

The Messenger

Where Neighbors Become Family

APRIL 2024 Newsletter



STAY CONNECTED THIS SPRING!

- Bible Study with Denise Marnen-Jirka
Thursdays
- Choir Rehearsals
- Walk in Communion
April 8 1:00pm
- Elizabeth Circle
April 9
- Martha Circle
April 5
- Priscilla Circle
April 4
- Sarah Circle
April 2
- Knit One Purl 2
April 9
- Labor of Love
April 16
- Book Club
April 15



2024 CONFIRMATION

On May 5th at the 10:30 am services we will celebrate the Rite of Confirmation with these young people. Please keep them in your prayers.

Hadley Hodson
Tristan Redman

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

Sunday, April 21

Guest Preacher
David P. Novak

Vice President of Advancement

Executive Director of the Cornerstone Foundation



Special donation envelopes will be available.

David P. Novak joined Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) as Vice President of Advancement and Executive Director of the Cornerstone Foundation in September 2015. Founded in 1867, LSSI is a statewide, non-profit social service agency of the three Illinois synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). LSSI is the largest statewide provider of social services in Illinois and last year served over 63,000 people in communities across Illinois.

Prior to his nonprofit work, David worked as an attorney in private practice in Chicago, specializing in estate planning, and probate. He is a member of the Illinois Bar, receiving his JD degree from DePaul University School of Law. He and his wife Cindy are members of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Naperville.



GIVE 'EM HEAVEN! FROM PT

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

Oh, How Quickly We Forget

We humans sure can easily forget to be grateful, can't we? Well, personally, at least I can say that I can easily and quickly forget to be grateful.

It is April and so I am excited to get back into biking shape. If you're a bicyclist, you know if you know. Those like I am are like addicts to this thing called bicycling. For us cyclists, there is something coming out of winter's cold, slop and snow that gets us bicycling addicts more than a little itchy. We just can't wait to feel spring's warm breeze on our cheeks and feel the rush of adrenaline when we catch that perfect tailwind and the universe falls into this euphoric symmetrical, serendipitous union between nature, your body and the seemingly effortless movement of human and machine...oh the the beautiful silence, the speed, the joy. OK, I'm an addict...forgive me, I will get to my point.

It is April and I'm frustrated. It is raining again. The wet pavement is slippery again. It is cold and windy again. I so want to hop on my bike, but instead my brain is playing this "woe is me" proverbial song. Why isn't it warming up? Why is it raining again? Why? Why? Why? Doesn't God care about me and my fellow bicyclists? Doesn't God know that it is important to start riding again? Biking, after all, is good for my physical and emotional health. This stinks!

Really? Oh, how quickly I have forgotten three years ago. Sure, the spring from three years ago was decent enough to start riding decent rides at the start of April...BUT...there was this little thing called a global pandemic going on.



Three years ago, I was preaching to a camera and not humans. Not fun. Three years ago, I had to think where was my mask before I even left my home. Three years ago, there was a shortage on cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer, face masks, etc. Three years ago, there were so many reasons to complain, but somehow we all adjusted. During that hard season a couple of years ago, even though there were so many serious challenges for health, economy and commerce, we/I were/was more grateful than I/we am/are now. Why? Aren't we humans odd? Shouldn't this pastor have learned to be more grateful? Why did he so quickly forget how hard it was three years ago? Why is he complaining about weather now? Why doesn't he just put on his rain gear and go for a ride anyway? Oh, how quickly we forget.

This month's newsletter article is meant to be a reminder to be grateful. Isn't it wonderful not to wear a mask any more? Isn't it wonderful not to argue about how valid or invalid Covid is anymore? Isn't it wonderful not to go to the Jewel and not find a single pack of paper towels? Isn't it wonderful to go out to a restaurant again and eat inside? Why, oh why, do we forget all the reasons to be grateful so quickly? Why, oh why, did I waste any time thinking about how frustrated I was that it rained for several days in a row? Why wasn't I grateful for all the gardeners and green-thumbed people who love every rain drop that falls and sets their flowers and vegetables in motion?

Why? I guess because it is human nature to forget to be grateful. It is human nature to complain. It is human nature to quickly forget that each day provides so many daily reasons to be grateful and/or reasons to return to complaining. Which will you chose?

I close with lyrics from one of my favorite artists whom I like to quote often...

*Little round planet
In a big universe
Sometimes it looks blessed
Sometimes it looks cursed
Depends on what you look at obviously
But even more it depends on the way that you see*

Bruce Cockburn, "Child of the Wind"

How will you look at this gift called Earth, this gift called today, this gift called home this next month? Will you call it blessed? Will you call it cursed? What are you looking at? How do you see?

Give 'em Heaven! PT

ELIZABETH WALDON

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES



GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

Thank you to all who offered special music or leadership during the month of March, including Sunday & Lenten midweek cantors, Holy Week and Easter: Karissa Campione, Phil King, Matt Klickman, Christina Konieczka, Susan Marek, John Nosko, Jacque Ortegell, Len Potempa, Joyce Robatcek, Sue Scharping, Blessed Notes, Faith Choir, Gloria Dei Bell Choir, and Mercy Rising. Our worship was greatly blessed by your music.

