



# FROM THE TOWER

August/September  
2025

Worship with Us!

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Building Faith + Building Community + Building Lives



**Pastor Dave Fox,  
Senior Pastor/  
Head of Staff**

## A Word from Our Pastor

### The Fox's Trot

I had the chance to visit the Virginia Aquarium with my family this past Fourth of July. If I'm honest, I don't remember many of the marine biology facts. I do, however, remember learning that jellyfish poop out of their mouths—which is both disgusting and fascinating.

I couldn't name every fish we saw, nor could I say what fascinated me most. But, I do remember the feeling: wonder. A deep curiosity. A quiet reverence. I remember standing before massive glass windows, watching sharks glide, sea turtles rise, and stingrays fold through the water. There's a tunnel at the aquarium where you can stand beneath the sea creatures—and in that moment, I felt small. Which, given my size, is hard to come by.

It reminded me of standing on the edge of the ocean, unable to see the end – and hardly the beginning, listening to the waves roll in like they are the heartbeat of the earth. The sea is beautiful and calming—and at the same time, terrifying. It holds a power we don't fully understand.

It's easy to get used to living on the surface of life. We like what's visible, manageable, and safe. But real growth often happens in the deep places—the terrifying and unfamiliar ones. By sticking to the surface of life and faith, I wonder if we're missing the deeper current.

At the aquarium, I saw a tank of starfish. Did you know they don't have brains? They eat, move, and respond to their environment because of a neural system called ganglia. Don't ask me to explain it beyond that. But what stuck with me wasn't the biology—it was how easy they were to miss. Some were tucked into corners or blended into the walls.

That's how we experience most sea life: unseen and unknown. And yet, some of the most remarkable things in creation happen where eyes don't easily see—beneath the surface. Isn't that also how God often works in us?

The psalmist writes, "*Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your cataracts; all your waves and your billows have gone over me.*" (Psalm 42:7)

That line—*deep calls to deep*—speaks to us. There's more to life than what we see at the surface. There's a whole other world beneath, waiting to be explored. But it's no wonder we tend to stay in the shallows. That's where we can stand. That's where we feel in control.

Yet Jesus never stayed in the shallows with people, did He? In Luke 5, when Jesus calls the disciples, He says, "*Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.*" Peter in protest says, "*We've fished all night and caught nothing.*" In other words: "*We already tried that. It didn't work.*" But Jesus wasn't just talking about fish. He was inviting Peter to trust again—to try again—even when it didn't make sense. That's where discipleship begins.

Many of us have stopped casting our nets, because life didn't go the way we hoped. Maybe prayer once brought us comfort, but lately it feels dry. Maybe a Bible study we joined felt awkward. Maybe the last retreat or small group didn't meet our expectations. So we sit on the dock. We stick with what's easy. We tell ourselves it's enough—but deep down, we're bored.

There's an old line about the Gospel of John: "*It provides a place where a child can wade and an elephant can swim.*" That's the beauty of our faith. It holds space for simplicity and mystery. But only when we're willing to move beyond the surface.

At the aquarium, there's a boundary between us and the sea life. Glass keeps us safe. But it also keeps us distant. I overheard a child say to his mother, "*That shark is a nice shark.*" She replied, "*That's the only nice shark. That's why it's here. You have to be careful around all the others.*" That exchange stuck with me—not because it's entirely accurate, but because it reminded me of the fears we carry.

What are the things that keep us from going deeper? Fear of not knowing enough? Fear of being emotionally vulnerable? Fear of being judged? Fear that our questions or doubts disqualify us? Fear of being asked to change? Like sharks in the water, these fears circle us. They cause hesitation. They whisper, "*Stay in the shallows. It's safer there.*" But, as an Easter people, we know that fear is not the final word.

In Matthew 14, Peter steps out of the boat and walks on water. A miracle! Until he sees the wind and waves—and starts to sink. He cries out, and Jesus immediately reaches for him. This reminds us that in the midst of fear, we must trust someone greater than our fear.

Maybe the reason the small groups or spiritual retreats haven't taken off in the way I'd hoped isn't because they're not needed. Maybe it's because we all need a reminder that these things are about deeper faith, not just programs. I'm not going to give up on these invitations. However, I am choosing to offer them differently—not as events on a calendar, but as responses to the deep.

Christ is calling all of us into the deep, beyond the surface. Let's press forward into the deeper things together.

Peace be the journey,  
Pastor Dave

## 60 Year Celebration

On September 14, we will be installing our staff, Council, and Christian Education volunteers. Following worship, we will have a bowling themed birthday party.

## 60th Anniversary Challenge

### Celebrating Gloria Dei's 60th Anniversary 60-Day Challenge Updates

What a great response to our 60 Days of Gratitude. We had over 540 leaves added to our Gratitude Tree! Did you read them? We hope you are making gratitude a part of your daily life. God has richly blessed all of us. Stay tuned for the next 60 Day Challenge as part of our 60th Anniversary.

