

The Gloria Dei GUIDE January 2018



Practicing Hope

By Katie LeClair, Director of Youth & Family Faith Formation

During Advent 2017, members of Gloria Dei committed to making it a season of Practicing Hope. The community shared images and stories of life together that helped inspire all of us to seeing hope in the world.

On December 3, five members shared their personal stories at the Sunday Forum. Paula Hutchinson spoke about how knitting projects have helped her slow down and dedicate mindfulness to hope during Advent. John Teipel shared how his health struggles with waiting for a heart transplant and going to support groups help him lean on the Lord and remember what his dad always taught: "Today is a Good Day." Drew Stever outlined life as a post-college person coming out as Trans* to friends and family, while also trying to start

therapy and seminary. "How are you being gentle with yourself," they asked us. Erika Taibl told the story of her work transition and finding a way to share faith in the health care field. Finally, Garth Englund talked about his trip to the Dominican Republic and a friendship he made with a young boy who likes to take selfies.

Online, church members participated regularly in a special open Facebook Group called "Advent @ GDLC: #PracticeHope." Several times a day, church friends would post images, articles and stories that were bringing them hope during the season. Many of those stories and images were printed and posted in the display cases in the entry-way off the parking lot. Member stories also showed up at 7AM each day on our church website and were published on Twitter and Facebook. Through the telling of our stories, we became closer as followers of Jesus and followers of his way: HOPE.

Father Paul Feela, Priest at Lumen Christi Roman Catholic Church to Preach at Gloria Dei on January 21st

By Pastor Bradley E. Schmeling

One of the first religious leaders I met when I became senior pastor at Gloria Dei was Father Paul Feela from Lumen Christi Roman Catholic Church in Highland Park. I was struck by his gentle kindness, his openness, and his commitment to social justice. Lumen Christi has been instrumental in supporting Francis Basket, our neighborhood food shelf, and many of its members are involved in the community to make this a better neighborhood for everyone, especially those who are often left-behind.

As an echo of the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, I invited Father Feela to preach at Gloria Dei on January 21st as part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Community. I think it's important to remember that we are united in far more ways than we are divided. We share in ministry with Lumen Christi in many important ways. It's been a joyful outcome of the Reformation celebration that there's been a renewed attention to the relationships between our churches, nationally and internationally. In fact, last summer at our ELCA churchwide assembly, we adopted a document that imagines a process for sharing Eucharist with our Roman Catholic siblings. The document was adopted by the U.S. Roman Catholic Bishops, too. That's progress!

Last January, I was part of planning a joint liturgy between the St. Paul and Minneapolis Area Synods and the Archdiocese of the Twin Cities. Archbishop Hebda preached, and the two Lutheran bishops presided. It was a powerful to experience the joy and hope in the worship service.

We're doing it again! This time, St Paul Area Synod Bishop (and Gloria Dei member) Patricia

Lull will preach, and Archbishop Hebda will preside at the Roman Catholic Cathedral in St. Paul on January 21st at 7:00 p.m. The National Lutheran Choir will sing, and I'll be in the background making sure all the leaders get to their places and know what they're doing.

I love being part of the connecting tissue between our churches. It's been an honor for me to be part of these Reformation services. God will make us one!

Why Do We Worship This Way?

By Pastor Lois Pallmeyer

For Lutheran Christians, worship stands at the center of our life of faith, a foundation of our shared life together. Through God's word, water, bread and prayer we are nurtured in faith and sent out into the world. Worship connects us to other Christians around the world, and allows us to encounter God who is present through the sacraments and the proclamation of the gospel.

But many of us wonder about how worship works, and why we make the choices we do as we plan our worship services. Why do we sing all these hymns? Why do we have liturgical songs and where do they come from? Why do the pastors wear all the different colors and fancy robes? What's the point of all of this?



A series of Sunday Forum discussions will allow the pastors to respond to your questions and help shine light on the form and content of our worship services. Join us for the first of these on January 7, at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall. Do you have a specific question about how we structure worship? Share it with the pastors so that we can include responses to that about which you wonder the most.

Winter Warmer Gathering Women of Gloria Dei

Warm up this winter with friends! Join us for a fun afternoon of games and fellowship. January 28, from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Let the good times roll with an easy game of Bunco. All women are invited! Play a round or grab a snack and cheer on a team. It will be a great opportunity to catch up with friends and meet women of all ages. No prior skills are needed to play – just a little luck. Register here: <http://www.gloriadeistpaul.org/event/wogd-bunco-event/>

Offering opportunities: A free will offering to WOGD – or bring an item for Keystone Community Services food shelf. Suggested food items: rice, rice noodles or dried pasta, macaroni and cheese, canned meats, soups, stews and fruit, low sugar cereal, condiments, cooking oil, baking mixes, flour, sugar.

Share your gifts with us!

By John Stendahl, Shared Ministry Committee Chair

On Epiphany—the day after the twelfth day of Christmas—we remember the magi who came to visit Jesus bearing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. What gifts do *you* bring to the manger?

Gloria Dei's Shared Ministry Team invites you to complete a "Discovery of Gifts" form to let us know more about your gifts, passions, and interests. You can find these "Discovery of Gifts" forms in your bulletins on Sunday mornings in January, or fill it out online at <https://gloriadeistpaul.wufoo.com/forms/discovery-of-gifts/>

Filling out the "Discovery of Gifts" survey lets us know what you're good at, and we record that information in our secure database. When a need arises for someone with your skills or interests, you are likely to get a call from us!

Each year we ask you to complete the survey, even if you've already completed one previously. These forms help us connect Gloria Dei members with volunteer opportunities that match their gifts. Since launching the "Discovery of Gifts" survey two years ago our leaders have used the information we have collected to invite dozens of members into a wide variety of ministries and other opportunities to carry out our mission.

Filling out the survey does not commit you to anything. It simply identifies you as someone possessing valuable gifts and skills we may want to call upon at a later date. It was designed to help you think of the various gifts you have to share, including those you may not have considered before.

Later this year you'll have an opportunity to complete a "Volunteer Ministry Interests" survey where you can indicate your interest in volunteering with specific ministries here at Gloria Dei.

What do I need to do now? Please complete the Discovery of Gifts survey, either on paper or online. Hard copies of the form can be placed in the offering plate or returned directly to the church office.

We value your membership at Gloria Dei and look forward to working together with you in our shared ministries. **Thank you for sharing your gifts with us!**

Welcome to Deacon Pat Derry! Wait, what? What's a Deacon?

By Pastor Bradley Schmeling

Our director of Children and Family Faith Formation has a new title! Instead of being considered an "Associate in Ministry," the former title of rostered lay leaders, the church has changed the title to deacon. We now have two rostered sets of leaders: Ministers of Word and Sacrament (Pastors) and Ministers of Word and Service (Deacons).

On Sunday, January 14, we will celebrate Pat's ministry at Gloria Dei and recognize her new title. We are so grateful for all the wonderful and creative ways that she builds our faith formation program for children and their families.

More background on ELCA Deacons by Deacon Carol Schickel.

God calls human beings to participate in a divine mission in the world. We each discover or are called to our own way of caring for the earth and its inhabitants. People of God are aware of the many needs of the world and may ask from time to time: "Is this how God is calling me to respond, to act, to speak or to serve?"

The church has created an order for affirming particular calls to serve in the interest of that divine mission. When the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was formed in 1988 it established three rosters: pastors, deaconesses, and associates in ministry. In 1993 a roster of

diaconal ministers was added, and the first were consecrated in 1995. These rostered leaders are called through the ELCA to serve congregations as well as through other officially called ministries. Some on each of the rosters of the ELCA are chaplains, therapists, musicians and cantors, seminary faculty and administrators, social workers and churchwide and synod leaders.

At the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly changes were made to the three rosters of lay leaders. As of January 1, 2017, those who have served on the lay rosters as associates in ministry, diaconal ministers and deaconesses are now part of one unified roster of 'Ministers of Word and Service,' and are called deacons. The other roster of the ELCA continues to be known as "Ministers of Word and Sacrament," called pastors.

The ministry of the diaconate, that is of deacons also called ministers of Word and Service is recognized by churches throughout history and around the world. The earliest deacon of the Bible was Stephen. The ELCA continues to seek to honor the significance of deacons serving at the intersection of church and world, bringing a sharper focus to the ways the church responds to the needs of people. Our new roster more closely aligns with the global church, providing clarity and empowerment to those the church calls to serve.

Congregations, synods, and other places where these deacons now serve are encouraged to recognize this significant transition and affirm their ministries. There is a welcoming rite to help recognize this transition on the ELCA website under worship. We are all invited to welcome those called as deacons and to ask any questions we might have about how the church works to carry out its mission to the world. Come greet a Deacon! It's a new day for all of us in the church as we are sent out to serve.



Strike the Match Challenge and Stewardship Campaign Results

By Kate Ostrem, Stewardship Committee Chair

Thank you to everyone who responded so generously to the Strike the Match Challenge. We met – and exceeded – the challenge! The fire of the Holy Spirit is burning at Gloria Dei!

Here are the results of the 2018 Campaign:

Operating Fund

2017	341 pledges	\$858,015
2018	317 pledges	\$877,142

Of the 2018 pledges, 52 were new and 167 increased their giving – this net increase was \$133,513, surpassing the \$100,000 needed to meet the Strike the Match challenge.

While the amount of money pledged to the Operating Fund increased, you'll notice that the number of pledges is down. We still haven't heard from a number of people who pledged in 2017. If this describes you, it's not too late to let us know what your plans are for 2018!

Capital Fund

2017	257 pledges	\$338,593
2018	238 pledges	\$286,838

Hopefully, the 2018 pledges to the Capital

Fund we have not yet received will make up the difference between the amount pledged last year versus this year. This fund allows us to not only pay the mortgage but also accomplish projects that help us maintain our building.

What happens next with the Strike the Match dollars?

\$70,000 is contributed to our endowment, growing our investment for the future of the church.

\$30,000 goes out the church doors into the community, supporting the good work done by our outreach partners.

Who gets the \$30,000?

The \$30,000 will be split among all the organizations that we support with our second offering on the second Sunday of the month. The amount each organization receives will be decided at the annual meeting on February 11. Each member of the congregation will cast three votes. The \$30,000 will then be divided proportionally among the organizations in order to reflect the percentage of votes each one received. **Remember: in order to vote, you must be present at the Annual Meeting held on February 11 at noon.**

Curious to see a complete list of the organizations that will be included?

Information regarding eligible organizations as well as the Annual Meeting on February 11 will be posted on Gloria Dei's website shortly.

If you have any questions about the results of the stewardship campaign, please contact the church office or Kate Ostrem, Stewardship Chair, at kbaostrem@gmail.com.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The congregation meets to adopt its annual mission budget. Come and see our priorities and dreams for God's work at Gloria Dei in 2018.



It's a Potluck!

If your last name begins with:

A-C, Bring desserts or fruits

D-K, Bring main dishes, meats, cheeses

L-S, Bring salads, vegetables, side dishes

T-Z, Bring bread, rolls, spreads or condiments

All confirmed members and prospective members are invited to join the Annual Meeting in Fellowship Hall from 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. We will discuss plans for the upcoming year, review the

past year, and set our budget. Annual reports are available the week before (February 4) in the church office.

**Gloria Dei Lutheran
Church**

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**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

Contributions Year to Date	\$ 327,873
Monthly mortgage payments	\$ 18,752
Capital Improvement Costs Year-to-Date	\$ 117,100

Balance in Capital Accounts November 31, 2017	\$ 266,488
Mortgage Balance November 31, 2017	\$ 2,874,781

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Operating Information

December 31, 2017

Total offerings	\$ 90,959
Ahead (Behind)	(\$ 3,552)
Total Income	\$ 112,760
Total Expenses	\$ 123,548
Net for Month	(\$ 10,788)
Total YTD Offerings	\$ 1,016,420
Ahead (Behind)	(\$ 12,568)
Total YTD Income	\$ 1,227,722
Total YTD Expenses	\$ 1,220,081
Net for Current Year	\$ 7,641

Financial Update Submitted by Jeanne Hanson, Administrator