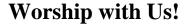


FROM THE TOWER

November/December 2021





In person in the Nave, "Gloria Dei Live" on Facebook, or Zoom. Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Building Faith + Building Community + Building Lives

A Word from Our Pastor



Pastor Dave Fox, Senior Pastor/Head of Staff

The Fox's Trot

Worship is not for your entertainment. You may need to read that sentence again. Worship is not for your entertainment. I was at one of our monthly community breakfasts in North Carolina and a man who happened to be another denomination said, "I couldn't ever be Lutheran because y'all stand up and sit down too much for me." My response was, "Do you go to church to be entertained or to worship?" He didn't like that answer very much, but his wife and daughter sure did get a kick out of it.

Worship is a verb. Making it an action. The word worship comes from an old Anglo-Saxon word that means: to determine something's worth. That something that we worship – that we are determining the worth of is God. In the Koine Greek there are three verbs that are translated into the English word "worship." All three of these words are action words and are translated as: to serve, to bow down, and to exalt. This means we should not ever feel we are to come to worship to sit down and let someone serve us – no, we are to all be servants to God, offering up our very best to God. As I've told folks in my other congregations, "Worship is what you, the one sitting in the pew, are putting into it." If we come to worship only for what we get out of it, we have fallen prey to worshipping ourselves rather than worshipping God. There are parts of a worship service that you may not like, but the service isn't about you. Our worship service is about worshiping God.

In October, we brought back our lay assistant ministry. This now encompasses more than what the lay assistants did in the past, mainly because the lay assistant is to do more than just be a communion assistant. Those who attended the lay assistant training were excited to take on more responsibility in leading worship for the people of Gloria Dei.

I spoke at announcement time to talk about how the liturgy is the work of the people. That is what the word liturgy means: work of the people. If the pastor leads all of the service, then it seems that the liturgy is the work of the pastor. That is not to be the case. The pastor's role in worship is to make sure things are in good order, to preach, and to administer the sacraments (baptism and holy communion).

Worship should always have many people, working together, doing various tasks to give God all honor and praise. Every person in attendance has a role to play. We need greeters, ushers, coffee servers, choir folks, cross and crown participants, altar guild, readers, lay assistants, the person who takes gloves home to wash and return, and tech team (I'm sure I've missed something important, if so I'm sorry). And not only do we need people in those labeled roles, we also need folks in the pews singing, responding, praying, standing, kneeling, sitting. All of this is important. It is all of us working together to make worship happen. My hope is that every Sunday everyone has a hand in making worship an amazing experience for all in attendance as we worship our Savior and Lord.

After reading this article I want you to take a moment or two to think about these questions: What is my role at Sunday morning worship? How can I help the worship experience at Gloria Dei to give glory to God? What steps do I need to take to move away from worship being about my desires and instead towards being acceptable and pleasing in God's sight?

Each of you play a crucial part in our weekly worship of God. I'm glad to have you on our team.

Peace be the journey,

Pastor Dave



Lisa Dadez, Head of School

From the Head of School

Our Middle School students have been busy with the S.C.A. election. Officers and room representatives were installed during Chapel on October 21, 2021. Congratulations to our 2021-2022 Student Council.

President- Jillian Griffin Vice-President- Austin Radar Secretary-Wai-Yun Quach Treasurer-Peyton Walter **Chaplain-** Madyssen Collins

6th Grade Representatives- Liliana Lopez and Jewel O'Conner 7th Grade Representatives- Shane Weaver and Felicity Gil

8th Grade Representatives- Owen Erickson and Kylie Williams

We have almost completed our first quarter of the school year. Fall Festival Week, in conjunction with the Scholastic Book Fair, as well as the 2nd Annual Fun Run are sure to be a great success! Many thanks to our librarians, Julie Allen, Donna Collins, and Rebecca Mahan, as well as our Fun Run Coordinators, Lindsey LaRoche and Donna Scherrer. These events would not be possible without your passion and dedication.

Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, November 1 and 2. Take advantage of this time to touch base with your child's teacher. Report cards for our kindergarten through eighth grade students will be sent home on Thursday, November 11.

As we move into our second quarter, parents often ask the question, "What can I do to help my child succeed in school?" As educators, we need children to come to school prepared and ready to learn. A child who can recite a wealth of rote information, but **cannot** pay attention in class, follow directions, sit, behave, and listen to and obey the teacher will not gain full benefit of his/her school experience and often interferes with the learning of others.

We hope you find the following suggestions and tips useful to help ensure your child comes to school prepared and ready for the most successful school experience.