Your Congregational Council

## Supper(s) at Capri

Join Pastor and others at Capri Pizza and Italian Restaurant, 227 Fox Hill Rd, Tuesday, August 19 and September 23, 6:00 p.m. We will have a meal together and share in conversations around Scripture. At the end of our time together, we will share Holy Communion. Invite your friends and family. *Please, RSVP by the Tuesday prior, August 12 and September 16;* we want to make sure the restaurant is prepared for our group being there. You are responsible for the cost of your meal and a generous tip.

## Become a Member



If you are interested in joining Gloria Dei in its mission and ministry in Hampton and beyond, please scan the QR code to sign up for our member class, which will be on **Sunday, September 14, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.** In this class, you will learn about what it means to be a Lutheran, the history of Gloria Dei, the ministry opportunities of Gloria Dei, and your role as a member. New Members will join on **Sunday, September 28, 2025**, during our 9:30 a.m. worship service.

## Gloria Dei at the Park

On **September 28 at 9:30 a.m.**, we will gather for worship followed by a potluck brunch and fellowship at Gosnold's Hope Park weather permitting. Please join us at the Cedar Shelter with a dish to share, lawn chairs, and any type of tailgate games you may have...and bring a friend!

## First Light (Sunday School)



Our new Sunday School program, First Light, will begin on Sunday, August 24, 8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m., in the Simeon Center. This class is for all ages. Below are the scheduled topics.

### Intergenerational Sunday School

Sundays, 8:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.

#### August 24 – What Does It Mean to Belong?

Theme: Church, community, and grace

Scripture: Romans 12:4–5

#### August 31 – Faith That Fits at Any Age

Theme: Lifelong discipleship

Scripture: 1 Timothy 4:12

#### September 7 – Who Am I, Really?

Theme: Identity in Christ

Scripture: Galatians 3:26–28

#### September 14 – Walking the Walk

Theme: Living faith out loud

Scripture: James 2:14–17

#### September 21 – The Gospel According to LEGO

Theme: Building community and faith

Scripture: Ephesians 2:19–22

#### September 28 – The Words We Say Matter

Theme: Speech and integrity

Scripture: James 3:3–10

## Blessing of the Backpacks

During worship on **August 24**, we will bless backpacks for this coming school year. Please have your children bring their backpack to church or have it with them if joining via YouTube to receive their blessing.

## Bring a Friend to Church Sunday

Our next *Bring a Friend to Church Sunday* is on **Sunday, September 14**. Please, make it a priority to invite at least three people to church on this Sunday. Why should you invite folks to church? The number one reason is because it is our call as Christians. Second, 85% of people come to worship because a friend or family member asked them to come to church with them.

We are asking you to invite people you already have a relationship with and not complete strangers to join you on this Sunday. During your time together, ask them what they enjoyed about the worship service and what questions they might have. At the end of your time together, invite them to come back the following Sunday.

Please, ensure your friends that they will not be asked to stand up or be introduced in front of the congregation. We look forward to seeing you and your friends and family at worship!

## Minister of Music



**Brandon Spence, DMA**  
**Minister of Music**

### **The Art of Steady Support: Why Tempo Matters in Hymns**

When a congregation sings a hymn, something sacred and communal happens. Voices unite, hearts lift, and the words of faith are carried on melody. What often goes unnoticed, however, is the steady hand guiding that experience—the organist. The organist is like a conductor, quietly setting the pace from the bench. One of the most important—and sometimes overlooked—aspects of this leadership is tempo. Tempo simply means the speed of the music, and getting it right makes all the difference in how the congregation sings. If a hymn is played too fast, singers can feel rushed and out of breath. If it's too slow, energy and meaning can drag. But when the tempo is just right and steady throughout, the congregation feels supported. Like a gentle current in a river, a steady tempo helps carry the voices naturally from phrase to phrase. Breathing is another key factor. Each line of a hymn is like a spoken sentence; it needs time to breathe at the end. A good tempo makes room for this, allowing singers to take in air and sing each phrase with intention and understanding. Some hymns, like "Holy, Holy, Holy," call for a stately and measured pace. Others, like "Rejoice, the Lord is King," come alive with a more buoyant rhythm. The organist must weigh the mood, text, and tune to find a tempo that fits both the hymn and the people singing it. It may seem simple, but maintaining a steady tempo isn't always easy. Acoustics, distractions, or even the size of the congregation can affect how things flow. But a skilled organist listens and adjusts, always aiming to serve the voice of the people. So next time you join in a hymn, take a moment to notice how the tempo feels. Is it calm and confident? Is it moving without hurry? That's no accident. Behind the scenes, the organist is helping every voice find its place, ensuring that the hymn becomes not just music, but a unified prayer.

