



Gloria Dei Guide

June 2019

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Master Plan Presentation

by Sanctuary Renewal Consensus Team

On Sunday May 19th, almost 200 members of Gloria Dei gathered in fellowship hall to hear the proposed master plan for the renewal of our sanctuary and organ installation.

Pastor Bradley shared his opening remarks and highlighted the importance of our worship and the connections made in the sanctuary. He asked, “does the design accomplish the work to which we are called?” From the messages we hear on Sunday mornings, to the music we are a part of, ours is a community filled with joy and purpose. Pastor Bradley’s full remarks can be found [here](#).

A light hearted video was shared highlighting some of the very real issues with our current organ. For those of you who did not have the pleasure of watching on May 19th, or just want to [view it again](#), you’re in luck!

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Summer Worship

Sundays 8:15 & 10:00 am



Renewal from page 1



Jim Hundt, of Foresight Architects, walked through the proposed design and first renderings which were created based on the feedback that was shared at the November 18th congregational workshop. Andrew Forrest, of Orgues LeTourneau, spoke about the installation of a rebuilt pipe organ and the quality of the instrument.

Time was given for all to ask questions and give feedback on the proposed plan. It was truly impressive to listen to everyone share their feedback and ask questions. The involvement of our congregation is critical as we all study, consider and discuss the proposed plan.

Attendees on May 19th were asked to respond to two statements: 1) If the proposed master plan will help our church 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 and 2) If they would be willing to support the direction described in the

master plan presentation. In all, 93% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed with both statements!

If you were unable to attend on the 19th, we have upcoming sessions where you can watch the power point presentation from the architect and have a



conversation over ice cream with staff and task force members. Both sessions will be held in Fellowship Hall, Wednesday, June 5th at 6p.m. and Monday, June 24th at 7p.m. Details and information regarding the Sanctuary Renewal will be found on the Gloria Dei website by mid-June and will be updated accordingly.

If you have questions or comments, please contact any of the members of the Sanctuary Renewal Consensus Team: Julie Orman, Lucas Giambelluca, Claire Hoyum, Mark Hallberg, Susan Engeleiter, Ruth Marcott, Jeanne Hanson, Joanne Claussen, Eric Lecy. Send your email to: office@gloriadeistpaul.org.

A Meeting to Remember

by Marshall Saunders, Congregation Council President

It was a cool and overcast day on May 12th, 2019, when the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church congregation met for its yearly General Meeting. Few had any idea what kind of excitement and merriment awaited them.

To begin, Tim Strand and Paul Friesen-Carper (aka The Music Guys) led a hymn that left not a dry eye in the house. Then, in a nail-biter of a vote, the assembly passed the agenda for the day's meeting unanimously.

Before the attendees could catch their breath, the



meeting plunged head-on into service recognitions.

And this year's recognitions held some doozies! David Opsahl (we'll talk more about him in a bit), Ruth Marcott, and Steven

Peterson were recognized for their service on the Congregational Council. They will be sorely missed in these leadership positions but all of them said they were looking forward to having the third

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Tuesday of every month free. Judy Youngren was honored for her term as Auditor of Minutes. It was acknowledged that Judy did a great job though there were few who could explain exactly what an Auditor of Minutes does. Not every position is as glamorous as these so we also shone the spotlight on Tiffany Mattick (Giving Tree); Paul Casey and Dave Schutt (Loaves and Fishes), and Amanda Enstrom (Director of the Bell Choir).

At this point in the meeting, Pastor Bradley took control of the mic and welcomed Alan Benoit as the new full-time custodian. As Alan looked out over the crowd, he could tell this was going to be a difficult group after which to clean up. He pledged to do his best.

Acknowledgement of the Project Home volunteers and organizers was next on the docket. You might remember that Gloria Dei was called on to do an additional month of Project Home in January of this year. Pulling off this extra month at the last minute took a lot of extra effort and determination. Of

course, this commendable crew from GDLC did it without breaking a sweat. Among the honored for their service with Project Home were: Leslie Kallas and Pastor Javen (Lead Contacts) Jeff Barth, Greg Larson, and David Romero (Custodial Staff), Amos Briggs (Registration), Lynn Thoele and Sherri James (Sharing Bank), Christine Schoettler, Angie Sherwood, Lizzie Stofferahn, Lorna Pain, Kathy Killeen, and Jill Karl (Weekly Coordinators).

A special round of applause was given to the 70+ overnight volunteers and the 200+ evening volunteers that made Project Home a reality. But then, just as all assumed we were done talking about Project Home, two special commendations for service above and beyond the call of duty were issued to John Teipel and Matt Sherwood. These two brave men basically lived at Gloria Dei during the extremely cold days of December 2018 and January 2019.

Attention now turned toward three service anniversaries. It was a pleasure to honor their length

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Gordon Braatz Receives Award

by Pastor Lois Pallmeyer

Rev. Dr. Gordon Braatz was honored at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC), on May 20, 2019, with the award for Distinguished Service. Pastor Lois Pallmeyer represented the Gloria Dei community to celebrate and recognize Pastor Braatz for his faithful ministry to the church across his career. Braatz is a member of Gloria Dei and serves on the organ committee and as a regular communion assistant.

During his ministry, Dr. Braatz served as a parish pastor and a psychologist, taught at the University of Minnesota, provided psychological assessments for the Department of Veterans Affairs, and supervised psychiatry students. His insightful preaching draws from his deep appreciation for scripture and liturgy, as well as his compassionate understanding of personality development.

Gordon serves on the Board of Directors of LSTC. The Gordon A. Braatz endowed chair in worship



ensures that LSTC will continue to equip seminarians in the art and theology of planning and leading worship.

Congratulations, Gordon! Thank you for your faithful service to Christ's Church.

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of service at GDLC. Pastor Javen was honored for 5 years; Tim Strand for 10 years; and Pastor Lois for 20 years. For their tireless service and dedication they were given a little piece of paper with their name on it.

After Pastor Bradley gave a shameless plug to buy the Guatemalan Coffee being sold at the back of the room, the meeting lurched toward the one event that held everyone's imagination and indigestion, the Elections! Spoiler alert, everyone was elected without additional nominees being put forward from the assembly and all with unanimous votes. Check out page 7 for fun facts and photos of some of your Congregational Council members.

Remember earlier when I said we'd talk about David Opsahl again? Once again, and for the last time as treasurer, David took the floor and gave a Financial Update. He spoke with his usual authority and

knowledge and we all agreed that we would miss his steady hand on the financial tiller of GDLC. David's report was full of numbers and graphs, but the bottom line was that GDLC is in good shape financially. Thank you for your service, David!

After the emotion of elections and financial reports, the crowd grew tired. People were eyeing the large coffee pot to see if it still held bright-eyed bounty, and many considered chewing on the Guatemalan coffee beans as a pick-me-up. Alas, the end of the meeting was in sight. Mike Kruger gave a short update on the Sanctuary Renewal Project and Marshall Saunders gave a short recap of upcoming events. Pastor Javen delivered a heart-felt closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned. