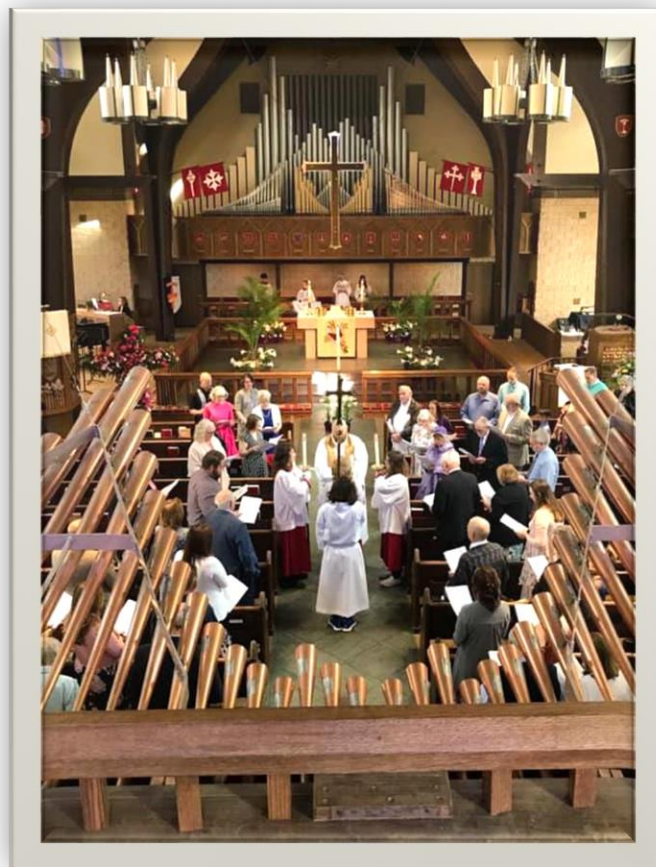


# **Gloria Dei Lutheran Church**

## **Annual Report**

**Prepared for the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

*June 23, 2024*

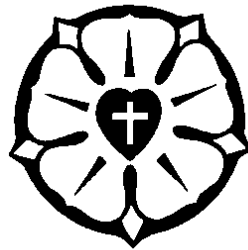


**250 FOX HILL ROAD HAMPTON VIRGINIA 23669**

# **Gloria Dei Lutheran Church**

**A congregation of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

**Organized in December of 1965**



***Building Faith***

***Building Community***

***Building Lives***

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**GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**THE 59<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
**June 23, 2024**

**I. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum**

**Gary Hess**

**II. Order for Opening Congregational Meeting**

**Pastor Dave**

**Invocation**

**Litany**

The love of God, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Brothers and sisters, God calls each of us by name.

**We are a church that belongs to Christ.**

Recognizing the diversity among us, we are grounded in God’s love and forgiveness to live and serve here and now.

**We are a church whose unity is in Christ.**

Young and old together, our life in Christ compels and empowers us to be open and accessible within any community, within any context.

**We are a church that believes Jesus is God’s “YES” to us.**

Recognizing each of us has unique gifts and a unique story, we are part of a larger body and a larger story. Together, we achieve things we could not do alone.

**We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world—together.**

Recognizing our roots are in Scripture, tradition and the Lutheran Confessions, as well as the vibrant communities and rich history of our congregation, we are a church guided by the Holy Spirit that is both resilient and always being reformed.

**We are a church that is deeply rooted in the gospel—and always being made new.**

Let us pray: As we live into the church that we proclaim to be, fill us with hope as we engage in the work of serving you. Guide us that we may honor our missional heritage while opening our eyes to new ways of serving others. Steer our thoughts and words away from distraction and toward your will. In our deliberations keep us close to you and fill us with your Holy Spirit, so that we may serve you in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

**III. Old Business**

**Gary Hess**

Presentation and approval of annual meeting minutes

**IV. New Business**

**Gary Hess**

A. Election of Church Council: Michael Canny, Thomas Clasen, Vivian Griese, Diane Washburn

B. Presentation and approval of the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church 2024-2025 Financial Plan

## V. Closing Responses and Prayer

Pastor Dave

### Scriptural Responses

P: O Lord, save your people:

**C: and bless your inheritance.**

P: My word shall accomplish that which I please:

**C: and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.**

P: You shall be my witnesses:

**C: to the uttermost parts of the earth.**

P: I have chosen you, and ordained you:

**C: that we should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain.**

P: And lo, I am with you always:

**C: to the end of the age.**

P: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

**C: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

### Prayer

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: and also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor and further us with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## VI. Adjourn and Dismissal

Pastor Dave



# ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

June 25, 2023

## Call to Order/Determination of Quorum

The meeting was called to order by Jason Green at 10:40 a.m. It was determined that there was a quorum present. Jenny Sutherland and the Technical Team will be serving as Zoom/Voting moderators, Pastor Dave will be the scriptural officiate, Judy St. Pierre will be our Parliamentarian, and Mike Canny will be serving in his role as Congregational Secretary recording the minutes of this meeting.

## Order of Meeting

Jason Green asked for a motion to accept the Order of the Meeting as presented. The motion was made by Leonard Mayo and seconded by Diane Washburn. Motion carried.

## Old Business

Jason Green asked for a motion to approve the minutes and reports as presented. The motion was made by Debbi Ortiz and seconded by Garth Wallis. Motion carried. President Jason Green asked for any other old business that had not been addressed. There was none.

## New Business

### A. Adoption of 2023 Constitution

A motion was made by Council to approve the Constitution as presented, en bloc. Motion carried.

### B. Election of Church Council: Kent Morgan, Kevin Morse, Eric Olsen

It was determined that the slate of nominees stands as presented, with no new nominations.

Jason Green asked for a motion to approve by unanimous ballot. The motion was made by Leonard Mayo and seconded by Jeane Fullen. Motion carried.

### C. Election of Trustee: Bo Lomax

It was determined that the slate of nominees stands as presented, with no new nominations. The motion was requested by President Jason Green for a vote on the slate of nominees as presented. The motion was made by Eric Olsen and seconded by Barry Hutchison. Motion carried.

### D. Presentation of the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church 2023-2024 Financial Plan

Presented by Rick Graves. Jason Green asked for a motion to approve the 2023-2024 Financial Plan as presented. Motion was made by Tad Foringer and seconded by Chip Lomax. Motion carried.

### E. Special Recognitions

Jason Green first recognized Fred Bradley, Jim Fullen, Mike Riley, and Anne Perry for their long terms of service as Gloria Dei Trustees. He also recognized Mary Mace and Sandy Dunn for their dedicated service in providing music in the absence of a permanent Music Director. He then concluded with a reflection on his many years at Gloria Dei, starting as an elementary school student and progressing to his service as Congregational Council President. He looks forward to continuing his service to Gloria Dei in other roles.

## Additional New Business

Jason Green asked if there was any further new business or questions. There was none.

## Closing

Meeting closed with scriptural responses and prayer.

## Adjournment

President Jason Green asked for a motion to adjourn at 11:05 a.m. Motion was made by Linda Sutherland and seconded by Mary Mace. Motion carried.

Michael Canny  
Congregational Secretary

## SENIOR PASTOR

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

I thank God for this call to be your pastor in this place. We have done some amazing ministry this year. We've tweaked a few things, started a few more things, and left plenty of things alone. It's been a quiet year, for the most part; and not too exciting. As a church, we might call this a "precedented" year. It's so much better than those unprecedented times we were living in for so long.

"Precedented" times are like the season after Pentecost, or more practically named "ordinary time." Ordinary: of a kind to be expected in the normal order of events: routine, usual<sup>1</sup>. I can hear a big bass drum beating at a steady sixty beats per minute. It's a rhythm we can keep up to with ease. Though slow and steady, we have made forward movement this year.

I am proud of all that you have done, in the name of Jesus, this year. Thank you to all of our Wonderful Wednesday volunteers and to our two Children's Church volunteers. Thank you to our Vacation Bible School team and to our nursery workers. Thank you to our Altar Guild, Tech Team and our bereavement meal coordinators and volunteers. Thank you to our Stewards, Ushers, Greeters, and Readers. Thank you to all who assist me in leading worship: Lay Assistants and Cross and Crown. Thank you to those who put in time at our fellowship events and to our Ladies of Eggcellence. Thank you to all who have hosted a women's group, attended Glass with the Girls, and A Pint with Pastor. Thank you to all of our Scouting volunteers and to those who help with Hanging and Un-Hanging of the Greens. Thank you to our school administration and staff. Thank you to our church staff. Thank you to the choir and to those who serve behind the scenes. Thank you to our small group facilitators, archivist, and our knitting group. Thank you to our Congregation Council. Thank you to those who financially support Gloria Dei and its many ministries.

You do many things because of what Christ has done, is doing, and will continue to do in your lives. If there are three things I can encourage you to do more of over the next twelve months, it is this: 1) pray for your church, our ministries, and your pastor daily; 2) read scripture daily, go at a pace that works for you, just do it daily; 3) evangelize, invite people to church, talk about Jesus. If you will commit to these three tasks, we will become a stronger faith community and you will become stronger in your faith.

Keep pressing on in faith. And, in case you haven't heard it today – Jesus loves you.

Number of baptisms since July 1, 2023: 10

Number of confirmations since July 1, 2023: 1

Number of first communions since July 1, 2023: 5

Number of new members by transfer since July 1, 2023: 14

Number of funerals since July 1, 2023: 10

Number of weddings since July 1, 2023: 1

Peace be the journey,

Pastor Dave

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/ordinary>



# CONGREGATION COUNCIL PRESIDENT

**Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 3:9-11:**

**“For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”**

In this passage from Paul, he makes it clear that Jesus Christ is our foundation and we are his workers, building his church (people - not a physical building). Oftentimes, a congregation will surmise that the pastor and church council are the laborers building the church body. That could not be further from the truth, and this passage clearly tells us that we all are responsible and have a job spreading the Word of God and building His church.