## Council Corner

I am happy to introduce myself as the Gloria Dei Church Council President. I have accepted the honor of serving our church. I have been a member since 1987 and am blessed to have the church as my touchstone. On Sundays, I ask God for forgiveness and the strength to live in a way that glorifies Him. As time has passed, I became part of a small group, which has been the most influential in making the connections with Gloria Dei members. This gave me the desire and sense of belonging; and I joined other activities like biblical studies, WELCA, and serving as Lay Assistant. After a particular sermon, I reflected on Pastor Dave's words and heard the call to step out and become more engaged in serving the church community. Asking for where there was a need, I stepped out to help with our Wonderful Wednesday program. This path has led to my new role as your Council President.

Please reflect on how you can be active in the different activities at Gloria Dei. You may hear a way that your talents, fellowship, or support can help Gloria Dei as a congregation build faith, community, and lives.

Peace,  
Diane Washburn  
Council President

## Cross and Crown Training & Confirmation Meeting

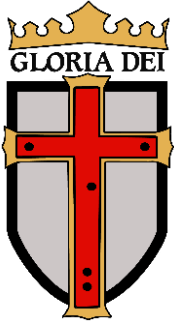
On Wednesday, September 3, at 5:45 p.m., during our pizza dinner, Pastor Dave will have a brief meeting with the Confirmation students and their parents in the Coffee Bar. After dinner, all Cross and Crown youth will have a refresher course for all youth in grades 7-12 in the Nave. Our new Cross and Crown servers will be fitted for their robes and have their pictures taken.

## Worship on YouTube

We are excited to make our worship more accessible to those who want to worship with us at Gloria Dei who are not physically able to be with us in the nave. YouTube is available to anyone with the internet to worship with us.



\*Scan this QR code with your smartphone:



## Updated Logo

In honor of our 60th anniversary, we have an updated logo. The updated logo is meant to be easier to read and remembered as well as looking more modern. The symbolism of the updated logo is the same as the original, which reminds us of our mission through baptism to witness as Christ's priests in this world.

## Wonderful Wednesdays

You are invited to

# WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

5:45 PM - 7:30 PM

**BIBLE STUDY • FOOD • MUSIC • CRAFTS**

1st Session	2nd Session
Sept. 10, 17, 24	Oct. 29
Oct. 1, 8, 15	Nov. 5, 12, 19
	Dec. 3, 10

We are excited to offer this program to all students in **Grades K-12.**



Please scan this QR Code to register your child.

## Fish Fry "Save the Date"

**Fish Fry is coming!!! Mark your calendars!**  
**October 11, 2025**

Details will be forthcoming.

Contact Dan Singer at [dan.singer62@gmail.com](mailto:dan.singer62@gmail.com)

or 757-679-6104,

or Kevin Morse at 757-288-0268 for more information.

Looking for volunteers!!!

## Newsletter Deadline

October/November Newsletter deadline

**Thursday, September 11, 2025**

Please email articles to [tbiak@gloriadei.net](mailto:tbiak@gloriadei.net).

## Calendar Request

Please email [CalendarRequest@gloriadei.net](mailto:CalendarRequest@gloriadei.net) for all facility usage requests.

## Lunch & Learn Seminars

You're invited to Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center's Lunch and Learn Series on the fourth Tuesday of every month. This is a free opportunity to learn more about the featured topics as we hope to raise awareness and improve resiliency in ourselves and our community. All Lunch and Learn seminars will run from noon to 1:00 p.m. and will be conducted at PPCC's main office at 707 Gum Rock Court in Newport News unless otherwise noted. Dates and topics are updated on the following website on an ongoing basis. The next Lunch and Learn is on Tuesday, August 26, at noon; its subject is "Attached: Understanding Your Style of Relating." Please visit the PPCC website to pre-register: [https://peninsulapastoral.org/events/?blm\\_aid=18276](https://peninsulapastoral.org/events/?blm_aid=18276)



## Community Bible Study

Our weekly Community Bible Study, held at H.E.L.P., 329 Buckroe Avenue, is **held on Wednesdays at noon**. All are invited to attend. This is a great opportunity for us to learn the needs of our community and help us to become more outreach-oriented. Please know that we will not be meeting on days when a holiday is being celebrated or when Pastor Dave is out of town.

## Fellowship Bible Study

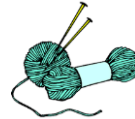
Fellowship Bible Study meets every Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. in the Simeon Center. We use a study called Daily Faith Practices published by the ELCA. For information, please email Sharon Padula at [slpadula1@gmail.com](mailto:slpadula1@gmail.com).

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

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

Proverbs 31:13



The ladies of the Prayer Shawl Ministry continue to work their needles on the second Sunday of each month following worship in the Atrium near the fireplace. We create shawls, lap robes and baptismal gifts. If you knit or crochet, we would love to have you join us. Or if you want, simply stop past, say hi, and see what we are doing. You may enjoy some conversation as well. If you want more information or have questions, contact Rita Foringer at [rforinger@verizon.net](mailto:rforinger@verizon.net).

