

August 2019

Gloria Dei Guide

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**Steven Peterson, Volunteer
State Fair Water Welcome**

God's Grace and cold water — for free

by Pastor Javen Swanson

Every summer in late August, Gloria Dei's parking lot becomes a Minnesota State Fair Park-and-Ride. Guests line up in our parking lot as they await the shuttle buses that will take them up Snelling Avenue to the State Fairgrounds. As part of our State Fair Water Welcome, members of Gloria Dei greet them as they wait and send them off to the fair with a bottle of water.

Thor Carlson, Jon Kavanaugh, and Steve Teipel are three leaders who help make our Water Welcome a success. Each of them has spent many hours in our parking lot greeting guests and giving away ice-cold water.

"One nice byproduct of volunteering for Water Welcome is hearing great Gloria Dei anecdotes from people waiting in line for the bus," Thor said. "Whether they came for holiday services or a wedding, a community meeting or some other event, many people let you know how they've been touched by Gloria Dei."

Jon describes volunteering with Water Welcome as an "infusion of pure joy. Patrons waiting for the bus are cheerful, excited to attend

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Summer Worship

Sundays 8:15 & 10:00 am
(extended through Rally
Day Sunday, Sept. 8)



Pastor's Message from Page 1

the fair, and both surprised and appreciative that they get free water."

Steve says what he appreciates most about volunteering with Water Welcome is getting to know other church members who are volunteering and meeting over 5,000 of our neighbors over the course of the Fair.

Our State Fair Water Welcome is more than just a ministry of hospitality. When we hand out free bottles of water to State Fairgoers waiting in line for a bus to the Fairgrounds, we are embodying a theological idea that is at the heart of Lutheran Christianity: grace. When Christians talk about grace, we are talking about a free gift of God given to us not because we've earned it but simply because God loves us.

*"... a free gift ...
simply because
God loves us."*

Grace is a concept that is foreign to us. We want to live in a world where people get what they deserve. Grace flies in the face of all that. God envisions a world where people do not get what they deserve—where all of us experience love, forgiveness, and abundance despite our failures and imperfections. God invites us to imagine a world shaped by grace.

Maybe it sounds crazy to think a little bottle of water could mean so much. But I hope that those fairgoers who are the recipients of this little gesture of hospitality recognize it for what it is: a free gift they have done nothing to deserve, offered to them no-questions-asked, for no other reason than we believe they are children of God who wants them to be able to experience the goodness and abundance of ice-cold water on a hot summer day.

Pine Ridge Youth Mission Trip 2019

by Katie LeClair, Youth Ministry Director

During the weeklong youth mission trip in June to South Dakota's [Pine Ridge Indian Reservation](#), 10 Gloria Dei (GDLC) teens and three GDLC adults bonded, grew in faith and made new legend stories. Katie LeClair said, "As the youth director, it was exciting to see older teens shepherd and guide younger teens in this experience and share their legend stories."

Legend stories are about those memorable moments, good or not, that live on and are fun to pass on. Like a good fish story, the telling of it may get 'bigger' with each passing year. On this trip, the "apocalyptic bunker" that housed them and the lack of any hot water, may create legend stories.

They joined nearly 100 campers from five churches across America to help with roofing projects, an outdoor shed double-door, and insulating the inside of a Lakota elder's house. All in full sunshine with over 90 degree temperatures. Maybe it was good it was so warm since they had only **cold** water for showers.



Ten Gloria Dei teens, grades 7-12, at Red Cloud Indian School and its church. They visited the museum and gift shop. The annual Red Cloud Indian Art Show is the largest and longest running Native American art show of its kind in the country, and one of only a few held on an indigenous reservation hundreds of miles from any urban area.

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The group learned about Lakota culture, saw the Wounded Knee Massacre site and heard community members speak about life on the Pine Ridge reservation. They met and shopped with local artisans, and visited the [Red Cloud Indian School](#) and museum.

"I learned about the lack of jobs on the reservation, about how the people lived on the reservation and what their living conditions were like," said recent high school graduate Eric Heffelfinger.

Eric encourages future trip participants to immerse themselves in the experience to fully enjoy it. Emma Goulet, another recent high school grad said these trips test you mentally and physically. "You never know what the other people are going to be like or your worksite, so it's important to be able to stay positive and look on the bright side, which can be hard. Trust your group because you need them. It's exhausting and tough but the trips are worth it," she said.

