Save the Date! Rally Sunday is September 10

Gather with us on as we kick off a new year of programming, Sunday School, and ministries together.

Here is the Rally Sunday timeline of events:
• Festival Worship at 8:15 & 10:45
• Sunday School, GAPP and Forum for all ages at 9:30 a.m.
• Picnic Potluck for Everyone between 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

After the second service, we’ll move out for a celebration on the front lawn, including lunch, games, music, and chances to connect with others. We invite you to bring something to share for our salad bar or dessert table. (Bring a prepared salad, or any ingredient that you’d add to salad, or a dessert that others can enjoy with you. Please NO PEANUTS to help those with allergies feel welcome.) Sub-sandwiches will be available for a donation.

Learn about some of Gloria Dei’s outreach ministries at the interactive displays on our front lawn. You’ll even have a chance to help pack one of the grocery backpacks we provide to students at Highland Elementary School during the school year, or help with other service projects. Want to help with set up, clean up, or activities? Check with Pastor Lois or Audrey Johnson. Register for Sunday School at http://preview.tinyurl.com/GDLCsundayschool

Martin Luther for Kids and Families

2017 is the 500th Anniversary of Martin Luther posting his 95 Theses on the Wittenberg castle church door. It is considered the beginning of the Reformation and the Lutheran Evangelical Church. This calls for celebration and learning! Gloria Dei kids will learn about Martin Luther, his life and ideas, and the changes that he initiated. We begin on Rally
Sunday with a lesson entitled, “I’m a Lutheran! What does that mean?” Preschool children will read a Pop-up book about Luther, kids in grades 1-4 will gather with Pat Derry, and grades 5-6 with Pastor Javen. Parents are welcome to join their kids to learn together. Following Rally Day, grades 1-6 will study Martin Luther further. We also invite parents to come together to continue the conversation in a parent small group meeting during Sunday School. Rick Steve’s new and very interesting film, “Luther and the Reformation” will be on the schedule, as well as discussions about the relevance of the Small Catechism for today’s families. Luther originally wrote the Small Catechism to help parents teach their children the Lord’s Prayer, the 10 Commandments, and the Apostle’s Creed. A new Augsburg DVD curriculum invites parents into conversation around this theme. Look for more information to come! Call or write Pat Derry at kidsministry@gloriadeistpaul.org if you wish to help plan and pull our resources together!

Save the Date for Children’s Communion Instruction

The Pastors and Children’s Ministry director offer special instruction twice a year for parents/guardians and children who would like to receive communion. This year Communion Instruction is held Saturday, October 14 from 9:30 to noon and Saturday, March 3 from 9:30 – noon. There is no age restriction for this class. Parents and children can determine when a child is interested and ready to begin. The instruction is appropriate for kids age 5 – 12. If a younger or older child would like to take Communion Instruction, please speak with a pastor. Gloria Dei encourages families to include children in the sacrament of Holy Communion! Register here: http://www.gloriadeistpaul.org/worship/

Third Grade! Waverly Church Harvest Homecoming coming soon!

Last year’s second graders, remember the interesting lessons with Dan and Kendra Helvig from Waverly Lutheran Church? Waverly is our rural partner church. They invite the entire family of all third graders to their Harvest Homecoming every year.

Third grade families, please register NOW!

For your attendance at Harvest Homecoming, September 17, 2017. This is the registration link: http://www.gloriadeistpaul.org/event/waverly-harvest-homecoming/ More information is coming soon.
Confirmation Begins!

Our confirmation students in grades 7-10 are involved in faith formation with a big commitment to growing in Jesus’ love and light. We begin again with a Small Group bonding night on 9/20. Seventh graders who did not attend the spring orientation meeting should contact youth director Katie LeClair to set up a time to meet with staff for information you need. youth@gloriadeistpaul.org

Are you an adult who would enjoy being a servant leader with our teens? You could assist as a small group co-leader, a 1:1 mentor, a Wednesday night meal cashier, a retreat guide, or in many other ways. Studies have shown that for a teen to grow with faith that “sticks” she or he needs at least five adults other than those in their immediate family to share stories of hope and healing with them. Contact our pastors or Katie LeClair if you’d like to know more.