- Pray for and with your child each and every day. Pray for your family, your child's teacher, and his/her classmates. If you are not plugged into a community of faith, worshipping regularly, get plugged in. Always remember, if you don't have a church home, you are always welcome at Gloria Dei.
- If you have questions or concerns about your child's progress, talk with the teacher. You don't need to wait until a scheduled conference day.
- Set aside a place and time for homework and studying. Make sure your child understands that you expect homework to be done. Check the book bag each day. Review your child's daily work, graded papers, and tests.
- Enjoy your child and spend time with him/her. Talk to your child, and let your child talk to you. Ask open-ended questions. Make sure your child uses words and sentences to express wants and needs. The more your child learns to express him/herself verbally, the more he/she will develop language and vocabulary skills.
- Children need rest and sleep to recharge for the next day. Make sure your child goes to bed at a reasonable time. Children need at least eight ten hours of sleep. Bedtimes vary based on the age of the child, whether preschool or elementary, but ideally between 7:30 9:00 p.m. most children should be in bed. Learning will not be a priority for a sleepy student.
- Healthy eating habits are important. Ensure your child eats a nutritious breakfast and has a nutritious snack/lunch. You are what you eat. Limit sugar and help your child make healthy food choices.
- To alleviate morning madness, it is often helpful the night before to pack lunches, have children select their clothing for the next school day, and place packed book bags by the door.
- Have your child practice proper table manners. Have family dinners together at the table.
- Schedule exercise and physical activity for your child each day. (Running, riding a bike, playing soccer)
- Set realistic guidelines and expectations of behavior for your child and stick with them. Say what you mean and mean what you say. Follow through and be consistent when addressing behavior- whether positive or negative.
- Expect your child to listen and obey you, the teacher, and other authority figures.
- Teach your child to follow basic directions, and teach your child to be a good listener.
- Make sure your child knows NO means NO.

- Children need responsibilities and chores appropriate for their age level. Even preschoolers can be given simple tasks to accomplish.
- By preschool, children should come to school knowing how to properly wash their hands, wipe their nose, take care of basic bathroom needs, put on their jackets, etc. (Self-help skills)
- Limit the amount of time your child spends viewing television/movies, working on the computer, and playing video games. If your young child has a television in his/her room please **TAKE IT OUT**. Have your child draw, color, read, cut with scissors, play a game, etc. Research is showing that too much screen time can actually be harmful for your child. Children who spend less time with screens usually do better in school.
- Read to your child, or have your child read each and every day.
- Teach your child to respect others. Do not accept rude, disrespectful behavior.
- Balance extra-curricular activities. Choose one or two activities your child enjoys, and do not over extend him/her.

Thank you for the trust you place in us to partner with you in educating and nurturing your child. What a winning combination for success – students, parents, teachers, and the administration working together!

Yours in Christ's service,

Lisa S. Dadez

Childcare Program

Our childcare program is in full swing as we begin the new school year. We currently have approximately 130 children enrolled in childcare. As of now, we have only Gloria Dei students enrolled, but our hope is to open up to Hampton City Schools again in the future. Most of our age groups are full for enrollment due to the nationwide staff shortage, but the amazing staff we do have is holding it down. We are continuing to follow the guidelines for childcare centers such as extra cleaning and disinfecting, keeping age groups separated, social distancing, and wearing masks. The preschool and prekindergarten children are able to participate in gymnastics and ninjas in-house, and kindergarten and up are able to be transported by Gymnastics, Inc. for their gymnastics and ninja classes.

School Employment Opportunities

Gloria Dei Lutheran School has the following positions available:

- Aides for School and Child Care
- Steward of Buildings and Grounds (full time)

If you are interested in any of these positions, you can find an application online at:

http://www.gdlshamptonva.com/school-forms. Once completed, you may return it to the School Office, 250 Fox Hill Rd., Hampton, VA 23669, attention: Lisa Dadez.

School Clothing Needs

Gloria Dei Lutheran School is in need of pants, slacks, shorts, and leggings for boys and girls, 2T - 9 years old. We have enough tops/shirts. Please call the School office, 851-6292, if you have clothing donations. They are much appreciated!

Gloria Dei School Fundraisers

<u>Face Masks</u>—Protect yourself and others while showing your Gloria Dei spirit. Masks are available in adult and youth sizes for \$8.00 each. Please call the School Office, 851-6292, for more information.

<u>Harris Teeter</u>—You can help Gloria Dei Lutheran School raise funds by shopping at Harris Teeter. Once you ask for and receive your VIC card, you can go to *https://www.harristeeter.com/together-in-education*, click on "Link your school today," log in or register, then go to "My Account," and scroll down to "Together in Education," and click to link a school. You will then enter our School code, 6528, and click on Gloria Dei Lutheran School. Thank you!

