

Gloria Dei Guide

February 2019

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Behind the Scenes in the Art Gallery

by Susan Gangl, Art Committee member

The Art Committee was created after the 2002 addition included a gallery on the lower level. This group of artists or those with knowledge about art met to develop this mission statement and protocols:

All visitors are welcome to view the art in our gallery. We exhibit art with the mission to enhance our spiritual growth and expand our faith by experiencing the transcendent power of the arts.

The committee has hosted over 70 shows by more than 100 artists with a range of media, styles, and cultural backgrounds, featuring themes from environmental landscapes to theological and social justice themes.

Finding Art

Gloria Dei members and artists that have served on the Art Committee have brought not only their own talent to our walls, but have led us to connections with their creative colleagues to introduce new art. Members with professional artist connections or who see a show that fits our mission will recommend them for consideration.

Worship

Sundays 8:15 & 10:45 am



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Art Gallery from page 1

Several notable shows include John Noltner's *A Peace of My Mind* bio-portraits and Saudi-American artist Hend Al Mansour, whose work celebrates the sacred feminine.

Permanent Collection

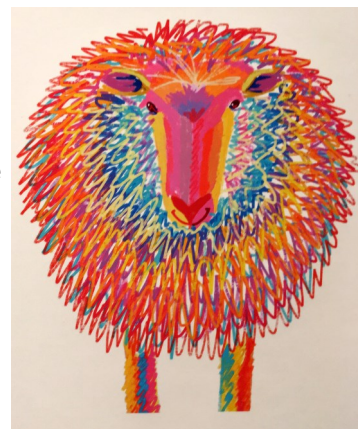
Encouraged by Pastor Bradley and Tim Strand, staff liaisons, the committee seeks to acquire permanent pieces that fit our mission and reflect our members' identities.

Two recent works have been featured in earlier issues of the Guide and are on display. *Glorious River* was created by Annie Hejny and is installed in the Colonial Room. See more about this piece in our [blog entry](#). *La Última Cena* (the Last Supper) was painted by a member of the Reanda family in Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala and is hanging in Fellowship Hall.



Watch for it!

During Lent, the colorful sheep Baaa! will re-appear somewhere in the building! It is a computer generated piece by Ann Gerondelis, a member of St. John's Lutheran in Atlanta, Pastor Bradley's previous congregation.



Did you know? The Reverend Martin Luther King Jr.'s preached at Gloria Dei. One of our early projects was to frame the 1957 news story and photo of Rev. King with Pastor Clifford Ansgar Nelson. Find it in the narthex.

Fun fact: Liturgical art such as what you see in the sanctuary is the province of the Visual Design Committee, not the Art Committee

The Art Committee is a positive, happy, energetic and inspired group of people! They are always looking for new art that stretches the boundaries of imagination and brings God's spirit to others in visual form.

The entire list of art can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/gdclShows>.

Update from Congregational Consensus Committee

by Julie Orman & Lucas Giambelluca, Congregational Consensus Committee



We are happy to announce that the results of our congregational workshop are in! In November over 120 people gathered to share their ideas on and input about the future of our worship space. Thank you to all who contributed. Take a look at the photo that Pastor Bradley took during the workshop, it was a full house!

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Consensus Committee from page 2

Opinions, ideas, hopes, dreams and concerns were voiced and recorded. All of the information that was gathered and submitted went to our architect, Jim Hundt of Foresight Architects. Jim has thoughtfully created a Needs Assessment Summary from this information, as well as a comprehensive Needs Assessment Report.



In his report, he notes: "Gloria Dei's identity is grounded strongly in the Lutheran tradition, yet the congregation prizes a creative and relevant interpretation of that tradition. They are both old and new, traditional and creative, ancient and fresh. They

hold them together beautifully. While people of all ages feel that tradition is very important and appreciate both the grandeur of the setting and the drama of the liturgy, they are equally dedicated to social consciousness as a congregation. They believe that their worship space and experience should speak to both sides of the equation."

Our voice as a congregation was clearly conveyed because so many individuals came together. Again, thank you to all who made this possible.

With much excitement, we look forward to the possibilities that 2019 may bring!

It's a Mardi Gras Party!

Laissez les bons temps rouler! Oui cher!

Save the evening of March 2 and plan to join Gloria Dei people for a Mardi Gras party!

We will be at the North Garden Theater, located at 929 - 7th Street West in St Paul 55102. There will be a shared meal of gumbo and cornbread, a cash bar and a King Cake Bake Off!