New friends are welcome!
Confirmation is a commitment to ask questions, to receive hope, and to meet Jesus in a personal way. Do you have friends in your neighborhood who aren’t already connected to a faith community? We’d love for them to visit us as guests or join us in our ministry programming. Our confirmation lessons are facilitated mostly through small group Bible study and activity time for one hour on Wednesday nights.

Click here for our schedule:

Click here for our information guide:

Click here to register:
https://gloriadeistpaul.wufoo.com/forms/k1bts0jv0yu79r6/
Three Choices for Mission Trips in 2018
Join us!

for more information contact Katie LeClair at youth@gloriadeistpaul.org
Volunteers needed to host 2017 Stewardship Campaign “Strike The Match” gatherings

Do you enjoy hanging out with your Gloria Dei friends? Do you enjoy hosting parties? These skills are in demand! This fall’s Stewardship Campaign, “Strike The Match,” will look different than previous years. Instead of having a large all-church event, we are encouraging smaller groups to gather together to get to know each other outside of church and have some fun. **Would you be willing to host one of these gatherings?** It can be as simple as organizing a mid-morning coffee date or elaborate as a 4-course meal. It might be fun to incorporate the theme with a bonfire or visiting around a fireplace. It’s completely up to you! The purpose of these gatherings is to come together and have a good time. The host will be asked to share a few points about this year’s stewardship efforts (we have a generous matching gift that we are excited to announce!), but there is no formal presentation or commitment that needs to be made at the gathering. The host will be given brief talking points and be well prepared. Sign-up sheets for these gatherings will be out on Rally Sunday, September 10. Please host your gathering between September 23 and October 29. Simply complete the form at [www.tinyurl.com/GDLCgatherings](http://www.tinyurl.com/GDLCgatherings) or call the church office by September 6 if you are willing to host. Thanks so much for your help!

Women of Gloria Dei events

Our Women of Gloria Dei 2017 – 2018 program year of exciting programs kicks off with a focus on our purpose statement of engaging in ministry and promoting healing in the world. Did you know that Camp Noah is celebrating its 20th birthday this year? Camp Noah, operated on a national basis by Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, is a nationally acclaimed preparedness and resiliency day camp for elementary children, hosted in communities impacted by natural disaster and other trauma.

On **Saturday, September 30, at 9:30 am at Gloria Dei**, Amanda Allen, Senior Program Manager, will tell us how it began 20 years ago. Come hear about how the program has hosted camps in 29 states and impacted over 14000 kids, ages 5 – 12. Invite a friend and learn how the camp helps children regain a sense of safety and normalcy and how we can serve this mission.

If you enjoyed camp as a kid or love seeing positive impacts on kids, join us at this **Coffee and treats event.** Cost: $4.00 for age 13 and up; free for age 12 and under. Register by **September 27** on the WOGD website, or by calling Margy Sather Peterson, 651-690-5028.

**Bible Study Enrichment**

All women are invited to a **synod-wide Bible Study Enrichment mini-retreat** on **Saturday, September 16**. The mini-retreat, led by **Intern Pastor Lindsey Bina**, introduces the Women of the ELCA Gather Bible studies for the 2017 – 2018 year. Hosted by **St. Mark's Lutheran Church, North St. Paul**, registration begins at 8:30 a.m.; program and lunch are from 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. The cost is $15.00 for the Bible study with lunch; $8.00 for the Bible study only. Registration/payment submission information can be found on the Women of Gloria Dei bulletin board or in the Bridges newsletter of the St. Paul Area Synod chapter of the Women of
the ELCA.  http://www.spas-elca.org/news-and-calendar/newsletters

Women of Gloria Dei

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Saturday, December 2: Christmas Brunch With Entertainment by "The Elizabethan Syngers"

Sunday, February 11: Ladies’ Rollin' Fun Afternoon – a Winter Warmer Game Day with Bunco, desserts, and tea.

Saturday, March 10: Lenten Prayer Breakfast with Pastor Bradley at the Mendakota Country Club

Saturday, April 28: Annual Spring Tea Luncheon with humor provided by "Helda Pay – Don'tcha Know!"

2017 Lutheran Social Services–MN Celebration for Changing Lives
Lutheran Social Services is Us and has been for over 150 years in Minnesota!!

