

# DeiMinder

88 Years of Celebrating the Glory of God • June 2016 Newsletter

*Happy Father's Day!*



*The father of a righteous man has great joy;  
he who has a wise son delights in him.*

*Proverbs 23:24*

**Bring Dad to Church on Father's Day!**

Sunday, June 19 at 10:30 a.m.

**GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH**

# GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Sharing the peace of God's Grace with the World*

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***Sunday Worship with Holy Communion: 10:30 a.m.***  
***Bible Study: Each Sunday at 9:30 a.m.***

*Welcome to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church! You're invited to join us in worship each Sunday at 10:30 AM. Those who are interested in learning more about our congregation, or are considering becoming a member of our congregation, please speak with LLM Charlie Martin, (248) 373-5222 or email pastor @ gloriadei.cc*

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## ***We remember in prayer...***

The family of Rhonda Chilkott, Sharon Cook, Lynne Danielson, Donna Williamson, Sally Mickel, Aaron Carlson, Gena McGree, Mark Carlson, Alice Toss, Donna Polasek, MaryAnn Ferry, Judy Coller, Jeff and Faye Gorecki, Andrew Cook, Dorothy Chilkott, Danny Holmquist, Teresa VanderPerrin, Margie Vantongerren, Marie Niedzwiecki, Patty Bohnke, David Kangas, Roger Teply, Mary Lou Barrie, Kathy Meyer, Bill Davidson, Doug Ingamells, Bill McCabe and people living under conditions of war and persecution.

## ***Fundraiser for Flint***

The Southeast Michigan Synod, along with Salem Lutheran Church of Flint have organized a fundraiser to help provide clean drinking water to the citizens of Flint. If you are able to give, just write "Flint" next to the "special offering" line on your offering envelope and indicate the amount. Make checks payable to Gloria Dei.



## ***From Minister Charlie***



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings to all, and may the peace of God be found with you.

We find ourselves now in what we might term as ordinary time as its own season, also as the days after Pentecost. While we might think that as it also goes into the summer season, a time of vacations for many, this also can be a deep learning time. The rest of the year as we frantically go into readings that get us into the specific aspects of the festival days they are associated with, we now take the time to slowly go through the Gospel of Luke. We get the full content of chapters to linger over and ponder the full breath of what Christ has provided for us in the words he spoke on the hillsides of Galilee. This will enrich us with these words pulled together for a Gentile audience by this writer, which makes them very meaningful to all of us of that heritage.

This might make for good summer reading for us as well, to follow along, getting this whole story of Jesus seen through the eyes of the witness given to the writer of Luke.

As the love of Jesus comes off those pages and into our hearts, let us have this spill out from us and into the lives of all the people we will touch, here and wherever we may travel this summer.

May God Bless us as we act as Christ's body in this world,

Minister Charlie

## **In Memoriam: Rhonda Chilkott** 1961-2016



We remember Gloria Dei member Rhonda Chilkott, who passed into the Church Triumphant suddenly on May 18. Rhonda (Williamson) was raised in Williamson, West Virginia, later moving to Pontiac, where she graduated from Pontiac Northern High School in 1980. She attended Oakland Community College, completing coursework in mental health studies and social work. Rhonda leaves behind many

family and friends, including her beloved son Sebastian and her brother, Mark. We give thanks to God for Rhonda's presence among us and extend our Christian sympathy and prayers to Sebastian, the Williamson and Chilkott families, and all who mourn.

### **Mostly about people**

*We thank everyone who worked during the clean-up day on May 21: Roxanne Alfsen, Helen Englund, Scott Johnson, Ray Lucas, Charlie Martin, Linda Nelson, Rick and Terry Rajala, Bruce and Sally Robertson, and Gene Steensma..... Lectors and Coffee Hour hosts are needed for several upcoming Sundays; if you are able to serve, please sign up in the fellowship hall ..... Are you interested in becoming an assisting minister? Serve our Lord by helping to lead worship. If you don't sing, it's not a problem! If you're interested, please contact Minister Charlie or Gene Steensma..... Can you bring items for Lighthouse?*