#PrayFor400

Our goal for student enrollment at Gloria Dei in the 2022-2023 school year is 400 students. We would like for you to use #**PrayFor400** anytime you are on a social media platform and talking about our Church or School. We also want you to take time daily to pray for our School and to specifically pray for 400 students for our next school year. We also want you to pray for the staff and volunteer positions to support our 400 students. Anytime you see we are looking for positions, pray specifically for that position to be filled. **#PrayFor400** is our prayer for the next 13 months. Will you join us in prayer?



Ginny Chilton, Church Music Program Director

Musical Musings

Do you have your Lutheran Hymnal nearby? Grab it and flip through for a little while. Or, if you don't have a hymnal at home, google "favorite Lutheran hymns." Notice that a majority of these hymns refer to the singer using plural pronouns: almost always "our," "us," or "we." Rarely "I" or "me."

A Mighty Fortress is Our God O God, Our Help in Ages Past Faith of Our Fathers Let Us Break Bread Together We are Marching in the Light of God

Now tune in to a local radio station or find the mostviewed pop songs on YouTube, whether Christian or not. Nearly every song uses "I" or "me." Our culture, even the prevailing Christian culture in our nation, wants to convince us that life is about me, the individual. Burger King tells us you can always "Have it your way," and Facebook and Amazon are remarkably skilled, unfortunately, at showing us products we might be interested in buying. Google Maps even sent a push notification the other day asking me to rate Gloria Dei Lutheran Church on a scale of 1 to 5! These things have their place, but our faith is not about individual satisfaction, or our "entertainment," as Pastor Dave put it. There is no customer service line here. Rather, faith and worship are about the whole group and the whole group's effort.

So, it is no accident the music that has been passed down to us in the Lutheran tradition (and many other traditions), uses so much "we" language. We live life *together*. We learn to get along *together*. We heal divisions, solve problems, and create spaces of love and safety *together*. You will hopefully place many bricks in your life, but the kingdom of God is built by the laying of bricks by many hands over many generations.

Have fun flipping through your hymnal or looking through some of those google lists of top Lutheran hymns. I hope you feel empowered this Sunday, whether in person or online, to join your voice with others and experience that thrill you get when several people are singing together, the power of *us* in worship!

Council Corner

Hopefully, by the time you read this, we will still be on track and looking forward to an upcoming season of Advent in our Nave for services. It is with much prayer that I approach this season and all the hope and wonder it brings. It will be great to see our facilities decorated and spreading the news of the reason for the season!

To those of you attending in person, please be mindful that the COVID-19 virus is alive and aggressive, so be mindful of others, follow the safety protocols, and don't be the person who accommodates a spread. To those of you still attending via Zoom, please know that we are still and always going to provide remote access via Zoom, Facebook Live, and hopefully in the very near future through our own streaming service.

We have <u>FINALLY</u> contracted with an outside vendor for the redesign and development of our church and school websites. With this upgrade in technology, we will be able to better offer virtual environments for worship, give increased opportunity for giving through Tithe.ly, and have better communication through calendars and online documents for our school and church activities.

Please know that we appreciate those of you who have stepped up to assume leadership positions as well as those who continue to make our Sunday services and weekly activities possible. Without you, Gloria Dei would not be able to function.

We, on council, bid a fond farewell to Shannon Schubert as she transitioned into the School Music Teacher position vacated by Susan Smith. We know she will do wonderful things for the school, but it is always difficult to lose an active member of council. With her departure, we now welcome Rachel Lomax into her position. Rachel already has a firm commitment to the senior high youth, and she will continue in that role as she teams with Ashley as the Co-Shepherd of Christian Education and Youth Activities.

Keep the faith,

Jason, Vivian, Pastor Dave, Aaron, Ashley, Eric, Garth, John, Kent, and Rachel.

Newsletter Opportunities!

Save Postage and Paper! Go Green!

You are invited to receive your newsletter by email by notifying the church office. If your household is receiving multiple copies, you may also request some of the copies not be mailed to you.

The deadline for the January/February issue is Tuesday, December 7, 2021. Please email articles to tbialk@gloriadei.net.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

FOR ALL AGES (NURSERY, CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND ADULTS)

Wonderful Wednesday's Schedule					
TIME	MINUTES	GROUP			
5:45 - 6:15 p.m.	30	Growing with Jesus (Children in grades K-4)			
		Jr. & Sr. High Youth Music			
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.	90	Adult Wednesday Night Bible Study			
6:15 - 6:55 p.m.	40	Dinner			
6:55 - 7:45 p.m.	50	5th & 6th Grade Bible Study			
	50	Confirmation (Youth in grades 7-8)			
	50	Sr. High Discipleship (Youth in grades 9-12)			
	30	Music (6:55-7:25)			
	20	Crafts (7:25-7:45)			
	50	Adult Small Groups			
7:30 - 8:30 p.m.	60	Adult Worship Band Rehearsal			

COVID PROTOCOLS: Since none of our children under the age of 12, are eligible to be vaccinated, we highly encourage all people (excluding infants and toddlers) to wear masks at our Wonderful Wednesday events while around our children. Those who are not vaccinated are still required to wear masks while in the building. Nursery staff will wear masks while watching children that are age 4 and under.

