

# DeiMinder

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



*Loving God, Creator of all times and places,  
we thank you for the gift of summertime,  
the days of light, warmth and leisure.*

*Let all the gifts we enjoy this summer  
deepen our awareness of your love so  
that we may share this with others and enjoy  
a summertime of re-creation.*

**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...***

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, Roxie Alfsen, Marie Niedzwiecki, Patty Bohneke, David Kangas, Roger Teply, Mary Lou Barrie, Kathy Meyer, Bill Davidson, Doug Ingamells, Jerry, 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.

Our possessions have been the focus for us as of late. We have so many of them; some we inherited from our parents as mementos from them in their lives as we grew up with them, and some from their lives when they grew up with our grandparents. These hold many memories for us, and some we perhaps do not even know the story of any more, just that somehow they were important to our ancestors. Perhaps within those, is an old family Bible, some-



thing that has taken on special meaning for families, records have been kept in them, of births, and baptisms, and passings. Some show their importance to the family, wrinkled pages, folded over corners of pages where special scripture pieces are located, some stained with jelly from

being read on an Easter Sunday during breakfast. But they were the treasured word of God for our families and speak the language of God to us. This is the language of our faith, what it was that we heard, and brought us close to God, and can still do this for us. We may never realize which week it is going to be, when the piece of scripture that is read has special meaning for us, takes us by surprise, and returns us to a time when this was being read around the table of our family. This can then be a piece of what we leave behind with our own families, as we pull the family Bible off the shelf when we are together and read a short piece, that may have meaning for our children or our children's children at some point in the future. This is the most important treasure that we leave them, along with that yo-yo from our youth, that they will wonder what it was for. This is the treasure of our life, not to be kept, but shared.

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

Minister Charlie

## Back-to-School items needed for Lighthouse



Lighthouse's annual back-to-school program once again needs your support. Last August, the program provided hundreds of needy children with backpacks, school supplies and gift cards. These children were able to start the new school year with a special feeling that comes with having new clothing and a new backpack filled with supplies.



If you are able, please bring these items to church, which will be donated to Lighthouse (all items must be new):

- |                           |                               |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Backpacks*                | Markers*                      |
| 3-Ring binders*           | Colored pencils*              |
| Lunch bags / boxes*       | Pens (red, blue, black)       |
| 8-Tab dividers*           | Pencils                       |
| 3x5 Index cards*          | Crayons                       |
| Calculators*              | Highlighters                  |
| Composition notebooks*    | Notebook paper                |
| Glue sticks*              | Duo-tang pocket folders       |
| Erasers*                  | 3-hole punch (fits in binder) |
| Pencil pouches/boxes*     | Spiral notebooks              |
| Sharpeners (desk/locker)* | Rulers                        |
| Scissors*                 |                               |

*Items marked with a \* indicates those that are always in short supply.*

In addition, gift cards are needed. It is Lighthouse's goal to supply each child with a gift card to purchase new shoes or a new outfit to start the 2016-17 school year:

Gift cards needed - \$20, \$25, \$30:

Meijer • Kohl's • Target • Kmart • Wal-Mart • Payless

Thank you in advance for your support of this worthwhile cause!

## ***Please bring these items to church***

Once again this year, we'll be assembling care kits for those in need. Please bring bath towels (at least 20" x40"), individually packaged bars of soap, individually wrapped toothbrushes, nail clippers and combs. We'll assemble these kits on September 11, so please drop off these items on or before this date. Items can be placed in the fellowship hall.

## ***God's Work, Our Hands: Service Day, Sept. 11***

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. The suggested date for the 2016 dedicated day of service is Sunday, Sept. 11. Mark your calendars today! If your congregation cannot participate on this date, please consider another day.

This year's dedicated day of service will also mark the 15-year anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States.

As you continue to share God's love with your neighbors, whether it is preparing and delivering meals to people and families rendered homeless or cleaning your neighborhood parks, consider thanking and holding in prayer the emergency responders in your area as part of your service.

*"The world can be a dangerous place. But there are some who, when disaster strikes, run toward the danger. These are the first responders, firefighters, police and EMTs, who live out their baptismal vocation in service to their communities in times of intense need. They do God's work with their hands."*

– ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

**After the service on September 11, we'll be assembling care kits. Please bring in bath towels( at least 20 x 40), bars of soap, toothbrushes, nail clippers, combs. Please bring in these item ahead of time and place in the fellowship hall so they're ready for the kits on September 11.**

## ***Healing Service on August 21***

**August 21st will be a special Worship Service at Gloria Dei. We will begin our service normally, but then transition over to a "Healing Service" to help mend us in our often broken lives. We will have a chance for personal forgiveness, and blessing, and anointing. I hope that this is a very special service for all those gathered and that this will help us to feel the hope of God given to us.**

Blessings,  
Charlie

## ***ELCA introduces second phase of future directions initiative***

CHICAGO – Continuing the conversation on its future priorities, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) invites members to participate in the second phase of "Called Forward Together in Christ," an initiative that asks members to consider the kind of church God is calling the ELCA to become.

