

March 2019 Newsletter



Ash Wednesday Worship Services
Wednesday, March 6th

12:00 pm & 6:30 pm
(please note time change)

Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes

Don't forget to *Spring Ahead* March 10!



WORSHIP TIMES TO CHANGE
STARTING MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND (MAY 25-26)

Saturday, 5:00 p.m. Spoken
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. Traditional
Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Contemporary



STAY CONNECTED

- Sunday School
Sundays from 9:30—10:15 a.m.
- Wired Word
Wednesdays at 4:45 p.m.
- Church Night Supper
Wednesdays from 5:45—6:30 p.m.
- Lenten Study Group
Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple
Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
March 13, 20, 27 & April 3 & 10
- Friends & Faith
Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.
- Theology on Thursday
Thursdays at 1:30 p.m.



HEALING SERVICE
SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 5:00 P.M.

A Healing Service is a worship experience that focuses on our individual needs for restoration of mind, body, and soul. People attend the service for themselves or for a loved one whom they are concerned about. It is designed to be more intimate than a traditional Sunday service. The service invites participants to receive an anointing (blessed oil placed on one's forehead made in the name of God) through the ancient rite of laying on of hands after time spent in prayer. Take a moment to worship and breathe in the spirit of kindness, simplicity, reconciliation and wholeness of life. All are welcome!



GIVE 'EM HEAVEN! FROM PT

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

LENT FOR LUTHERANS

In over 25 years of ordained ministry, I have been asked dozens upon dozens of times, “should and/or do Lutherans fast during Lent?” Great question.

Before I discuss a Lutheran perspectives on Lent, let’s examine what Jesus says about “fasting.” Jesus in Matthew 6:16-18,

“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others....But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret.

Note that Jesus says in Matthew 6 two times, “when you fast.” Jesus does not say, “If you fast,” No, Jesus says, “when you fast.” We can safely assume Jesus by saying “when you fast,” that Jesus believes we ought fast from time to time. In fact Jesus himself models fasting. In Matthew 4:1-2 we read,

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

Back to the question, “should Lutherans fast during Lent?” The proper response is probably, “Yes Lutherans should probably fast on some things through Lent, but Lutherans should probably not just reserve fasting for Lent. Lutherans should probably build fasting into a normal faith habit throughout the year.

Assuming that you are still reading, the next question should probably be, from what should we fast? Additionally, should we think about more than just fasting for Lent. Answer to both questions: Absolutely Yes! I think Lent is bigger than just fasting. I think Lent is also about “feasting” on disciplines that are wholesome and beneficial to all of God’s people. Let me explain below.

About a decade ago I stumbled upon this piece of liturgy from a colleague up in Wisconsin. I have used it with some of the churches in that I have served. I have also used it as a model for my own spiritual disciplines through Lent over the years.

LORD HELP US TO:

- Fast from judging others; Feast on the Christ dwelling in them.
- Fast from emphasis on differences; Feast on the unity of life.
- Fast from apparent darkness; Feast on the reality of light.
- Fast from thoughts of illness; Feast on the healing power of God.
- Fast from words that pollute; Feast on phrases that purify.
- Fast from discontent; Feast on gratitude.
- Fast from anger; Feast on patience.
- Fast from pessimism; Feast on optimism.
- Fast from worry; Feast on divine order.
- Fast from complaining; Feast on appreciation.
- Fast from negatives; Feast on affirmatives.
- Fast from unrelenting pressures; Feast on unceasing prayer.
- Fast from hostility; Feast on non-resistance.
- Fast from bitterness; Feast on forgiveness.
- Fast from self-concern; Feast on compassion for others.
- Fast from personal anxiety; Feast on eternal truth.
- Fast from discouragements; Feast on hope.
- Fast from facts that depress; Feast on verities that uplift.
- Fast from lethargy; Feast on enthusiasm.
- Fast from thoughts that weaken; Feast on promises that Inspire.
- Fast from shadows of sorrow; Feast on the sunlight of Serenity.
- Fast from idle gossip; Feast on purposeful silence.