## Women of Gloria Dei WELCA

We continue to have a Glass with the Girls on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month. That would be on August 25 and September 22. This is a time of conversation and fellowship with fellow Christian women.

Other activities will resume in October, so stay tuned! If you have any ideas for a fun time, questions or need answers, contact Rita Foringer at [rforinger@verizon.net](mailto:rforinger@verizon.net).

## WELCA Book Group



The WELCA Book Group is taking the summer off! The plan is to read "summer fiction" and enjoy family and friends. We will be getting back together in October reading "The Book Club of Troublesome Women" by Marie Bostwick. We'll be meeting at the home of Diane Washburn at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 13. You are cordially invited to join us. Here is a summary of the book. **All are welcome.** If you have any questions, or want more information, contact Rita Foringer at [rforinger@verizon.net](mailto:rforinger@verizon.net).

### The Book Club of Troublesome Women

This novel brings together a group of unhappy women who live in Valley View, Washington, in the 1960s and start a book club. The story unfolds very slowly, allowing you to become invested in the struggles these women face. I loved the newcomer, Charlotte, who is having some setbacks in her life. So, she decides to join the book club. It's here, where the ladies learn to find a source of strength and friendship.

The club consists of a very diverse group of women. Margaret, Viv and Bitsy are all dealing with their unique issues. The author has crafted a diverse group of women, so their first meeting doesn't go as smoothly as planned. But as they learn about themselves and each other, a bond begins to form. I love books about women helping women so much. I also loved that the story shows how books can start a conversation and help us while we are trying to get through difficult times, and these women use this book club as a support system of sorts.

This is more than the typical story of a book club. It's a book about women finding their inner strength, getting support from each other and the power of female friendships. It was heartwarming and insightful, and it proves that sharing stories can be healing. It's the perfect read for anyone who loves books about books.

## H.E.L.P. Donations

Please, join us in filling up the red wagon to feed the hungry in our community. They have an immediate need for paper grocery bags. The following are items on their most needed list:

- |                                           |                |                            |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| * Mac & Cheese                            | * Toilet Paper | * Peanut Butter            |
| * Juice (individual size)                 | * Soap         | * Shelf-stable milk        |
| * Canned veggies—corn, beans, green beans | * Crackers     | * Canned or Boxed Potatoes |

## Life Groups at Gloria Dei

Joining or creating a small group in your church offers a unique opportunity to grow deeper in your faith and build meaningful connections. In a small group, you can share your struggles, celebrate victories, and pray with others who understand your journey. It's a space where you can learn, ask questions, and support one another in ways that go beyond Sunday services. The relationships formed in small groups often become a source of encouragement and accountability, helping you live out your faith daily. As the early church gathered together in Acts, small groups are still a powerful way to experience fellowship, discipleship, and service. By connecting with others, you not only strengthen your own faith but also contribute to the growth and health of the church body. Together, we can grow in love, truth, and purpose—empowered by the Holy Spirit to live as Christ's hands and feet. If you feel the call to host a small group and/or to join a small group, please email Pastor at [pastordave@gloriadei.net](mailto:pastordave@gloriadei.net).

## Want to be a STEWARD?

Lurking thru the halls when School, Childcare, and Church Office are closed, are your **Gloria Dei Stewards**. To help keep maintenance costs down; this group of individuals repair, paint, move items, change lights, rip-up carpet, plumbing, throw playground stone, etc, etc. They accept no money for their talents; instead they graciously accept sore muscles, splinters, and blisters all for the love of supporting their Church and School. They are a society called together by an email and show-up to work with fellowship from other Stewards who have answered the email call. So if you enjoy manual labor, sore muscles, and an occasional blister, then the Stewards of Gloria Dei is the place for you. For more information or to sign-up please contact:

John Campbell - email: [johnbigfootcampbell@gmail.com](mailto:johnbigfootcampbell@gmail.com)

Mike Riley -email: [m.f.riley@cox.net](mailto:m.f.riley@cox.net)

## Estate Planning

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

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

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



## Blood Drive Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Fellowship Hall  
250 Fox Hill Road  
Hampton, VA 23669

Sunday, September 14, 2025  
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Please visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: GloriaDei to schedule an appointment.

# Sierra Leone:

## BRIGHTER FUTURES THROUGH EDUCATION

### THE SITUATION

Education is the best path out of poverty. For every year a girl can stay in school, her earning potential as an adult soars by 20%. Yet poverty is the number one reason hundreds of millions of children globally do not attend school. In Sierra Leone, **nearly 70% of women have no education at all** — greatly limiting their earning potential and their ability to make informed decisions.



Half of 12- to 14-year-olds work  
**28+ hours** a week



**1 in 3 girls** drops out  
of school by age 12

Both of 13-year-old Salamatu Conteh's parents are ill and can no longer care for her. This has put Salamatu at a higher risk of dropping out of school.