A paper released July 26 shares key messages discovered through conversations across the ELCA during the first phase of the process. Members are being asked to provide feedback on the findings that emerged. The deadline for submissions is Sept. 9. The paper is available at [ELCA.org/future](http://ELCA.org/future).

In the paper's preface, the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the ELCA, said the 500th anniversary of the Reformation "provides a powerful focal point for reaffirming who we are as a Lutheran church and understanding what God is calling this church to be in its ongoing reformation."

Introduced in April, "Called Forward Together in Christ," is led by Eaton, endorsed by the ELCA Church Council and is in collaboration with the ELCA Conference of Bishops.

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.

## ***ELCA members to gather in New Orleans for 2016 Churchwide Assembly***

CHICAGO – Members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) will gather Aug. 8-13 in assembly at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. Meeting under the theme "Freed and Renewed in Christ: 500 Years of God's Grace in Action," the assembly's business will include preparations for observing the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017.

The assembly – the highest legislative body of the ELCA – will be comprised of 980 voting members serving on behalf of the 3.7 million members of the ELCA. The ELCA's 65 synods elect voting members to serve at churchwide assemblies.

"Churchwide assemblies are a combination of legislative sessions, worship, Bible study, theological reflection and fellowship," said the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, ELCA presiding bishop. "We deliberate and discuss and vote. Some would say that it is a messy way to do the work of the church, but [it] is a wonderfully open process."

As part of planning for the Reformation observance, non-voting members are invited to attend the Grace Gathering, Aug. 10-13. Participants will experience the assembly proceedings and also prepare for 500th anniversary observances within their congregations and synods. "God's Grace in Action Afternoon" will offer experiential learning on several topics to inspire participants to take action back home, including: Music, Justice and Peace; From the Doctrine of Discovery to #BlackLivesMatter; Human Trafficking; Care of Creation; and Food Security.

"Often members of congregations are not aware of the scope of the wider church," said Eaton. The Grace Gathering will give even more of our people the opportunity to see the whole church at work. We can do a lot more together than we can do separately. And, close to 2,000 Lutherans singing is a heavenly sound." Read more at [www.ELCA.org](http://www.ELCA.org)

# ***ELCA presiding bishop issues statement on police shootings***

CHICAGO – The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), has released a statement in response to the shootings in Baton Rouge, La., and Dallas that killed eight police officers.

Eaton's statement follows:

*My soul is bereft of peace: I have forgotten what happiness is.* (Lamentations 3:17)

Too often in the past months we have been stunned by violence. Last Sunday in Baton Rouge, La., and earlier this month in Dallas, police were the target. Many in our congregations serve in law enforcement. These are our brothers and sisters, children of God who dedicate their lives to keeping our communities safe, who risk their lives for strangers.

Acts of violence, at home and abroad, are all too frequent. Each is evidence of a broken world. Lutherans understand this and believe that the state has the authority and obligation to protect its citizens. Good government and peace are among the things we ask for when we pray "Give us today our daily bread."

Not all citizens have the same experience with law enforcement. We are working on that as a nation and a church. But the targeting and assassination of police officers is a threat to all of us. Nothing is solved by this violence.

Working in law enforcement is an honorable way to live one's baptismal vocation. Many of us know police who are members of our congregations. They serve with dedication to the common good even at the risk of their lives. Police and other first responders see the best and the worst of human nature, and they do that on your behalf and mine.

Officers killed in the line of duty leave behind families, comrades and friends. We continue to hold those who mourn in our prayers. But a little bit of us has died too. "If one member suffers, all suffer together" (1 Corinthians 12:26).

Although broken, our world is also a redeemed one. God's answer to hatred and violence is the love and life revealed in the death and resurrection of Jesus. In Christ, God reconciles the world to God's self. We are called to that ministry of healing and reconciliation in our hearts, in our homes and in our communities. God is ever faithful. We are held as one people in God's love and that love will never let us go.

But this I call to mind, and therefore have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning ... . (Lamentations 3:21-23)

In Christ's peace,



Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

# ***DeiTimer Calendar: August 2016***

Thursday, Aug. 11 7:00 PM Council Meeting  
Sunday, Aug. 14 10:30 AM Morning Worship with Holy Communion  
Sunday, Aug. 21 10:30 AM Morning Worship with Holy Communion  
*Newsletter Deadline Healing Service*  
Sunday, Aug. 28 10:30 AM Morning Worship with Holy Communion

## ***August Worship Assistants***

	<u>August 14</u>	<u>August 21</u>	<u>August 28</u>
<b>Asst Min</b>	Gene Steensma	Gene Steensma	Chris Danielseon
<b>Lector</b>	Dorothy Chilkott	Linda Nelson	Ray Lucas
<b>Greeter</b>	Dorothy Chilkott	NEEDED!	Bonnie Pennybacker
<b>Sacristan</b>	Linda Nelson	Sharon Cook	Terry Rajala
<b>Coffee Hr</b>	Gene Steensma	Bonnie & Alice	Rick & Terry

## ***August BirthDeis***

Evelyn Morris, Aug. 1	Mat Zurlinden, Aug. 14
Lauren Brill, Aug. 12	Warren Bogen, Aug. 20
Gretchen Chilkott, Aug. 13	Gary Andrachick, Aug. 23

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

