

DeiMinder

90 Years of Celebrating the Glory of God • April 2017 Newsletter



Holy Week and Easter Schedule

Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 9, 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Worship

Thursday, April 13, 6 p.m.

Good Friday Worship

Friday, April 14, 6 p.m.

Easter Sunday Worship

Sunday, April 16, 10:30 a.m.

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Sharing the peace of God's Grace with the World

2600 Pontiac Road • Auburn Hills, Michigan 48326

Office Phone: 248•373•5222 • Office Email: office@gloriadei.cc

Online: www.gloriadei.cc • Facebook: www.facebook.com/gloriadeiluthchurch

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

We remember in prayer...



Please remember in prayer all those who are sick, hospitalized, homebound, or recovering – The family of Robert Jackovatz, family of Chris Amador, Tabitha Bedker, Sharon Cook, Bonnie Pennybacker, Helen Englund, 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 Vantongerren, Roxie Alfson, Marie Niedzwiecki, Patty Bohnke, David Kangas, Roger Teply, Tracy Vandecar, Mary Lou Barrie, Bill Davidson, Doug Ingamells, Jerry, Dennis Hurd, Victor DiRita, Bill McCabe, Therese Dean, Kenneth Reese, Marty McNabb, Walter Hermann.

Join us for Easter Sunday breakfast!



There will be a special Easter Sunday breakfast on April 16 at 9:15 a.m. The men of Gloria Dei will be hosting the breakfast, and a free-will offering will be collected. Hope to see you there! (Men who are interested in assisting with the breakfast, please be at church at 8:30 a.m. to help prepare). Before April 16, contact Gene Steensma to inquire about what you can bring or how you can assist with the breakfast.

From Minister Charlie

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

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

We have entered our season of Lent, where we take out some time to contemplate where we are in our faith lives, and ponder what Jesus has done for us in the events we are heading toward.

The passages that we are going through, guide us through some specific stories of Jesus in his life and ministry time. These stories can help us to see how he worked in many ways, to develop a special relationship with some along the way, that we too can grasp and be a part of in our relationship with Jesus. We watch while Jesus is tempted, meets a woman at a well, and heals a blind man. These are all things that amaze us with the power that Jesus has, to do all of this on this earth that he has come down to, and dwell with us, and yet also deal with these same issues that he knows that we have to deal with in our lives. He inspires faith in the others that see these works of his, and our faith as well, as we re-hear these stories that we often know so well. We let this strengthen our trust in Jesus while hearing what he can do, and realizing what he has done for us already. Strengthened by all of this, we can become like so many of these people that we hear of, a witness to his love and power, and act as a disciple of his in our walking about in this world. We do not all have to do great things to be good disciples, we just have to trust that we are followed by the Holy Spirit, and that just our kind smiles, can show love and hope to some others who have lost this in their lives. We can feed the hungry in small, seemingly insignificant ways, that are never insignificant to those that benefit from that.

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



Join us for Bible Study!

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





Roxanne honored at luncheon

This year's Gloria Dei Woman of the Year is Roxanne Alfsen, who was honored at the 29th annual Katy York Honoring Women Luncheon on March 18. She was chosen for her service to Christ, our congregation and the community.

Roxanne has served in many capacities at Gloria Dei over the years, including Sunday school teacher, congregation council trustee and council secretary. She volunteered with the vacation Bible school; member counseling; sending cards to the sick and hospitalized; served as greeter, lector, coffee hour host, communion assistant, altar guild member, flower arranging, palm folding; helped with clean-up days, luncheons, organizing church records, rummage sales, auctions and more.

Major projects she led include construction the Glory Garden (in which she and her sister Faye Gorecki purchased the gazebo in memory of their parents). Funds were raised for the garden through the sale of engraved bricks for a pathway around the garden. She and Richard have helped to maintain the garden and landscaping since its beginning 15+ years ago. Another project was organizing Gloria Dei's confirmation photos going back to 1929; she researched the names and framed all of the pictures for display in our church. She also organized the congregational cookbook which was printed and sold as a fundraiser. She was a den mother for Scott's Cub Scout den and helped him earn his "God and Me" award.

Roxanne was a school psychologist for Rochester Community Schools from 1974-2009. She worked with special needs children of all ages, including the preschool program and 18-26 year old program. Outside of work, she volunteered with many activities with her students, including fundraisers, extracurricular physical fitness, and chaperoning proms. Congratulations, Roxanne!

In Memoriam: Robert Jackovatz 1942-2017



Robert Jackovatz was born in Flint, Michigan, and served as a Captain during two tours in Vietnam. He was a deep sea diver and bomb detonator; he traveled on nuclear submarines and was part of a special ops unit. During the war, he was captured and held in a Hanoi prison where he was tortured and starved. He was able to escape and later went back into combat.

Robert returned from the war with shrapnel wounds which was still embedded in his body and lived with daily pain. Despite these setbacks, he had 3 successful businesses, in real estate, printing and deep sea diver.