Luckily, her aunt and uncle were able to take her in and have made her education a priority, despite having four of their own children and limited resources.



### YOUR IMPACT:

With your incredible support, this year we launched a new pilot program to keep children — and especially girls — in school. We use **an innovative technology** to monitor school attendance, identify out-of-school girls, and provide monthly cash transfers so children can afford an education. Then we address non-financial barriers by connecting girls and their families with **health care, disability services, counseling and other support** so they can better care for themselves.



**Preliminary result:**  
school attendance is  
already increasing

**882 girls** identified and enrolled



Each icon represents 10 girls.

### TOP 3 USES OF CASH:



Food



School  
expenses



Menstrual  
products



A photograph of three young girls in a classroom. The girl in the foreground is smiling and has her right hand raised high. She is wearing a blue sleeveless shirt with white trim and a white bow at the neck. Behind her, another girl is partially visible. To the right, a third girl is sitting at a desk, holding a blue pencil to her chin. They are all wearing similar blue school uniforms. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

# KEEP GIRLS IN SCHOOL

*Advancing education and  
opportunity for girls  
in Sierra Leone*

## **Needed Supplies for Backpacks**

- 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 ½"; no loose-leaf paper.
- 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other.
- Pencil sharpener
- Pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well.)
- Unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band.
- Black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band.
- Box of 16 or 24 crayons
- 2 ½" eraser



# **Our 2025 Graduates**



**Dallam Brown**

Kecoughtan High School  
*Randolph Macon*

**Kendall Grace Etheridge**

Christopher Newport University  
B.S. Communications and Leadership  
*William and Mary  
MBA Program*

**Richard Fox, III**

Bridgewater College  
Bachelor's in Finance  
Minor in Financial Planning  
*Moving back to the area to pursue employment*

**Ashlynn Marie Hall**

Kecoughtan High School  
*James Madison University*

**Jonah Hutchison**

Virginia Tech  
*Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources*

**Isabella Danielle Mendez**

Bethel High School  
*University of Virginia*

**Elizabeth “EV” Robertson**

James Madison University

**Maria Anyell Vasquez**

Kecoughtan High School  
*James Madison University*

**Amanda Cecilia Wells**

Radford University  
Master of Business Administration  
with a Data Analytics Concentration

# BibleTelling Community Experience

"TASTE AND SEE THAT THE LORD IS GOOD" - PSALM 34:8




**EVERY TUESDAY: 2 class times**

**12:30 - 2 pm ET**

**6:30-8pm ET**

**NO CHARGE. Registration required.**

**Lead BibleTelling Facilitator: Sheila Arnold**

**AUG. 5-26:**  
**"PARABLES: WELL-KNOWN, RELEVANT AND CONTROVERSIAL"**  
**SEPTEMBER 2 - COMMUNITY GATHERING**

**SEPTEMBER 9-30: "ANIMAL TALES"**  
**OCTOBER 7 - COMMUNITY GATHERING**

**ADDITIONAL THEMES CONTINUE OCTOBER 14**

**12:30PM REGISTRATION: [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/AFTERNOONBT](https://tinyurl.com/AfternoonBT)**

**6:30PM REGISTRATION: [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/8TEVENING](https://tinyurl.com/8TEVENING)**

learning online  
activities & community

stories from the past  
connecting to today

## \*COLLEGE CARE PACKAGE ORDER FORM\*



The Ladies of Eggcellence are accepting orders for care packages for college students. Cost of each package is \$40 in-state and \$45 out-of-state. All packages will contain snacks, homemade goodies, and novelties. Order forms will be accepted between August 4 and September 1. Packages will be mailed September 7. Please place completed order forms, along with payment and personal note to the recipient, in the box on the information desk labeled College Care Packages.

***All orders must be pre-paid. If you have questions, contact Mary Mace, at 757-826-5435, or Pam Hess, at 757-897-5669.***

Sender's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

College Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make check payable to: Gloria Dei Lutheran Church with memo: college care pkg.*

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ Check Number: \_\_\_\_\_

2025



**Lisa Dadez,  
Principal**

### **From the Principal**

This June, twenty-eight students graduated from our fifth and eighth grade programs. Teachers, staff members, and parents worked together to mentor, nurture, and guide these graduates over the years, so they can make a positive difference. We are appreciative and thankful for the opportunity to be a part of their educational journey. Congratulations, Graduates!

I am pleased to announce that three of our graduates earned the President's Award for Academic Excellence. This is a national achievement awarded at three points in a student's academic career – at the end of elementary, middle, and high school. The criteria for this award are quite strenuous; and to qualify, students must maintain an A average and at least an 85% or above in math or reading on a national achievement test.