Have you ever watched a brick building going up, over the course of several days? It is a slow process, one brick at a time on top of a sturdy foundation. Not only are the bricks stacked together, but to strengthen them and make the structure stable, the bricks need mortar...“glue” holding them together.

Your Church Council has been hard at work, building on the foundational work others have done before us. One of the first things our Council discussed was the role we want to play within this congregation. We changed our titles to “visioneers” to reflect the role of visionaries in growing our church, both within and outward into the community. But we cannot do it alone, nor should we. We can design and imagine the direction, but the glue that holds our visions together and strengthens them into a strong community is YOU, the congregation. We are excited and want you to be, too.

The following represent the many “little bricks” being laid to build community and growth. We saw a need for a Church Policy and Ministry Handbook, so work began on creating and updating several policies. The “Child, Youth, and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy” was finalized and the old facilities use document was strengthened and expanded into the new “Property/Facilities Use Agreement and Request Form,” to include the “General Rules and Guidelines Policy” for safe usage of our building.

The Council had its retreat in February, where we began crafting a vision for the rest of our year. We developed three focus areas: providing a simple cold breakfast before worship, expanding our presence in the immediate community, and creating opportunities for events that bring the community and our church together. Watch for announcements as these programs take shape. As part of our previous annual roadmap, we again emphasized the continuing need to strengthen the bond between the church and our school. Outreach was a major theme of this retreat.

The Council again served the school staff at their annual banquet. It was a great evening, where we expressed the church’s gratitude for their hard work and dedication. In addition, it was nice hearing how much they also appreciated the Church Council being there as representatives of Gloria Dei Church.

We approved the adoption of a new Boy Scout Troop and discussed installing an information board in the Atrium. This will provide not only informational updates, but visually highlight the work we do in all our ministry areas. Vacation Bible School continues to be a huge outreach success, and we cannot thank enough those who work in this ministry for such an excellent experience. Wonderful Wednesday grew again this year, thanks to a dedicated group of helpers, adults, and youth who came each Wednesday night. Sunday morning Children’s Church for our young children began this year. Several more volunteers are needed, so the current teachers can attend some of the church services. All materials and instructions are easy to understand and ready for you.



There were several Junior High and High School youth outings, including a successful “Parents Night Out” event for school-aged children. That outreach program proved so successful that there are plans to offer it again. Over 160 care kits and \$1,900.00 were donated to Lutheran World Relief. The Council is also exploring how to develop an Environmental Outreach Ministry, thanks to the interest of several Council Members.

Each one of these programs is but a brick in building the church. For these programs to be successful and grow stronger, they need “mortar” to hold them together. That mortar is you, the congregation. We all need each other to build a successful church body. Each one of us has strengths and ideas to share.

Finally, we prayerfully deliberated on the new church budget document that will be presented at the Annual Meeting. We believe God has great things in store for us and wants us to grow to be successful stewards of our church, programming, and outreach ministries. Despite economic hardships, political instability, and general fearfulness in many areas as highlighted in the news, God is still present and active in our lives. Be excited about the future, and think about what we can accomplish if we work together with God’s grace guiding us! We have wonderful and talented individuals working in our church (too many to name without missing someone), and we welcome you to join us on this journey.

*“And I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ Then I said, ‘Here am I; send me.’” Isaiah 6:8*

In closing, I personally want to thank each Council Member and those who present reports at our meetings for their hard work and for embracing a visioner focus as we move forward.

Thank you, Pastor Dave, Rick Graves, Gary Hess, Ashley Zamora, Aaron Sutherland, John Campbell, Mike Canny, Rachel Lomax, Kent Morgan, Dawn Lomax, Kevin Morse, Peggy Sipes, and Tammy Bialk.

You are wonderfully made!  
Vivian Griese



# EDUCATION MINISTRIES

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

This year marked Gloria Dei Lutheran School's 51<sup>st</sup> year of providing an educational program and childcare for our community. Dedicated staff members have given of their time and talents to provide a quality program, which strives to meet the educational, physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs of our students. We are very appreciative of the trust and support of our parents and church family as we work to provide a safe, nurturing, educational environment for our children.

On June 5, 2024, our graduation service honored the eighth and fifth graders as they made the transition from middle and elementary school. It has been rewarding to see the students' growth and achievements.

During the service, we recognized students who earned the Presidential Award for Academic Excellence. This award is the highest academic honor presented at the end of elementary, middle, and high school. It is presented to students who show outstanding academic success in the classroom. This year's recipients are as follows:



*Fifth Grade: Oliver Fox and Orlando Peters*

*Eighth Grade: Aaron Gaita, Dominick Stilgebouer, and Peyton Walter*

I pray each graduate will take the lessons they have learned during their time at Gloria Dei and continue to maximize the gifts with which they have been blessed to become responsible, caring, trustworthy children of God.

Many of our staff members are celebrating special milestones in their service and ministry at Gloria Dei this year. Congratulations to:

20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Donna Collins and Angie Phillips

25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Amy Watterton

30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Beth Brooker

I am very appreciative of these dedicated individuals, and all of our staff members, who give so unselfishly of their time and talents as we work together to provide a quality educational and childcare program for our students. Thank you for your faithfulness and dedication to our ministry.

## 2023 – 2024 School Highlights

- What an exciting start to our school year! Students and staff, past and present, joined together over the weekend of September 15-17 to celebrate Gloria Dei Lutheran School's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The weekend was filled with a dinner reception at the Marriott in City Center, a family picnic at Willow Oaks, and our staff installation and reception at Gloria Dei. These wonderful events were planned and organized under the direction of Mike and Ann Riley. They worked tirelessly with the committees to create a celebration to remember. My heartfelt thanks go out to Mike and Ann, as well as all of those who worked together to plan this event. Gloria Dei Lutheran School would also like to thank the following sponsors who continue to support our school "in the pursuit of excellence."

Jeff's Flowers, *of Course, Inc.*

Habitat for Humanity

Grand Rental Station

Gault Electric

Sara Riley Yohn, Atty. at Law

Ames Cleaners

Hornsby Tire & Service Center

The Riley Family

Carpet Gallery

Capri Pizza and Italian Restaurant

Rainbow Puppets

Rosenbaum Fence Company

Mission BBQ

20 Hope Street Salon

The Fullen Family

Gymnastics, Inc.

Destress Express

Wanda Stevens w/Abbitt Realty

Javier Fuentes, State Farm Agent

Kirk's Auto Upholstery

Vicom

The Martin Family

- Our School sponsored successful Scholastic Book Fairs in the fall and spring. Many thanks to Julie Allen, Rebecca Mahan, Donna Collins, Jeane Fullen, and Kelly Martin, as well as our many parent volunteers. Together they worked to set up and manage the fair, assist the children, and clean up.
- This year, we added a new resource to the elementary classes. Debbie Cotrupi taught *Lessons of the Bible* to students in 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Debbie used the Spark Classroom curriculum from Augsburg Fortress. This new addition was a favorite with the students.
- In November, Gloria Dei Lutheran Preschool was presented the Innovative School in Environmental Education award by the Hampton Clean City Commission. This award was presented in recognition of Gloria Dei's Earth Week Celebration. In addition to our new sign on the Fox Hill Campus, a River Birch tree and Gloria Dei Preschool plaque will be placed in our honor at Blue Bird Gap Farm.
- As we nurture and guide children, it is important that they learn to care and give back to the community. Gloria Dei students have been busy this year giving back to others through service projects and activities.
  - The Fox Hill and Willow Oaks Campuses participated in two food drives for H.E.L.P.
  - The kindergarten classes made blessing bags for H.E.L.P.
  - The sixth grade class created shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.
  - The students supported the Preschool's Pet Supply Drive for the Peninsula Regional Animal Shelter.
  - The second grade classes made Christmas care packages for our troops celebrating the holiday overseas.
  - In support of the Veterans' Care Project, students in preschool – 8<sup>th</sup> grade created holiday cards for the veterans staying at the Hampton VA Medical Center.
  - During this year's *Kids Heart Challenge*, elementary and middle school students raised over \$4,900.00 for the American Heart Association.
- On December 15, 2023, we celebrated the upcoming holiday with our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Parade. This year's event had 19 entries, representing local businesses, Hampton Police, a racecar from Langley Speedway, decorated golf carts and a boat, the Kecoughtan Marching Band, and, of course, Santa.
- Our Middle School participated in the National Scripps Spelling Bee. After many rounds, Peyton LaRoche won as our school representative for the regional bee. The regional bee was broadcast on WHRO.
- Under the direction of Mike Riley and Brian Yohn, a LEGO Club was added to our afterschool offerings. Students met weekly to collaborate and create LEGO builds based on challenges presented. Many thanks to the Campbell family for helping fund this very popular afterschool activity.
- The School was blessed to receive a donation of three 3-D printers from Chris Moore with Visual Unlimited. We now have a total of five 3-D printers in the Willow Oaks' Computer Lab. The printers have been used to fabricate mounts for security cameras, computer monitors, micro-computers, as well as storage sleeves for digital camera media. In honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we created challenge coins, which were also used for a checkers set. The printers have been a resource for other classes and activities, such as:
  - In Art, figurines were printed for stop motion animation.
  - Our after-school Lego Club needed a tool to screen cars to ensure they fit on a pinewood derby track for racing.
  - Introduction to Robotics elective in Middle School used the 3-D printers as an example of applied robotics. Students compared parts of the 3-D printers and the Lego Mindstorm robots.
- Interior security cameras were installed on both the Fox Hill and Willow Oaks campuses.

Many thanks to our congregation, parents, and staff for their support and trust as we continue our educational ministry.

Yours in Christ's service,  
Lisa S. Dadez

## **CHILD DAY CARE**

Gloria Dei Lutheran School offers child care for children ages 16 months to 12 years. There were 164 students in afternoon child care on an average day.

