

# DeiMinder

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

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Join us for candlelight

*Christmas Eve Worship*

Sunday, December 24 at 4 p.m.

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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.***  
***Sunday Bible Study: 9:30 a.m.***

*Welcome to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church! You're invited to join us in worship each Sunday at 10:30 AM.*



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

Please remember in prayer all those who are sick, hospitalized, homebound, or recovering, including Sharon Cook, Lynne Danielson, Donna Williamson, Sally Mickel, Aaron Carlson, Gena McGree, Mark Carlson, Donna Polasek, Judy Coller, Jeff and Faye Gorecki, Andrew Cook, , Danny Holmquist, Victor DiRita, Teresa VanderPerrin, Margie Vantongerren, Roxie Alfsen, Marie Niedzwiecki, Patty Bohneke, David Kangas, Roger Teply, Bill Davidson, Doug Ingamells, Jerry, Dennis Hurd, Victor DiRita, Therese Dean, Kenneth Reese, Marty McNabb, Vera Martin, Roxie Macabb, Tracy Vandecar, Bonnie Pennybacker, Emily Steensma, Helen Englund, Alice Barrie, the family of Doctor Robert Steensma, the family of Robert Jackovatz, the family and friends of Walter Hermann, the Lay family, and the Dean family.

## ***Sunday Bible Study***

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

## ***The Mitten Tree***

The mitten trees are now up in the narthex, and are waiting for handmade or store-bought mittens, hats and gloves, which will be distributed to local children in need.



## ***From Minister Charlie***

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

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

We have come through another Church year, which we ended with the Glory of Christ the King, and now we get set to prepare room for Jesus in our lives once again at Christmas. Our Advent season which is a time for waiting is upon us, but as we had learned in our lesson from Jesus a few weeks ago, this is quite possibly what this entire life of ours is really about, a time of waiting for us, for which we must be prepared to endure. We let these messages for Advent come into our hearts as we take them in, during some quiet time of reflection of what Jesus has provided to all of us living in God's world. If we reflect back on our year, we have so many things and times to be thankful for. We have gone through this year, the ninetieth of this Church's existence, sharing each other's company and being blessed to worship together. We came with the pantry supplies that we have given to Lighthouse to spread with our love to those who are in great need in our area. We put together care packages, forty-four of them, for people trying to begin to put their lives back together after disasters, which we have seen so many people have to deal with this past year. We shared that ninetieth anniversary with many others, some whom we have not been with for years. As I said to you on that day, we have the faith that God is with us wherever we go, and that the spirit we share with each other is with us as well. No matter where we go next, our shared spirit will never leave us, our united faith will always remain, we will be connected with each other for all time. Let us continue, each of us as we are able, to continue to provide for lighthouse, the gifts that we have always blessed this community with, as our legacy. Let us shine the light of Christ into the hearts and lives of all who we encounter in the world, with our smiles, and our attitudes of spreading God's love.

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



## **Gloria Dei Celebrates 90 Years**

The congregation of Gloria Dei celebrated its 90th anniversary with a special worship service on Sunday, November 5, followed by a luncheon at the Hilton Suites of Auburn Hills. In attendance was former Pastor Charles Colberg and his wife Dodee; Pastor Sean Eubank of the Southeast Michigan Synod; and many former members and friends of the congregation. Approximately 100 people attended the luncheon program. We thank everyone who assisted with the event, including Lynette Morris, Scott Johnson, LLM Charlie Martin and Gene Steensma. We give thanks to God for 90 years of congregational life as St. John's/Gloria Dei!