Fast from problems that overwhelm; Feast on prayer that [strengthens].

May God bless you and me throughout Lent. May God grant us wisdom upon on we ought feast upon and upon from what we might fast. And possibly most importantly, may our feasting and fasting rituals last beyond Lent and become lifelong rituals of blessing and being blessed.

Give ‘em Heaven! PT



Thanks to Haley Cerny for her special musical offering on February 3rd, and to the women of WELCA who joined us for our Women's Choir on February 24th: Kris Bernhardt, Carol Kazwick, Marianne King, Doris Kiser, Jean Krupin, Judy Nelson, & Diane Skala.

Sing with the choir for Good Friday and Easter! Are you too busy to sing with the choir year-round? You're invited to join us as we present Hal Hopson's *Service of Tenebrae* on Good Friday (April 19) and joyous anthems on Easter morning (April 21). Rehearsals begin Wednesday, March 6th following the 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday service, and continue on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. Please contact Betsy Waldon if you're interested in singing for these most worshipful occasions.

SATURDAY NIGHT *aLive*

GUEST MUSICIANS @ SATURDAY NIGHT WORSHIP ONCE A MONTH

Saturday Night aLive continues with jazz on **March 23** with Adam Roebuck, trumpeter, and Sam Schacker, saxophone. Adam Roebuck has degrees in Jazz Studies and Music Business from Elmhurst College. Adam is a regular member of the band *Time Chicago (Beatmix Music)* and is a highly active freelance trumpeter, composer, arranger, educator and music copyist in the Chicagoland area. Sam Schacker grew up playing guitar in the Twin Cities and now lives and works in Chicago. He has degrees in Jazz Studies and Guitar Performance. Sam is also a composer, teacher, and photographer. Come check out Saturday Night aLive and invite a friend!

Midweek Lenten Worship Services and Study Group: Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple Wednesdays, March 13, 20, 27, April 3 & 10

Simon Peter—an ordinary fisherman who heard an extraordinary call.

He left everything to follow his teacher and possessed a passion that would change the world. That's one way to describe Peter. Here's another: poor, uneducated, quick-tempered, and full of doubts and fears. Doesn't even sound like the same man. And that's the point of our midweek Lenten focus this year, a Bible study by Adam Hamilton. Peter was just an ordinary guy who heard and followed God's extraordinary call. Discover how we, too, have special gifts, talents, and abilities that God can use to make a difference today. Join us for services of evening prayer as we learn about Simon Peter, the flawed but faithful disciple. Based on Adam Hamilton's book of the same name, our worship services will include a reflection on different parts of Simon Peter's life. Following worship, a study group will delve more deeper into the topic of the evening.



Youth & Family Ministries

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

Thank you to all the Sunday School and Junior Youth Group students who donated food and assembled lunches for individuals in the inner city of Chicago affected by the shutdown and other people in need. 83 lunches were assembled. Great job people!! Thank you for being a blessing to those who need a blessing!

Parents and Grandparents – parent and grandparent helpers in the Sunday School and Junior Youth Group classrooms on Sunday mornings are still needed. Be a blessing to your child and many others by being a part of their spiritual learning and formation. You can teach a lesson or a helper in the class. Contact Jan Barker for Sunday School and Wayne Bormann for Junior Youth Group/Confirmation.

Jan Barker (630) 968-6231 x 104 - jan.barker@gloriadeichurch.org

Wayne Bormann (630) 968-6231 x 105 – wayne.bormann@gloriadeichurch.org



MARCHING FORWARD!

Activities are picking up here at Gloria Dei as we approach Spring 2019. On February 16th, we had our 2nd annual Movie/Pizza night. We had ten students and three adults. We watched The Chronicles of Narnia. We had pizza, candy and popcorn. A fun time was had by all!