- Hours are 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- Before and after-school care for students of Gloria Dei, parent/teacher conferences and staff work days, Christmas and Easter holidays, and snow days (unless conditions are severe).
- Breakfast served from 6:15 a.m. – 7:15 a.m.; lunch, morning and afternoon snacks.
- Variety of activities for children – crafts, movies, games, free play, and outdoor play.
- Homework/study time for students in grades 3<sup>rd</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Additional after-school activities – Art Academy (1<sup>st</sup> & up), gymnastics, Tumblebugz, Lil’ Ninjas, Lego Club, and The Master’s Singers.
- “*Summer Adventures*” – our summer program for children 16 months to 12 years old.

Jeanene Nolte, Child Care Director

Janet Cole, Program Coordinator

Jessica Nolte, Program Coordinator

## **NEW MEMBERS**

Over the last twelve months, we have received the following new members by way of transfer: 14

And we received the following new members by way of baptism: 10

## **FELLOWSHIP BIBLE STUDY**

This class uses the Augsburg Adult Bible Study series. This series encourages Bible reading, discussion, prayer, and self-examination. The material is interesting, varied, and timely, and is written by a different author – professors, theologians, and pastors – every three months.

In spring 2024, we started a study called “Examining Our Faith” written by Amy Lindeman Allen. Ms. Allen is an ordained pastor (ELCA) and a Professor of New Testament at Christian Theological Seminary in Indiana.

Our group meets every Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. in the Simeon Center. We are a small group of about 8-10 adults and would love to have new members.

Sharon Padula, Leader

## **COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY**

This is our second year doing Bible Study at the H.E.L.P. Day Center on Buckroe Avenue. We are continuing our journey through the Old Testament. We have covered Genesis, Exodus, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, and First Samuel.

Our time moved this year from Mondays to Wednesdays. We still meet at noon, as that is when the residents are usually eating.

We have provided the day center with snacks, winter hats, and towels. Needs at the center arise all the time. A big need is for a group to get in on their rotation of preparing and serving lunch.



## CONFIRMATION

This year we had five students in Confirmation Class. After completing his second year of Confirmation, we confirmed Wade Brown on Pentecost Sunday. Thank you to Rita Foringer and Sharon Bennett for teaching, assisting, and mentoring these young Christians.

Peace be the journey,  
Pastor Dave



## FIRST COMMUNION

We had five students attend our two First Communion classes. Thank you to Rick Graves for baking bread with the students. Thank you to Jenny Sutherland who helped with getting the students where they needed to be when they needed to be there. Thank you to our Altar Guild who keeps the Sacristy running in tip-top shape. This year five received their First Communion on Transfiguration Sunday.

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH

*Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me...for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."*

Matthew 19:14

With the assistance of Lauren Malone, Sarah Olsen, and Pam Hess, our Children's Church Ministry has been able to serve several families over the past year and a half. On Sundays in the Simeon Center, we gather during the service for a brief 30-minute lesson, which includes a Bible story, activity page, and craft. During our lessons, we lead the children in a discussion about the story's application to their daily lives. While teaching them about the love of God through Jesus, we are also encouraging them to share that love with others in our community! It has been a blessing to work with these families, and we hope this ministry will continue to serve the families of young children at Gloria Dei in the years to come.

Lauren Malone



# WORSHIP MINISTRIES

## MINISTER OF MUSIC

Annual report...hmm. How do I get out of this one? I know! Hey gang, I haven't quite been here a year yet, so how can I do an Annual Report (smile)?

As I conclude the end of my first year as Minister of Music at Gloria Dei, I would like to start by offering my sincerest thanks and gratitude to Pastor Dave, the staff, and the people of this wonderful place. I do believe my coming here is no accident, but a most meaningful event in my (and yours as well) vocation to the ministry of music among the people of God.

The upcoming year will see me continuing to know and learn more about this faith community as I continue to reflect and explore the deeper meaning of "*Building Faith, Building Community, Building Lives*" as it is expressed and nourished here. I will also continue to act and grow in accordance with the vows I took during the installation of Minister of Music liturgy to teach scripturally, growing in love for those I serve, while striving for excellence in my skills, and adorning the Gospel of God. I look forward to many, many years together.

We are off to a great start!

Brandon D. Spence, DMA  
Minister of Music

## CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

This year has been full of wonderful music-making from our students as they gathered together for The Master's Singers and Chorister Choir after school during the week. Our Chorister Choir, made up of Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade students, met every Thursday after school in the Simeon Center, where we would have a snack before heading into the Nave to learn fun new songs and learn more about singing together! This year, our Chorister Choir was made up of a staggering 20 talented singers who arrived at every practice excited to sing and learn new songs! On Wednesday afternoons, The Master's Singers would meet in the Simeon Center as well to have a snack before diving headfirst into their challenging music. The Master's Singers, composed of 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade and up students, was small but mighty this year! This group of students must audition every year to participate; and during their rehearsals, they use warm-ups and exercises to further develop their vocal talents. Their musical repertoire is more challenging, but the students rise to meet each challenge with vigor and passion. This year, both choirs performed at least once a month at our Sunday worship services and even had the chance to worship with Bishop Milton when she visited! Every year, the choir students learn and grow with the program, and each year is better than the last! Next year is looking to bring some new ideas and new music. With the talented students at the wheel, we should look forward to the beautiful songs they share.

Shannon Schubert

## ALTAR GUILD

What is the Altar Guild and what do they do besides scurry around  
before and after the church service?

The Altar Guild (Sacristan if there are men, and yes, men can be part of this ministry) is comprised of individuals who are grateful servants. It is the privilege of the Altar Guild and Sacristans to help care for our unique worship space, which is dedicated to the honor, mystery, and glory of God, and for hospitality to the people of God. We would like to thank all the men who faithfully work with the Altar Guild throughout the year. These men change out the Sanctuary flags, hang banners, head into the attic to bring down seasonal items, hang the Advent Wreath and put up the huge Chrismon Tree. These are just a few things the men do to help prepare our church for worship. Thank you!

Did you know our church has two sacristies, which are rooms used for liturgical preparations and storage? The vesting sacristy is a private room in which vestments are kept and where the pastor and other worship leaders vest prior to the service. The working sacristy functions as the head of the Altar Guild (or Sacristans). Paraments, linens, sacramental vessels and supplies, candles, and many other items all essential for worship throughout the year, are kept in this space.

The most visible part of the Altar Guild's work is when the table of the Lord is set for the Sacramental Liturgy. Not only Holy Communion vessels, but also the altar linens, paraments, and other items are carefully arranged on the altar and in the worship space for each service. After each worship service, these items are inspected and cleaned as needed in anticipation of their next use. It is a true and gratifying ministry to attend to the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

One of the charges of the Altar Guild is to keep the house of the Lord clean and orderly. The members of the Altar Guild gathered twice this year (pre-Christmas and Pre-Easter) to deep clean and straighten our worship area. It is a big job, and we appreciate the congregational members who joined us to help. Many hands make the work lighter, and there are big and small jobs which anyone can do. Please consider joining us the next time the call goes out for help.



Another big job that was recently accomplished was a complete cleaning and reorganization of the Sacristy. We had a great time cleaning, organizing, and laughing. We also labeled each cabinet, so everything has its place. Thank you to all who helped. Currently, we are looking at the altar linens to determine what items need to be repaired or replaced.

Please consider joining this ministry, where you will learn and gain a deeper appreciation for preparing and serving our Lord. We help and teach each other, so don't worry about not knowing what to do. You do not need to commit to every Sunday when you join the Altar Guild (men, you too), but be willing to help when needed.

To the Glory of God!  
Altar Guild Members

## **AESTHETICS MINISTRY**

The Spiritual Gift of Artistic Design

This ministry has been many years in the making, starting with Pastor Doug Stowe, who recognized the uniqueness of our church's architecture, design, and visual impact. With the full support and guidance of Pastor Fox, this ministry has become a reality.

Our God is a living God; and He created all that is in our world, to include the beauty of nature and the minds of humankind who create all manner of beautiful things. If the stars, mountains, and flowers proclaim His handiwork, shouldn't the church proclaim and be a place of beauty, as well?

In the Book of Exodus, two men were explicitly said to be given this spiritual gift (Exodus 31:1-11). God's people had much to build. There was the tent of meeting, the ark of the testimony, the mercy seat, all the furnishings of the tent, the table and its utensils, the lampstand with all its utensils, and the altar of incense to name a few of the worship elements. These items had to be designed and made with care. Each detail had to reflect the creative beauty of God Himself.

God filled the individuals with *“the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold, silver, and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, to work in every craft”* (vv. 3-5). God gave people the spiritual gift of craftsmanship and artistic design. Gloria Dei is so blessed to have many individuals with this spiritual gift who are willing to share it with our congregation to the Glory of God.

The head of the Ministry is the Senior Pastor with a limited number of individuals who work closely with the Pastor. The Aesthetics Ministry acts as a point of contact for providing input regarding the appearance of the church interior in order to present a well-designed, high quality, consistency in architecture and style, and to present a pleasant and welcoming atmosphere to our congregation and guests. It seeks support of church members and other ministries to maintain the interior, as well as work with buildings and grounds to see that regular maintenance needs of the interior spaces are taken care of in a timely manner. The scope of this ministry is limited to the church interior, identified as the Tower of the Triumphant, Koinonia Atrium and associated areas, and the Nave (Sanctuary).

You may have noticed some of the changes to enhance the welcoming feeling when you enter our church. These include new furniture and carpeting in the reception area, a seating area with a new lamp to provide additional areas of rest for those entering our church, umbrella stands near the tower entrance doors, and a new information center. Our church has served us well, but given the traffic we encounter with the school and church, some things wear out and, when updating them, much care and consideration is given to make the new items seamlessly blend into the current design of our spaces. Keep an eye out for more enhancements to our building and continue to prayerfully ask that God guides each of us to use the Spiritual Gifts He has provided, as we continue to take care of His people and worship spaces.