## **Share your faith with your grandchildren**

### **Sparkhouse Family - a new material from Augsburg Fortress**

Augsburg has spent a lot of time developing this material, specifically for home use, that potentially grandparents can use to share their faith with the younger generations of their family. This can be ordered on-line from Augsburg Fortress (part of 1517 media) and searching under Sparkhouse Family, where they have various age based material for purchase. -Minister Charlie



**Mostly about people** *There will be a morning worship service at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 24, followed by a candlelight Christmas Eve service at 4 p.m. Join us for the final Christmas Eve worship service at Gloria Dei! ..... Lectors, greeters and coffee hour hosts are needed for several upcoming Sundays; if you are able to serve, please sign up in the fellowship hall ..... You can still donate to Lutheran Disaster Relief, which will help those impacted by recent Hurricanes – make your check payable to Gloria Dei, and make a note on the offering envelope, “Lutheran Disaster Relief” ..... Boxes of offering envelopes have not been ordered for 2018 because of the pending closure of Gloria Dei. Instead, please use the generic offering envelopes in the pew or front entranceway. Be sure to include your name on the outside of the envelope.*

# Christmas Poinsettias

Poinsettias decorating the chancel on Christmas Eve has been one of the favorite traditions of members and friends of Gloria Dei for decades. Once again this year, we are offering poinsettias for you to purchase in memory or in honor of loved ones, which will be used to decorate the chancel. Following the worship service on Christmas Eve, you may take your plant(s) home to enjoy.



The cost is \$7.00 per plant; orders must be placed by Sunday, December 10. Please make checks payable to Gloria Dei and indicate "poinsettia" in the memo section. You can place your order and payment in the offering plate on Sunday, or mail back to the church.

Thank you for your order!  
The Gloria Dei Altar Guild

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## Gloria Dei Poinsettia Order Form

Orders due Sunday, December 10

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of plants: \_\_\_\_\_ Total amount (\$7 per plant): \_\_\_\_\_

**Example** Memory Honor of: Jack and Gunda Frost

Plant #1 Memory Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Plant #2 Memory Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Plant #3 Memory Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Please clip this order form out on the line and place in the offering plate with your payment on Sunday or mail back to the church. Thank you!



## **Closing Update**

The Gloria Dei Transition Team will be presenting a closure plan to the congregation for approval at a special meeting on Sunday, December 17 at noon. This will include a recommendation for a final worship date of Sunday, January 21, 2018, and a plan for disposition of the remaining assets of Gloria Dei. All members are strongly encouraged to attend.

If the closure date is approved by the congregation, Bishop Donald Kreiss of the Southeast Michigan Synod will be at worship on January 21 for a deconsecration ceremony.

This issue of the DeiMinder you are reading will be the final edition. The Gloria Dei newsletter has chronicled the happenings of our congregation for generations. We thank everyone over the years who has contributed, edited, printed, mailed or in some other way helped with getting it in the hands of our members!

## **On Reformation anniversary, Lutherans bridge divides with other faiths**

By Adelle M. Banks | October 31, 2017

*500th anniversary of Reformation at Washington, D.C.'s Lutheran Church of the Reformation.*

WASHINGTON (RNS) — Five centuries to the day when German monk Martin Luther is said to have nailed 95 theses to a church door in Germany, leaders of the largest Lutheran denomination in the U.S. gathered to celebrate how they've bridged divides with Catholics and other faiths. "It is good to be here on this day, the day when they said that Martin Luther posted the 95 theses," said Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at a daylong program Tuesday (Oct. 31) at the Lutheran Church of the Reformation on Capitol Hill.

Though the program was jovial and festive — starting with an impromptu singing of "Jesus Loves Me" — it turned serious as it recalled divides with Catholics and later with Jews, Muslims and others.

Eaton and Catholic Bishop Denis J. Madden, co-chair of the U.S. Lutheran-Catholic Dialogue, sat before some 300 people and spoke of the hopes for deeper relationships between their churches centuries after religious wars killed their ancestors.

Calling each other by their first names after years of working together, the two bishops acknowledged remaining differences over women's ordination and Rome's authority. But

they described worship services and documents that have brought the faiths together even as their work remains unfinished — Catholics and Lutherans do not share the Eucharist, or Communion.

The “Looking Back and Called Forward” event was one of numerous ways Christians across the globe have marked the milestone – from pilgrimages retracing Luther’s steps in Germany to conferences, scholarly talks and hymn festivals featuring Luther’s “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God.”

On Tuesday, the Lutheran World Federation and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity issued a joint statement seeking greater cooperation.