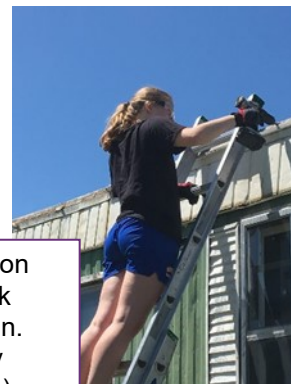
About this trip Emma said, "As a stranger I was always greeted with kindness, which says a lot about the Lakota culture. I met a 2-year-old named Precious who gave me a cold bottle of water without being told. Her house does not have running water so they rely on hose water and bottled water. Precious is an example of the Lakota culture."

The first three nights, severe storms forced them to shelter in an indoor structure down the road. "Seeing those storms roll in was quite a sight!" said Katie. "This was another time when friendships across grades 7-12 really happened. Really fun for me as a youth director to see!"

Juliet Cherry, eighth grader, said what surprised her about the reservation was, "just how much Monna [homeowner] knew, and how hands-on she was. How poor they were and how hungry they looked when they got food from Next Step during the Artisan market night."

On Friday, their last full day, they took a two-hour ATV tour at [Edelweiss Mountain Lodging](#) in the Badlands. The day ended with a community cookout with Indian Tacos and Fry Bread. At 7 a.m. Saturday morning, June 29, they left for home and arrived 12 hours later.

They appreciate everyone's support and prayers before and during the trip. Special shout out to adult members Marshall Saunders and Ben Bowman for being part of the trip. Check out the trip [pictures](#) and [videos](#).



Six of our teens and two of our adults were on two different roofing projects during the work week. They worked long hours in the hot sun. All skills training and tools were provided by Next Step (non-profit that organized this trip).



Juliet and Garret built and installed these doors on a garden shed. They learned how to measure, make sure things are level, how to install hinges, how to drill (and un-drill) and how to install a lock. They ran out of paint before they could finish.

2019 Rally Day ~ Special Schedule

Save the Date ~ Note the *new worship times* for this year's Rally Day Sunday.

September 8

Worship: 8:15 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Brief Sunday School 9:30-10 a.m. for children and teachers to meet.

Rally Day meal and fun in the parking lot begins at 11 a.m.

8:15 & 10 a.m.



VBS: By the Numbers

by Kyrstin Schwartz, Children's Ministry Director

This was my first Vacation Bible School at Gloria Dei and I was reminded every day how blessed I am to be a part of this congregation.

36 preschool children brought a special enthusiasm to VBS, and used their imaginations as they played games and learned stories.

98 elementary children (grades K-6) participated and brought the energy. By the end of the week they were singing their hearts out, especially during our theme song "I'm Trusting You."

15 junior leader children (grades 5-6) jumped to help or be involved as much as possible, and impressed us all. They worked hard in the kitchen to get the snacks prepared. My favorite part was watching them on stage, either leading the prayer, teaching the Bible verse actions or singing songs.

39 youth volunteers were great role models to the participants, and the children looked up to our amazing youth volunteers. One morning as a preschooler did an obstacle course, a teenage boy

right on the sidelines cheered her on by name. A perfect example of what Gloria Dei youth do for VBS.

42 adult volunteers decorated, prepped their stations, taught the children, and helped the youth volunteers engage with the children. They take strong ownership of VBS that shows in the great reputation our program has in the community.

8 staff members made meals and nametags, took pictures, gave tours and cleaned up. Pastor Javen played Irving Carter in the skit, and Pastor Bradley was even the MC.

238 total – members and staff – directly involved in VBS! We are grateful for all the children and volunteers, and everyone who donated items to make this week possible. What fun to see everyone come together for a week of learning, laughing, singing and creating!

Sanctuary Renewal Update

by Mike Kruger, Sanctuary Renewal Task Force Chair

Over the past few months, Gloria Dei members have gathered after worship, over coffee or with a Dilly Bar on a couple of hot summer nights to discuss the proposed Sanctuary Renewal project. Thank you to all who were part of our discussions. A special thank you to the volunteer committee who tirelessly gave up their summer nights and weekends to meet and listen to comments and feedback on the draft Master Plan.