Vivian Griese and Pam Hess

## **MEMORIAL REPORT**

The Memorial Fund was developed in order to allow members and friends of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church to have a part in helping provide various items necessary for worship, as well as the aesthetic beauty of our worship place. Memorials are given for many reasons. All are given to the Glory of God. Some are given “in memory of” when a family member or close friend dies. Some are given “in honor of” for a special person—the birth of a child or grandchild, or a special occasion—baptism or confirmation. In addition to these gifts, monies are given, to be designated by the pastor and held in a discretionary fund. Gifts are also combined over a period of time for more expensive items (e.g., transept windows, stained glass doors, pews).

Memorials have and will continue to enhance our church service and the physical appearance of our church structures. There are Memorial envelopes available for help in directing your memorial gifts. These are located in the narthex.

### **Memorials (6/1/23-5/31/24)**

✠ Memorials given to the Glory of God and in memory of:

Johnny Johnston  
Elsie Leaptrot  
Jean Liesman

Russell Lyeth  
Joe Morrison  
Tom Sharp



# CARE MINISTRIES

## HOME COMMUNION

Gloria Dei visits 18 shut-ins. Visits can be done by the pastor. However, there is a larger need than what the pastor can meet. The following people served in taking Communion to our shut-ins:

Rita Foringer  
Jim and Jeane Fullen

Ann Myers  
Mary Jane Leckrone

Aaron Sutherland

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

*"She seeks wool and flax and works willingly with her hands."*

*Proverbs 31:13*



The Prayer Shawl Ministry has been a part of Gloria Dei for approximately 18 years. During that time, we have created prayer shawls and prayer blankets, confirmation stoles, prayer squares, and baptismal blankets. Hundreds of people have been recipients of our creations. They are knit or crocheted with prayers and are always a symbol of God's love and the love of the congregation.



We meet on the second Sunday of the month following Worship Service to knit and crochet. Often, we then adjourn to Capri Restaurant for lunch and fellowship.

There is no pressure. One creation a year would be one more than we have now. If you currently know how to knit or crochet, please consider joining us. Another alternative is to learn a new skill. Lessons are available for both crafts.



So, prayerfully consider joining us or, at the very least, pray that we gain additional members. The ministry is an important one at Gloria Dei, and we would like it to continue.

If you have any questions, please contact Rita Foringer at [rforinger@verizon.net](mailto:rforinger@verizon.net).

Peace,  
Rita Foringer

## BLESSING TREE

Each year, our congregation does a phenomenal job with helping folks in our community via the Blessing Tree. We identify a family or individuals in need of clothing, furniture, and/or gifts for their children. This year we were happy to bless our recipients with their requested needs.

## ELCA GOOD GIFTS

ELCA Good Gifts are a creative, meaningful way to support the ministries of the ELCA that mean the most to you and your loved ones. These gifts are real examples from projects currently supported through ELCA church-wide ministries. Donations to ELCA Good Gifts this past year totaled \$1,785.86, which is more than double last year's total of \$842.00. We thank the congregation for your generosity.



## JUST OLDER YOUTH (JOY) FELLOWSHIP

We had a fabulous time throughout the fall and early winter meeting, eating, and playing games, building crafts, singing, or showing and telling. We give thanks for this ministry and all who volunteered to make it happen. This past January was our last gathering. We were blessed by this ministry for many years and we look forward to what might come to be in this time of discerning our future ministries at Gloria Dei.



## WOMEN OF THE ELCA – GLORIA DEI UNIT

*“As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.”*

Mission Statement of the Women of the ELCA (WELCA)



The Women of Gloria Dei is part of the national organization of women within the Lutheran Church. It is referred to as WELCA, (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America). All women of the church are automatically members. So, ladies, that includes you!

The Women of Gloria Dei meet periodically during the year. This year we got together to create angels from oyster shells. It was a fun day with grandmothers, mothers and granddaughters using their God-given talent, to create an ornament. Extra ornaments created were delivered to congregational shut-ins.

Our big emphasis was creating Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. Partnering with Girl Scout Troop 1041 and the Gloria Dei congregation as part of our Lenten journey, we were able to make **175 KITS** for distribution during disasters such as war, famine, earthquake, and fire.



However, WELCA does not end there. Since **ALL** women are by definition members of WELCA, think about all the things that the Women of the Church do:

Altar Guild  
Ladies of Eggcellence  
Receptions for funerals, Confirmation  
First Communion  
The Prayer Shawl Ministry

Teach Children’s Church  
The Book Group  
The Vestry, Sacristy, and Nave are all cleaner because of the efforts of women

The list can go on. All of these groups involve the women of the church. All create fellowship. All serve a ministry within the congregation that is Gloria Dei.

So, thanks be to God for the women in WELCA!

Peace and blessings,  
Rita





## WELCA BOOK CLUB

*"So many books, so little time"*

The WELCA Book Club falls under the umbrella of the Women of Gloria Dei. Which means that all are welcome. All that is required is a willingness to read the chosen book.

Each month, we get together and discuss the latest book selection. We meet at the home of a different hostess who selects the reading for the month, which gives us a variety of books. The discussion of the book is always enlightening. Each woman has her own perspective and is NOT afraid to share it. Light refreshments are served. We meet from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. on the second Monday of the month. This year, we were more worldly as we read about events in both England and South Korea. The big awakening was to learn of the blue people in Appalachia.

We continue to welcome newcomers and hope that you will consider joining. If you wish to create an additional group, please let me know. Nothing says we can have only one book club. Perhaps daytime works better for you. There are lots of options. The goal is to read. It opens up worlds we can only imagine.



If you read the books selected but are unable to join us when we get together, feel free to send me a message and I'll share your comments. Also, if you have a recommendation, please let me know. We're always open to a good book!

For more information or questions, contact Rita Foringer at [rforinger@verizon.net](mailto:rforinger@verizon.net).

Peace and blessings,  
Rita



# COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

## COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP

In the Bible, community is a place for people to grow and mature in their faith, and to show God’s love to each other and the world. It can also be an environment for people to be friends, seek mentors, or teach others.

Well, it has been another busy and fun-filled year in our Gloria Dei community. Starting in October, the Fish Fry returned with a great turnout from our church and community. Our drive-thru barbeque was a smashing success bringing good fellowship and food together. I would like to give a big shout-out to BBQ Mike with Que-Nited for cooking the BBQ. All proceeds from this event were given to the school and church. As the year went on, we gathered for our annual Hanging of the Greens, a tradition cherished by all at Gloria Dei. The congregation was met with delicious soup and hotdogs to kick off the night, which was filled with caroling, decorating, and fun activities for all. We then dove into our Lenten season with a new event, “Ziti with your Sweetie.” Each Wednesday night service had a great turnout, and there were several volunteers who helped facilitate the soup suppers beforehand as well as with cleanup. We would like to say thank you to all who have helped in Gloria Dei events in any way this year. Thanks to your part, we were able to strengthen fellowship within the church as well as expand it outwards to our community!

Sincerely,  
Aaron Sutherland, Visioneer









## POWER IN THE SPIRIT

Each year, Power in the Spirit is held at Roanoke College in Salem, Virginia. It is a three-day retreat for adults, both laity as well as clergy. Last year, the weekend was titled, "Seeking and Finding."

During the weekend, we were led in a Bible Study by The Rev. Dr. Steven S. Tuell. His focus was on the book of Jonah and his journey and challenges, answering God's call to go to Nineveh. The Rev. Dr. Mary Hinkle Shore was the keynote speaker, challenging us in our journey to answer God's call in our lives.



In addition to the speakers, we were invited to participate in various workshops. There is always a musical focus, usually a craft opportunity, additional focus on the Bible study and a Meditation Chapel to take advantage of during "down time." Something for everyone.

In addition to the events of the weekend, it is always a wonderful opportunity to have fellowship with members of our church and renew friendships we have made in the past. Unfortunately, the event of 2024 was held in June this year. Fortunately, that gives you an extra year to consider attending in 2025! Come join us.

## H.E.L.P. MINISTRY AND COAT DRIVE

We would like to thank everyone for all their support in our winter-gear drive for 2023. During this year's collection, we received a total of **1,722** items. Donations come from our amazing congregation and parents of our school, with drop-off bins around the campus. Also, our local community was a large contributor to our drive-thru drop-off. The new signage and posts on NextDoor Neighbor app, Facebook, and good old-fashioned word of mouth has grown this ministry outside of our building. All adult items have been given to H.E.L.P., where they will be distributed through their evening shelter program, "A Night's Welcome." The Boys and Girls Club of the Virginia Peninsula was very happy to receive the children's donations again this year. **A quick sharing moment, when we dropped the items off at the Boys & Girls Club, the young lady receiving the items was a Gloria Dei School alumni. It's so neat to see all the ways we as a church and school are connected to the community!**



### Categorized Donation Amounts

Men's items: 195	Boys' items: 224
Women's items: 323	Girls' items: 129
Socks: 183	Baby clothes: 117
Hats: 81	Scarves: 174
Gloves: 115	Blankets: 14
Bags: 19	Toiletries: 148
<b>Total: 1,722 items</b>	

A special Thank You to the Senior and Junior High Youth for helping us sort the donated items as their helping hands make distribution so much easier. Thank you, Gloria Dei, for everything you do to continue to support our community by doing God's work!

## SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

The Senior High Youth were excited to return for another year! We met weekly for Wonderful Wednesdays, with an average of seven senior high youth in attendance to enjoy food, friends, and fellowship. We took turns leading various topics and participated in meaningful discussion during Discipleship Group.

Our Annual Christmas Tree Sales were a success. We spread Christmas cheer to our community while raising money for our youth events. We also sponsored the ELCA Good Gifts tree and raised \$1,785.86. Two of our youth (Hayley O'Neill and Ruth Hutchison) designed the advertisement for the fundraiser, which was included in the bulletins.

We gave back to our community through service projects such as making blankets for local hospice patients, organizing coat donations for the homeless, cleaning up the land around the church and school, hosting our annual Egg Hunt for young children (we stuffed and hid over 1,000 eggs!) and volunteering at Vacation Bible School.

We had five youth (Adaleyn Forbes, Ruth Hutchison, Dave Modesto, Eli Murphy, and Hayley O'Neill) attend Winter Celebration at Eagle Eyrie, where they enjoyed singing and worship, small group discussions, and meeting new friends. We gathered for some local events: pumpkin carving hosted by the Todds, bowling, seeing the Christmas lights at Norfolk Botanical Gardens, taking over the trampoline park, and having a couple of lock-ins.

We also had one Youth Sunday with our high school seniors (Gabe Hutchison and Dave Modesto) leading the service as Lay Youth Leaders. Youth in lower grades served as ushers, readers, greeters, tech team assistants, and members of Cross and Crown.

It's been a wonderful year with the Senior High Youth! And, as the school year comes to an end, we look forward to having a few events with our youth this summer so we can continue to gather in faith and fellowship.

To our graduating seniors, Gabe and Dave: THANK YOU for your dedication to this youth group and church. You brought laughter, great ideas, and so much joy to our group. We will miss you greatly! Congratulations on graduating – we can't wait to see what amazing things you'll do next!





## JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP

Fun times with Gloria Dei youth! In the fall, the kids come back together to enjoy our Wonderful Wednesdays, where we enjoy meals, music, and small groups. The “Littles” (K-4<sup>th</sup> grade) are now a well-integrated part of Wednesday nights, merging well with our Junior and Senior High youth to participate in the fun. Our discipleship during the week is a nice way to help ground all of us. The kids enjoyed outings such as Putt Putt, Million Bulb Walk, Laser Tag, Skyzone, and the fan favorite, a Lock-in. We added two new events this year, which were going to Busch Gardens and a Peninsula Pilots game. They also participated in some wonderful service projects, such as prepping food for H.E.L.P. food pantry, making blankets for hospice, and helping with separating coats for the homeless. They also volunteered a lot of their time stuffing stockings, selling Christmas trees, Youth Sunday, Easter Egg Hunt, and trash clean up on the church/school campus. We celebrated three young men who took their First Communion and Wade Brown for Confirmation. We participated in two Virginia Synod youth events. In November, we attended Lost & Found with five of our 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students. In March, we attended 7<sup>th</sup> Day with two of our 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Please reach out if you have any questions about joining Wonderful Wednesdays as a youth or a volunteer. We have plenty of tasks and will help find the perfect fit for you. We would love to have you be a part of this terrific ministry. The loving atmosphere at Gloria Dei is what makes this all possible.

Peace,  
Jenny and Aaron Sutherland





## WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

Wonderful Wednesday is Gloria Dei's Sunday School. This is a ministry still under construction, as we are always open to expanding what happens on these nights and always looking for willing, able, and excited volunteers. Wonderful Wednesday includes Growing with Jesus (Kindergarten-Grade 4), Junior High Discipleship (Grades 5-6), and Confirmation (Grades 7-8). Senior High Discipleship (Grades 9-12), and First Communion (all ages). The year is broken up into four groupings of six-weeks. Each quarter, we do a service project, and each half we do a fun outing. Our service projects are tie quilts for hospice, coats for the homeless, a campus clean-up and a beach clean-up. Our fun outings were going to see the Christmas lights at Norfolk's Botanical Gardens and bowling at Century Lanes. Our largest group of kids were our K-4 Growing with Jesus; sometimes Mr. Adams would have sixteen in his class. Junior High Discipleship had up to four in attendance. Confirmation had five students. Senior High Youth had up to seven in attendance. That's over thirty children and youth! We are thankful for all of the parents who rotated doing meals for us, and especially Vicki O'Neill who headed up the rotation. Thank you to Jack Adams, Flo Forbes, Lauren Malone, Diane Washburn, Mary Jane Leckrone, Jenny Sutherland, Aaron Sutherland, Rita Foringer, Sharon Bennett, Rick Graves, Josh Lowman, Rachel Lomax, Peggy Todd, Vivian Griese, Pam Hess, Dr. Spence, and to all who jumped in to help serve at the food line. We are hopeful that at some point we will have leaders for adult small group and/or study on these Wednesday nights. We look forward to another great year and hope to see you there.





## CHRISTMAS TREE SALES



The Youth Group Christmas Tree sales were a great success this year and, again, would not have been possible without the help and support of Aaron and Jenny Sutherland (Junior Youth Advisors) and Peggy Todd, Rachel Lomax, and Josh Lowman (Senior Youth Advisors). Christmas tree quality was up this year from last and we seem to have returned to a more normal, stable tree market. Jeremiah and I rode out to Elk Creek, VA, and Bottomly Farms to gather the load of trees and enjoyed the ride through the Virginia countryside! Last year, we began accepting credit cards with much success; and this year credit card transactions made up 25% of sales. Many were thankful to not have to make a run to the

ATM! As in past years, there were so many comments of positive support for our youth and community of faith from those purchasing trees that it makes it a truly enjoyable event. A special thanks to the numerous families, especially all those youth and parents who picked up extra shifts and made extra efforts; this event would not have been a success without the help you provided! Christmas Tree Sales were, as always, a positive success. We showed a net profit of \$1,450.00 on sales of \$6,680.00 and expenses of \$5,400.00. As in previous years, the math does not add up due to the generous donations toward the event. Christmas tree sales help cut our costs for retreats to a minimum so that all youth can enjoy these retreats: Winter Celebration for our high school youth, Lost and Found for our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, and 7<sup>th</sup> Day for our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade group. Thanks to all youth and their families and members of Gloria Dei who volunteered their time during a busy time of year. Also, special thanks to all who purchased a live tree!

Faithfully serving,  
Jason Green

## LADIES OF EGGCELLENCE

The Ladies of Eggcellence spearheaded the reception in September for New Members/Bring a Friend/Staff Installation/GDLS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We would like to extend our “Thank you’s” to those who brought or made food and beverages for the spectacular event.



Our College Care Packages continue to be a sought-after item. This year, we created 13 fun-filled, goodies filled, makes you want to smile, little boxes of hugs. This not-for-profit idea enables us to frugally buy bulk items, reduce costs with coupons, and use donations to put together a box that our congregation or a school member can have sent to their college student.



The Ladies of Eggs finished the 2024 egg-making season with 3,818 eggs made - almost a thousand more than that of 2023 at 2,976. Roughly \$5,000 was brought in this year. Many thanks to the “Eggstras” young and old who helped with covering the floor in the Fellowship Hall, mixing, forming, dipping, decorating, and all the

cleanup that goes with making the magic happen. This year, we were reunited with former congregant Tiiu Hart, who made the trek from Florida and brought a friend to help! Next year, if you think you’d be interested in the egg-making experience, ALL are invited to help (and we could use a few more hands) - just contact any egg lady if interested.



To close out the year, we helped to host the “Bagels with the Bishop” reception. Although a catchy phrase by Pastor Dave, the Egg Ladies and many Eggstras made an assortment of additional breakfast items and assisted with the serving, while we were able to spend time with our own Bishop Phyl.

Yours in Eggs,  
The Ladies of Eggcellence

### **RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES**

Gloria Dei hosted three blood drives since the last report. Vicki O'Neill coordinates the blood drives. A total of 56 donations were collected. That many donations can provide lifesaving blood for up to approximately 156 people in our community.

### **GIRL SCOUTS**

Girl Scout Troop 1041 is led by Vicki O'Neill along with five co-leaders. The troop consists of 26 girls from 2<sup>nd</sup> grade through 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Troop 1069, a second troop, is led by Whitney Popp and consists of 14 girls K through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, bringing the total of Girl Scouts at Gloria Dei to 40.

Junior-level girls earned their bronze award, the highest-level award in their age group. They put in twenty hours working on a special project for Bluebird Gap Farm.

Cadette and Senior-level girls took their first trip and spent three days in Richmond where the highlight of their adventure was spending a day rafting the James River.

Community service continues to play a large role in what Girl Scouts do. This past year, Troop 1041 packed 25 pet adoption bags, which were donated to Cat Corner and the Animal Aid Society. The annual Trunk or Treat was once again hosted by Girl Scouts and was a huge success. Troops made no-sew blankets for hospice, packed and donated over 60 treat bags for the kid meals at the church BBQ, took part in purchasing gifts for the Angel Tree, and partnered with WELCA to assist with collecting donations and helping pack 178 care kits for Lutheran World Relief.

Cookie season brought some challenges this year. Troop 1049 held only five booths this year. Cookie sales were down about 11% council-wide in Virginia.

This year, Girl Scouts spent an abundance of time visiting and learning with local businesses and groups.

- William and Mary College (Williamsburg) – Learning about robotics
- Sweet Frog (Yorktown) – Learning about running a small business
- Storybook Studios (Chesapeake) – Learning about photography
- Brent & Becky's Bulb Shop (Gloucester) – Learning about gardening
- Five Crow Martial Arts (Hampton) – Learning about self-defense
- Mariner's Museum (Newport News) – Learning about textiles
- Sweethaven Lavendar Farm (Williamsburg) – Learning about local farms and products
- Latitude Climbing (Hampton) – Learning how to climb
- Starving Artist (Newport News) – Learning about painting
- Air & Space Center (Hampton) – Completing a Girl Scout journey, learning about flight
- and more

Girls completed a variety of badges to include outdoor adventure, climbing adventure, textile design, product design, photography, nutrition, teamwork, business, outdoor art, gardening, spreading kindness, mental health, special agent, detective, and more.

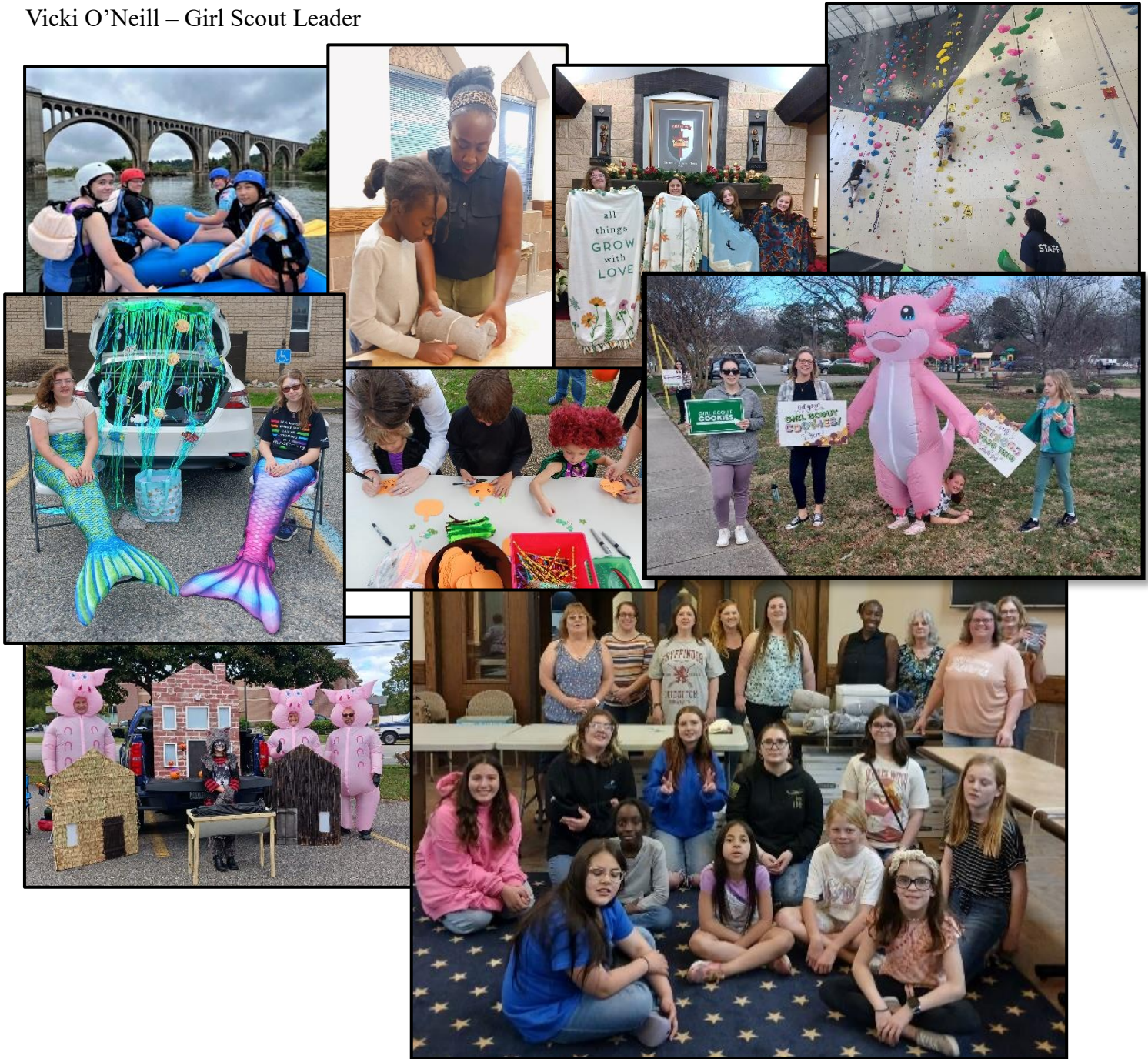


A first this year, girls were invited by the Boy Scouts to participate in the Derby Race held at Gloria Dei. Girls created derby cars and had a great time. They hope to participate again next year.

Troop 1041 had a wonderful year. They continue to offer many thanks to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church and the entire congregation for their continuous support of our Girl Scouts.

Both Girl Scout troops plan to continue into next year and look forward to more fun adventures beginning in September 2024.

Vicki O'Neill – Girl Scout Leader





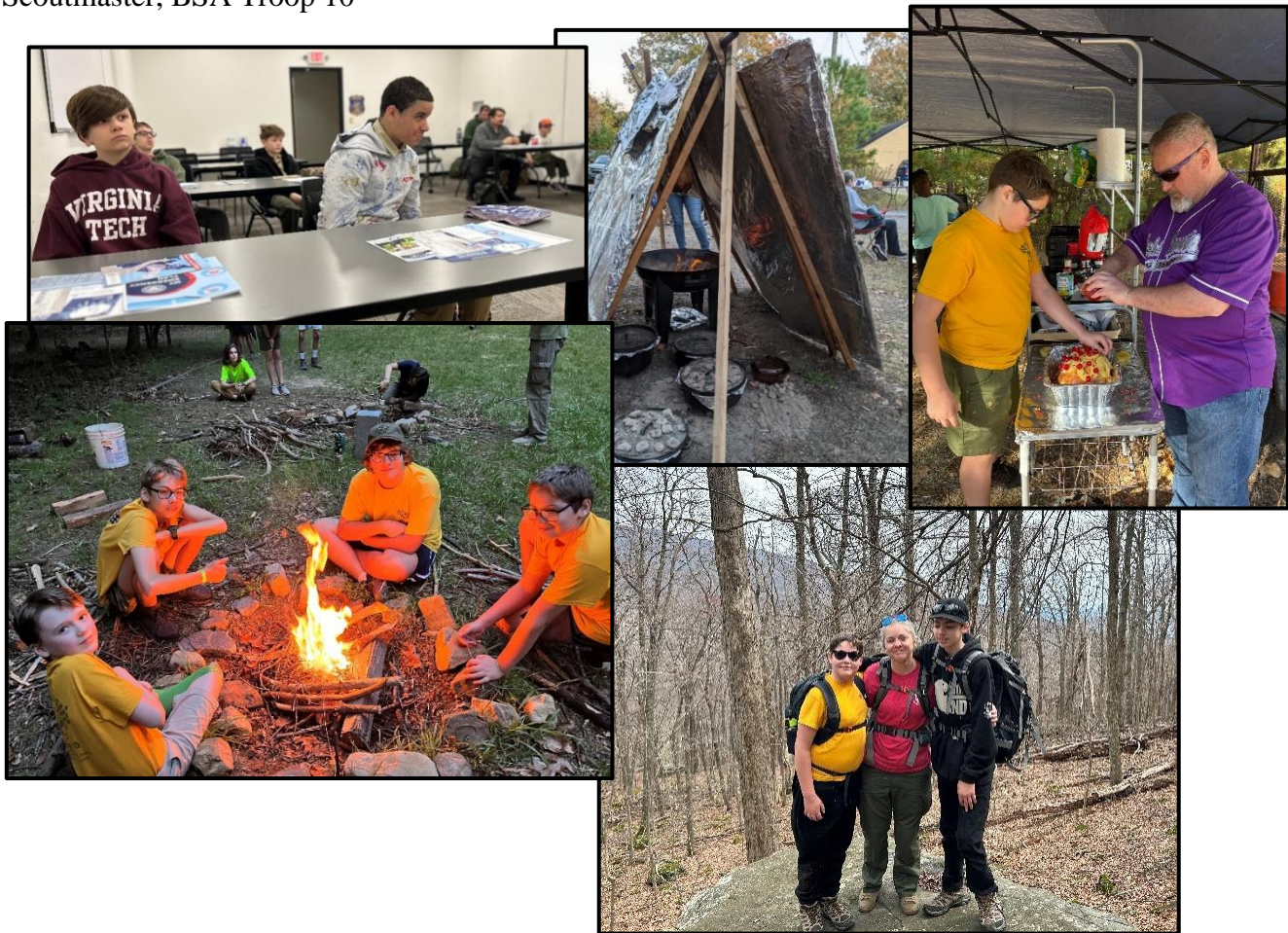
## BOY SCOUTS

Since our transition from Langley Christian Church to Gloria Dei, our troop has flourished. Although the troop is small in numbers, our Scouts have excelled in Scout and personal advancements. Since the first of the year, we have seen seven rank advancements, three Order of the Arrow elections, and three merit badges completed. Our Scouts are also flourishing in school and their personal lives. We have two scouts playing high school baseball, football and track and field. One of Scouts has quickly risen in the ranks of the KHS JROTC program. These Scouts prove they are not only living the Scout Oath and Law once a week on Mondays, but also in their everyday lives.

The Scouts are currently working on the Physical Fitness Merit Badge and will be starting on the Climbing Merit Badge on June 21. The majority of our Scouts will be attending Summer Camp at Camp Pipsico the week of July 7, and one of our Scouts has started the process of his Eagle Scout Project and hopes to be completed before the end of the summer.

We would like to thank the Church and the School for providing our troop the opportunity to continue to grow and help the youth of our city.

Respectfully,  
Colgan Wilson  
Scoutmaster, BSA Troop 10



# GENERAL OPERATIONS

## Our Church and School

### *What we owe and what we are worth.*

#### **We should celebrate our blessings and look toward our next year!**

From a financial perspective, our goals during the last twelve months continue to include:

1. Striving to improve our services to our congregation and community.
2. Grow our Church's membership and positive impact on our community.
3. Expand and improve our Stewardship programs.
4. Monitor our reserve fund levels that will continue to protect the Church and School programs.

During the past fiscal year, we have grown our Church and our School both in quality of service and in numbers. We continue to take steps to react and protect our financial situation. We dealt with a midyear increase in our debt service, as our mortgage interest rate increased from 4.85% to 6.35% as inflation and prime rates moved upward. This increased our monthly interest payment from \$6,396 to \$8,295. The increase required a monthly payment (principal and interest) of \$15,586 compared to the planned monthly amount of \$14,112. We successfully asked and received from TowneBank an increase in our interest rate on our various fund accounts. This move benefitted both the Church and the School and enabled us to pay the monthly difference without impacting our operational Plan/Budget. We are carefully guarding our reserves for both the School and Church and have increased these needed protection sources partially because of the increased interest from the funds.