NEW THIS SPRING.... On Palm Sunday, April 14th we will be introducing a new event. This two – hour (9:30 – 11:30 a.m.) family event is called: “Rise Up with Jesus”. We will have games, arts and crafts, a science experiment, a sensory experience as we enter the tomb where Jesus was put after his death, a drama and a special café with great snacks. This free event will teach the idea that JESUS LIVES! Please register with Jan Barker at: jan.barker@gloriadeichurch.org.

Please join us at this year’s women’s retreat, “Sweet Life Café” (Where Women Savor Time with God). Sunday, May 5th from Noon – 5:30 p.m. at the Morton Arboretum. Lunch, fun sessions, high tea at 4:00, gifts, friendship, worship and love will abide at our Retreat 2019. Please watch for more information and for the registration forms. Contact Jan Barker to register or for more information at: jan.barker@gloriadeichurch.org.

Contact Information: Wayne Bormann, Interim Director of Youth & Family Ministries – wayne.bormann@gloriadeichurch.org / phone x105
Jan Barker, Family Ministry Coordinator—jan.barker@gloriadeichurch.org / phone x104

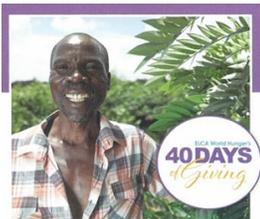
Mission & Justice

MISSION & JUSTICE PROJECT FOR LENT 40 DAYS OF GIVING FOR WORLD HUNGER STARTS ON THE WEEK-END OF MARCH 9/10

The world provides enough food for all, but more than 800 million people around the world face chronic hunger. We believe in a God of abundance, so as a church, we live out our call in baptism to strive for a just world where all are fed. ELCA World Hunger is our church's ministry to end hunger and poverty. We walk alongside our partners and companions in the United States and more than 60 other countries. Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger address hunger and poverty around the world with creative and courageous action. This Lent, you're invited to join fellow supporters to give during ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving. Please use a World Hunger envelope found in the pew racks and make your check out to GDLC, writing 'World Hunger' on the memo line. Gloria Dei's goal for this year, as it was last year, is \$5,000.

Last year, you were asked to vote for the country that should receive our World Hunger donation and you chose Malawi, a central African country. One way your donation was used in Malawi was to fund small business projects by providing loans from the village savings and loan group established by Evangelical Lutheran Development Services, which is supported by gifts to ELCA World Hunger.

The goal of the projects is sustainability. An example of a funded small business plan in Malawi is Shadrack's small nursery business. He is raising trees to help reforest an area that had been clear-cut for farmland but which will lead to soil erosion and air contamination. The training he received, he will pass on to others. Those who receive that training will use it to heal their own land and use the profits of increased yields to send their children to school.



Shadrack Tsatautenda

During Lent, Lutherans are called to repentance, prayer and fasting as well as to sacrificial giving and works of love. By sacrificial giving, we can support ministries around the world that give our neighbors a chance at new life and livelihoods. And in works of love, we may accompany our neighbors toward a just world where all are fed. Please give generously to ELCA World Hunger during Lent, March 6-April 20, 2019.

SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2019
SPRING FLING

Presented by the Women's Network of LSSI. Benefiting LSSI's Family Mental Health Programs.



CELEBRATE THE SOUNDS OF SPRING WITH DUELING PIANOS AND LSSI!

Gather your friends for a lively musical event celebrating the sounds of spring! Presented by the Women's Network of LSSI, Spring Fling will be held on Saturday, April 27, 2019 at the Westin Chicago Northwest, 400 Park Blvd., Itasca. Join us for boutique shopping with nearly 20 local vendors, raffle drawings, a delicious luncheon, and a special musical program—dueling pianos! Shopping, raffle drawings, and other fun activities begin at 10 a.m. The first 20 'Early Birds' to arrive will win prizes that will make their shopping experience extraordinary. Proceeds from Spring Fling, including 20% of shopping purchases, benefit Family Mental Health Programs of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. Tickets are \$75 each and student tickets are \$45.