#### **Gloria Dei Lutheran School's 2025 Presidential Scholars**

*Naomi Menendez*

*Bryson Rader*

*Zoe Zou*

In addition, eighty-seven students achieved Honor Roll recognition for the year. The elementary students maintained an A/B average for each quarter, satisfactory or above in every resource class and satisfactory or above in all work-study habits. The students in sixth, seventh, and eighth grades, who earned Honor Roll recognition, maintained an A/B average in all classes during the 2024-2025 school year. Congratulations to our Honor Roll Students. Job well done!

#### ***First Grade***

##### ***Nolte:***

Omnia Abney  
Adelynne Tice

Caleb Bacallao  
Reagan Watkins

Abigail Martin  
Joanna Yohn

Kai Montgomery  
Annabelle Zember

##### ***Menendez:***

Case Abney  
Quinn Garrett  
Piper Olwig

Journi Banks  
Aria Hines

Elijah Charles  
Elena Leigh

Riley Clark  
Evelyn McDonald

#### ***Second Grade***

##### ***Maguire:***

Chandler Abbott  
Patrick Malmgren  
Aaliyah Simmons

Ezra Geisler  
Kywin Muehling  
Declan Willey

Abigail Hella  
Ileana Pearson

Sloane Howell  
Devin Rose

##### ***Wiggins:***

Grace Garfoyle  
Ella Miller  
Kennedy Saloka

Londyn James  
Zoey Morris  
Jackson Swicegood

Titus Kipper  
Callan Murray  
Payton Teal

Rhodes Lomax  
William Olwig

#### ***Third Grade***

Phil Bailey  
Keller Korahaes  
Mila June Robertson  
Zachary Vander Stouwe

June Cote  
Jonathan Murray  
Isla Samuelson Cullen  
Carlos Wassef

Tori Ford-Tinker  
Vy Nguyen  
Lennox Schweich  
Jolene Watkins

Ainsley Gibson  
Elizabeth Rene  
Adalynn Tuttle  
Rebecca Wu

#### ***Fourth Grade***

Olivia Abel  
Kayla Grace Grant  
King Oliver  
John Henry Yohn

Koi Abney  
Ronald Hayford  
John Wilhelm

Mario Brown  
Nixon Howell  
Richard Wilhelm

Nolan Frazier  
Asha McKenna  
Sanaii Lucky-Williams



### ***Fifth Grade***

Gunnar Gibson  
Tyler Kline

Christiana Grandberry  
Naomi Menendez

Nathanael Howell  
Meghan Willey

Jaxon Kerrick

### ***Sixth Grade***

Kylee Brewer

Elijah Cooper

Orlando Peters

Taylor Smith

### ***Seventh Grade***

Peyton LaRoche

Bryson Nichols

### ***Eighth Grade***

Lola Atkins  
Scott Willett

Abigail Fisher  
Matthew Wu

Alena Fortuna  
Zoe Zou

Bryson Rader

August will be here soon, and we are already preparing for our 53<sup>rd</sup> school year. If you are registered for the 2025-2026 school year, you should be receiving a packet of information by the first week of August. If you have not yet had the chance to register yet, please call the school office at 757-851-6292, and we will initiate the process.

The first day of school will be Monday, August 25. Below is the Open House schedule for our Fox Hill Campus classes. Open House for students in kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be set up in small groups throughout the week of August 18 – 22. Classroom teachers will be reaching out to set up a convenient time to meet.

#### **Open House Schedule**

Tuesday, August 19	Toddler and Twos Classes	6:00 PM – 6:30 PM
Wednesday, August 20	Preschool Classes	6:00 PM – 6:30 PM
Thursday, August 21	Prekindergarten Classes	6:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Open House provides the opportunity for you and your child to meet the teacher/instructional aide and to hopefully alleviate some of those first-day jitters. The school supply lists and calendar for the 2025-2026 school year can be found on our school website- [www.gdlshamptonva.com](http://www.gdlshamptonva.com).

There are still several weeks of summer left before we head back into the classrooms. Please enjoy this time with family and friends. Remember to be kind to yourself and to others, and set aside time each day to pray, read, and practice math facts.

Yours in Christ's service,  
Lisa S. Dadez

### **Thank You**

Gloria Dei Lutheran School would like to give many thanks to all those who assisted us in reaching our goal to obtain an automated external defibrillator (AED) for our Willow Oaks Campus. Thanks to those who participated in CPR and Stop the Bleed classes and to the families and local businesses who gave generous donations. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. The AED has arrived and will be installed at the Willow Oaks campus prior to the start of school.

### **School Employment Opportunities**

Gloria Dei Lutheran School has the following positions available:

- \* **Director of Transportation**
- \* **Part-time Bus Drivers**
- \* **Afternoon Child Care Aides**
- \* **Elementary-Instructional Assistants**
- \* **Buildings and Grounds Assistant**

Part-time and full-time hours available. If you are interested in applying, you can find an application online at <http://www.gdlshamptonva.com/school-forms>. Once completed, you may turn it into the School Office at 250 Fox Hill Rd., Hampton, VA 23669, attention: Lisa Dadez.

