

# DeiMinder

89 Years of Celebrating the Glory of God • Mid-September 2016 Newsletter



Evangelical  
Lutheran  
Church in America

God's work.  
Our hands.



*We thank all who donated supplies and helped assemble care kits!  
Gloria Dei assembled over 45 kits this year.*

**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...***

Please remember in prayer all those who are sick, hospitalized, homebound, or recovering - 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, Victor DiRita, Teresa VanderPerrin, Margie Vantongeren, Roxie Alfsen, Marie Niedzwiecki, Patty Bohnke, David Kangas, Roger Teply, Mary Lou Barrie, Kathy Meyer, Bill Davidson, Doug Ingamells, Jerry, Dennis Hurd, Victor DiRita, Bill McCabe the family of Rhonda Chilkott, 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.

One focus for the Sunday just past, was that of people who had lost something of value in their lives, and the event of seeking until that precious valuable was found. We probably have not lost a sheep like they had, but in fact, what is it that you have lost in your life, that is really valuable, so much so that you spent all day trying to figure out just where it is, relocate it? Often there are intangible things that we have lost in our lives that we know we cannot find again, but even those, often people, we can find again in our memories of our life with them and what we have experienced together that is so much a part of our life story. Jesus, we suspect, does not want us to gain the perseverance to find a lost sheep or coin in our lives, so what does Jesus tell us about the seeking done by him, and the Spirit? When we find ourselves a bit lost, needing to be found in our lives, do we ever consider that Jesus is always seeking us, and wanting to find us and perseveres in the search for us? When we finally find ourselves turned back around, do we ever sit down, and realize who it is that has found us and done this magic in our lives? Can we also be the body of Christ as the finder of those who are lost around us, wanting to be found, but not even knowing what the problem in their lives is due to? We, found and loved, can return this love into the world for Jesus, as we pursue the work he has left us as his followers. Let us seek not lost coins, but the lost who are all around us, wandering about the world, in that daze we all know.



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

## Can you bring items for Lighthouse?

Lighthouse of Oakland County is always in need of items, including food, baby items, personal care and other household goods. When you're out shopping, consider purchasing some extra items to help those in need. Items for donation can be placed in the baskets in the narthex.



### Pantry

Boxed potatoes  
Canned food  
Cold & hot cereals  
Dry milk  
Dry pasta  
Mac & cheese  
Peanut butter  
Jelly  
Spaghetti sauce  
Rice  
Tuna fish

### Babies

Baby food (jars)  
Baby shampoo, soap, lotion  
Baby wipes  
Blankets  
Clothing  
Crip sheets  
Diapers  
Formula  
Pull-Ups  
Teething toys

### Personal

Band-aids  
Combs & brushes  
Deodorant  
Disposable razors  
Feminine products  
Kleenex  
Make-up  
Shampoo & soap  
Toothpaste  
Toothbrushes  
Denture paste  
Depends

### Other

Towels  
Rugs  
Sheets  
Blankets  
Trash bags  
Laundry detergent  
Pots & pans  
Shower curtains & rods  
Batteries  
Gas gift cards  
Grocery gift cards  
Phone gift cards  
School supplies  
School uniforms

## Bible Study has restarted for the fall!

Come to church early on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. and join our Bible Study. All are welcome to attend!



## Mostly About People

*Congratulations to Scott and Tara Johnson on the birth of their daughter, Ashtyn Olivia on August 16! Ashtyn weighed in at 7 lbs., 7 oz., and was 20 inches long. Mom and baby are doing well. Ashtyn was welcomed home by big brother Aiden ..... We thank everyone who donated items for the care kit project for "God's Work. Our Hands" Day, and all those who helped assemble the kits on September 11! We assembled over 45 kits, and thank Minister Charlie for organizing the effort. .... Volunteers are needed for coffee hour hosts for many upcoming Sundays; if you are able to serve, please sign the sheet in the fellowship hall.*

**GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH**

# ***Back to School Prayer***

***God of wisdom and might,  
we praise you for the wonder of our being,  
for mind, body and spirit.***

***Be with our children as they begin  
a new school year.***

***Bless them and their teachers and staff.***

***Give the strength and grace as their bodies grow;  
wisdom and knowledge to their minds  
as they search for understanding;  
and peace and zeal to their hearts.***

***We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.***

***Amen***

## ***ELCA members plan for “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday***

CHICAGO – In affirmation of a church that boldly participates in what God is up to in this world, members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) will gather together Sept. 11 for "God's work. Our hands." Sunday.