Robert died on March 1 following a tragic car accident in which his own car ran over him; he was hospitalized for 10 days following the accident but did not wake up.

We extend our Christian sympathy to Robert's wife Elizabeth and his 3 sons. Please keep the entire Jackovatz family and all those who mourn in your prayers.

Palm folding on Saturday, April 8

We will be folding palm crosses for Palm Sunday on Saturday, April 8 at 10 a.m. If you've never done it before, seasoned pros will be on hand to assist you -- it's easy and fun!



Coffee hour hosts and greeters are needed for many upcoming Sundays!

Lutheran-Catholic joint observance of 500th anniversary of the Reformation

CHICAGO (March 6, 2017) – In the preeminent U.S. observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation (Oct. 31, 2017), the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Conference of Bishops' Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Affairs Committee and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs Committee gathered March 2 at The Lutheran Center in Chicago for a Lutheran-Catholic service of Common Prayer. The service followed the Common Prayer liturgical guide, developed for the joint ecumenical commemoration held in Lund, Sweden, on Oct. 31, 2016, co-hosted by The Lutheran World Federation and the Roman Catholic Church.

"For 500 years Lutherans and Catholics have been divided into two camps, each believing that the other was not only



wrong but alien," said the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the ELCA. "Yet we know that people are yearning for reconciliation. The Lutheran-Roman Catholic joint prayer service, one of the fruits of 50 years of dialogue between our two churches, was a beautiful celebration of what we hold in common. We could see each other again as brothers and sisters in Christ. I pray that our increasing unity is a witness to our culture."

During the service – in a significant moment that underscored 50 years of Lutheran-Catholic dialogue – a joint statement was presented and signed by the committee chairs, **the Rev. Donald P. Kreiss, bishop of the ELCA Southeast Michigan Synod**; and the Most Rev. Mitchell T. Rozanski, bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Springfield, Mass.

The statement mirrored the joint statement signed by Pope Francis and the Rt. Rev. Dr. Munib Younan, bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and Lutheran World Federation president, during the service in Lund.

"In joyful gratitude to God, we are gathered today to encourage one another in the ministry of reconciliation to which Christ has called us," the statement reads. "Recalling the wisdom of the international Lutheran-Catholic dialogue report, 'From Conflict to Communion,' we affirm that 'while the past itself is unalterable, the presence of the past in the present is alterable. In view of 2017, the point is not to tell a different history, but to tell that history differently.' So, while the past cannot be changed, we rejoice in the healing of memories we have already seen, and we ask God's guidance toward a transformed future, renewed in our relations to one another and in our witness to the world."

"It's a wonderful, concise statement of where we are now and acknowledging where we've come from, including [the service in] Lund," said Bishop Denis J. Madden, auxiliary bishop for the Catholic Archdiocese of Baltimore. "I think the whole movement of Lutheran-Catholic reconciliation is moving forward in a good way. The Holy Father is anxious that we move forward."

"Our desire to share at the table together is always felt at our meetings," said Madden. "It's what we all long for – to share at the table together. More and more, the pain of separation is becoming a lived reality in all life. We see it in families, and we see it in the leadership of both churches."

The Rev. William O. Gafkjen, bishop of the ELCA Indiana-Kentucky Synod and chair of the ELCA Conference of Bishops, described the service as "important and exciting historically because of five centuries of separation – especially after the last 50 years – to be coming so close together. We are still honest about our differences, but celebrating what we share is a powerful witness to the world."

The service also included the reading of five commitments found in "From Conflict to Communion," a Lutheran-Catholic dialogue report. A candle was lit after the reading of each commitment.

"It's so important that we've had these dialogues but that also we take this time to pray together," said Rozanski, "We're really, in coming together in prayer, signaling that we're coming together in Christ. At a time when everyone seems to be shouting past one another, it's important to model that we can talk about our differences in a civil way."

"Today can be the beginning of a new chapter of that relationship, where we can join together, celebrating all that we have in common, which is so much greater than what divides us, and figure out how then we are called to go out into the communities where we live and preach the gospel," said Kreiss.

ELCA Conference of Bishops targets developing leaders, congregational growth

ITASCA (March 16, 2017) – The Conference of Bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) emphasized leadership development and congregational growth when it met here March 2-7.

The conference is an advisory body of the ELCA that includes 65 synod bishops, the presiding bishop and secretary. The Rev. William O. Gafkjen, bishop of the ELCA Indiana-Kentucky Synod, is conference chair.

In her report to the conference, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton highlighted major initiatives happening across the church, including "Called Forward Together in Christ: Strategic Directions 2025." Finalized by the ELCA Church Council in November 2016, the document provides a framework for shared leadership across the ELCA to attain common goals and meet challenges the church may face in the future.

"Leadership and congregations need to be our primary emphasis as we begin the 'Called Forward Together' in Christ process," said Eaton.