## Pastoral Record

### August Birthdays

- |                                               |                                                |                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Tricia Moody, Cassie Murray                 | 11 Jacob Hutchison                             | 22 Gordon Robertson                              |
| 3 Jessica Zorumski,<br>Thomas Smith           | 12 Natalie Pfahl                               | 23 Joanie Washburn, Brian Souder,<br>Alex Murphy |
| 4 Keeta Leckrone                              | 14 Noah Robnett, Howie Lewis,<br>Jose Gonzalez | 24 Chad Hart                                     |
| 5 Keith Leckrone                              | 15 Chloe Newsome, Abigail Hella                | 25 Amanda Gonzalez                               |
| 6 Wane Van Kauwenbergh                        | 17 Ernie Atkins, Mary Mace,<br>Carol Godley    | 26 T.C. Dadez, II                                |
| 7 Derry Mace, Jr.                             | 18 Cameron Phillips                            | 27 Lara Bayles                                   |
| 8 Chris Robinson, Wyatt Gretka                | 19 Terry Burks                                 | 29 Nicole Trimnal                                |
| 9 Alison Phillips                             | 20 Margie Bond                                 |                                                  |
| 10 Michael Sexton, Kevin Morse,<br>Anne Perry | 21 Joe Martin                                  |                                                  |

### August Anniversaries

- |                               |                                |                             |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 3 Dan and Nan Jordan          | 14 Roy and Margie Bond         | 23 Randy and Debbie Moore   |
| 7 Joe and Kelly Martin        | Barry and Julie Hutchison      | 27 Derry and Mary Mace, Jr. |
| 8 Lynn and Cathy Curtis       | Pastor Dave and Deacon Liz Fox | 28 Jim and Jeane Fullen     |
| 9 Walt and Laura Englund      | 17 Tom and Cheryl Hooks        | 29 Merlin and Sheree Harper |
| Javier and Amy Fuentes        | 18 Dean and Susan Grimm        |                             |
| 13 Nicholas and Sarah Griesse | 19 Nick and Lesa Shannon       |                             |

### September Birthdays

- |                                                                               |                                                     |                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1 Ron Rose, Peggy Todd,<br>Craig Peterson                                     | 13 Griffin Cole                                     | 27 Keith Miller,<br>William Waldrop, IV |
| 7 Emma Olsen                                                                  | 14 Samantha Jenkins                                 | 28 Lisa Pfahl                           |
| 9 Javier Fuentes                                                              | 15 Abigail Jenkins                                  | 30 Kent Morgan                          |
| 10 Bill Cawley, Juanita Cawley,<br>Danny Roark, Declan Keough,<br>Bill Roscof | 16 Gary Hess                                        |                                         |
| 11 Kelly Martin,<br>Andrew Sutherland                                         | 17 Dan Trimnal                                      |                                         |
| 12 Frank Grossman,<br>Fred Bound, Sr.                                         | 19 Steve Robnett, Lou Glaab                         |                                         |
|                                                                               | 21 Peggy Sipes, Wayne Sutherland,<br>Sharon Bennett |                                         |
|                                                                               | 24 John Campbell, Derek Singer                      |                                         |
|                                                                               | 26 Linda Sutherland, Bodie Sexton                   |                                         |

### September Anniversaries

- |                             |                                |                         |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2 Miles and Sammie Campbell | 27 Michael and Vicki O'Neill   | 30 Eric and Sarah Olsen |
| 3 Barry and Karen Zorumski  | Gary and Bonnie Hess           |                         |
| 22 Chip and Dawn Lomax, III | Dan and Nicole Trimnal         |                         |
| Mike and Crystal Via        | 29 Roger and Melanie Lowman    |                         |
| 26 Jose and Amanda Gonzalez | Frank and Virginia Saloka, Jr. |                         |