Much has been done since the draft plan was presented to the congregation on May 18, 2019. Here's a brief update of where we are:

- Nearly 200 members have provided feedback or participated in a feedback session.
- 23 volunteers have been involved across three planning teams to transform the 2018 congregational vision into a detailed project proposal in 2019.
- The Design Team is in the process of incorporating the congregation's feedback into the overall design.
- A feasibility audit is being conducted to provide information and a recommendation for overall budget and funding options.

Next Steps

Once we complete the feasibility study and have a funding plan in place, we will move toward a congregational vote to commence a campaign to fund the Sanctuary Renewal. The church leadership believes it's prudent to secure a strong annual appeal and build momentum prior to approving the vision to commence fundraising for the Sanctuary Renewal. With that in mind, we look forward to sharing more updates with the congregation in September and October. In the meantime, if you have thoughts, considerations or questions regarding the specific design or the overall project, please let me know.

And again, thank you so much for your continued interest in renewing the worship space that we all share and love.

Neighborhood House Skills for School Preschool

by Kyrstin Schwartz, Children's Ministry Director

Beginning this fall, the halls of Gloria Dei will be full with preschool children's voices during the week. The Neighborhood House Skills for School will use one of our Sunday School classrooms for three afternoons a week to provide a free preschool for children 3-5 years old.

Skills for School helps the youngest participants in Neighborhood House develop the skills they need to enter kindergarten. For most of the preschoolers, it is their first time in a classroom and away from their families. Many are learning English for the first time.

The lessons, developed by the Neighborhood House licensed Early Childhood Educator, touch on critical areas of development for pre-school aged children and are paired with Early Childhood Home Visits to extend learning and skill-building beyond the classroom. The focus is to:

- Promote social emotional regulation.
- Help foster positive peer interactions.
- Inspire curiosity in problem-solving.
- Encourage symbolic thinking.
- Explore the alphabet—skills like phonological awareness, and knowledge and identification of letters and their sounds.
- Nurture emerging reading and writing skills.
- Teach number concepts and operations like counting, quantifying and connecting numerals with their quantities.

This partnership not only uses Gloria Dei space that is often empty during the week, it also provides a ministry of hospitality for Neighborhood House, these children and their families. We are excited to be part of a great place for the children to learn and have fun.

Neighborhood House is a multi-service agency that provides wrap-around services for families

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The Great Minnesota Get-Together

by Linda McDonald, Communications Coordinator

Recently, [Newsweek magazine](#) included the Minnesota State Fair as one of the top 10 best (late) summer festivals in the **world**. This year's fair runs between August 22 and September 2 with 31 new foods and seven new food and drink vendors. We asked some Gloria Dei staff members about their favorite fair foods.

Assistant Music Director Paul Friesen-Carper and Communications Coordinator Linda McDonald have never been to the Minnesota State Fair. Paul wants to try the "Cuban Fusion Fajita" from Juanita's Fajitas, and Linda wants the Cheesy Sriracha Funnel Cake

Bites from Funnel Cakes and a Pronto Pup. Youth Director Katie LeClair has never had a Pronto Pup.

Not only can you attend the fair, remember, you can help with Gloria Dei's State Fair "Water Welcome." We provide free bottled water to guests as they wait at Gloria Dei for shuttle bus rides to the fair (see *Pastor's Message, Page 1*). [Sign up](#) to help with that, if you can, and share in the annual Fair fun!

The experienced fair goers picks are below.

Staff Favorite Fair Foods

Pastor Bradley Schmeling	Snow Cap Mini Waffle Sundae
Pastor Javen Swanson	Breakfast Juicy LuLu
Pastor Lois Pallmeyer	Turkey Leg
Director of Music Tim Strand	Cheese Curds
Children's Ministry Director Kyrstin Schwartz	Egg Roll on a Stick
Youth Ministry Director Katie LeClair	Dairy Barn Ice Cream Cone and Cheese Curds
Parish Nurse Jill Stewart	Walleye Cakes
Church Administrator Jeanne Hanson	Lingonberry Ice Cream
Bookkeeper Sonia Hernandez	Mini-donuts
Office Coordinator Karen Earhuff	Mini-donuts and Pronto Pups
Custodian Jeff Barth	French Fries
Custodian Al Benoit	Footlong

[Habitat for Humanity 2019](#) — Thank you to this year's volunteers who helped with the 2019 Habitat for Humanity home construction in June.