The bishop also spoke of another focus around leadership development that was introduced last fall. "Bishop Eaton's Leadership Initiative" seeks to inspire members to encourage gifted people in their congregations and communities to consider a call to the ministry of the gospel.

"We committed to lifting up leadership and cultivating vital congregations as the two highest priorities for our attention and action as a conference for the foreseeable future," said Gafkjen.

Recalling the conference's meeting theme, "The Harvest is Plentiful," Gafkjen said the bishops discussed the priorities of "Called Forward Together in Christ" and the "Resolution on Call Process," a motion from the 2016 Churchwide Assembly that encourages the Conference of Bishops to continue facilitating and reforming the call process for congregations and institutions in changing contexts.

"We unanimously agreed to issue a call to prayer that the Lord of the harvest will send out laborers into the harvest that beckons for more ministers and leaders of various sorts," said Gafkjen. "We also committed to establishing a working group that will collaborate with seminary leaders and others over the next two years to effectively address this profound need, not only for more rostered ministers and lay leaders, but faithful, wise and courageous leaders who will provide the forms of ministry and leadership needed for this new day in which we find ourselves."

This engagement with seminary leaders includes:

- inviting seminary presidents and leaders to attend the Conference of Bishops meetings for both formal and informal conversations to more effectively serve together to support the proclamation of Jesus Christ in the coming years;
- focusing on ways to work together to invite people into the vocation of church leadership and better equip people called to serve in mission fields;
- developing ways to recruit and create a culture of call in our church that includes making available to the Conference of Bishops data on how we are doing at each of our seminaries;
- exploring global models of catechists and evangelists as possible ways to supplement the work of rostered ministers to better serve this church's mission;
- sharing encouraging stories that highlight bright spots and best practices in this shared work by synods and seminaries;
- providing the Conference of Bishops with the financial challenges of the ELCA seminary system by sharing synod investments, such as scholarships and other funds in addition to budgeted seminary support, and information found in the comparative audit of the seminaries; and
- affirming the bishops' seminary visits as an integral part of relationship building, which would include more interactions with faculty and administration.
- "God is doing new things among, through and around us," said Gafkjen. "It's great to be in partnership with so many folks across this church who are willing to walk and work together in trust and hope toward God's emerging future."
- In other business, the ELCA Conference of Bishops:
 - received a report from the director of Mission Support and updates on the ELCA Mission Support experiments among five synods. Mission Support is the financial offering from congregations shared with synods and the churchwide organization. The synod experiments are seeking efficient and effective ways to increase local accountability and Mission Support;
 - received an update on Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA. To date the campaign has received \$113.4 million in gifts and commitments. This amount represents 57.3 percent of the \$198 million goal by Jan. 31, 2019;
 - received an update on AMMPARO's synod and congregational engagement. AMMPARO is the ELCA's strategy to Accompany Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities;
 - received an update on Portico Benefits Services from the Rev. Jeffrey Thiemann, Portico president and CEO;
 - discussed the challenges in understanding and addressing multicultural diversity as an important aspect of the gospel witness; and
 - received reports from the ELCA vice president, treasurer and secretary and updates from the Conference of Bishops' various committees.

DeiTimer Calendar

Sunday, April 2	9:30 AM	Bible Study
	10:30 AM	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
	12:00 PM	Choir Practice
Saturday, April 8	10:00 AM	Palm Folding
Sunday, April 9	9:30 AM	Bible Study
	10:30 AM	Palm Sunday Service & Holy Communion
	12:00 PM	Choir Practice
Thurs., April 13	6:00 PM	Maundy Thursday Worship Service
Friday, April 14	6:00 PM	Good Friday Worship Service
Sunday, April 16	8:30 AM	Breakfast preparation
	9:15 AM	Easter breakfast served by Gloria Dei men
	10:30 AM	Easter Sunday Service & Holy Communion
Sunday, April 23	9:30 AM	Bible Study
	10:30 AM	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday, April 30	9:30 AM	Bible Study
	10:30 AM	Morning Worship with Holy Communion

Sunday Helpers

	<u>Assist Minister</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Sacristan</u>	<u>Coffee Hr.</u>
April 2	Gordy Green	Ray Lucas	Paula Vidlund	Sharon Cook	Paula Vidlund
April 9	Gene Steensma	Helen Englund	NEEDED!	Terry Rajala	Bonne & Alice
MnTh 4/13	Terry Rajala	Gene Steensma		Linda Nelson	
GdFri 4/14	Chris Danielson			Sharon Cook	
April 16	Gene Steensma	Bruce Robertson	NEEDED!	Terry Rajala	NEEDED!
April 23	Terry Rajala	Charlie Martin	NEEDED!	Linda Nelson	NEEDED!
April 30	Chris Danielson	NEEDED!	NEEDED!	Sharon Cook	Karl & Donna

BirthDeis

Scott Johnson, April 2
Linda Nelson, April 14

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



Gloria Dei participates in recycling and hopes you do too! When you are finished reading the DeiMinder, please give it to someone who might also enjoy reading it, or recycle it. Thank you!