*Summertime is here and school children will be spending more time at home, which means more meals for families. Lighthouse is asking for peanut butter, jelly, and macaroni & cheese to help needy families in the area. Collec-*

*tion baskets are in the narthex, so if you are able to donate these items or any other non-perishable food items, please bring them to church. Thank you in advance for your continued support of this organization.*



**Pentecost Flowers** We thank all those who donated flowers for Pentecost, which were planted around the Gloria Dei property. The flowers are given to the glory of God:

**By:**

Scott and Tara Johnson  
 Charlie Martin  
 Vera Martin  
 Linda Nelson

Paula Vidlund

**And by:**

Alice Barrie  
 Sharon Cook  
 Helen Englund

Julie Granthen

Maryann Hank

Scott and Tara Johnson

Ray Lucas

Charlie Martin

Linda Nelson

Gene Steensma

Paula Vidlund

**In honor of:**

Aiden Christopher  
 Erik and Elyse Martin  
 Vera Martin

Family

Lauren Wright  
 Audrey Wright

Lola Henry

**In memory of:**

George Barrie  
 Pearl Pennybacker

Carrie Cook

Joel Englund  
 Clarence and Marie Vidlund  
 John and Signe Englund

Diane J. Granthen

Andrew and Helen Hank

Our Grandparents

Barbara L. Lucas  
 Helene A. Lucas  
 Norma Lucas

Cathy Martin  
 Irene and Conrad Guay

Al Nelson  
 Jeff Nelson

Delores Steensma  
 Tony and Martha Steensma  
 Steve and Ruth Bone

Robert and Emma Vidlund  
 Peter Vidlund  
 Patti Vidlund Amshay



## ***ELCA presiding bishop joins faith leaders at peace summit***

CHICAGO (ELCA) – The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), joined leaders of Christian churches and church-related organizations from the United States and the Holy Land in Atlanta April 19-20 for "Pursuing Peace and Strengthening Presence: The Atlanta Summit of American and Palestinian Churches."

This first-ever gathering of American and Palestinian Christians in the United States focused on exploring the role of Christian churches in peacemaking in Israel-Palestine and helping strengthen the Christian presence in the Holy Land.

"It was significant that a broad spectrum of Christian churches – Evangelicals to Orthodox, historic black denominations as well as mainline denominations – participated," said Eaton. "This diverse coalition has more credibility than the usual alliances. The freedom of Palestine, the security of the state of Israel and the preservation of Arab Christianity in the Holy Land are not political issues for a few but a faith issue for many."

Other representatives from the ELCA included the Rev. Rafael Malpica-Padilla, executive director, ELCA Global Mission; the Rev. Jeffrey Thiemann, CEO, Portico Benefits Services; and the Rev. Cindy Halmarson, area program director for Europe and the Middle East, ELCA Global Mission. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Munib Younan, bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, attended along with patriarchs and other heads of churches in Jerusalem.

The event, held at the Carter Center, brought together about 100 leaders from diverse Christian denominations and organizations, including Catholic, Orthodox, Eastern Orthodox, mainline Protestant and historic African American and Latino churches. Former President Jimmy Carter delivered the keynote speech during the final session.

"Bishop Younan and other leaders are calling for U.S. churches to strengthen the Christian presence in Palestine," said Halmarson. "I hope this conference is the beginning of a broader and deeper coalition of U.S. church support to accompany Palestinians in pursuit of peace and strengthening Christian presence in the Holy Land."

The ELCA, through its Peace Not Walls campaign, is working for peace and justice in the region through accompaniment, advocacy and awareness-building. Among other objectives, the effort connects ELCA members with Palestinian Lutheran companion churches in the region to promote healing and reconciliation.

The goals of the Atlanta summit included drafting a summit document that articulates a comprehensive vision for the future of the Holy Land and its Christians, writing a letter to President Barack Obama that communicates this vision, and adopting a strategy for common witness by American and Palestinian churches.

The summit document states: "We have come together for two days of prayer and open dialogue in a spirit of theological and ethical urgency for a just peace, and to express our ecumenical unity in action towards the end of occupation and a lasting political situation in the Holy Land. We honor the land that wit-

nessed to the life and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ affirming his call to justice, peacemaking and to the ministry of justice and reconciliation."