For more information, visit LSSI.org/spring-fling.php or contact Mariah Heinz at 847.635.4656, Mariah.Heinz@LSSI.org.

THRIVENT ALERT:

DO NOT MISS THIS IMPORTANT DEADLINE! The last date you can designate your Thrivent Choice dollars by phone is during business hours Friday, March 29, 2019. The deadline for designating via the internet is Sunday, March 31.

What are Thrivent Choice Dollars? They provide a way for Thrivent members to tell Thrivent where to share profits. If you have Thrivent Choice Dollars to designate, you can donate them to Gloria Dei or other listed organizations. Rob Grannar of Thrivent will be in the gathering area on Sunday, March 24th to provide information about this program. You can get help in designating dollars, check out the Thrivent web site, or learn other Thrivent information at the Thrivent table in the gathering area that morning.

Not a Thrivent Member?
Come and see what you can learn about
Thrivent Programs.

Last year, Gloria Dei received \$1725 through designated dollars; unfortunately, many more dollars went undesignated. Be sure to check with Thrivent to see if you have Choice Dollars to designate. The number of Choice Dollars received by Gloria Dei could increase significantly. Call (800) 847-4836. You may also go to thrivent.com/thriventchoice. However you check, **be sure not to let this deadline pass.** **REMEMBER,** March 29th by phone or March 31st via the internet.

Women of the ELCA



WHAT IS WELCA?

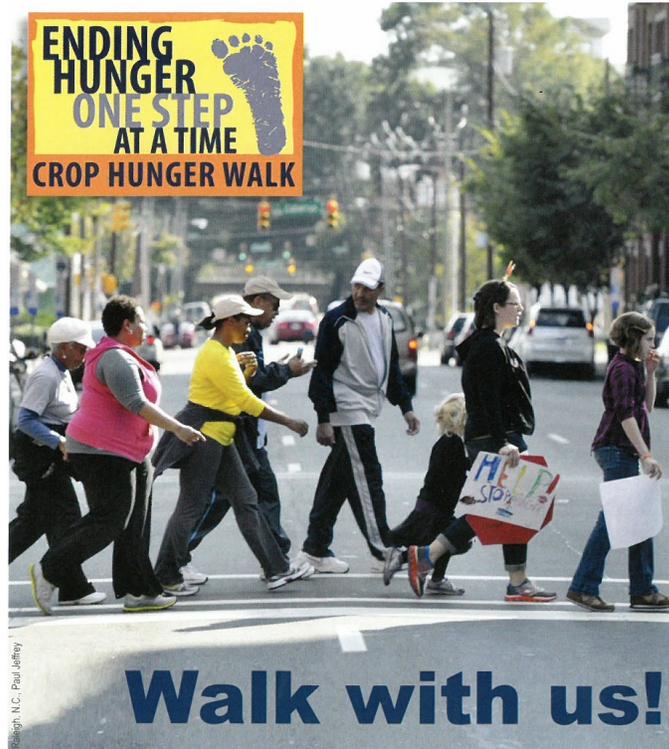
Is it women's circles? Is it Lutheran ladies who fundraise at lunches, collect items for local charitable organizations, put on dinners and other events? Is WELCA the group of women who do the Thankoffering Service every year, spend time with Adult Day Care clients, prepare and serve funeral lunches? Does WELCA maintain and serve in the church library, teach Sunday school, help resettle refugees and sing in the choir?

Yes, they are all WELCA. And this is just a small list of the many things that WELCA does. If you are a ELCA Lutheran woman reading this - YOU are part of WELCA.

WELCA stands for Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Every Lutheran woman is part of WELCA. Whether you participate in many church activities or none at all you belong to WELCA, an organization that comprises more than 7,000 active groups in church congregations, campus organizations and other places across the United States and the Caribbean.