Growth. Development. Formation.

by Pastor Lois Pallmeyer

The ongoing rains and warm weather have made this the greenest summer I can remember. Zucchini in my garden appear to double in size overnight. The grass grows five inches every week. The tree limbs are so full that they cast thick shade throughout the yard. Wherever you look, flowers, weeds, shrubs, vines and trees are lush and vibrant. It's my favorite season.

Summer allows for growth to occur with no effort on our part. This isn't only true in the natural world, but spiritually, too. We grow in faith without realizing it as the Spirit invites us to see our environment through the eyes of rest and reflection. God's vision reaches our imaginations through the novels we read and the vacations we enjoy. The Spirit stirs us as we touch sand with our bare feet and realize we're walking on holy ground. God's word speaks to us in worship without the preoccupation of the 18 things we have to accomplish before the workweek begins.

But as we start to turn toward autumn, we begin to wonder and dream of ways we can grow in faith in more structured and intentional ways. Perhaps this year will invite you to dive more deeply in faith through some of our Faith Formation ministries.

- In September after Rally Day, [Sunday School](#) and [Sunday Forum](#) will begin on Sunday mornings at 9:30. People of all ages grow together as we discuss God's word and see where God is active in the world. ([Learn more about Sunday School here.](#))
- [Confirmation](#) kicks off on September 10. [Click here to learn more.](#)

- Looking for something new? This fall, you are invited to join our conversations of faith with our young people at confirmation and participate in a small group led by one of our pastors to discuss the material presented. More information coming soon about that. [Soul Food](#) is choosing the books they'll discuss on Friday mornings during the school year. [Click here.](#)
- Our Faith and Science team is renewing their conversations of how people of faith are also people who appreciate and respect the teachings of science. Watch Sunday bulletins for updates.
- [Men's Book Group](#) continues to meet monthly throughout the year. Learn about their next discussion by [clicking here.](#)
- Third Chapter focuses on the spirituality of aging and is especially geared to offer faith formation opportunities and discussions for those age 55 and older. Watch the bulletins for upcoming events.

Wish you knew more? Have an idea not mentioned here? [Contact the pastors](#) and let them know how you are growing in faith and where the Spirit is moving you. Let this be the season of renewal in your faith life.

We offer our prayers for Pastor Marilyn Thurber who is retiring after 23 years of service to Redeemer Lutheran Church in Burkhardt, Wisconsin. Pastor Thurber was ordained at Gloria Dei in October 1989.

Preschool from Page 5



Neighborhood House™

and individuals when they need it most to help them make changes in their lives. Neighborhood House helps with basic needs, education, multiple youth programs, and health and wellbeing – all for free to participants.

New Gloria Dei staff

Linda McDonald, Communications Coordinator, began work July 1. Linda brings many years of professional communications experience that includes state government (in Florida) and corporate work. Linda's work hours generally are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Her email address is Communications@gloriadeistpaul.org.



Sonia Hernandez, Bookkeeper, began work July 16. She also works as an accountant at Property Maintenance Services in Little Canada. Her accountant career, until now, has been in the property management field. Sonia's work hours generally are Monday, Thursday afternoon and Friday. Her email address is Sonia@gloriadeistpaul.org.



Submission Deadline for September Guide
August 13, 2019

Financial Update

Capital Fund Information	
Contributions YTD	\$251,564
Monthly mortgage payments	\$ 18,752
Capital Improvement Cost Year-to-Date	\$ 30,790
Balance in Capital Accounts June 30	\$426,914
Mortgage Balance June 30	\$2,451,961
Sanctuary Renewal/Organ Costs	
Architect Fees YTD	\$ 71,244
Organ Costs YTD	\$ 0
Operating Information April 30, 2019	
Total Offerings	\$ 80,262
Ahead(Behind)	(\$ 13,899)
Total Income	\$ 92,618
Total Expenses	\$127,971
Net for Month	(\$ 35,353)
Total Year-to-Date Offerings	\$631,048
Ahead(Behind)	(\$ 8,074)
Total YTD Income	\$752,329
Total YTD Expenses	\$750,660
Net for the Current Year	\$ 1,669

Our Mission

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.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
700 Snelling Avenue South
St. Paul, MN 55116