The document outlines issues that merit special attention in order to effectively promote peace with justice and advance the two-state solution for Israelis and Palestinians. The points include:

- Develop more effective advocacy in the United States.
- Educate members of congregations on the merits and necessity of a peace process that fulfills the rights of all people and nations in the region to live in security and peace.
- Recognize, affirm and support the solidarity that is being demonstrated among some Christians, Jews and Muslims in addressing humanitarian needs, fighting poverty and fostering peace.
- Designate a common day of prayer and reflections across churches in the U.S. and the Holy Land.

Following the Atlanta summit, Eaton and Younan joined Fouad Twal, the Latin patriarch of Jerusalem; Suheil Dawani, archbishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem; and several other members of the Palestinian delegation in Washington, D.C., April 21-22. At the White House, the group delivered the letter addressed to Obama and a copy of the summit document. Meeting with Dr. Colin Kahl, assistant to the president and national security adviser to the vice president, and Yael Lempert, special assistant to the president and senior director for the Levant, Israel and Egypt at the National Security Council, the delegation highlighted the importance of education in the Holy Land, the need to fight extremism and radicalism, and Jerusalem's centrality to the peace process.

The group also met with U.S. Rep. Chris Stewart, R-Utah, congressional staff members and representatives of the State Department to discuss the outcomes of the summit.

"The Atlanta Summit was very significant in many respects but especially for its reaffirmation of the Palestinian Christian presence in the Holy Land and its call to revitalize advocacy efforts in the U.S. towards a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict," said Dennis Frado, director, Lutheran Office for World Community, ELCA Global Mission. "The delegation's follow-up visit to Washington was important to convey those messages to U.S. policy makers."

## ***ELCA invites members to consider future priorities and directions***

CHICAGO (ELCA) – In anticipation of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has introduced "Called Forward Together in Christ," an initiative that invites its 3.7 million members to consider what kind of church God is calling the ELCA to become.

Led by ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and endorsed by the ELCA Church Council and in collaboration with the ELCA Conference of Bishops, the initiative asks members to join in a conversation about the future priorities of the ELCA.

"We're asking all of us to think together and to talk together about what our priorities are going to be so we can be as effective as possible in bringing people the good news of Jesus Christ," said Eaton in a video message.

The initiative has three main phases:

- Conversations across the church about the future
- Consultations on the directions and priorities that emerge
- Decisions as a church about where the ELCA is headed

"We need you to be involved in the conversation," said Eaton, emphasizing the importance for all members to participate. "The more of us we can hear from, the more of us who are praying and listening to the Spirit, the more possible it will be for us to get a clearer picture and understanding of the future God is calling this church to."

Questions for congregations to consider include: What are your hopes for the future of this church? Who would you like to see joining your congregation, and how might this happen? What are the two biggest challenges facing your congregation right now?

Following this process, a statement of future directions and priorities will be considered by the ELCA Church Council at its November 2016 meeting. The goal is to launch the statement in 2017 as part of the ELCA's observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

## ***DeiTimer Calendar: June 2016***

Thursday, June 9 7:00 PM Council / Transition Team Meeting

Sunday, June 12 10:30 AM Morning Worship with Holy Communion

Sunday, June 19 10:30 AM Morning Worship with Holy Communion  
*Newsletter Deadline*

Sunday, June 26 10:30 AM Morning Worship with Holy Communion

## ***June Worship Assistants***

	<u>June 12</u>	<u>June 19</u>	<u>June 26</u>
<b>Asst Min</b>	Chris Danielson	Gene Steensma	Terry Rajala
<b>Lector</b>	Gene Steensma	Dorothy Chilkott	Ray Lucas
<b>Greeter</b>	Bonnie Pennybacker	NEEDED!	Alice Barrie
<b>Sacristan</b>	Terry Rajala	Sharon Cook	Linda Nelson
<b>Coffee Hr</b>	Tara and Scott	Terry and Rick	Sharon Cook

## ***June BirthDeis***

Makenzie Martin, June 2

Kate Ginman, June 16

Aaron Rajala, June 20

If your birthday is wrong/missing, please contact Scott Johnson.