Quoting from the WELCA website: "WELCA is the women's ministry organization of the ELCA. It is separately incorporated and is not an auxiliary of the church. It is financially independent and responsible for its own financial affairs. Financial support comes from individual and group offerings and gifts."

The mission of WELCA is to mobilize women to act boldly in their faith. The Women of the ELCA, through their many ministries, make a difference in the lives of others and in the world!



WALK WITH US!

Walk with us at the South DuPage CROP Hunger Walk on October 20, 2019. Let's make it bigger than ever! Gloria Dei walking together to end hunger!

THE TALE OF THE THREE TREES **SAVE THE DATE!**

Sunday, March 17, 2019, at the 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship services the Kids of the Kingdom and Cherub Choirs will present the beautiful Lenten musical *The Tale of the Three Trees* by Allen Pote and Tom S. Long. Please plan to attend one of the services. It is a wonderful story you will not want to miss.





JANUARY COUNCIL MEETING

Committee Reports:

Children and Family Ministry - Sunday School raised over \$715 for God's Global Barnyard which will purchase an entire farm for a needy family. Movie/Pizza night will be February 16th for school age kids. VBS theme this summer will be Roar.

Mission and Justice- CROP walk will be October 20th, this is the 50th year of CROP. Anyone who has been an active walker can submit a bio. Gloria Dei is going to do a large event for CROP this year. Refugee/Citizenship Education will be a subcategory of Mission and Justice. We are working on recruiting more people to join in the Refugee Ministry to hopefully support a new family in 2019.

Property- North side sidewalk that is sinking is still sinking. The VODG is giving mixed signals on whether they will replace it, but property is working on it. The security issues and the North door being locked are ongoing. Property will be working on building security during this year. Church Mutual will be coming in to talk to the committee about security. Council is concerned about having the North doors locked when we have a lot of groups meeting here and parking space is limited.

Welcom ING- Still working on getting more greeters to man the doors at all services. No more jelly or custard donuts. February 2, 2019 will be the chili cook off.

Youth Ministry- The Youth are providing a meal for the Tivoli this Sunday. The youth trip mission trip registration has opened up. Adult mentors have been secured already and there is still plenty of room for youth to sign up.

Financial Reports

Treasurers - The expenses were within \$71.00 of the projected budget for 2018. Utilities, Property and Personnel were slightly over, which was expected. \$3,000 additional dollars were added to the Organ Fund to make up for the years where money was not put in. The remaining \$3,140 excess will be left in the general fund for 2019 to cover any expenses that may pop up. The FLFG fund stands at \$85,000 and has been stagnant for almost 5 years. Council has been asked to come up with a plan for what to do with that money. Council will talk about how to proceed with the FLFG funds use at our first meeting of the next Council year.

Financial Secretary - We came in a little over the projected budget for 2018. Dave Eckdahl helped to obtain a refund from the IRS this year, which pushed us over the budget to end the year at \$1,096,149.34. The projected budget was set at \$1,077,870. We gave over \$200,000 in benevolence above the budgeted amount as a congregation. The building fund went up due to the 3CDG leasing fees being placed in this reserve fund. The money will be saved for future church repairs and updates.

Action Items:

Number of Council Members - We have one Council member leaving this year and one renewing for another term. The Church Constitution lists we are required to have 12 Council members and 2 Pastors on the Congregational Council. We have the potential for 4 spots to be vacant next year and we are wondering about changing the required number of members. This change would have to be brought up to the Congregation for a vote and then the Constitution would need to be ratified. We will discuss the logistics by November and have something to present at the annual meeting for the Congregation. Angie Erickson moved to bring this to the Congregation at the Annual Meeting. No one seconded. All were opposed. Jillian Scott moved to discuss the logistics of this at the Council Retreat. Bob Agnoli seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Service Times - Sunday School being a half hour and between the services will be discussed at the Annual Meeting. The worship times will be changed back to 8:30 and 10:00. We discussed when to make the change in times and when it would be the most appropriate during the church year. Dave Pauly moved to have the worship times changed to 8:30 and 10:00 am over the summer and that in September of 2019 Sunday School will be changed to 9:30-10:00 am. The motion passed unanimously.