On this dedicated day of service, members of all ages will participate in a multitude of service projects, building on the work they do in their communities every day. Activities include cleaning beaches and parks, assembling school kits and hygiene bags, making sleeping mats for the homeless, collecting and delivering items to local food pantries and helping with home repairs and yard care.

The 2016 "God's work. Our hands." Sunday also marks the 15-year anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States. Many congregations' service projects will be in appreciation for the first responders in their communities.

At Hope Lutheran Church in Reno, Texas, volunteers will host a chili dinner for local police and fire departments, as well as EMTs and public works personnel and their families.

"We are protected by a five-member police department, a volunteer fire department and a dedicated public works department," said Connie Morrow, a member of Hope Lutheran who helped organize the service project. "We feel truly blessed to have these brave men and women there when we need them, by placing themselves in harm's way for us when necessary. We may be small town, but they are definitely big hearted. Our dinner is only a small token of the gratitude and admiration we have for them. They are truly doing God's work with their hands every day."

Other service projects for first responders include washing police cars and fire engines and delivering meals, baked goods and thank-you cards.

## ***ELCA Churchwide Assembly addresses human rights concerns in Israel and Palestine***

CHICAGO (Sept. 8, 2016) – Voting members of the 2016 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Churchwide Assembly in New Orleans Aug. 8-13 approved two memorials that address concerns over human rights in Israel and Palestine. The assembly also affirmed the ELCA's inter-religious partnerships and efforts to address anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and other forms of hatred based on religion and reaffirmed actions of previous assemblies regarding responsible investment in Israel-Palestine.

Through the first action – "Peace with Justice in the Holy Land" – the assembly reaffirmed the commitment of the ELCA to continue its awareness-building, accompaniment and advocacy for a peaceful resolution of the Israel and Palestine conflict, as well as seeking ways to support Palestinians and Israelis in restorative-justice dialogue.

The memorial also called for assisting the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) and other Christians to sustain their endangered presence in the Holy Land and promoting the economic empowerment of Palestinians, including through investment, prayer for the ELCJHL and the work of The Lutheran World Federation Jerusalem program.

The action reaffirmed the need to protect the human rights of Palestinians and Israelis and oppose all violence and actions that discriminate or deny any people their freedom, dignity or human rights.

It also urged the church's members, congregations, synods, agencies and presiding bishop to call on their members of Congress and the administration to require that, to continue receiving U.S. financial and military aid, Israel comply with internationally recognized human rights standards as specified in U.S. law, stop settlement building and the expansion of existing settlements in East Jerusalem and the West Bank, end its occupation of Palestinian territory, and enable an independent Palestinian state.

Dennis Frado, director of the Lutheran Office for World Community, said that these actions "called for greater accountability by the U.S. government on the basis of international human rights standards for Israeli practices in order for Israel to continue to receive foreign and military assistance."

Frado emphasized that these laws apply to all U.S.-aid recipients. "The ELCA has made similar calls for accountability for U.S. aid with respect to the civil war in El Salvador in the late 1980s and early 1990s, as well as signed a letter to Congress in May 2016 concerning military aid and sales to several Middle East nations, including Saudi Arabia and Egypt as well as Israel," he said.