Did you know... Easter is not just a Sunday, it's an entire season.

What is the Easter season?

The season of Easter lasts seven weeks (a "week of weeks"), spanning the 50 days from the Sunday of the Resurrection to Pentecost Sunday (this year, May 19), the day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church (see Acts 2). The season of Easter is intended to be a joyful time for celebrating the presence of the risen Christ in the church. We continue to sing "alleluia" and proclaim that "Christ is risen indeed!" Rejoice with us and be glad in our risen Savior!



DID YOU KNOW?

APRIL CHRISTIAN ACTION

Our April Christian Action Project is to collect donations for PADS. All items must be new. Their urgent needs at this time include the following:

- Sweatpants for men & women, sizes S-3XL
- Sweatshirts for boys & girls, all sizes
- Pull-Ups for boys & girls, sizes 4T & 5T
- Diapers for boys & girls, size 4

Please place donated items in the WELCA bench by the end of April. Thank you.

SERVICE HOSTS



[This Photo](#) by Unknown

You are invited to join our wonderful Service Host teams. Our Service Hosts at 8:30 and 10:30 are the people who greet and help our worshippers as they prepare for worship. It is their smiles and welcoming attitude that makes coming to Gloria Dei a weekly event to look forward to and enjoy. Our Service Hosts greet, give communion and seating information as needed, light and extinguish candles, count those attending the service and invite worshippers to communion in a very friendly way. Please contact Tim Tlusty at 312-550-8547 if you would like to join the 8:30 team or Cathy Nelson at 708-646-7409 if you would like to be a Service Host at the 10:30 service.

We are looking for families who would like to serve together. Our motto is “Where neighbors become family.” We are a family, so why not have families serve together.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Mark your calendars for July 15-July 19.

Volunteers may sign up at the Welcome Desk in the Gathering Area. We are currently working on our registration forms. Thank you ahead of time for making this an Amazing Week!

Start to save your paper towel rolls, wrapping paper rolls, foil/plastic wrap rolls and we will start collecting them for one of our Craft/Science projects.

God Bless us all as we prepare for an unforgettable week.-Jacque Ortegel- Any questions, please feel free to call 615-752-0030 or email Jacqueortegel@yahoo.com



POP-UP

COME and SEE!! JOIN US WITH POP UP in APRIL!!

With Easter here and a New Beginning with Jesus, the Pop Up Team will be busy planting seeds for Jesus in April for a Bountiful Fruitful Spring and Summer in our Church Family, in Downers Grove, and surrounding Communities.

- Bring your ideas on Thursday, April 11th at 7:00 pm in the Gathering Area lounge.
- Tivoli Ministry for April Dates: Tuesdays 5:30 pm to 7 pm at the Tivoli Hotel in Downers Grove on April 9th and April 23rd.

If you are unable to join in cooking a meal or serving. Consider donating a dessert that can be dropped off at the church on the Tuesdays we are serving before 5 pm.

Jo Ellen's Bible Study is an amazing journey to pray for us!! Bring your favorite Bible, beverage, and snack. It will return April 14 and run through May 5th from 9:30 am to 10:15 am in Fellowship Hall. The group has chosen the book *Tortured for Christ*, the story of Richard Wurmbrand who on February 29, 1948 was arrested by secret police by the communist regime in Romania. What were his crimes?? Leading Christian worship and witnessing for Christ. This will be an interesting study. You can reach out to Jo Ellen Maurer or Norma Potempa for the book. See you in April.

- Save the Date for Mother's Day Brunch on May 12th, from 9:30 am to 10:30 am.

Have a Very Blessed April.

See you soon.

The POP UP TEAM,

Norma Potempa, Brigitte Lucenti, Jacque Oretegel, Julie Tyree, Marge Vander Wagen, Randy Graves and Pat Tyree.

WELCOMING

Look at your calendar in April and sign up today to help Greet at our 8:30am and 10:30am services, or sign up today to help serve coffee and treats during our coffee hour from 9:30-10:15 am. You will find the sign up sheets at the welcome table in the Gathering Area.

A wonderful blessing together as a family or friends you can be.

Thank you!

The WelcomI.N.G. Team

Karen Bleich, Jacque Oretegel, and Norma Potempa

FINANCE UPDATE

January & February
2024
Finance Update

The Good news and the Bad news!

The bad news first. February's income came in way under budget, in fact it was \$34K short. The good news is, so far, we expect to make up this deficit in March. It is still very early in the year and so there is no need to panic. Our expenses are in line with the budget and our funds are healthy. There were no major repairs.

Keep the Faith!

As always remember the Good Samaritan Fund is available to help any of us in short term need. Just contact the church office.

Please stay safe!