Saturday, September 23. Join Gloria Dei members and pastors to learn about and support LSS-MN’s broad range of services. Registration begins at 5:30; Dinner begins at 6:30, with a program and auction to follow. Marriott City Center, 30 South 7th Street, Minneapolis 55402. Register by September 15 at http://www.lssmn.org/celebration/. Half of registration funds LSS-MN ($45), half goes for each dinner ($45) = $90 total. Pastor Javen Swanson will be the Gloria Dei Table Host, and would love to have you with him. For questions/more information, contact Ann or Bob Niedringhaus, robannrbe@gmail.com, 651-895-9574.

Music Opportunities at Gloria Dei!

All of our choirs will begin rehearsing at the start of the fall season in September and we look forward to the beautiful music that each of them bring to our worship!

Chancel Choir begins rehearsing the Wednesday after Labor Day, September 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room. Chancel Choir mainly sings at the 10:45 a.m. worship service and occasionally at both morning services on festival occasions. They will sing for both services on Rally Sunday, September 10th and a choir party will be held at the beautiful home of former music director, Carole Weatherby on Sunday afternoon, September 17th. We always welcome new members and voices! Please contact music director, Tim Strand, for more information. tstrand@gloriadeistpaul.org 651-699-1378, ext. 3004.
Schola Cantorum, for grades 3 – 6, begins rehearsing on Wednesday, September 13th at 5:00 p.m. in the Choir Room. Schola sings as well as learning to play percussion instruments and play choirchimes. Schola sings in worship either once or twice a month and at festival services. Tim Strand is the director.

Alleluia!, for children in kindergarten through 2nd grades, will begin rehearsing on Wednesday, September 13th at 5:00 p.m. in Room 100. Alleluia! sings at the 10:45 a.m. service several times throughout the year. Their enthusiastic leader is Ahna Logan, ahna.brandvik@spps.org; 612-208-4336

Handbell Choir rehearses twice a month on two consecutive Saturdays prior to playing in worship one Sunday a month. They are directed by Amanda Enstrom. getzaman@hotmail.com, 651-334-1167.

Matins Singers sings one Sunday a month at the 8:15 a.m. service. It is often the last Sunday of the month, but sometimes changes according to church festivals and holiday vacations. The first Matins Singers rehearsal of the season will be Sunday, September 24th at 7:30 a.m. in the Choir Room. We then sing at the 8:15 a.m. service that morning. Tim Strand is the director.

Instead of a weekly rehearsal for a youth choir (grades 7 – 12), we are trying short term, 3 or 4 week commitments throughout the year. There are opportunities for both singing and playing handbells. We have a number of youth on our e-mail list, but are always looking for more! Caroline Miesle helps with the bells and Tim Strand is coordinating the singing. For more information, contact Tim at tstrand@gloriadeistpaul.org.

Data Conversion is coming

Gloria Dei is converting to a new database for member and contribution information. The new system is cloud-based, which will give staff members better access to information even when they are not in the office. The system is more user-friendly than our present system, and will add a number of efficiencies in entering and retrieving information. During August, staff members will be customizing the new system so that data will transfer easily. The new system should be in place and operating by the end of September.
By God’s grace, we are called to be a caring, healing and welcoming community who proclaim and celebrate the love of Jesus Christ, live as God’s servants and seek justice for all people.

**Capital Fund Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions Year to Date</td>
<td>$219,330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly mortgage payments</td>
<td>$18,752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Improvement Costs Year-to-Date</td>
<td>$24,879</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance in Capital Accounts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 31, 2017</td>
<td>$325,534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortgage Balance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 31, 2017</td>
<td>$2,911,155</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FINANCIAL UPDATE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total offerings</td>
<td>$93,668</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ahead (Behind)</td>
<td>$6,456</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Income</td>
<td>$103,539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$101,198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net for Month</td>
<td>$2,341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total YTD Offerings</td>
<td>$671,089</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ahead (Behind)</td>
<td>$7,302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total YTD Income</td>
<td>$810,408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total YTD Expenses</td>
<td>$760,735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net for Current Year</td>
<td>$49,673</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Financial Update Submitted by Jeanne Hanson, Administrator