In the second action – "Justice for the Holy Land through Responsible Investment" – the assembly called on the church to reaffirm the actions of the 2005, 2007, 2011 and 2013 ELCA churchwide assemblies regarding responsible investment in Israel-Palestine. The memorial directed the ELCA's corporate social responsibility review team to develop a human rights social criteria investment screen based on the social teachings of the church and on human rights concerns raised in the ELCA Churchwide Strategy for Engagement in Israel and Palestine, adopted by the ELCA Church Council in 2005.

The memorial also encourages ELCA members, congregations, synods, agencies and institutions to increase positive investment in Palestine and other under-resourced areas where human rights abuses materially impact the well-being of all people and to engage in shareholder advocacy in support of human rights.

The ELCA's social criteria investment screens provide a guide for this church with regard to corporate social responsibility. They delineate areas in which the ELCA would like to invest

or refrain from future investing and provide criteria to evaluate the scope of corporate social responsibility work. The social criteria investment screen policy was approved by the ELCA Church Council in 2006 and revised in 2012.

"The Churchwide Assembly voted to develop a human rights social criteria investment screen taking into account the concerns raised in the ELCA Churchwide Strategy for Engagement in Israel and Palestine. It did not vote to divest," said Frado.

The assembly welcomed two guests who brought greetings and shared their respective commitments to partnering with the ELCA and others opposing hatred based on religion and to building peace.

Rabbi David Sandmel, director of interfaith affairs of the Anti-Defamation League, told those gathered, "All of us who are people of faith, who are proud to identify with a particular tradition, must stand together and speak out, to act, and to protect those at home and around the world who suffer because of their religious identity. This is one of the great challenges of our generation, one that we can only address together."

Dr. Sayyid Syeed, national director of the Islamic Society of North America's Office of Interfaith and Community Alliances, commended the ELCA's shared vision of a society where "different religions are working together, and different religions – shoulder to shoulder, hand in hand – are creating and translating our religious ideals of equality, respect, and of peace and justice together." Both guests received a standing ovation and warmly embraced each other.

Sandmel lifted up the ELCA's 1994 "Declaration to the Jewish Community," which repudiated Luther's anti-Judaic diatribes, denounced anti-Semitism, and reached out to Jewish neighbors.

"This declaration serves as the framework for our church's Jewish relations – past, present and future," said Kathryn Lohre, ELCA executive for ecumenical and inter-religious relations. "The actions of the assembly must be understood in relationship to these commitments – as challenging the policies of the government of Israel– and not as an affront to Judaism or the Jewish people. Therefore, we must continue to engage in dialogue seeking mutual understanding and collaboration for the common good."

## ***DeiTimer Calendar***

Sunday, Sept. 18	9:30 AM	Bible Study
	10:30 AM	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
Saturday, Sept. 24	10:00 AM	Transition Team Meeting
Sunday, Sept. 25	9:30 AM	Bible Study
<i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	10:30 AM	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday, Oct. 2	9:30 AM	Bible Study
	10:30 AM	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday, Oct. 9	9:30 AM	Bible Study
	10:30 AM	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
Thursday, Oct. 13	7:00 PM	Council Meeting

## ***Worship Assistants***

	<u>September 18</u>	<u>September 25</u>	<u>October 2</u>
<b>Asst Min</b>	Chris Danielseon	Terry Rajala	Gordy Green
<b>Lector</b>	Sharon Cook	Sally Robertson	Bonnie Pennybacker
<b>Greeter</b>	Bonnie Pennybacker	Bruce and Sally	Bonnie Pennybacker
<b>Sacristan</b>	Terry Rajala	Sharon Cook	NEEDED!
<b>Coffee Hr</b>	NEEDED!	Bonnie & Alice	NEEDED!

## ***September BirthDeis***

Sally Robertson, Sept. 8  
 Aiden Johnson, Sept. 11  
 Terry Rajala, Sept. 11  
 Barbara Robertson, Sept. 15  
 Alice Barrie, Sept. 20  
 Gene Steensma, Sept. 20  
 Lynette Morris, Sept. 26  
 Sharon Cook, Sept. 28  
 Liam Ginman, Sept. 29



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