church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place – the church is the people.

Now, as I close this letter, I ask you, what have you done to help Gloria Dei along the road to a solid future? Be proud of yourself. What can you do to increase that level of activity and/or encourage those less active to step up and get involved? If you have not been active in more than attending church, please ask yourself why that is and can that be changed? Of course it can. I know for a fact many of you have hidden talents just waiting to pop out. When I see them close to the surface don't be surprised to see me walking your way!

To the council, you have a hard road ahead of you. From working with you over these last months, I have every confidence you are up to the task. You are amazing.

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Love

Our one word called “love” is so complicated that it took four Greek words to full describe it.

Agape (Pronounced: Uh-GAH-pay) is the highest of the four types of love in the Bible. This term defines God's immeasurable, incomparable love for humankind. It is the divine love that comes from God. Agape love is perfect, unconditional, sacrificial, and pure. In a state of wonder or amazement, as with the mouth wide open

Philia (Pronounced: FILL-ee-uh) is the type of intimate love in the Bible that most Christians practice toward each other. This Greek term describes the powerful emotional bond seen in deep friendships.

Eros (Pronounced: AIR-ohs) is the Greek word for sensual or romantic love. The term originated from the mythological Greek god of love, sexual desire, physical attraction, and physical love, Eros, whose Roman counterpart was Cupid.

Storge (Pronounced: STOR-jay) is a term for love in the Bible that you may not be familiar with. This Greek word describes family love, the affectionate bond that develops naturally between parents and children, and brothers and sisters.

All four of these forms of love have at least one thing in common, they all involve being in relationship. Over the last three years I spent considerable time talking about love. At times that has made people joyful and at other times rankled some. One person asked me, “Why don’t you spend more time talking about fire and brimstone?” Another person said, “You don’t know me well enough to love me.” So, I took a lot of time to reflect and ponder those words. I questioned myself. I prayed. I looked at Scripture. And it was Scripture that helped me become more self-aware and confident in how I will address this.

When I reflected on how Jesus answered the religious leaders of the day when asked, “Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?” Jesus was not fooled. Jesus knew that the religious leaders were trying to trick Jesus into an answer they could later use against Jesus. Jesus answered, “You must love (Agapēseis) the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. A second commandment is equally as important: Love (Agapēseis) your neighbor as yourself.” Notice the Greek translation next to the word “love” – Agape. Jesus commands us to exercise this form of love. If you’re still not convinced, allow me to quote the next verse of Matthew 22, “The entire law and all the demand of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

Every law, every previous commandment is summed up in what Jesus said. Love! I therefore do not feel bad for one moment, not spending any significant time talking fire and brimstone. I have discovered over the years that I can bring more people to God, by talking about how God loves them, instead of emphasizing the consequences of not loving God.

Even in my closing days with love remaining the central theme, tensions are again high, some of it because of COVID, some of it because of our new normal that is causing unrest, and some for other personal reasons I do not feel confident talking about. I thank Karen for the kind words in her article. I thank Joe Janicek for his leadership in the beginning of this journey. I pray that I have done more good than harm.

As this will be my last newsletter article, I remind each of you one last time that God does love each of you, and so do I.

Gloria Dei Church Council – June 9, 2020 – 6:00PM

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

Call to Order-Meeting was called to order by Karen

Opening Prayer – Bryce share a devotional

Approval of Agenda- Motion Julie, second Barb to accept agenda with flexibility. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report- Motion Dave, second Bryce to accept. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report- Motion Barb, second Nealey to accept. Motion Carried.

Committee Reports – under old and new business.

Old Business

- **Parking Lot surfacing**- Crack sealing was canceled for last week. Julie will ask Darryl to call the contractor to verify the date for cracking sealing and resurfacing.

- **Call Committee Election**- By consensus it was decided to call a special congregation meeting for July 12, 2020 Karen will prepare the letter and ensure it is sent meeting constitutional timeline requirements.

- **Cancellation of upcoming events**- Dinner Theater is cancelled for 2020.

- **Confirmation**- Will be postponed until further notice.

New Business

-**Painting Bid**- Dave and Bryce received a bid for painting with all supplies. Karen will check constitution for expenditure requirements; council approval vs. special congregation meeting. If necessary will be added to congregation special meeting.

-**Director of Ministries**-Dave sent a letter to Karen and the Bishop informing them of a 7/31/2020 resignation date. Multiple factors lead to his decision. Discussion regarding moving forward. The Executive Committee will meet this week to discuss a plan going forward and will bring it to Council at our next meeting. The Worship Committee has requested standard work for video recording and power point presentations to continue virtual worship and in the sanctuary worship again occurs.

-**Synod Update**- Task Force Creation. Four to eight people are suggested to create a Task Force for "Returning to Worship". Discussion regarding returning to worship. What percentage of occupancy? A list was compiled by Dave of council suggestions for the Task Force to address. Julie and Barb volunteered to serve on the Task Force. Several other names were suggested for members at large to add to the Task Force. There is an ELCA Webinar Tuesday, June 16th at 6:30. Dave will share registration information with Task Force Members. Dave will be a non-voting observer/member of this Task Force.

Adjourn with Lord's Prayer

Motion Dave, seconding Roxie to adjourn. Motion Carried.

Next Meeting – July 14, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Spiegel subject to approval at next council meeting

Worship and Liturgy Meeting Minutes

June 8th, 2020

Present: Rev. Dave Kohls, Doug E., Ruth C., Barb S., Nealey Janicek and Raeline S.
Meeting was opened with a prayer lead by Dave.



This is the first time we have met since March due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, much has continued within Gloria Dei. Dave was able to set up "Curbside Communion" on Sunday mornings in April and May which was met with enthusiasm and success. By the end of May, Dave had purchased a FM Transmitter and has since held 3 parking lot services. Besides these services, Dave and Pastor Jim have been posting video worship on Face book twice a week. Dave has generously donated in kind all the equipment he had purchased for these services. As Dave enters into his residency in LaCrosse, he will need to resign his Director of Ministry and his Council position with Gloria Dei effective July 31st. Liturgy and Worship committee members are committed to working with members to train and assign tasks that will keep the ministry of Gloria Dei moving forward.

Dave will provide step by step instructions and procedures for each of the three types of services that he has currently been facilitating. Volunteers will be needed for worship assistants helping with the set up of equipment and "greeting/ directing " the Parking lot services. A video technician will be needed to assist with taping and posting the video services and a volunteer will be needed to draft and publish the Power Point presentations and announcements. Barb Spiegel has graciously stepped up to do the power point and Nealey Janicek has kindly offered to assist with the taping. Raeline will also assist with taping if schedules can be arranged. Doug will continue to provide music as needed for our services. Dave has promised to have the procedures written out by June 27th, which will help in recruiting assistants to specific tasks by giving team members needed information in knowing what is involved. Council will be working on a "re-entry into the Sanctuary Plan" which W&L will also assist with as needed or recommended.

Meeting was closed with a prayer.

Next meeting: July 6th , 2020, 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted:

Raeline Springstroh

Ann's Office Hours

Monday - - 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Wednesday - - 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Thursday - - 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM