

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Annual Report

Prepared for the 60th Annual Meeting

June 22, 2025

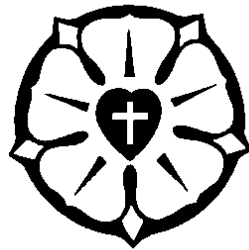


250 FOX HILL ROAD HAMPTON VIRGINIA 23669

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

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

Organized in December of 1965



Building Faith

Building Community

Building Lives

Table of Contents

Minutes of 2024 Annual Congregational Meeting	6
Senior Pastor	7
Congregation Council President.....	8
Education Ministries	
Principal's Report	9
Child Day Care	11
New Members.....	11
Fellowship Bible Study.....	11
Community Bible Study	11
Confirmation	11
First Communion	11
Worship Ministries	
Minister of Music.....	12
Children's Choirs	12
Altar Guild	12
Aesthetics Ministry	13
Memorial Report.....	14
Care Ministries	
Home Communion.....	15
Prayer Shawl Ministry	15
Blessing Tree	15
ELCA Good Gifts	15
Women of the ELCA—Gloria Dei Unit	16
WELCA Book Club.....	16
Community Ministries	
Community Fellowship.....	17
Power in the Spirit	17
H.E.L.P. Ministry and Coat Drive	18
Senior High Youth Group	18
Junior Youth Group	19
Wonderful Wednesdays	19
Christmas Tree Sales.....	20
Ladies of Eggcellence	20
Red Cross Blood Drives.....	21
Girl Scouts	21
Boy Scouts	21
General Operations	
Our Church and School.....	22
Our Proposed Plan for the Fiscal Year.....	23
FY25-26 Plan	24
Stewardship for All Seasons	25
Statistics	27
Current Elected Leadership.....	27
In Memoriam	28

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH
THE 60th ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
June 22, 2025

I. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum

Vivian Griese

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

Vivian Griese

Presentation and approval of annual meeting minutes

IV. New Business

Vivian Griese

A. Presentation and approval of the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church 2025-2026 Financial Plan

B. Election of Church Council: Don Glenn, Amanda Gonzalez, William Swanson

C. Election of Trustees: Ernie Atkins and Peggy Todd

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 23, 2024

Call to Order/Determination of Quorum

Meeting was called to order by Vice President Gary Hess. It was determined there was a quorum present. Michael Canny, serving in his position as Congregational Scribe, will be recording the minutes of the meeting.

Order for Opening of Congregational Meeting (Pastor Dave)

Old Business

Presentation and approval of annual meeting minutes

Motion: Debbi Ortiz Second: Jason Green Motion carried.

New Business

A. Election of Church Council:

Michael Canny, Thomas Clasen, Vivian Griesse (second term), Diane Washburn.

Slate of nominees was presented by Rita Foringer. Motion to vote to elect the nominees en banc was made by Aaron Sutherland and seconded by Jeane Fullen. Motion carried at 10:40 a.m.

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

Presented by Rick Graves. Plan reflects an increase in our mortgage rate from 4.85 to 6.35 percent. Interest on our savings account also increased and will partially offset that.

Gary Hess asked for a motion to approve the 2024-2025 Financial Plan as presented. Motion: Dan Singer
Second: Jim Fullen Motion carried at 10:50 a.m.

Additional New Business

None presented.

Closing Responses and Prayer

Meeting closed with scriptural responses and prayer.

Adjournment and Dismissal (Pastor Dave)

11:00 a.m.

Michael Canny
Congregational Scribe

SENIOR PASTOR

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. As we reflect on the past year together as a community of faith, I give thanks to God for each of you. Let me be the first to tell you, if you haven't heard it already today, Jesus loves you.

Our youth ministries are still thriving, though I would like to see these young people at worship on Sundays. Thank you to all of our youth volunteers for Vacation Bible School, Wonderful Wednesdays (including Growing with Jesus, Confirmation, Junior Youth, and Senior Youth), outings, and retreats. We continue to utilize the Virginia Synod retreats: Seventh Day, Lost and Found, and Winter Celebration. I have also been encouraging our senior high youth to do a Chrysalis weekend.

Outreach ministries at Gloria Dei have continued to grow. We had a record number of Lutheran World Relief Care Kits (185), our youth raised money so they could purchase a well (through ELCA Good Gifts) for a village in a third-world country, our Blessing Tree at Christmas helped a family in need, and our food donations to H.E.L.P. continue to pack our wagon full time and time again, Gloria Dei's Coat Drive was yet again successful, our youth helped to make tie quilts for hospice patients on the peninsula and made sixty gift bags for first responders. Thank you to all who have spearheaded and donated to these causes.

Fellowship is at the heart of what we do at Gloria Dei. We had some amazing Music on Bromley events, our Pig Pickin', worship at Gosnold's Hope Park, Hanging of the Greens, Lent Soup Suppers, Coffee Bar treats and conversations before and after worship, life groups, Ladies of Eggcellence (though not primarily a fellowship group, there is a lot of fellowshiping that happens as they make their eggs), Bible studies, Women of Gloria Dei (book club, knitting, and Glass with the Girls) and we transitioned from A Pint with Pastor to Suppers at Capri. Thank you to all who make fellowship a priority at Gloria Dei.

Worship is central to our faith. I would like to see some of you more often. With that said, our average attendance in worship is growing. Our online switch from Zoom to YouTube has been fruitful. I even had an email Easter afternoon from someone who participated in worship from Italy. I remember that on Easter I looked over at my lay assistant and said, "I'm not in control." The Holy Spirit put on an amazing celebration for us that Sunday. Thank you to Dr. Spence, Peggy, Tammy, our Choir, Altar Guild, Lay Assistants, Ushers, Greeters, Tech Team, and those working behind the scenes.

Our school had roughly three-hundred-thirty students and employs around eighty-five staff members. We are grateful for this ministry of Gloria Dei and for the fifty-three years it has proclaimed Jesus to many homes in our area. Thank you to Mrs. Dadez, Mrs. Nolte, Mrs. Cole, Ms. Nolte and all of our amazing staff of Gloria Dei Lutheran School. This year marked twenty-five years of Mrs. Dadez working at Gloria Dei; five of those years has been as principal of our school.

I don't want to appear to be wearing rose-colored glasses. We no doubt have our challenges. However, Christ is with us even in our struggles.

I continue to encourage you to pray for your pastor, our staff, our school, our students, and our members. Explore ways you can be more generous both financially and with your time. If you're not worshipping weekly, try to make that your goal.

I feel we are almost at the tipping point of some major growth. Keep up the energy and the positivity. Keep inviting people to church and finding ways you can continue to grow in your faith. I leave you with the words from the author of Hebrews, *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God (Heb. 12:1-2)."*

July 1, 2024, to June 9, 2025, Pastoral Records:

Number of baptisms since July 1, 2024: 11

Number of confirmations since July 1, 2024: 4

Number of first communions since July 1, 2024: 5

Number of new members by transfer since July 1, 2024: 5

Number of funerals since July 1, 2024: 7

Number of weddings since July 1, 2024: 1

Peace be the journey,
Pastor Dave

CONGREGATION COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Ants. . . I enjoyed watching them as a child on hot summer days, laying in the grass doing nothing much. I enjoy watching them even now. They never stop working. They help when they encounter another ant trying to do something, or get out of the way. I don't think I ever saw any ants fight. Isn't that amazing? Working together, tirelessly, toward a common goal. Each ant doing its part with the skills it happens to possess. I realize that ants would be good role models for us as we seek to do God's work. Everyone pitching in as they are able, in areas they are good at, all with a common goal. No one being afraid that God has not equipped them with what they need. Ants. . . something to think about.

It has been a pleasure to work as your Congregational Council President these past two years. You are well represented by those who serve with me on Council. They are passionate, love the church, and want to serve and seek God's direction in our decision-making. We are trying to not just repeat the past, but live up to our titles as visioneers of our church's future. Please take a moment to thank those who heed the call to serve on your behalf, by serving as a Council Member.

This past year has been full as we try to bring documents up to date, look for new avenues to reach out to those in our community, and welcome those who may be searching for a church home. We reflected on last year's focus areas from our retreat and were successful in providing a simple cold breakfast before worship. We worked to expand our presence in the immediate community and created opportunities for events such as our summer concert series "Music on Bromley." Thank you to all who helped make the concerts a success from contacting musicians, the set up, and then clean up, including our youth who sold food and drink for our attendees. We also had an outdoor worship event at Gosnold's Hope Park, with a potluck and games afterwards. It was a great time of fellowship and getting to know one another better.

We invited Pastor John Wertz to speak about evangelism ideas and hope to do a follow-up with more ideas. Our February retreat concentrated on "Focus Your Vision." It gave us the uninterrupted time to think, reflect, and work on how we focus our vision, both personally and as leaders in the church.

Additional highlights from our work include updating the GDLC Child Protection Policy; updating and expanding the GDLC Property/Facilities Use Agreement and Request Form with a General Rules and Guidelines Policy; creating a Tower of the Triumphant policy; Aesthetics Ministry; and Flower Ministry.

The Council, again, served the school staff at their Staff Banquet. It was a great evening where we expressed the church's gratitude for their hard work and dedication to educating our children.

In honor of our church's 60th Anniversary, we created 60-Day Challenges to occur throughout 2025. These challenges are meant to engage the church, school, parents, and others who enter our facility. Please take time to read how these challenges can enrich your own life, while celebrating what God has done for Gloria Dei.

Gloria Dei belongs to more than the church council. We want you to commit to make church a habit in your life; God desires your worship! Help spread the Word of God, and don't forget to invite a friend to church.

To the glory of God,
Vivian Griese

EDUCATION MINISTRIES

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

On June 4, 2025, our graduation service honored the fifth and eighth graders as they made the transition from elementary and middle 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: Naomi Menendez

Eighth Grade: Bryson Rader and Zoe Zou

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.

This school year has been especially meaningful to me.

This year marks my 25th anniversary of service and ministry to the students and staff at Gloria Dei Lutheran School. Over the years, I have seen many changes in and around our school. We have added new programs and grade levels, remodeled classrooms and playgrounds, and even moved our actual school buildings. However, many things remain the same. Gloria Dei Lutheran School continues to provide a Christ-centered, solid education that fosters academic, spiritual, physical, social, and emotional growth. God continues to bless us with faithful staff members to nurture and serve in our ministry, and parents entrust us with the care and education of their children. This has been a fantastic journey, and I am incredibly grateful for the many hats I have worn during my twenty-five years. I am excited for what lies ahead as we begin our 52nd school year in August.

I would like to congratulate our staff members who also celebrated special milestones in their service and ministry at Gloria Dei. Congratulations to:

20th Anniversary – Tosha Coleman, Libby Madlock, Debbie Walker, Sheri Yarrington

30th Anniversary – Lisa Maguire

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 quality educational and childcare programs for our students. Thank you for your faithfulness and dedication to our ministry.

2024 – 2025 School Highlights

- We were blessed with an enrollment of 321 students in our day school program (toddlers through eighth grade).
- This year, we kicked off Fall Festival Week with our 5th Annual Drive-Thru BBQ. Under the direction of Aaron and Jenny Sutherland, many church and school volunteers came together to ensure this year's event was our best one to date. This year, we raised over \$4,500.00!!! All proceeds went to "Operation Playground." A heartfelt thanks to all who helped make this community event such a special day!
- Our School sponsored two successful Scholastic Book Fairs—one in the fall, and one in the spring. Many thanks to the greatest Book Fair team - 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 pack away the book cases.



- Students participated in the Classic Cookie and Popcorn fundraiser.
- Gloria Dei Lutheran Preschool was once again recognized by the Hampton Clean City Commission with the Innovative School Award in Environmental Education. In addition to our new sign on the Fox Hill Campus, a dogwood tree and Gloria Dei Preschool plaque will be placed in our honor at Blue Bird Gap Farm.
- In January, all school and church staff participated in ALICE Active Threat Response Training. This training was conducted by Senior Corporal Scott Anderson with the Hampton Police Department.
- Our Middle School once again participated in the National Scripps Spelling Bee. After many rounds, Peyton LaRoche won as our school representative for the regional bee. This is Peyton's second year representing Gloria Dei. The regional bee was broadcast on WHRO in April.
- After many months of planning and preparation, on April 17, we dedicated our new Fox Hill playgrounds. All three spaces were renovated, with new structures added to each. This project was truly a labor of love. I am tremendously grateful to Mike Riley and Rashard Russell, along with John Campbell, for their countless hours of deconstruction and preparation. While Mike and Rashard took the lead, the Gloria Dei Stewards, school parents, and the staff of Buckroe Coffee Company assisted throughout the project.
- As we nurture and guide children, it is important 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 second grade classes made Christmas care packages for our troops celebrating the holiday overseas.
 - In support of the Veterans' Care Project, students in preschool – 8th 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 \$2,500 for the American Heart Association.
 - Middle School students participated in our Adopt-a-Spot clean-ups on Willow Oaks Blvd.
 - Through funds raised during the book fair, a Little Library was purchased and installed at the Willow Oaks Campus near the neighborhood sidewalk.



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 159 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 3rd through 7th.
- Additional after-school activities – Art Academy (1st & 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

This year, we have received 16 new members to Gloria Dei. Eleven of those were received by way of baptism and five by way of transferring membership from another Christian community of faith.

FELLOWSHIP BIBLE STUDY

This class uses the ELCA Daily Faith Practices Bible Study. We meet every Tuesday in the Simeon Center from 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Each Tuesday morning, we discuss a piece of scripture that was read in church two days earlier. We talk about the impact of these verses on the early Christian Church and the impact on our lives today. The material is interesting and varied. We are a small group of about a dozen adults and would love to have you join us. Everyone is welcome.

Sharon Padula, Leader

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

This marks year three of doing Bible Study at the H.E.L.P. Day Center on Buckroe Avenue. We have been sticking to the Old Testament. The style of the study has changed and has proved positive as it asks for responses from those in attendance. So far we have covered the following books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, First Samuel, Second Samuel, First Kings, and Second Kings. By the time you are reading this, we have started the book of Numbers.

We meet most every Wednesday at noon. If you'd like to be of help but can't attend, consider donating snacks for us to give to the Center.

CONFIRMATION

This year, we had five students in Confirmation Class. After completing their second year of Confirmation on Pentecost, we confirmed Lola Atkins, Jeremiah Green, Easton Harman, and Dakota Jenkins. Thank you to Rita Foringer and Sharon Bennet for teaching, assisting, and mentoring these young Christians.

Peace be the journey,

Pastor Dave

FIRST COMMUNION

This year, five students completed their First Communion Course. We had to modify this year, because of the snow. Thank you to Rick Graves and Jenny Sutherland for your help in this important event. And as always, we are thankful for Gloria Dei's Altar Guild. First Communion was celebrated on the First Sunday in Lent rather than Transfiguration Sunday, as Pastor Dave was away on our annual Seventh Day Retreat, hosted by the Virginia Synod, for fifth and sixth graders.

WORSHIP MINISTRIES

MINISTER OF MUSIC

Annual Report? But I am just getting across my rookie year at this point! Oh well, here we go. I am privileged to serve such a supportive pastor and faith community. The completion of my first full year has seen greater growth and participation in the music ministry. The choir continues to sing more diverse and challenging works in service to Sunday worship, and the number of soloists grows as well. In Jesus's name we claim and celebrate this! We have also seen the inclusion of bells at one of our Sunday liturgies. We may look forward to a greater inclusion of these instruments not only in Sunday worship services but in other special liturgies that mark the passage of time in the light of Christ.

Finally, I have also begun to study and research developing a system of choirs that grow and feed into one another. I believe the next twelve months will see some positive steps toward the realization of this huge undertaking. More about this next year...or sooner!

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 Chorister Choir after school during the week. Our Chorister Choir, made up of Kindergarten through 5th 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. Their musical repertoire was more challenging this year, but the students rose to meet each challenge with vigor and passion. 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

The Altar Guild was busy this year, and we have a lot of individuals to thank, including our faithful regular members, Renee Wells, Ann Riley, Pam Hess, Vivian Griese, Carol Godley, Rowena Cornwell, Bonnie Hess, and Mary Mace.

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. As a result of these inspections this past year, we noticed the altar linens were in need of replacement.

We sought quality linen products to ensure they kept their look after laundering and would last a long time with proper care. We used Communion Linens, a national small business with a workshop in Williamsburg to produce our linens. They create and supply fine handmade linens for the altar using European old world traditions. We could not have purchased these beautifully handmade and embroidered linens without the Ladies of Eggcellence-thank you! They graciously saw the need and donated the funds for purchasing them. We were thrilled they arrived in time for Easter Sunday.

Our purple Lent whole altar parament was in need of darning several holes that have appeared over the years. This is a specialized process and requires exact color and texture matching. Again, we were pleased to find a textile artisan on the Southside with the experience to do the repairs for us. It will be beautiful for many more years to come, thanks to these repairs.

We held our annual “Clean the Nave” days and had a great time together. Thank you to all the church members (men and women) who came to help us spruce up the nave for Christmas and Easter. Please consider joining us next time; it is a great time for fellowship.

Thank you to 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, put up the huge Christmas tree, and prepare the crosses for Lent and Easter. These are just a few things the men do to help prepare our church for worship.

Thank you to Jill Ruhl for baking our communion bread. Thank you to Donna Vanorsdale for washing the gloves for our Cross and Crown. Thank you to Mike Riley, Aaron Sutherland and Derry Mace for always showing up when we call, for even the little things. Thank you to Bonnie Hess for keeping our silver and brass polished. These seem like such little things, but they are extremely important and would fall by the wayside, if we did not have such great individuals stepping up.

Thank you to our Flower Ministry, Carol Godley, Anita Hamilton, and Bonnie Hess, for making sure our flowers stay fresh from week to week and for sharing them with those not able to make it to church.

Please consider joining our ministry. There are lots of ways you can be involved. 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!
Your Altar Guild

AESTHETICS MINISTRY

The Spiritual Gift of Artistic Design

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? Beauty is from and is a reflection of God’s nature. Beauty inspires us to become closer to God and enhances our worship of Him.

The head of the Aesthetics 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 for our congregation and guests. It seeks support of church members and other ministries to maintain and provide for the needs of our interior spaces. 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).



Several enhancements have been made this past year to our gathering and worship spaces. 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.

New lights were installed in the Tower of the Triumphant, making the space brighter and more welcoming. This is a noticeable difference from the dark interior that greeted whoever entered in the late afternoon or evening, especially during the fall and winter months.

To reduce the clutter and distractions in our worship area, solid wood cabinetry was constructed, taking care to match the existing architectural elements in the church. A huge thank-you to Mr. Derry Mace and his wife, Mary, for facilitating the construction of these cabinets. Each one is specifically designed on the inside for the unique storage needs of a wide variety of items used for and during our worship.

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.

In Christ,
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 (6/1/24-5/31/25)

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

Don Dair
Paula Jones

Russ Morrison
Sandy Taylor

CARE MINISTRIES

HOME COMMUNION

Gloria Dei visits 16 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 at Gloria Dei began approximately 20 years ago. Since that time, well over 100 shawls, lap robes, baptismal blankets, and confirmation stoles have been presented. The presentation is a gift to the recipient to illustrate the love the congregation holds for them. We also took on the task of completing the kneelers behind the altar for the servers to use.

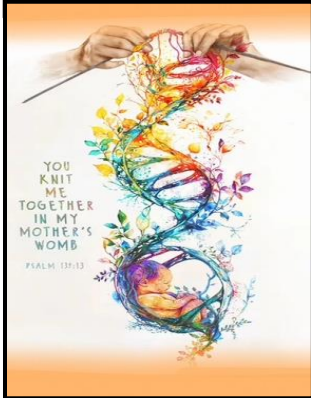
When we first started, there were 12 regular needle workers. Sadly, since that time, our numbers have dwindled and now we have only five ladies creating the necessary items. I am now asking for your assistance. If you can knit or crochet and are willing, please consider making a shawl, a lap robe, or a baptismal blanket. It isn't necessary to join the group, although we would love to have you. You can work your creation on your own time.



If this would work for you, please let Rita Foringer know at rforinger@verizon.net. She can provide you with information of what is needed. Please prayerfully consider helping out. Thank you.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets on the second Sunday of the month following worship services. We meet in the Koinonia Atrium, near the fireplace. After an hour or so of creating shawls and lap robes, we head off to lunch.

Peace,
Rita Foringer



BLESSING TREE

Our congregation's Blessing Tree initiative, again this year, successfully provided gifts to a family in our community who were in need, including clothing and toys for children.

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. This year, the Senior High Youth Group challenged the congregation to raise \$2,500 to purchase a well to provide safe water access to ELCA-partnered communities. The donations collected for ELCA Good Gifts totaled nearly \$3,000, which is almost double last year's total of \$1,785.86. We thank you for your kindness and generosity in supporting this mission!

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!

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 **185 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
Greeters
Ladies of Eggcellence
Receptions for funerals, Confirmation
First Communion

The Prayer Shawl Ministry
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 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.

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.

Peace and blessings,
Rita

COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP

This past year at Gloria Dei has been a whirlwind of community church and social events. As I prepare this report, I will try to recall some of the events and convey the joy and gratitude I experience from being a part of the Gloria Dei Community.

In September of 2024, Gosnold's Hope Park was the site of the inaugural "Gloria Dei Open Air Church Service." Many of our Gloria Dei volunteers donated time, decorations, food, and music for this event. The natural setting and beautiful weather provided the perfect venue for the church service and the community social that followed. The tremendous turnout of Gloria Dei and local community members made the event a resounding success.

The summer weather also provided a perfect environment for several nights of "Music on Bromley." These evenings of music and fellowship provide a perfect opportunity to reconnect with family and friends in a very relaxed atmosphere.

The Gloria Dei "Hanging of the Greens" in early December continues to be an event that provides a perfect way to transition from our daily routines to a more focused realization of the meaning of the coming Christmas season. This past year was no exception, as over 35 Gloria Dei church and school volunteers gathered to decorate and to celebrate. The special emphasis on making this an event for both church and school members to come together made it a very special evening.

The Lenten season provided additional opportunities to socialize and to attend Wednesday night services together. Community members were treated to a soup and salad meal and fellowship before attending the evening service.

As always, the Lenten season is capped off with the celebration of Easter at Gloria Dei. The Gloria Dei church services and social events of Easter are made all the more beautiful and enticing by:

- the volunteers who create the floral arrangements and decorations that adorn the church
- the music by our choir director and choir members, and the church members who share their vocal and instrumental talents during the service
- the wonderful treats made by the Gloria Dei Ladies of Eggcellence
- the gastronomic delights created by so many of our members for after-service gatherings

The Gloria Dei School Staff Banquet, held in May, was one of the more well-attended events of the year, as approximately 120 teachers, staff, and their family members enjoyed a buffet offering of pasta entrees, salad, and desserts. The wonderful selection of food and beverages was a direct result of the efforts of so many of our Gloria Dei volunteers.

There is a common thread of volunteer efforts that appear throughout this annual report. I am going to go out on a limb and say that Gloria Dei would not be the outstanding Church, School, and Community it is without the efforts of so many generous and caring members who give of their time, their talents, and their blood, sweat, and tears. To "all of you," please accept a huge "thank you," from "all of us!"

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Morse, Gloria Dei Visioneer

POWER IN THE SPIRIT

Seventh Day, Lost and Found, and Winter Celebration are all retreat opportunities offered by the Synod that our youth take advantage of each year. They return to Gloria Dei from a special weekend immersed in what it is to be a Lutheran Christian through discussions, songs, and Bible studies with their peers. It's an experience they will remember the rest of their lives. Adults have that same opportunity at Power in the Spirit. Through special worship services, music, Bible Study, and workshops, adults are given an opportunity to grow their faith.

In 2024, the focus was on "Esther, the Risk-taker." She took advantage of the situation she found herself in, to rescue her people (the Jews) from extinction by King Ahasyerys and Haman, his chief minister. Using her God-

given gifts, she dared to step forward. It challenged us to review how we are stepping forward in faith to use the gifts God has given us.

This year, the focus is “Wings of Hope.” Using Isaiah 40:31 as a starting place, we will be reminded of the strength of God’s promise to revive us and lift us up.

The registration deadline is July 1, so there’s still time to sign up! Besides, the food at Roanoke College is delicious, and it’s fun to hang out with other members of Gloria Dei.

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

We would like to thank everyone for all their support in our winter-gear drive for 2024. During this year’s collection, we received a total of 1,631 items. Donations came from our amazing congregation and parents of our school with drop-off bins around the campus. Also, our local community was a large contributor with our drive-thru drop-off. The new signage and post on Next Door Neighbor app, Facebook, and good-old-fashioned word-of-mouth have grown this ministry outside our building. All adult items have been given to H.E.L.P. where they will be distributed through “A Night’s Welcome” evening shelter. The Boys and Girls Club of the Virginia Peninsula was very happy to receive the children’s donations again this year.

Categorized Donations Amounts

Mens’ items: 289	Boys’ items: 84
Womens’ items: 450	Girls’ items: 52
Socks/shoes: 120	Pants: 124
Hats: 114	Scarves: 43
Gloves: 60	Blankets: 5
Bags/Belts: 34	Toiletries: 256

Total: 1,631 items

A special thank you to the Senior and Junior High Youth and leaders 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 five 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 Program and created a decorative well to represent our goal of raising money to provide safe water access to ELCA-partnered communities. We raised nearly \$3,000, almost double last year’s total!

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

We gathered for some local events: pumpkin carving hosted by the Todds, volunteering for the Trunk or Treat, bowling, seeing the Christmas lights at Newport News Park, laser tag, and having a couple of lock-ins.

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 senior, Dallam: thank you for your dedication to the youth groups and church. We will miss you greatly! Congratulations on graduating – we can’t wait to see what amazing things you’ll do next!

JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP

Our Gloria Dei Junior Youth is an amazing and fun group of kids! Wonderful Wednesdays is the center of our weekly gathering in community, where we enjoy meals, music, and small groups. The year, the kids enjoyed outings such as Laser Tag, Sky Zone and the TWO lock-ins. The fall lock-in included a pumpkin-carving contest and the spring included a Nerf-wars battle loaded with lots of fun and laughing. The 12 kids attending loved playing games into the wee hours of the morning!

They also participated in some wonderful service projects such as making blankets for Hospice and helping with separating coats for the homeless. They volunteered a lot of their time selling Christmas trees and putting on the annual Easter Egg Hunt. The Youth's contribution to celebrating Gloria Dei's 60th anniversary was making 60 First Responder Thank You bags. The bags included drinks, snacks, a custom-made prayer/thank you card and a "Little Jesus" keepsake. This event was fun because we paired the Senior and Junior High youth into teams with the "littles" (K-4th grade) to help bridge their relationships. We welcomed Fire Fighter, Brian Yohn, to talk about being a First Responder, explaining equipment and talking with us about the community. The Thank You bags were distributed to local Fire Stations. We celebrated with five youth who took their first communion. Also, we have supported and loved seeing four confirmands.

The group participated in two VA Synod youth events. In November, we attended Lost & Found with four of our 7th-8th grade students. I would like to recognize Lola and Easton for representing Gloria Dei on the planning committee for the Lost and Found event. It made my heart so happy to see all of the time and execution they put into the terrific weekend. In March, we attended 7th Day with four of our 5th-6th grade students and had a great time in the mountains.

Please reach out if you have any questions about joining our Junior Youth and Wonderful Wednesdays as a youth or a volunteer. We would be thrilled to have you join our amazing ministry. The loving and supportive atmosphere at Gloria Dei makes this all possible.

Peace,
Jenny and Aaron Sutherland

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

This ministry is in lieu of traditional Sunday School. We are holding strong at around twenty kids present each night. Wonderful Wednesday includes Growing with Jesus (Kindergarten-Grade 4), Junior High Discipleship (Grades 5-6), Confirmation (Grades 7-8), Senior High Discipleship (Grades 9-12), and First Communion (all ages).

Not all of our time together is spent in learning; we do make time to serve our neighbors. This year, the children made tie quilts for Hospice, first responder bags for fire and EMS personnel, and sorted winter wear from the coat drive. This year's trip to the Botanical Gardens got rained out, so we headed over to Newport News Park where we stayed dry inside the bus as we rode through viewing the lights.

Thank you to all who made and served meals, all who did crafts and music, all who taught, and all who walked kids from station to station. Truly it takes as many volunteers as there are children to make this ministry a success. This ministry is always in need of volunteers, sometimes just as substitutes. If you are available and willing, please let us know so we can plug you in to help in this wonderful ministry.

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). We were able to return to our original vendor, Slaughter's Tree Farms, after having to move to other vendors the past several years. Lonnie, Joyce, and the family running this nursery were great, as always, to work with and the tree quality is superb as anyone who purchased a tree from us can attest. Jeremiah and I rode out to Floyd, Virginia, to gather the load of trees and enjoyed the ride through the Virginia countryside! Credit cards and other electronic transactions made up 33% of sales, which is an increase from last year. 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 is 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 cannot be a success without the help you provide! Christmas Tree Sales were, as always, a positive success. We showed a net profit of \$2,164.00 on sales of \$7,400.00 and expenses of \$5,377.00. 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 all youth can enjoy these retreats: Winter Celebration for our high school youth, Lost and Found for our 7th and 8th graders, and 7th Day for our 5th and 6th grade group. Thanks to all youth and their families and members of Gloria Dei who volunteered their time during a very busy time of year. Also, special thanks to all who purchased a live tree!

Faithfully serving,
Jason Green

LADIES OF EGGCELLENCE

One of our favorite missions is to keep a connection with our college students through our College Care Packages. This year, we sent 19 "boxes of Yum & Fun" to the following destinations: (13) to College/Universities in Virginia, (2) to North Carolina, (1) to Pennsylvania, (1) to Hawaii, (1) to Ohio, and (1) to Washington State. Our congregation or school members can look forward to sending their college student a care package once again in August 2025 for delivery in September.



Each year, our Chocolate-Covered Easter Eggfest brings together church members, families, and friends for fellowship with a purpose—and this year was one for the record books! Since our formation in 2009, 2025 marks our most successful Eggfest yet, with an incredible 4,813 eggs made—almost 1,000 eggs beyond last year's total of 3,818.

Despite rising ingredient costs, we chose not to raise our prices, and we still cleared over \$5,000 in profits. Huge appreciation to the 24 dedicated creators who joined us on Mixing/Formation day—you are the reason we hit this milestone! Special thanks go to Tiiu and Sue, who once again traveled from Florida to participate in our Eggfest and even sold and carried back to Florida 7% of the total egg sales.



This year, funds raised from previous Eggfests allowed us to purchase altar linens, an ice machine, and a freezer for the church, reinforcing the spirit of giving and community.

And as we say every year—ALL are welcome to join the fun! We can always use more hands, so if you're interested in the egg-making experience, just reach out to any egg lady.

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 50 donations were collected. That many donations can provide lifesaving blood for up to approximately 150 people in our community.

GIRL SCOUTS

There are two Girl Scout troops at Gloria Dei. Girl Scout Troop 1041 is led by Vicki O'Neill and Kate King along with three co-leaders. The troop consists of 17 girls from 4th grade through 11th grade. Troop 1069, a second troop, is led by Nicole Samuelson and Katrina Joiner and consists of 13 girls grades 1st through 4th grade, bringing the total of Girl Scouts at Gloria Dei to 30.

Community service continues to play a large role for Troop 1041. This past year, the troop made no-sew blankets for Hospice, packed and donated over 60 treat bags for the kid meals at the church BBQ, took part in making Easter cards for veterans, and designed handmade cards for the Cards for Kindness project. They once again partnered with WELCA to assist with collecting donations and helped pack 185 care kits for Lutheran World Relief. During cookie season, they performed cleanup by picking up trash along both the Bromley and Fox Hill roads as well as the Gloria Dei parking lot.

Cookie season sales were better in 2025 than 2024. Troop 1041 held multiple booths at Gloria Dei resulting in \$4,000 in funding for their troop. Cookie sales account for the majority of the troop's funds.

Troop 1041 attended two encampments this past year. They attended Camp Skimino in Williamsburg and were able to obtain time on the archery range, always a popular event. The girls earned their first-aid badge and learned about Stop the Bleed. In the Spring, the troop visited Camp Burkes Mill Pond in Gloucester for the first time and explored the areas of both Gloucester and Mathews. Some of the places visited were Fort Nonsense, Center for Archeology, Preservation and Education, Mathews Art Gallery, and the New Point Comfort Nature Preserve.

Troop 1041 once again hosted the Annual Trunk or Treat for the community. The youth groups at Gloria Dei and leaders were asked for assistance. This partnership led to one of the largest trunk or treats to date with 25 cars decorated and handing out candy. Numerous game and craft stations were hosted on the front lawn with supplies for the event almost completely depleted.

The Girl Scouts experienced multiple fun outings. A favorite this year was Greek Fest. The girls learned about the culture of Greece and experienced a variety of food, dance, and received a tour of the Greek Orthodox Church, learning about its history.

Girls completed a variety of badges to include first aid, scribe, numbers in nature, social butterfly, netiquette, digital movie maker, and car care to name a few.

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.

Vicki O'Neill – Girl Scout Leader

BOY SCOUTS

No report submitted.

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. Strive to improve our services to our congregation and community.
2. Grow our Church's membership and positive impact upon 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. With the increase in our mortgage interest rate from 4.85% to 6.35% and the increase for our monthly interest payment from \$6,396 to \$8,295, we have successfully covered the increase using the increase in interest for the Church account which includes reserves. We asked and were approved by TowneBank for an increase in our interest rate from as low as 2.5 to 3.7%. This move benefited 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 School and Church and have increased these needed protection sources partially because of the increased interest from the funds.

Our projected indebtedness for 6/30/25 includes the remaining loan, which we are servicing monthly.

- Consolidated Loan (previously Atrium mortgage, Rice Land purchase and Harris Creek property).
 - Balance projected for 6/30/25 as of 5/25/2025: \$1,424,138 (a reduction of \$92,069 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: \$12,315,841.

Our Current liquidity (cash on hand projected for 6/30/25) \$2,693,932 (decrease from prior year of about \$33,629) includes these funds below (note that funds were consolidated to achieve the highest interest rate):

- Columbarium Account: \$9,989.11 (an increase of about \$128 over last year)
- Legacy Account: \$1,096 (about same total as last year)
- Memorial Account: \$77,609 (about \$2,054 less than last year)
- Church Operating Account: \$482,155 (an increase of about \$173,028 over last year)
- School Operating Account: \$385,012 (a decrease of about \$282,625 which was a result of some spending of grants received in prior years and transfers to School Fundraising; see below).
- School Savings Account: \$1,026,500
- School Fundraising: \$706,176 (a decrease of about \$128,397 mostly from use of the funds for special projects such as new playground equipment)
- Linda Robinson Scholarship Account: \$4,419 (same as the prior year)
- Pastor's Discretionary Account: \$976 (funded by designated gifts)

Total projected, dedicated Church and School Reserves projected 6/30/25: \$993,576 (these are included within the above liquidity amounts). We make sure reserves cover two months of payroll and expenses.

Our Proposed Plan for the Fiscal Year

July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026

We are presenting our Plan Budget for your approval. The actual numbers are presented in our normal spreadsheet format. While this is necessary to establish the accounting details, the numbers alone certainly do not tell our whole story!

We are about much more than the spreadsheet. Our Plan collects 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 3%, 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 plain hard work all came together, and now we have a sustainable and ever-outreaching program.

And now on to the financial details. As in prior years, the Senior Administrator assembled the current year projections in a format that uses monthly actuals through April plus updates (May and June) for each account for the current year. The initial projection was presented to 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 3% increase over the current year-end.
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. Program expense and expansion opportunities for programs include important increases that include 3% more for HELP, \$750 more (over Projection) for VBS, and 3% more for the Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center.
4. Staff employee compensation should be increased by 3% to try to cover most of the expected inflationary pressure.
5. Benevolence projections for Synod are increased by \$960 or 3% to \$32,960.
6. We have added a new account for computer upgrades and now includes both staff and the “Tech team’s” needed upgrades.

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 July 2025 - June 2026 Proposed Plan Budget							
	Projected for 6/30/25 (actuals through April)				Proposed for FYE 6/30/26	Assumption & Notes	Variance from Current Year Projection
	Projected	Plan Budget	over Budget				
Total 1 Regular Offering	\$ 539,134.09	\$ 528,903.74	\$ 10,230.35		\$ 555,308.11	3% over Projection	\$ 16,174.02 3.00%
Harris Creek House Rental	\$ 21,343.95	\$ 18,817.32	\$ 2,526.63		\$ 23,000.00	No property tax and lease increase	\$ 1,656.05 7.76%
Total Operating Income	\$ 560,478.04	\$ 547,721.06	\$ 12,756.98		\$ 578,308.11		\$ 17,830.07 3.18%
100 Education Ministry	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				
107 Wonderful Wednesdays	\$ 135.33	\$ 575.46	\$ (440.13)		\$ 600.00	higher as cannot count on gifts	\$ 464.67 343.36%
115 Vacation Church School	\$ 4,744.78	\$ 5,000.00	\$ (255.22)		\$ 5,500.00	higher as cannot count on gifts	\$ 755.22 15.92%
116 Baccalaureate expense	\$ 50.00	\$ 200.00	\$ (150.00)		\$ 50.00	same as projected	\$ - 0.00%
124 First Communion Class	\$ 50.49	\$ 250.00	\$ (199.51)		\$ 53.01	5% over projection	\$ 2.52 5.00%
Total 100 Education Ministry	\$ 4,980.60	\$ 6,025.46	\$ (1,044.86)		\$ 6,203.01		\$ 1,222.41 24.54%
1000 Executive Committee	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				
1000.5 Council Retreat	\$ 29.48	\$ 2,218.00	\$ (2,188.52)		\$ 30.95	5% over projection	\$ 1.47 5.00%
1001 Synod Assembly	\$ 165.00	\$ 938.98	\$ (773.98)		\$ 1,500.00	higher as cannot count on gifts	\$ 1,335.00 809.09%
Total 1000 Executive Committee	\$ 194.48	\$ 3,156.98	\$ (2,962.50)		\$ 1,530.95		\$ 1,336.47 687.20%
200 Worship Ministry	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				
201 New Music	\$ 371.20	\$ 865.55	\$ (494.35)		\$ 900.00	assume higher amount	\$ 528.80 142.46%
202 Piano/Organ tuning	\$ 1,005.00	\$ 959.96	\$ 45.04		\$ 1,005.00	same as projected	\$ - 0.00%
204 Music Supplies	\$ -	\$ 360.50	\$ (360.50)		\$ 500.00	assume higher amount	\$ 500.00 #DIV/0!
207 Instrumental Accompanists	\$ 100.00	\$ 721.00	\$ (621.00)		\$ 500.00	higher as cannot count on gifts	\$ 400.00 400.00%
Misc Worship Supplies	\$ 443.48	\$ 1,750.17	\$ (1,306.69)		\$ 500.00	higher as cannot count on gifts	\$ 56.52 12.74%
210 Altar Guild Supplies	\$ 462.80	\$ 119.48	\$ 343.32		\$ 462.80	same as projected	\$ - 0.00%
211 Bulletins	\$ 1,157.21	\$ 721.39	\$ 435.82		\$ 1,157.21	same as projected	\$ - 0.00%
213 Decorations/Flowers	\$ 315.92	\$ 452.16	\$ (136.24)		\$ 315.92	same as projected	\$ - 0.00%
Worship Staff Wages	\$ 71,865.73	\$ 63,273.18	\$ 8,592.55		\$ 76,674.93		\$ 4,809.20 6.69%
Worship Staff Benefits	\$ 19,087.45	\$ 18,186.48	\$ 900.97		\$ 20,618.84		\$ 1,531.39 8.02%
Admin Miscellaneous	\$ 3,606.33	\$ 1,981.66	\$ 1,624.67		\$ 3,750.58	assume 4%	\$ 144.25 4.00%
Seasonal Worship Supplies	\$ 14,146.20	\$ 9,689.11	\$ 4,457.09		\$ 14,570.59	assume 3%	\$ 424.39 3.00%
Total 260 Atrium Coffee/Expense	\$ 424.06	\$ 618.83	\$ (194.77)		\$ 441.02	assume 4%	\$ 16.96 4.00%
261 Guest Pastor Fees	\$ 1,610.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 410.00		\$ 1,610.00	same as projected	\$ - 0.00%
262 Guest Pastor Expenses	\$ 265.78	\$ 295.36	\$ (29.58)		\$ 265.78	same as projected	\$ - 0.00%
286 New Member Reception	\$ 152.74	\$ -	\$ 152.74		\$ 158.85	assume 4%	\$ 6.11 4.00%
Total 200 Worship Ministry	\$ 115,013.90	\$ 101,194.83	\$ 13,819.07		\$ 123,431.53		\$ 8,417.63 7.32%
300 Support Ministry	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				
Total 301 Supplies Office	\$ 1,591.08	\$ 1,237.04	\$ 354.04		\$ 1,654.72	assume 4%	\$ 63.64 4.00%
302 Copier Paper	\$ 1,430.33	\$ 1,871.81	\$ (441.48)		\$ 1,487.54	assume 4%	\$ 57.21 4.00%
Total 303 Telephone Service	\$ 2,812.74	\$ 4,006.65	\$ (1,193.91)		\$ 2,925.25	assume 4%	\$ 112.51 4.00%
Total 305 Copier Lease	\$ 10,130.76	\$ 10,456.73	\$ (325.97)		\$ 10,535.99	assume 4%	\$ 405.23 4.00%
Computer Upgrade Tech	\$ 3,849.73	\$ 3,869.92	\$ (20.19)		\$ 4,042.22	assume 4% over projection	\$ 192.49 5.00%
Staff Computer Upgrade	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 2,500.00	new line item	\$ 2,500.00 #DIV/0!
Support Ministry Wages	\$ 124,786.81	\$ 121,285.52	\$ 3,501.29		\$ 130,133.77	increased IT, Sexton; no surcharge increa	\$ 5,346.96 4.28%
Support Staff Benefits	\$ 11,750.98	\$ 12,143.67	\$ (392.69)		\$ 12,377.93	increased IT, Sexton; no surcharge increa	\$ 626.95 5.34%
Workers Comp Insurance	\$ 1,468.84	\$ 1,388.30	\$ 80.54		\$ 1,512.91	3% increase assumed	\$ 44.07 3.00%
319 Stewardship Program	\$ 68.76	\$ 500.00	\$ (431.24)		\$ 250.00	assumed \$250	\$ 181.24 263.58%
320 Supplies EMR	\$ 256.78	\$ 964.08	\$ (707.30)		\$ 269.62	5% increase assumed	\$ 12.84 5.00%
323 Database Maintenance	\$ 4,691.00	\$ 4,280.68	\$ 410.32		\$ 4,831.73	3% increase assumed	\$ 140.73 3.00%
325 Website Development	\$ 350.00	\$ 592.00	\$ (242.00)		\$ 364.00	4% increase assumed	\$ 14.00 4.00%
331 Custodial Service	\$ 5,536.00	\$ 5,740.08	\$ (204.08)		\$ 5,757.44	4% increase assumed	\$ 221.44 4.00%
Maintenance Nave	\$ 4,072.30	\$ 2,831.21	\$ 1,241.09		\$ 4,235.19	4% increase assumed	\$ 162.89 4.00%
Maint- Church Offices	\$ 761.63	\$ 479.76	\$ 281.87		\$ 792.10	4% increase assumed	\$ 30.47 4.00%
Maint Supplies - Atrium	\$ 1,496.40	\$ 992.78	\$ 503.62		\$ 1,556.26	4% increase assumed	\$ 59.86 4.00%
Grounds Maintenance	\$ 1,635.20	\$ 1,458.56	\$ 176.64		\$ 1,684.26	3% increase assumed	\$ 49.06 3.00%
Total 336 Utilities Electric	\$ 18,303.20	\$ 21,580.30	\$ (3,277.10)		\$ 19,767.46	8% as savings last year from AC replace	\$ 1,464.26 8.00%
Total 337 Utilities Gas	\$ 1,990.87	\$ 1,984.89	\$ 5.98		\$ 2,070.50	4% increase assumed	\$ 79.63 4.00%
338 Utilities Water	\$ 932.61	\$ 835.46	\$ 97.15		\$ 969.91	4% increase assumed	\$ 37.30 4.00%
339 Utilities Sewer	\$ 830.70	\$ 781.72	\$ 48.98		\$ 863.93	4% increase assumed	\$ 33.23 4.00%
Total 341 Property Insurance	\$ 15,708.56	\$ 15,797.34	\$ (88.78)		\$ 16,808.16	assume 7% from more than inflation	\$ 1,099.60 7.00%
352 Advertising	\$ 335.99	\$ 500.00	\$ (164.01)		\$ 400.00	assumed \$400	\$ 64.01 19.05%
Total 353 Bank Charges	\$ 1,384.26	\$ 700.00	\$ 684.26		\$ 1,425.79	3% increase assumed	\$ 41.53 3.00%
354 Taxes Paid	\$ 3,160.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 160.00		\$ 3,286.40	4% increase assumed	\$ 126.40 4.00%
Total 300 Support Ministry	\$ 219,335.53	\$ 220,368.31	\$ (1,032.78)		\$ 232,503.06		\$ 13,167.53 6.00%

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church July 2025 - June 2026 Proposed Plan Budget							
	Projected for 6/30/25 (actuals through April)				Proposed for FYE 6/30/26	Assumption & Notes	Variance from Current Year Projection
	Projected	Plan Budget	over Budget				
400 Care Ministry	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				
Total 401.0 Nursery Program	\$ 2,188.07	\$ 2,009.95	\$ 178.12	\$ 2,253.71	3% increase assumed	\$ 65.64	3.00%
404 HELP expense	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ -	\$ 1,854.00	3% increase assumed	\$ 54.00	3.00%
406 Synod Benevolence	\$ 32,000.00	\$ 32,000.00	\$ -	\$ 32,960.00	3% increase assumed	\$ 960.00	3.00%
Out Reach Projects	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00	assume \$4000	\$ -	0.00%
Breakfast for Kids	\$ 90.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ (1,710.00)	\$ 300.00	assume \$300	\$ 210.00	233.33%
413 Peninsula Pastoral Couns Ctr	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ -	\$ 2,472.00	3% increase assumed	\$ 72.00	56.74%
Total 400 Care Ministry	\$ 42,478.07	\$ 44,009.95	\$ (1,531.88)	\$ 43,839.71		\$ 1,361.64	3.21%
500 Community Ministry	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				
501 Junior Youth Program	\$ (184.00)	\$ -	\$ (184.00)	\$ 500.00	assumed \$500 as Gifts lowered costs	\$ 684.00	-371.74%
502 SeniorYouth Program	\$ -	\$ 206.00	\$ (206.00)	\$ 500.00	assumed \$500 as Gifts lowered costs	\$ 500.00	#DIV/0!
Total 502.10 Youth Retreats	\$ 104.66	\$ 1,463.69	\$ (1,359.03)	\$ 600.00	assumed \$600 Tree Sales lowered costs	\$ 495.34	473.28%
506 Synod Youth Assembly	\$ (88.19)	\$ -	\$ (88.19)	\$ 600.00	assumed \$600 as Gifts lowered Prjctn	\$ 688.19	-780.35%
Total 510 Parish Fellowship	\$ 1,047.04	\$ 3,500.00	\$ (2,452.96)	\$ 1,099.39	5% increase assumed	\$ 52.35	5.00%
Total 500 Community Ministry	\$ 879.51	\$ 5,169.69	\$ (4,290.18)	\$ 3,299.39		\$ 2,419.88	275.14%
610 Atrium Mortgage (P & I)	\$ 169,341.24	\$ 169,341.24	\$ -	\$ 169,341.24	same as Projected	\$ -	0.00%
Interest & Debt Service Gifts	\$ 10,130.34	\$ 5,685.24	\$ 4,445.10	\$ 10,130.34	same as Projected	\$ -	0.00%
Total 600 Debt Service	\$ 179,471.58	\$ 175,026.48	\$ 4,445.10	\$ 169,341.24		\$ (10,130.34)	-5.64%
Total Expenses	\$ 562,353.67	\$ 554,951.70	\$ 7,401.97	\$ 580,148.90		\$ 17,795.23	3.16%
Net Operating Income	\$ (1,875.63)	\$ (7,230.64)	\$ 5,355.01	\$ (1,840.79)			

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Stewardship for All Seasons Annual Report for 2025 Stewardship Appeal

First, a big thank you to all who supported our stewardship drive for 2025. Our stewardship goals for 2025 were to increase pledges and gain additional \$25,000 in pledged amount. Our 2024 baseline was 75 family/household pledges and \$421,600. Our final results were 72 family-unit pledges for a total of \$412,050 pledged giving. While we did not reach our goals, we are holding our own and looking forward to a fruitful year ahead. Again, thanks to all who continue to support the ministries of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. Even in challenging economic times, we continue to grow in our capacity to share the Good News.

As we approach the start of our 2026 Stewardship Appeal, we are hopeful that our congregation will continue to support Gloria Dei and all its ministries. All that 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 as well.

The 2026 Stewardship Appeal efforts will begin in earnest in August. In the next several months, you will begin to see 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 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



Statistics
2024 - 2025

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Membership
430

Gloria Dei Lutheran School

Full-time Student Enrollment
321

After-School Day Care
159

Current Elected Leadership

		<u>Term Expires</u>
Trustees	Ernie Atkins	2025
	Bo Lomax	2026
	Peggy Todd	2025
Council President	Vivian Griese	2027
Council Vice President	Gary Hess	2025
Congregational Scribe	Mike Canny	2027
Council Secretary	Diane Washburn	2027
Council Members	Tom Clasen	2027
	Rachel Lomax	2025
	*Kent Morgan	2026
	Kevin Morse	2026
	*Ashley Zamora	2025
Treasurer	Dawn Lomax	(appointed)

**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.*

Mary “Sandy” Taylor

Timothy “Tim” John Baisley

Deborah Kay Shaffer

Shirley Mae Bialk

Donald “Don” Dair

Russell “Russ” C. Morrison, Jr.

Joan Roberta Hudgins