Our goal at this event is to have fun around raising money for needs of Gloria Dei that are part of our general operating budget. Needs that have been identified are Vacation Bible School scholarships, upgrading the art gallery hanging installation system and securing new art, and providing new anthem music for our choirs.

In years past, we've held a live and silent auction event to raise funds for these necessities, but we've been moving toward using this event to build relationships within our community AND raise money!

Gloria Dei members will be offering various activities and events for you to enjoy with other Gloria Dei people. These events are held on dates throughout the year and hosted by various Gloria Dei members. Enjoy golf with Gloria Dei celebrity staff, a tour of Gloria Dei's stained glass windows, an Oktoberfest



party and, a continued favorite, Tim's Martini and Show Tunes Sing Along Party!

If you would like to host an event for purchase, such as a meal or party in your home, a please contact one of us. It is a fun way to give back to this church from which we all gain so much.

Watch the Gloria Dei E-Blast for more details on the event as the date draws near. We will have limited childcare available at the event center.

Contact Event chairs for more information:

Carolina Schutt ceschutt77@gmail.com
Jody Thronson jodeant@gmail.com

"It is Good": A Weekend with 7th Graders

by Pastor Bradley E. Schmeling



I spent Friday night and a good part of Saturday with our 7th graders on the annual confirmation sexuality retreat. As you can imagine, there was a lot of nervous energy in both youth and adult alike. There were moments when the embarrassed giggling and sweatshirt hoods pulled over the face were downright cute. There were also poignant moments when one of the kids braved a question or even more bravely ventured an answer to difficult question.

When I was growing up, no one talked about sex in the church. Everything about bodies and desire was shrouded in darkness and, consequently, shame. My mom bought a book on sexuality, published by the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. I can remember sneaking the book off the shelf only when I was sure everyone was out of the house. I scanned the text looking for clues about whether my body was normal or if there was anyone else "out there" that was like me. As you might imagine, many of the messages, particularly around sexual difference, were primarily negative and judgmental.

I'll admit there were moments at the retreat when I, too, felt embarrassed to answer some of the questions that were anonymously placed in the lime green "Question Box." I said words out loud that I don't normally say, and I did my best to make everything sound just as natural as the snow on the ground outside the window in Western Minnesota. We talked about relationships, gender, sexuality, body image, peer

pressure, and sexual violence. We even said out loud all the words for body parts that we could think of, evaluating whether they were okay to say or whether they denigrated someone else or the bodies that God made.

There were a lot of times when it looked like no one was really listening. But I suspect they were listening very closely to see if their bodies were normal and if there was anyone else "out there" or even "in the room" who was just like them. What a gift to frame this entire conversation with God's gracious "yes" to the creation. Creation is



good. Bodies are good. Bodies that are fearfully growing into the wonder of adulthood are good. Bodies that love in different ways are good. Bodies that experience gender in complex and interesting ways are good. Bodies that make babies are good. Bodies that don't make babies are good. Bodies and intimacy, held together in God's faithful love, are very good.

What did this old body learn? It's embarrassing to be the church sometimes because we're called to be honest and open and loving through it all. Yet, it is marvelously worth it. The church is a body, the Body of Christ, with beautiful 7th grade members and adults willing to spend a weekend having hard conversations, eating too much candy, and trusting the love of God really does rule all in all.

All Church Serve Night

Wednesday

FEBRUARY 20, 2019

6-8PM

SHERIDAN STORY ROSEVILLE

All ages & friends welcome; children should be accompanied by an adult. Help pack meals for local students living with food insecurity.

More information & sign up at
tinyurl.com/GDLCserveNight



 **THE
SHERIDAN
STORY**
FIGHTING CHILD HUNGER

New Music Leadership

by Paul Friesen-Carper

Singing is the primary way that the assembly, as a whole, participates in worship. We sing to plead to God. We sing to praise God. We sing to proclaim God's living word. We sing to pray. We sing to join the song of the earth and the cosmos. We sing to remember our continuity with the past, the present, and the future. We sing to express our communion with the church throughout the world. We sing to comfort and to inspire. We sing to learn the faith we inherit and to imagine the faith into which God is leading us. We sing to interpret liturgical action.

From before the Reformation and through the time of Bach and beyond, church musicians in the West often bore the title of "Cantor." To learn more about the role of the cantor, check out Chad Fothergill's recent article in [Living Lutheran](#). Thanks to the work of theologians and musicians, most notably Paul Westermeyer, Lutheran musicians have begun to reclaim this title in order to name our work as helping the assembly sing.

Tim and I are cantors. When we lead singing with our various instruments, we care for the voice of the assembly. When we lead choirs, we help the voice of the assembly practice in order to enter more deeply into our song. When we lead instrumental ensembles and when we play offertories, preludes, and postludes, we cultivate and elaborate the assembly's song. While we bring different gifts and skills to the work, our focus is the same: singing together.



Music Leadership continued

As Assistant Music Director, I bring a set of skills and experiences to the work of helping people sing that both reinforces and compliments Tim's. I lead with voice and with guitar; I write for and direct instruments; I am conversant with musical currents from around the globe; I direct choirs; I write songs and hymns; I play many stringed instruments. I have studied 17th century Italian motets, Hebrew prophecy and psalmody, theology and ministry. I have performed German Lieder, Bach cello suites, original songs, Scottish fiddle, rock and roll, jazz, salsa, and other kinds of music. This provides Gloria Dei with possibilities for reinforcing traditions of organ and choir leadership as well as further exploring traditions outside that core.

For the last two Sundays of January, our lectionary has taken us to the 12th chapter of Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, an ecclesiastical vision of diversity in cooperation. It stems from two convictions: that God gives a variety of gifts, and that the church is like a body, needing the gifts of each member in order to live into God's abundance. By no coincidence, Gloria Dei has been conducting an inventory of gifts its members want to share. My hope in this place is to use the wide variety of musical gifts this assembly brings to continue the living and varied traditions of assembly singing that we embody— to the glory of God!

Emergency Preparedness at Gloria Dei

*by Amy Kircher, Emergency Preparedness
Committee Member*

Houses of worship are places that provide their members with comfort and inspiration. Unfortunately, disasters and emergencies can strike any place at any time. To ensure we are prepared for a disaster, Gloria Dei Emergency Preparedness Committee has developed an emergency preparedness and response program. This essential work included development of a plan, assessment of our facilities, and creation of training program for staff, volunteers, and our members.

In January, we held our second major exercise testing our shelter-in-place plan. With guidance from the pastoral staff and the ushers, we successfully evacuated both services to designated safe zones within our facility in less than 5 minutes. Through drills such as this we learn critical things that we cannot imagine when write the plan to include where the bottlenecks are moving people quickly or if our instructions provide enough guidance for our congregation to execute their part of the plan.

Our Sunday School teachers also held a drill to test their shelter-in-place plan with our children. This important effort raises our collective awareness of what to do in an emergency. And we admit, kids are really good at this. It is evident they practice in school and understand the importance of safety.



During the education hour, we held a forum for our congregation to engage in a preparedness and response dialogue. We had many great questions regarding medical emergencies, resources available within our facility, and how the congregation can be more involved in the Gloria Dei program.

Our next tasks will be focused on improving our facility infrastructure. A second Automated External Defibrillator (AED) device will be placed on the lower level this winter. And the committee is acquiring a emergency notification text plan. Be on the lookout for more information on this later in the spring.

Calling all Thrivent Members!



Are you a Thrivent member? Did you know that as a member, you can apply twice a year for an Action Grant of \$250? That's for every member - not household - and that's two times a year, every year!

Last year, many of our Rally Sunday activities were supported by Thrivent Action Grants. The Caring for Creation team provided a Zero-waste setting for our Picnic, members assembled and tied blankets for children at Camp Noah, after school activities bags were packaged for children supported by Lutheran Social Service and a dozen totes were filled with household supplies for families moving from shelter to permanent housing.

Think of the endless outreach and social justice opportunities that Gloria Dei could make happen with these grants. We could stretch our dollars to buy supplies for Highland Park Backpack program, organize an All Church Outing, offer scholarships to Vacation Bible School or Youth Mission trips, just to name a few.

Over 20 Gloria Dei members have let us know that they are Thrivent members. But we think that there are more of you!

If you are a Thrivent member that is interested in helping Gloria Dei unlock these Action Grants, contact [Katie LeClair](#) or [Audrey Johnson](#). They happy to help you identify possible funding opportunities and also assist with the actual application and reporting process.

Financial Update

Capital Fund Information

Contributions YTD	\$398,653
Monthly mortgage payments	\$18,752
Capital Improvement Cost Year-to-Date	\$101,234
Balance in Capital Accounts March 31	\$390,571
Mortgage Balance March 31	\$2,753,165

Operating Information December 31, 2018

Total Offerings	\$177,878
Ahead(Behind)	\$62,698
Total Income	\$205,130
Total Expenses	\$154,896
Net for the Month	\$49,234
Total Year-to-Date Offerings	\$1,247,606
Ahead(Behind)	(\$33,306)
Total YTD Income	\$1,499,306
Total YTD Expenses	\$1,456,732
Net for the Current Year	\$42,574

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