### Deaths

Joan Roberta Hudgins  
May 30, 2025

### New Member

Colby Owens

### Baptisms

Brian James Yohn  
July 13, 2025

Joanna Riley Yohn  
July 13, 2025

Donovan Robert Mares  
July 13, 2025

Whitney Renee Owens  
June 1, 2025

Lola Anne Atkins  
June 8, 2025

Easton James Harman  
June 8, 2025

# August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 1:00 PM Pack 27 Lego Derby
3 <b>9:30 AM-WORSHIP</b> 11 AM Choir Rehearsal	4 7:30 PM Troop 10/1051 Meeting	5 10 AM Fellowship Bible Study	6 12 PM Community Bible Study – H.E.L.P.	7	8	9
10 <b>9:30 AM-WORSHIP</b> 11 AM Choir Rehearsal; Prayer Shawl Ministry 1 PM Junior and Senior High Pool Party	11 7:30 PM Troop 10/1051 Meeting	12 10 AM Fellowship Bible Study  <i>Capri RSVP Deadline</i>	13 12 PM Community Bible Study – H.E.L.P.	14 6 PM Pack Committee Meeting	15	16
17 <b>9:30 AM-WORSHIP</b> 11 AM Choir Rehearsal; ExAdCom Meeting	18 7:30 PM Troop 10/1051 Meeting	19 10 AM Fellowship Bible Study 6 PM Suppers at Capri – <i>Reservation Required</i>	20 12 PM Community Bible Study – H.E.L.P.	21	22	23
24 8:30 AM First Light (Sunday School) <b>9:30 AM-WORSHIP</b> /Blessing of the Backpacks 11 AM Choir Rehearsal; Council Meeting	25 7PM WELCA @ Pour Girls 7:30 PM Troop 10/1051 Meeting  <i>First Day of School</i>	26 10 AM Fellowship Bible Study	27 12 PM Community Bible Study – H.E.L.P.	28	29	30
31 8:30 AM First Light (Sunday School) <b>9:30 AM-WORSHIP</b> 11 AM Choir Rehearsal			<div> Calendar Requests—please email  <u><a href="mailto:CalendarRequest@gloriadei.net">CalendarRequest@gloriadei.net</a></u>  for all facility usage requests. </div>			



# September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>Labor Day Church Office, School, and Child Care</i>	2 10 AM Fellowship Bible Study	3 12 PM Community Bible Study – H.E.L.P. 5:45 PM C&C, Pizza, Pictures Training	4	5	6 9 AM – 5 PM Council Retreat – Saint Paul's
7 8:30 AM First Light (Sunday School) <b>9:30 AM-WORSHIP</b> 11 AM Choir Rehearsal	8 6:30 PM Back to Scouting Kick-Off/Den Meeting  7:30 PM Troop 10/1051 Meeting	9 10 AM Fellowship Bible Study	10 12 PM Community Bible Study – H.E.L.P.  5:45 PM-Growing with Jesus (K-4th Gr.), Jr. & Sr. Youth Music 6:15 PM Dinner 6:45 PM Adult Bible Study 6:45 PM 5th & 6th Gr. Bible Study, Confirmation, Sr. High Discipleship, Music, Crafts	11 6 PM Pack Committee Meeting  <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	12 5:30 PM Smith/Nowell Wedding Rehearsal	13 3 PM Smith/Nowell Wedding 4 PM Reception
14 8:30 AM First Light (Sunday School) 9 AM Blood Drive <b>9:30 AM-WORSHIP/</b> Staff Installation/Bring a Friend to Church  11 AM 60 <sup>th</sup> Celebration, New Member Class; Choir Rehearsal; Prayer Shawl Ministry	15 7:30 PM Troop 10/1051 Meeting	16 10 AM Fellowship Bible Study  <i>Capri RSVP Deadline</i>	17 12 PM Community Bible Study – H.E.L.P.  5:45 PM-Growing with Jesus (K-4th Gr.), Jr. & Sr. Youth Music 6:15 PM Dinner 6:45 PM Adult Bible Study 6:45 PM 5th & 6th Gr. Bible Study, Confirmation, Sr. High Discipleship, Music, Crafts	18	19	20
21 8:30 AM First Light (Sunday School) <b>9:30 AM-WORSHIP</b>  11 AM Choir Rehearsal; ExAdCom	22 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 1041 Meeting  7 PM WELCA @ Pour Girls  7:30 PM Troop 10/1051	23 10 AM Fellowship Bible Study  6 PM Suppers at Capri – <i>Reservation Required</i>	24 12 PM Community Bible Study – H.E.L.P.  5:45 PM-Growing with Jesus (K-4th Gr.), Jr. & Sr. Youth Music 6:15 PM Dinner 6:45 PM Adult Bible Study 6:45 PM 5th & 6th Gr. Bible Study, Confirmation, Sr. High Discipleship, Music, Crafts	25	26 4:30 PM Ballman/Lowman Wedding Rehearsal	27 3 PM Ballman/Lowman Wedding
28 8:30 AM First Light (Sunday School) <b>9:30 AM-WORSHIP @</b> Gosnold's Hope Park - Cedar Shelter/New Members Join  11 AM Reception; Choir Rehearsal; Council Meeting	29 7:30 PM Troop 10/1051 Meeting  <div>Gathering of the Ministerium</div>	30 10 AM Fellowship Bible Study				

# Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

250 Fox Hill Road, Hampton, Virginia 23669-1793

Telephone (757) 851-2838

[www.gloriadelutheranchurch.net](http://www.gloriadelutheranchurch.net), [GDLC@gloriadei.net](mailto:GDLC@gloriadei.net)

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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

## Dated Material



### Worship with us!

In-person in the Nave or YouTube

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

## Online Giving

If you would like to give electronically, you can do so by scanning one of the QR codes below.

Tithe.ly



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