Our projected indebtedness for 6/30/24 includes the remaining loan, which we are servicing monthly.

- Consolidated Loan (previously Atrium mortgage, Rice Land purchase, and Harris Creek property).
  - Balance projected for 6/30/24 as of 5/26/2024: \$1,516,207 (a reduction of \$88,586 in from the prior year); current interest rate of 6.35%; Maturity date: 12/11/35.
  - Monthly payment of \$15,585.54. The continuing Plan is to use monthly interest to fortify the budgeted \$14,111.77 amount. Payments are made from the Church Operating Account.

Our estimated value of real estate and holdings: \$11,915,462

Our current liquidity (cash on hand projected for 6/30/24) \$2,727,560 (an increase from the prior year of about \$77,758) includes these funds:

- Columbarium Account: \$9,861.09 (an increase of about \$1,180 over last year)
- Legacy Account: \$1,096 (about the same total as last year)
- Memorial Account: \$79,863 (about \$1,656 less than last year)
- Church Operating Account: \$309,127 (an increase of about \$10,825 over last year)
- School Operating Account: \$667,637 (a decrease of about \$57,632 as a result of some spending of grants received in prior years and transfers to School Fundraising; see below).
- School Savings Account: \$820,083.80 (an increase of about \$45,738 as a result of some spending of grants received in prior years and transfers to School Fundraising; see below).
- School Fundraising: \$834,573 (an increase of about \$97,403; transfers from other accounts to better track the grant accounting).
- Linda Robinson Scholarship Account: \$4,419 (same as the prior year).
- Pastor's Discretionary Account: \$900 (funded by designated gifts).

**Total projected, dedicated Church and School Reserves projected 6/30/24: \$991,053** (these are included within the above liquidity amounts). As mentioned above, much of the balance increases are already set to replace items of need including lighting, HVAC units and other capital items that are in great need for our buildings. We also make sure reserves cover two months of payroll and expenses.

*Our Proposed Plan for the Fiscal Year  
July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025*

**We are presenting the Plan Budget for your approval at the Annual Meeting, June 23, 2024. As in prior years, the actual numbers are presented in a spreadsheet format and, while this is necessary to establish the accounting details of the Plan, the numbers alone do not tell our Story! We are about much more than the numbers. Our Plan is a collection of our desires, hopes, and programs that allow us to become an ever more meaningful part of our Church, our community, and our world. Like any good plan, ours should be both challenging and rewarding. We will have to strive to make the financial goal of surpassing our offerings by more than 6%, and we must work hard to expand our outreach programs we are funding. Let us use as an example our Vacation Bible School program that serves both our congregation as well as our community. Funding, volunteers, and hard work all came together; and now we have a sustainable and ever-outreaching, as well as rewarding, program.**

And now on to the required financial details. As in prior years, the Senior Administrator assembled the current year projections in a format that uses monthly actuals plus updates for each account for the current year. The initial projection was presented to the Council at the February meeting and was further updated for the March, April, and May Council meetings with actuals and updated inputs for the remainder of the current fiscal year.

Basic assumptions include (but are not limited to):

1. Offering projections and increase percentage levels are presented with a 6% increase over the current year-end projection as well as an offering increase that produces a “balanced” budget calculated (as of 6/3/24 7.45%). Though both are shown, the 6% increase is used to compute the increases over projection in the last two columns.
2. The debt service projection for next year assumes the current monthly amount without the debt reduction designated gifts from the Congregation but with \$12,000 of the increased interest (projected to be \$14,195) from our account balance.
3. We recently changed the cleaning contractor as we need to get much-improved productivity and results for this area. The new contract increased the overall costs, and the Church is projected to see a monthly increase of \$478 as shown in this draft.
4. Program expense and expansion opportunities for programs include important increases that include \$600 more for HELP, \$4,000 more for outreach programs, \$1,885 more for VBS, and \$1,200 more for the Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center.
5. Staff employee compensation should be increased by 3% to try to cover most of the expected inflationary pressure.
6. Benevolence projections for Synod are increased by \$500 to \$32,000.
7. We have added a new account for “Hampton Stormwater Fees” as the City has more than doubled those fees. Previously, the School paid all such fees, but with this significant increase, we are allocating \$3,000 (of the total for the Fox Hill side of \$6,000) toward that fee, which is still a little less than 50% of the School full.

**We hope this Plan proposal meets your expectations and helps us all be inspired to continue to accomplish wonderful things for God at Gloria Dei.**

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church Plan Budget FYE 063025				Last Updated: 6/2/2024				
	Projected for 6/30/24			Studies for 063025			Increase over Prjctn	% over Prjctn
	Projected	Plan Budget	over Budget	Offering required to Balance (7.45%)	Proposed Plan Budget	Notes		
Total 1 Regular Offering	498,965.17	533,917.30	(34,952.13)	\$ 536,134.75	\$ 528,903.08	for Increase use 6%	\$ 29,937.91	6.00%
Harris Creek House Rental	18,180.99	19,282.00	(1,101.01)	\$ 18,817.32	\$ 18,817.32	+3.5%	\$ 636.33	3.50%
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>515,346.16</b>	<b>553,199.30</b>	<b>(37,853.14)</b>	<b>\$ 554,952.07</b>	<b>\$ 547,720.40</b>		\$ 32,374.24	6.28%
113 Debt Reduction	14,195.00	0.00	14,195.00	14,195.00	14,195.00	same as Projection		
Interest earned	12,211.24	0.00	12,211.24	12,211.24	12,211.24	same as Projection		
Interest TranX to Dbt Service	(12,002.31)	0.00	(12,002.31)	(12,000.00)	(12,000.00)	Assume 12,000		
Interest Subtotal	208.93	0.00	208.93	211.24	211.24			
<b>100 Education Ministry</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>					
Wonderful Wednesdays	558.70	2,000.00	(1,441.30)	575.46	575.46	+3%	\$ 16.76	3.00%
Vacation Church School	3,115.36	4,500.00	(1,384.64)	5,000.00	5,000.00	assume \$5000	\$ 1,884.64	60.50%
123 Weekday Bible Study	0.00	200.00	(200.00)	200.00	200.00	same as last Plan	\$ 200.00	#DIV/0!
124 First Communion Class	51.00	250.00	(199.00)	250.00	250.00	same as last Plan	\$ 199.00	390.20%
<b>Total 100 Education Ministry</b>	<b>3,725.06</b>	<b>6,950.00</b>	<b>(3,224.94)</b>	<b>\$ 6,025.46</b>	<b>\$ 6,025.46</b>		\$ 2,300.40	61.75%
<b>1000 Executive Committee</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>					
1000.5 Council Retreat	2,218.00	2,000.00	218.00	2,218.00	2,218.00	same as last Plan	\$ -	0.00%
Gathering of Ministerium	0.00	450.00	(450.00)	450.00	450.00	same as last Plan	\$ 450.00	#DIV/0!
1001 Synod Assembly	474.74	300.00	174.74	488.98	488.98	+3%	\$ 14.24	3.00%
<b>Executive Committee</b>	<b>2,692.74</b>	<b>2,750.00</b>	<b>(57.26)</b>	<b>\$ 3,156.98</b>	<b>\$ 3,156.98</b>		\$ 464.24	17.24%
<b>200 Worship Ministry</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>					
201 New Music	250.00	865.55	(615.55)	865.55	865.55	same as last Plan	\$ 615.55	246.22%
202 Piano/Organ tuning	932.00	300.00	632.00	959.96	959.96	+3%	\$ 27.96	3.00%
204 Music Supplies	350.00	423.49	(73.49)	360.50	360.50	+3%	\$ 10.50	3.00%
Instrmntl Accompanists	700.00	800.00	(100.00)	721.00	721.00	+3%	\$ 21.00	3.00%
Misc Worship Supplies	1,699.19	3,095.02	(1,395.83)	1,750.17	1,750.17	+3%	\$ 50.98	3.00%
210 Altar Guild Supplies	116.00	100.00	16.00	119.48	119.48	+3%	\$ 3.48	3.00%
211 Bulletins	700.38	2,002.25	(1,301.87)	721.39	721.39	+3%	\$ 21.01	3.00%
213 Decorations/Flowers	438.99	438.82	0.17	452.16	452.16	+3%	\$ 13.17	3.00%
Worship Staff Wages	63,760.48	66,471.00	(2,710.52)	\$ 63,273.29	\$ 63,273.29	3% adjusted	\$ (487.19)	-0.76%
Worship Staff Benefits	18,530.56	24,974.21	(6,443.65)	\$ 18,186.48	\$ 18,186.48	3% adjusted	\$ (344.08)	-1.86%
Adm Miscellaneous	1,923.94	4,616.12	(2,692.18)	1,981.66	1,981.66	+3%	\$ 57.72	3.00%
Seasonal Supplies	9,406.84	7,112.46	2,294.38	9,689.05	9,689.05	+3%	\$ 282.21	3.00%
Atrium Coffee/Expense	600.81	380.98	219.83	618.83	618.83	+3%	\$ 18.02	3.00%
261 Guest Pastor Fees	1,600.00	1,000.00	600.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	assume \$1200	\$ (400.00)	-25.00%
Guest Pastor Expenses	295.36	203.75	91.61	295.36	295.36	same as Projctd	\$ -	0.00%
<b>Total 200 Worship Ministry</b>	<b>101,304.55</b>	<b>112,783.65</b>	<b>(11,479.10)</b>	<b>\$ 101,194.88</b>	<b>\$ 101,194.88</b>		\$ (109.67)	-0.11%
<b>300 Support Ministry</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>					
Total 301 Supplies Office	1,201.01	1,798.12	(597.11)	1,237.04	1,237.04	+3%	\$ 36.03	3.00%
302 Copier Paper	1,817.29	1,508.40	308.89	1,871.81	1,871.81	+3%	\$ 54.52	3.00%
Telephone Service	3,889.95	3,647.18	242.77	4,006.65	4,006.65	+3%	\$ 116.70	3.00%
Total 305 Copier Lease	10,456.73	11,265.12	(808.39)	10,456.73	10,456.73	same as Projctd	\$ -	0.00%
305.2 Computer Upgrade	3,869.92	7,000.00	(3,130.08)	3,869.92	3,869.92	same as Projctd	\$ -	0.00%
306 Postage Office	1,089.81	417.64	672.17	1,089.81	1,089.81	same as Projctd	\$ -	0.00%
Support Ministry Wages	118,481.20	118,008.72	472.48	\$ 121,285.64	\$ 121,285.64	3% adjusted	\$ 2,804.44	2.37%
Ministry Staff Benefits	11,935.60	12,151.80	(216.20)	\$ 12,143.67	\$ 12,143.67	3% adjusted	\$ 208.07	1.74%