“We recognize that while the past cannot be changed, its influence upon us today can be transformed to become a stimulus for growing communion, and a sign of hope for the world to overcome division and fragmentation,” the statement reads.

Madden, who is auxiliary bishop emeritus of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, noted that Eaton presented him with a porcelain chalice that he keeps on his desk as a sign of their possible future sharing of the Eucharist.

“I think in worshipping together and singing together, praying together – this shows that we are together,” Madden said. “We don’t have that full communion yet but we definitely are on the way.” Over the course of the program, participants stood and joined in a litany of confession that repudiated “Luther’s anti-Judaic diatribes.”

Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner, director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, responded emotionally to the act of repentance, saying, “I found that litany very moving.”

After a pause, he noted the severity of Luther’s words — suggesting the burning of synagogues and the dismembering of rabbis — but turned to the ways Jews and Lutherans have come to share values about inclusion, pluralism and a determination to meet pressing needs, such as helping refugees and children of immigrants who fear deportation.

“Together Lutherans and Jews will fight to protect and defend them,” he said to applause.

Pesner was followed by others who called Lutherans to do more to fight against anti-Muslim prejudice and racial division.

“We all need to act,” said Dr. Ayaz Virji of Dawson, Minn., a Muslim who has gone on a recent educational tour with the Rev. Amanda France, a Lutheran pastor in Bird Island, Minn., to foster understanding about Muslims. “We can’t just pray this away, although prayer is critical; we have to do what we have to do in our communities to make a difference.” Bishop W. Darin Moore of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church urged Lutherans to get to know people who don’t look like them to address gaps in education, economic development and criminal justice.

“Imagine how impactful it would be if more of our members would make the drive across town to build meaningful relationships with one another with the same zeal as we make our mission trips around the world to build new churches,” said Moore.

Though differences remain, the Pew Research Center recently found that most Catholics and Protestants now agree they have more in common than not. In fact, more Protestants reported they believe salvation comes through a mix of faith and good works (52 percent) — the position traditionally held by Catholics — than through “faith alone”

(46 percent). That belief — “sola fide” in Latin — is one of the backbones of Protestant Reformers’ beliefs.

The program also featured a Q&A discussion with Eaton and PBS host Rick Steves, who created a special timed to the Reformation anniversary. The daylong event concluded with a Communion service, during which Madden received a blessing.

At a break in the program, the Rev. Alfred Baca, executive director of the U.S. Catholic bishops’ office on ecumenical and interreligious affairs, said he thought it was wise for the Lutherans to take a broad approach to bridging divides.

“From the experience of the Catholic-Lutheran relationship, of where I’ll say the impossible can become possible ... there’s hope in every other community, every other situation that sometimes seems very dark,” said Baca, who attended with several other USCCB staffers. “I took a lot of hope from this.”

## ***DeiTimer Calendar***

Saturday, Dec. 9	10:30 AM	Transition Team Meeting
Sunday, Dec. 10	9:30 AM	Bible Study
	10:30 AM	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
	Noon	Choir rehearsal
Sunday, Dec. 17	9:30 AM	Bible Study
	10:30 AM	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
	11:30 AM	Choir rehearsal
	Noon	Special meeting of the congregation
Sunday, Dec. 24	9:30 AM	Bible Study
	10:30 AM	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
	Noon	Choir rehearsal
	4:00 PM	Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship
Sunday, Dec. 31	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>
Dec. 10	Chris D.	Barbara R.	Barbara R.	Sharon C.	Barbara R.
Dec. 17	Terry R.	NEEDED!	Paula V.	Linda N.	Paula V.
Dec.24am	Chris D.	Ray Lucas	NEEDED!	Terry R.	Gene S.
Dec.24pm	Gene S.	Austin/Donna S.	NEEDED!	Gene S.	--

## ***BirthDeis***

Richard Jenkins, Dec. 7  
 Nancy Nielsen, Dec. 19  
 Daniellia Blanchard, Dec. 29  
 Carrie Nelson, Dec. 31