Budget - The 2018 Budget was planned on the pledged giving and the 2019 Budget will follow the same. The annual budget will be \$1,085,000 for 2019. Most of the program expense lines have remained flat for the new budget. Mark Hewett moved to approve the 2019 budget. Susan Marek seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Updates:

Vision Work - Where Neighbors Become Family is what we have been pondering as the new Vision of GDLC. Pastor Tim presented the Biblical ways that this new vision applies to Gloria Dei and the mission we want to proceed with. There are things we are already doing within our Congregation and quite a few things we can do that focus on this new vision.

Miscellaneous Items:

Scouts BSA - The Boy Scouts of America are allowing girls starting February 2, 2019. Right now they have 2 girls interested. We will allow them to have an extra meeting room for the girls to have their meetings.

Adjournment:

Mike Richard moved to adjourn the meeting and Jillian Scott seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Closing Prayers and Lord's Prayer- Susan Marek

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Filip, Council Secretary

Thank You!

Dear Congregation of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church,

In behalf of all of us in the FISH organization, I thank you for all the mittens, hats and scarves you donated to us from your mitten tree. What a thoughtful thing to do. Giving the gift of warmth is not only welcomed, but so necessary for our clients. You continue to help us in so many ways. You are always aware of what it takes to lessen the worries and burdens of our most vulnerable citizens. You are kind and understanding and so caring. And we are so appreciative of all you do for us.

Sincerely,
June Miller
Corresponding Secretary



Dear Gloria Dei,

Thank you so much for the colorful flowers bouquet I received for my birthday. We really enjoyed the feeling of warmth and spring time on that coldest day of winter (so far).

Thank you,
Sharon Carlson



Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for the recent gift of \$100.00 to Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI). We are grateful to your congregation for investing in the wellbeing of all Illinois citizens, offering people the opportunity to reach their full, God-given potential.

Your generosity helps bring health, healing and wholeness to thousands of people across the state. More than 85% of LSSI's clients have an annual income under \$15,000 per year. The faithfulness of congregations like Gloria Dei Lutheran Church is critically important in this work.

Peace and prayers,
David P. Novak, JD



Dear Friends,

We recently received your gift of \$4,000.00 to Lutheran World Relief. Thank you! I'd like to share with you one way your support is making a big difference.

Your gifts fund the "I am Safe" community center in West Mosul, where Zahraa and other children come to help with their trauma. The first time she visited the center, she was asked to color and drew pictures of death and destruction. With the help of supportive staff and programs designed to help her, now Zahraa is coloring scenes depicting life: birds, and flowers and sunshine. Her mother says she lays and smiles more now as well.

On behalf of LWR, our partners and those we serve, please accept my thanks for your generous support and partnership.

May God bless you!
Daniel V. Speckhard



Church Office Hours

Monday-Friday

9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

**Changes for the
Church Directory**

Weddings

Baptisms



Saturday, 5:00 p.m.
- Spoken

Sunday, 9:00 a.m. –
Traditional

Sunday, 10:30 a.m.–
Casual, Come-as-you-are

Staff

Tim Robertson
Senior Pastor

Rhonda Kral
Associate Pastor

Elizabeth Waldon
Director of Music Ministries

Wayne Bormann
*Interim Director of Youth
and Family Ministries*

Sue Scharping
*Director of Kids of the King-
dom Choir, Festive Strings,
Blessed Notes Choir*

Joyce Pauly
Interim Office Administrator

Mary Rakowski
Administrative Staff

Jan Barker
Family Ministry Coordinator

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GLORIA DEI
LUTHERAN CHURCH