	Projected for 6/30/24			Studies for 063025			Increase over Prjctn	% over Prjctn
	Projected	Plan Budget	over Budget	Offering required to Balance (7.45%)	Proposed Plan Budget	Notes		
Wrkrs Comp Insurance	1,322.19	1,373.67	(51.48)	1,388.30	1,388.30	5%	\$ 66.11	5.00%
319 Stewardship Program	2,413.12	3,500.00	(1,086.88)	500.00	500.00	Assume \$500	\$ (1,913.12)	-79.28%
320 Supplies EMR	936.00	754.56	181.44	964.08	964.08	+3%	\$ 28.08	3.00%
Database Maint	4,156.00	4,126.76	29.24	4,280.68	4,280.68	+3%	\$ 124.68	3.00%
325 Website Development	592.00	284.81	307.19	592.00	592.00	same as Projctd	\$ -	0.00%
331 Custodial Service	2,678.00	2,400.00	278.00	5,740.08	5,740.08	new contract	\$ 3,062.08	114.34%
Maintenance Nave	2,748.75	4,315.61	(1,566.86)	2,831.21	2,831.21	+3%	\$ 82.46	3.00%
Maint- Church Offices	465.79	1,152.73	(686.94)	479.76	479.76	+3%	\$ 13.97	3.00%
Maint Supplies - Atrium	963.86	1,948.83	(984.97)	992.78	992.78	+3%	\$ 28.92	3.00%
Grounds Maintenance	1,416.08	3,540.33	(2,124.25)	1,458.56	1,458.56	+3%	\$ 42.48	3.00%
Total 336 Utilities Electric	20,750.29	22,242.45	(1,492.16)	\$ 21,580.30	\$ 21,580.30	4% increase	\$ 830.01	4.00%
Total 337 Utilities Gas	1,908.55	2,855.69	(947.14)	\$ 1,984.89	\$ 1,984.89	4% increase	\$ 76.34	4.00%
338 Utilities Water	803.33	826.48	(23.15)	\$ 835.46	\$ 835.46	4% increase	\$ 32.13	4.00%
339 Utilities Sewer	751.65	702.66	48.99	\$ 781.72	\$ 781.72	4% increase	\$ 30.07	4.00%
Hampton Storm Water fees	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	Assume \$3000 NEW	\$ 1,500.00	100.00%
341 Property Insurance	15,045.09	15,639.66	(594.57)	\$ 15,797.34	\$ 15,797.34	5% increase	\$ 752.25	5.00%
352 Advertising	359.00	150.00	209.00	500.00	500.00	Assume \$500	\$ 141.00	39.28%
Total 353 Bank Charges	897.30	544.00	353.30	700.00	700.00	Assume \$700	\$ (197.30)	-21.99%
<b>Total 300 Support Ministry</b>	<b>212,448.51</b>	<b>222,155.22</b>	<b>(9,706.71)</b>	<b>\$ 220,368.43</b>	<b>\$ 220,368.43</b>		<b>\$ 7,919.92</b>	<b>3.73%</b>
400 Care Ministry	0.00	0.00	0.00					
Nursery Program	2,009.95	2,000.00	9.95	2,009.95	2,009.95	same as Projctd	\$ -	0.00%
Breakfast for Kids	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	new: @ \$150/mo	\$ 1,800.00	#DIV/0!
404 HELP expense	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	increase to 1800	\$ 600.00	50.00%
Outreach Projects	0.00	6,300.00	(6,300.00)	4000.00	4000.00	TBD	\$ 4,000.00	#DIV/0!
Synod Benevolence	31,500.00	31,500.00	0.00	32,000.00	32,000.00	increase to \$32,000	\$ 500.00	1.59%
Peninsula Pastoral Cns Ctr	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00	2400.00	2400.00	increase to 2400	\$ 1,200.00	100.00%
<b>Total 400 Care Ministry</b>	<b>35,909.95</b>	<b>42,200.00</b>	<b>(6,290.05)</b>	<b>\$ 44,009.95</b>	<b>\$ 44,009.95</b>		<b>\$ 8,100.00</b>	<b>22.56%</b>
500 Community Ministry	0.00	0.00	0.00					
502 SeniorYouth Program	200.00	500.00	(300.00)	206.00	206.00	increase by 3%	\$ 6.00	3.00%
Total 502.10 Youth Retreats	581.00	1,463.89	(882.89)	1,463.89	1,463.89	same as last Plan	\$ 882.89	151.96%
Parish Fellowship	2,086.45	3,500.00	(1,413.55)	3,500.00	3,500.00	same as last Plan	\$ 1,413.55	67.75%
<b>Total Community Ministry</b>	<b>2,506.45</b>	<b>5,463.89</b>	<b>(2,957.44)</b>	<b>\$ 5,169.89</b>	<b>\$ 5,169.89</b>		<b>\$ 2,663.44</b>	<b>106.26%</b>
610 Atrium Mortgage (P & I)	169,341.24	169,341.24	0.00	187,026.48	187,026.48	without Interest earned	\$ 17,685.24	10.44%
Total 600 Debt Service	169,341.24	169,341.24	0.00	\$ 175,026.48	\$ 175,026.48	\$12,000 from Interest	\$ 5,685.24	3.36%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>527,928.50</b>	<b>561,695.24</b>	<b>(33,766.74)</b>	<b>\$ 554,952.07</b>	<b>\$ 554,952.07</b>		<b>\$ 27,023.57</b>	<b>5.12%</b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>(12,582.34)</b>	<b>(8,495.94)</b>	<b>(4,086.40)</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ (7,231.67)</b>		<b>\$ 5,350.67</b>	<b>-42.53%</b>

## **Stewardship for All Seasons 2024 Recap and 2025 Stewardship Appeal**

First, a big thank you to all who supported our stewardship drive for 2024. Our stewardship goals for 2024 were to increase pledges and gain an additional \$48,000 in pledged amount. Our 2023 baseline was 81 family/household pledges and \$412,900. Our final results were 75 family-unit pledges for a total of \$421,600 pledged giving. While the total number of pledges declined, the amount pledged continues to grow. That is an increase of \$8,700. Even in challenging economic times, we continue to grow in our capacity to share the Good News. Again, thanks to all who continue to support the ministries of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church.

As we approach the start of our 2025 Stewardship Appeal, we are hopeful our congregation will continue to support Gloria Dei and all its ministries. All we plan for the coming year stems from our basic mission to Build Faith, Build Community, and Build Lives. We will continue to build on our community outreach missions, grow our youth programs, and seek to support and grow excellence in all our ministries to support our faithful members. As we move forward, we plan to not only grow our current programs but to initiate new ones. We are focused on new initiatives such as Breakfast before Worship and outdoor services at Gloria Dei and other locations in Hampton. We are also hoping to begin a new program, Music and Movies on Bromley, as a means to increase outreach with our neighbors.

In the next several months, you will begin to see some members of our congregation share their faith stories, both in the weekly bulletin and in Temple Talks. You will hear from others on their faith journey and, hopefully, this will enhance your worship experience. You will also be encouraged to support our ministries and new initiatives with your time, talents, and resources. We invite you to join us in this effort to continue to support, grow, and enhance our ministries and our faith in Jesus. In 2 Corinthians 9:7, we are reminded: Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Gary Hess  
Stewardship Chair

*“The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.” Proverbs 25:11*

**Statistics  
2023 - 2024**

**Gloria Dei Lutheran Church**

Membership  
439

**Gloria Dei Lutheran School**

Full-time Student Enrollment  
310

After-School Day Care  
164

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**Current Elected Leadership**

		<u>Term Expires</u>
Trustees	Ernie Atkins	2025
	Bo Lomax	2026
	Peggy Todd	2025
Council President	Vivian Griese	2024
Council Vice President	Gary Hess	2025
Council Members	John Campbell	2024
	Rachel Lomax	2025
	*Kent Morgan	2026
	Kevin Morse	2026
	Aaron Sutherland	2024
	*Ashley Zamora	2025
Treasurer	Dawn Lomax	<i>(appointed)</i>
Congregational Scribe	Mike Canny	<i>(appointed)</i>

*\*Indicates second term.*

For as all  
die in Adam,



so all will be  
made alive in Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:22

✠ *In Memoriam* ✠

*Remembering those members and non-members  
whose committals/funerals were conducted by our Pastor.*

*Patricia "Pat" Mitchell*

*Richard H. Peebles, Sr.*

*Shannon Aldrich Pohlman*

*Shirley Mae Dunn*

*Russell Bryan Lyeth*

*Jonathan "Johnny" Johnston*

*Jean Marie Liesman*

*Thomas Robert Sharp*

*Gail Leona Holt Peterson*

*Paula Emilie Jones*