Semesters

November 3

- November 10
- November 17
- No Wonderful Wednesday on November 24

No Wonderful Wednesday on January 5 nor January 12

- January 19
- January 26
- February 2
- February 9
- February 16
- February 23

• April 27

- May 4
- May 11
- May 18

2nd Six Weeks

- December 1
- December 8
- December 15
- No Wonderful Wednesday on December 22 nor December 29

3rd Six Weeks

- No Wonderful Wednesdays March 2 through April 20
- Ash Wednesday Worship, March 2, at 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday Lenten Services at 7:00 p.m.
 March 9, March 16, March 23, March 30, April 6
- Palm Sunday Worship, April 10, at 9:30 a.m.
- Maundy Thursday Worship, April 14, at 7:00 p.m.
- Good Friday Worship, April 15, at 7:00 p.m.
- Easter Sunday Worship, April 17, at 9:30 a.m.

4th Six Weeks

- May 25
- June 1
- Pentecost Sunday Worship, June 5, at 9:30 a.m.

Wonderful Wednesdays Volunteers

Would you like to be a part of something new and exciting? We are looking for volunteers for our Wonderful Wednesdays. **When?** Wednesdays from 5:45-7:45 p.m.

<u>What</u>? Wonderful Wednesdays is an opportunity for everyone from nursery age through adults to come together on Wednesday evenings and enjoy a night a food, fellowship, and Bible study.

<u>Who?</u> We are looking for volunteers to commit to a three or six-week period of time. During these Wednesday nights, these volunteers will **help lead our K-4**th **grade Bible lesson as well as crafts**.

<u>How</u>? Please contact Ashley Zamora, 757-373-3265, or <u>Ashley.a.ruhl@gmail.com</u>, if you would like more information or are thinking this might be something you are interested in,

Women of the Church WELCA

We celebrate our fellowship with all the women of Gloria Dei with one of our most popular activities: "centerpieces!" On Monday, November 22, at 7:00 p.m., we will meet to create small arrangements which can serve to decorate any table during the holidays. One of the best things about these artist creations is that they cost VERY little and can last from Thanksgiving to Christmas! Bring cuttings from your yard (like bay or holly; maybe some colored grasses or fall color), and Rita Foringer will show you how to make an arrangement that can be changed often with a few blossoms, candle, or small ornament.

Like all of our activities, this will offer the fun, fellowship, and food for everyone! Mark the date on your calendar, and plan to bring a friend. This will be an inperson event. As with all WELCA activities, this is for all women of Gloria Dei. For questions, please contact Rita Foringer, 757-850-3472 or rforinger@verizon.net, or Reverie Rowlett, 757-850-8236 or 3rrowlett@cox.net. Hope to see you there!

Please watch the Weeklies for announcements about gathering items for the LWR (Lutheran World Relief) and future WELCA dates!

WELCA Book Club

Our book for November is *The Idiot*, by Elif Batuman. It is the comedic story of Selin, daughter of Turkish immigrant who arrives in Cambridge, Mass., to begin her freshman year of college at Harvard. It is an understatement to say 'much is new.' We later follow along as she joins friends, Svetlana and Ivan, in a summer much different than she anticipated. Called the "funniest book I've read," by *GQ* reviewer, it resounds with the feelings we all remember as we grow and find ourselves and where we are to be. It was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for fiction.

Note: Date Change—Plan to join us as we gather on **Monday, November 15,** from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the Foringer's. Please contact Rita Foringer, 757-850-3472, or Diane Washburn, 757-719-2634, to RSVP.

Our next Book Club date is <u>December 13</u>, and please watch the Weeklies for the location and book. We try to keep our December book short and sweet! Everyone who loves to read and discuss books is welcome to join us. The discussion can be emotional, deep, or funny. We are a small group who enjoy each other's fellowship and welcome all Gloria Dei women to join us. For questions, please contact Rita Foringer, 757-850-3472 or <u>rforinger@verizon.net</u>.

Daybreakers Bible Study

The Daybreakers Bible Study meets at 8:00 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month via Zoom (internet or phone access) to study the pericopes (readings) for the upcoming Sunday. All women are invited.

Men's Breakfast Bible Study

The Men's Breakfast Bible Study meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 a.m. in the Simeon Center. All men are welcome to join.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

In November, we will complete our study entitled, "Celebrating God." In Biblical readings from Exodus, Psalms, and Mark through Revelations, we are loving the declaration of the joy of celebrating who God is, and rejoicing in our call to celebrate him and his faithfulness! Pastor Strandjord has given us a great study.

In December, we will move into our next quarterly study, "Justice, Law and History." This is such a timely study, differentiating between justice and law, and reminding us of the history that is ours as Lutheran Christians! This study will be a lot of Old Testament reading, but crowned by the story that is Luke. We are meeting each Tuesday morning, from 10:00-11:30 a.m. in the Simeon Center, but we are also doing class by Zoom. For questions or the Zoom link, please contact Reverie Rowlett, 757-850-8236 or 3rrowlett@cox.net. We are a small group which values and practices fellowship and love. Please make a commitment to join us!

Wednesday Evening Adult Bible Study

We have been studying the parables of Jesus for the past months, and will wrap up that study on November 15. There is much to be gleaned from these stories that Jesus told, in everyday language, so that all the people would understand. The joy of God's Grace everywhere—from fields, to midnight calls from a neighbor, to God's search for each of his lambs that go astray—is the message our Lord wants us to hear!

For December 1 and 8, we will look at Jesus, by looking at his family and the men and women who became his closest friends on the earth. Did they always know who he was? Do the ways they saw him give us any insight into how we see him? We will not have class on December 15. This is a great class for anyone wanting to study God's Word. There is no requirement to be a Biblical expert! We enjoy study and fellowship in this small group, and meet every Wednesday evening, from 6:00-7:30 p.m., in the church conference room. We are meeting in person and on Zoom. For questions or the Zoom link, please contact Reverie Rowlett, 757-850-8236 or 3rrowlett@cox.net. You are most welcome to join us.

Coats for the Homeless

We are kicking off the annual coat drive for the homeless! Throughout November and December, we will be collecting new or gently used coats, sweaters, sweatshirts, hats, scarves, gloves, and socks as well as backpacks, belts, or travel-size toiletries, we will take those as well! We accept such donations for every age, size, and gender, as we serve a diverse community. There will be a drop box in the atrium for those who wish to come into the building with their donations. In addition, we will be offering the drive-thru donation drop off on November 13 and 20 from 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. rain or shine. Not only was this a successful extension of the ministry last year, but it served as an amazing way to connect with our community! Please spread the word to family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers. All the items will be divided and distributed locally through A Nights Welcome with H.E.L.P. Thank you for your support in helping our community. Please call 757-513-4943 if you have any questions regarding volunteering and/or donations. Peace, Andrew Sutherland

JOY Fellowship

<u>Just Older Youth</u> meets on the third Wednesday of each month (September–May), 12:30-2:00 p.m., in the Simeon Center. The joys of Thanksgiving and Christmas will be celebrated on November 17 and December 15. Mark your calendars now! If you are fully vaccinated, we would love for you to join us!

Calendars

I've already gotten several beautiful calendars in the mail. Have you? We are going to be able to donate them to the Veteran's Hospital's live-in patients again this year! What a great way to use something which otherwise might end up in recycle, and they are enjoyed so much by the Vets. If you have received some in the mail, bring them to church during November where a box will be provided. If you are not attending church in person, there will be a drop off date and time announced in the bulletin. If you are a school parent, please feel free to contribute any you receive to the drive! Our goal this year is 200 calendars. Please note that we are NOT taking cards or other items at this time. Thank You!

H.E.L.P. Food Pantry

If you wish to contribute to the H.E.L.P. Food Pantry, please donate monetarily with online bill pay, or Tithe.ly, or check or money order payable to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, with *H.E.L.P. Food Pantry* in the memo line.

Altar Guild

HELP WANTED!!!

We are in need of volunteers more than ever, so if you have ever wondered what it is that we do to prepare the church for weekly services and special events, I would be happy to answer any questions. Training is provided. Please call or text Renee Wells at 757-749-4425 and SAY YES...I WOULD LOVE TO HELP!

Nursery Workers Needed

Our Nursery will be opening up again soon for our Wonderful Wednesdays program for children 4 years and younger. If you are interested, please contact Laura Lopez, 757-768-3621 or laura.venable13@gmail.com.

The 2022 Flower Calendar

The 2022 flower calendar will be posted in the Atrium for those wishing to give the flowers for our Sunday worship services. These flowers cost approximately \$50.00. You may designate your flowers in celebration of something, in memory of someone, in honor of someone, to the glory of God, etc. You will be billed directly by *Jeff's Flowers*, *Of Course*. Thank you!

Estate Planning

You're not going to need your money when you're gone. However, you are responsible for what happens to it after you are gone. Making out a will is very important for everyone to do, both young and old. It is also important to update your will as things change and at least every ten years. If you are creating a will or updating your will consider one of two options to help in the mission of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church:

- 1. In your will you can state, "After all my bills are paid, I want 10 percent of my estate (a tithe) to go to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church.
- 2. You can make Gloria Dei Lutheran Church one of your children. By making the Church a beneficiary, meaning if you have two biological children, your estate would be split equally to your now three children one third to Harvely, one third to Marvely, and one third to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church.

Thank you for thinking and planning long term for our church's future. Ensuring this is in your will, ensures that a plan is in place to help spread the gospel of Jesus to those that come after you.

Worship Opportunities

We will continue to provide worship opportunities online. In addition to our worship services being held via Zoom, you also have the option of watching the worship services via Facebook. Please visit our "Gloria Dei Live" Facebook page and request to be "friends!"

We are also worshipping in person in the Nave. For those who are not vaccinated, you are required to wear a mask and to physically distance yourself from others. There is a space to sit for those who need or wish to physical distance (pulpit side, front half). For those wishing to not come in contact with a lot of people and who desire to sit in the physically distance section, you can enter the nave through the doors located at the baptismal transept (from outside, it is the door next to the large windows that face the Fox Hill parking lot). For all other folks, please enter through the bell tower doors or the Tower of the Triumphant doors. Please, be patient as we continue to transition into the new normal.

Creating Community Online: Worship

The pandemic has had us step up to the year 2000 in technology. Churches everywhere are offering on-the-ground worship as well as online worship. For those who are not comfortable with being in a crowd, online worship allows them a safe place to do what they were created to do: worship God. The number one question, right now, is: "How are we creating community online?" In a world where I can be anonymous, how can we create relationships? I'll tell you how and it all begins with you, our current members, and online worship users.

I've been taking continuing education classes on various topics this year all online. One of those courses was titled *Hybrid Church*. In this course, I have learned some valuable information to help us in doing both on-the-ground events as well as online events better. We have to recognize that the people online need as much interaction as those who are attending in person. In this article, I'm going to focus on worship rather than other events.

For those who are participating on our *Gloria Dei Live* account on Facebook, there are a few things you can do to help us reach more folks. You could "like" or use one of the other reaction buttons during our weekly worship, and I want you to do that, but that has the smallest effect on getting our online resource out to the people. The next best thing is to start commenting. If you love a hymn, say it. If the sermon was moving, we want to hear it. Maybe you want others to pray for a friend, then put "Pray for John" (Please don't put first and last names). You can also greet folks. It is nice for other folks, other than those running our Facebook page, to comment. It makes it more personal when Aunt Gertrude or Harvely and Marvely put: "Welcome to Gloria Dei. We are so glad you can join us online." Also, if you see someone comment, whether you know them or not, respond (if it's negative or someone trolling, leave it alone, and tend to the positive posts). Folks, the best thing you can do for our *Gloria Dei Live* account on Facebook is to share it. As soon as you start watching, hit the share button. Even if you are watching it on Wednesday, because that is the time that works for you, share it. Sharing is the easiest evangelism you will do in your life. These three simple tasks will take our social media online tool to the next level and reaching more people.

For those who are participating on Zoom use the chat function to interact with one another. Greet folks, talk to them, make comments along the way. Change your name to your name not some weird title that your computer generated. First names are fine. When folks are new to the community, they want to see real names. Take time before the prelude begins to show your smiles on your screen. For children's time, be sure to let us know you have children with you, so I can see them on my screen and interact with them. Just like sharing on Facebook, when you get the email with this Sunday's Zoom link, forward it to your friends. Tag a short message on there that is personal, letting them know you want to share this experience with them.

For those who are gathering in person and sitting in the pews, know that I may do some things that don't quite make sense for you. Just know what you experience in the pews is not what people experience online, and we want them to feel just as a part of the service as you.

There is so much to learn. For now, I need your help in what I've presented above. Together, we can do some amazing things both on-the-ground and online.

Peace be the journey,

Pastor Dave

Advent through Christmas at Gloria Dei

Christmas Tree Sales Meeting

November 7, immediately following the worship service. All youth in grades 5th-12th grade are encouraged to join this informational meeting about tree sales this year. Meeting will be held in the Simeon Center. The proceeds from the sales go to all three Synod Youth Retreats. For more information, please see Jenny Sutherland, Peggy Todd, Rachel Lomax, or Josh Lowman.

Christmas Tree Sales

Begins Saturday, November 27, 2021

Wednesday – Friday 5:00-8:00 p.m. Saturday 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. Sunday 11:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m.

— Sponsored by the Gloria Dei Youth Groups— All proceeds support three Synod Youth Retreats!!!!

Poinsettias to Decorate for Christmas

Cost is \$14.00 and deadline to order is Sunday, November 28.

Hanging of the Greens

Friday, December 3, will be a time for the Gloria Dei congregation to decorate for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Dinner will be served beginning at **6:00 p.m.** Decorating and caroling will follow.

Advent Lessons and Carols

On **December 5, 9:30 a.m.**, we will have an Advent Lessons and Carols Worship Service, featuring music from our Adult Choir and Handbell Choir.

Christmas Pageant

On **December 12, 9:30 a.m.,** we will have our Christmas Pageant for children and youth, ages 3 through 18! If you want your child to participate, please <u>RSVP by November 19</u> to Ginny Chilton at ginny.chilton@gmail.com. We have roles for those who will be worshiping in person as well as on Zoom. A rehearsal will be on December 5, 10:30 a.m.

Pastoral Record

	November Birthdays					
1	Yvonne Roberts, Josh Rice	9	Megan Canny, Cindy Brown	22	Bill Monroe	
4	L.J. Murray	12	Thomas Dadez, Bob Hess	23	Vicki Venable, Lane Mitchell,	
5	Fred Phillips	13	Joanne Aheimer, Bob Hudgins		Jonah Hutchison	
6	Heide Hackworth, Matthew Zorumski	15	EV Robertson, Pete Newcomb	24	Ethan Rowlett	
7	Dan Singer, Barry Zorumski	19	Donna Vanorsdale	25	Walt Engelund	
8	Rebecca Grossman, Isabella Epps,	20	Julia Dickseski, Dawn Olson	28	Megan Watson	
	Bo Lomax, IV	21	Eliza Summerfield	29	Julie Hutchison	
			November Anniversaries			
4	Steve and Pam Robnett	9	Kyle and Kristen Leckrone	29	Ross and Kim Miller	
	Michael and Shannon Sexton	14	Pete and Nikki Newcomb	30	Mike and Heather Mendez	
5	Kevin and Kristy Fyfe	21	Bob and Nancy Haberman			
6	Richard and Laura Fox, Jr.	26	Berto and Laura Lopez			
			December Birthdays			
1	Jacob Zamora, Joy Hough,	9	Braden Shiamone	19	Pam Hess, Tom Hooks	
	Jenny Sutherland, Amy Etheridge	10	Jack Adams, Bill Karlson	21	J	
2	Gabe Hutchison	11	Keegan St. Laurent, Amanda Jackson	22	Marshall Kjelvik,	
3	Hannah Kjelvik	13	Nancy Monroe, Alan Zorumski		Lucas Lopez Venable	
4	Dean Grimm	14	Krista Hester, Fred Bradley, Jr.	25	Reverie Rowlett	
5	Crystal Via, Jim Stewart	15	Fred Bound, Jr.	27	Leann Waters, Sarah Jackson	
6	Ann Myers	17	Kristin Wallis-Thomas,	30	Laura Engelund, Chip Lomax, III	
7	Becky Barnhart		Miranda Venable			
8	Josh Lowman	18	Vivian Griese			
December Anniversaries						
4	Gordon and Michelle Robertson	21	Russell and Virginia Lyeth	28	Keith and Mary Jane Leckrone	
5	Joe and Mary Capone		Don and Marti Grenier	30	Richard and Stephanie Williams	
10	CJ and Leann Waters	22	James and Yvonne Roberts	31	Buzz and Anita Hamilton	
18	Bob and Joan Hudgins	23	Brown and Rowena Cornwell		David and Anne Perry	
	Bob and Vivian Reynolds	27	Glenn and Sandy Taylor			

Deaths

Ginny Melton

Address Changes

Ramona Rice 106 Woodburn Drive Hampton, VA 23669

Stephen and Amber Via 102 Chambers Road Newport News, VA 23602

November 2021

<u>Sun</u>	<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tue</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thu</u>	<u>Fri</u>	<u>Sat</u>
	7 PM Girl Scouts Simeon Center	2 8 AM-Daybreakers Bible Study Zoom 10 AM-Fellowship Bible Study Zoom and Simeon Center 7 PM Boy Scouts Simeon Center	3 5:45 PM-Growing with Jesus (K-4 th Gr.), Jr. & Sr. Youth Music 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study 6:15 Dinner 6:55 5 th & 6 th Gr. Bible Study, Confirmation, Sr. High Discipleship, Music, Crafts, Adult Small Groups 7:30 PM-Worship Band Rehearsal	4	5	6
7 9:30 AM- WORSHIP 10:45 AM Reader Training & Youth Tree Sales Meeting	8	9 7 AM-Men's Bible Study Simeon Center 10 AM-Fellowship Bible Study Zoom and Simeon Center 1 PM ExAdCom 7 PM Boy Scouts Simeon Center	10 5:45 PM-Growing with Jesus (K-4 th Gr.), Jr. & Sr. Youth Music 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study 6:15 Dinner 6:55 5 th & 6 th Gr. Bible Study, Confirmation, Sr. High Discipleship, Music, Crafts, Adult Small Groups 7:30 PM-Worship Band Rehearsal	11	12	13 1:00 PM Coats For Homeless Collection
14 9:30 AM- WORSHIP	7 PM WELCA Book Group 7 PM Girl Scouts Simeon Center	16 8 AM-Daybreakers Bible Study Zoom 10 AM-Fellowship Bible Study Zoom and Simeon Center 7 PM Boy Scouts, Nave; Church Council Meeting, Zoom	17 12:30 PM J.O.Y. Group, Simeon Center 5:45 PM-Growing with Jesus (K-4th Gr.), Jr. & Sr. Youth Music 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study 6:15 Dinner 6:55 5th & 6th Gr. Bible Study, Confirmation, Sr. High Discipleship, Music, Crafts, Adult Small Groups 7:30 PM-Worship Band Rehearsal	18	19	20 1:00 PM Coats For Homeless Collection
21 9:30 AM- WORSHIP 10:45 AM Choir Rehearsal	22 11 AM Thanksgiving Feast 7 PM WELCA, Simeon Center	23 7 AM-Men's Bible Study Simeon Center 10 AM-Fellowship Bible Study, Zoom and Simeon Center 11 AM Thanksgiving Feast 7 PM Boy Scouts Nave	24 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study	Thanksgiving Church of closed.		27
28 9:30 AM- WORSHIP	29	30			1	

December 2021

<u>Sun.</u>	<u>Mon.</u>	<u>Tues.</u>	Wed.	<u>Thurs</u>	<u>. Fri.</u>	<u>Sat.</u>
			1 5:45 PM-Growing with Jesus (K-4 th Gr.), Jr. & Sr. Youth Music 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study 6:15 Dinner 6:55 5 th & 6 th Gr. Bible Study, Confirmation, Sr. High Discipleship, Music, Crafts, Adult Small Groups 7:30 PM-Worship Band Rehearsal	2	6:00 PM Hanging of the Greens	4
5 9:30 AM- WORSHIP Advent Lessons & Carols 10:45 AM Pageant Rehearsal	7 PM Girl Scouts Simeon Center	7 8 AM-Daybreakers Bible Study Zoom 10 AM-Fellowship Bible Study Zoom and Simeon Center 7 PM Boy Scouts Simeon Center Deadline for January/February Newsletter	8 5:45 PM-Growing with Jesus (K-4th Gr.), Jr. & Sr. Youth Music 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study 6:15 Dinner 6:55 5th & 6th Gr. Bible Study, Confirmation, Sr. High Discipleship, Music, Crafts, Adult Small Groups 7:30 PM-Worship Band Rehearsal	9	10	11
12 9:30 AM- WORSHIP Christmas Pageant	13 7 PM WELCA Book Group	7 AM-Men's Bible Study Simeon Center 10 AM-Fellowship Bible Study Zoom and Simeon Center 7 PM Boy Scouts Simeon Center	12:30 PM J.O.Y. Group, Simeon Center 5:45 PM-Growing with Jesus (K-4 th Gr.), Jr. & Sr. Youth Music 6:15 Dinner 6:55 5 th & 6 th Gr. Bible Study, Confirmation, Sr. High Discipleship, Music, Crafts, Adult Small Groups 7:30 PM-Worship Band Rehearsal	16	17	18
19 9:30 AM- WORSHIP	20 7 PM Girl Scouts Simeon Center	21 8 AM-Daybreakers Bible Study Zoom 7 PM Boy Scouts Simeon Center	7:30 PM-Worship Band Rehearsal	23	24 Christmas Eve Services 5 PM and 7:30 PM Church Office Closed	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
9:30 AM- WORSHIP	A very Merry Christmas to all				New Year's Eve	
	fron	n the Gloria Dei (aff!	Church Office Closed		

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

250 Fox Hill Road, Hampton, Virginia 23669-1793 Telephone (757) 851-2838

www.gloriadeilutheranchurch.net, GDLC@gloriadei.net

Gloria Dei is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Dated Material



Worship with us!

In person in the Nave,
"Gloria Dei Live" on Facebook,
or Zoom
Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Christmas Services and Events

December 3	6:00 p.m.	Hanging of the Greens
December 5	9:30 a.m.	Advent Lessons & Carols
December 12	9:30 a.m.	Christmas Pageant
December 24	5:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship for children
	7:30 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship

Additional information about other Christmas services and events to come!



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