Guy Quednau-Finance Chair

TOTAL GENERAL FUND INCOME						
	Monthly Income	Monthly Budget	% of Monthly Budget	YTD Income	YTD Budget	YTD % of Budget
January	\$ 102,292	\$ 102,292	100%	\$ 102,292	\$ 102,292	100%
February	51,710	85,800	60%	154,002	188,092	82%
March		72,841			260,933	
April		51,481			312,414	
May		57,033			369,447	
June		55,441			424,888	
July		53,859			478,747	
August		57,029			535,776	
September		61,280			597,056	
October		112,667			709,723	
November		57,921			767,644	
December		99,590			867,234	

We encourage you to use your camera on your cell phone to highlight the QR code shown with this article. It will link you to the secure website to easily sign up for electronic giving. Or go to our website at gloriadeichurch.org and follow the instructions under "Give Online".



THANK YOU

Thank you to the members of our Altar Guild for decorating our worship space and church building so beautifully for Lent, Holy Week and Easter!



Dear Friends,

We received your generous donation of \$140.00 to Reclaim13. Thank you so much for partnering with us and showing abused and exploited children everywhere that there are compassionate adults who care.

Blessings,

Cassandra Ma, Psy.D,
Executive Director



Dear Community Partner,

Thanks to you, neighbors in need have resources to meet their immediate needs while finding information and solutions to make long-term changes. We thank you for your generous contributions for \$1,115.00 to Hope's Front Door. Your donations will help provide for those items that are desperately needed such as assistance with food, transportation, medication and access to eye and dental care.

Sincerely,

Janell Robinson
Executive Director



Dear Friends of LOVE INC at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your recent donation of \$1,000.00. As you know, nonprofits rely on the generous donations of people like you. In our 39th year, we want to express our sincere gratitude for your unwavering support in helping us serve our neighbors in need in DuPage County. We are committed to continuing our work in 2024 and beyond, and we couldn't do it without you.

God's grace and peace to you.

Becky Bewley Rush



Dear Gloria Dei,

Every day, a child, adult, family or senior turns to Lutheran Social Services of Illinois in search of healing and a fresh start. Your gift of \$1,000.00 to Mental Health provides hope for the 42,000 people we serve each year. Together with your support, we help children visit their parents in prison, seniors get in-home assistance with daily chores, adults living with disabilities learn how to exercise and eat healthy, a child find a loving foster home, a person suffering addiction get treatment, and more.

Peace and prayers,

David P. Novak, JD
Vice President, Advancement

STEPHEN MINISTRY

It's YOUR MINISTRY!

You are the front lines of caring ministry in our congregation. Throughout the week, as you meet and greet those around you, think Stephen Ministry. If you see persons who are downcast or struggling through difficult times, think Stephen Ministry. Tell them about this special ministry in our congregation where they can receive the extra love and care they need to make it through the challenge or crisis they are facing. Contact Stephen Leader Kim Maschoff, Pastor, or Church Office.



**And Jesus said, "Come to me all who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28**

If you are feeling isolated and finding it difficult to connect please do call your doctor and remember that most are offering a form of telehealth service if getting out of the home is difficult. Know that Pastor Tim and Deacon Kim are also available to help connect you with resources or a caring friend through Stephen Ministry or some other program. Some resources that might be helpful for you, a family member or a friend are below:

National Alliance on Mental Illness Du Page

<http://namidupage.org/> -

Phone: 630 752 0066

Text: NAMI to 741741

Suicide Crisis Line

988

Domestic Violence Victims Service (Illinois)

<https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=30275>



FISH FOOD COLLECTION

Let's continue to collect food for the Fish Food Pantry on the first Sunday of each month. Please bring donations of non-perishable food and/or paper products to church on Sunday, April 7 and place your donation in the grocery carts in the Gathering Area.

Fish continues to serve the poor and 'food insecure' in our community and needs our help. Remember to help with donations especially on the first Sunday of each upcoming month but you may bring donations at any time and place them in the grocery carts.

Changes for the
Church Directory

Baptisms

Anna Barbara Goldenstein

First Communicants

New Members

Weddings

Deaths

Marlene Svab

Transfers

Deadline for the
MAY 2024
messenger:

April 16, 2024



Sunday Worship

In-Person & Streaming

8:30 a.m.

Traditional service

10:30 a.m.

Contemporary service

You can access our live
stream from our
Facebook Page

[https://
www.facebook.com/
gloriadeidown-
ersgrove/](https://www.facebook.com/gloriadeidownersgrove/)

NOTE: You **do not** need a Face-
book account to access a Face-
book page, just an Internet ca-
pable device. Anyone can
watch!

Staff

Tim Robertson
Senior Pastor

Elizabeth Waldon
Director of Music Ministries

Sue Scharping
*Director of
Blessed Notes Choir,
Festive Strings*

Kim Maschoff
Deacon

Sharon Jedd
Office Administrator

Mary Rakowski
Administrative Staff

4501 Main Street
Downers Grove, Illinois
60515

(630) 968-6231

www.gloriadeichurch.org



GLORIA DEI
LUTHERAN CHURCH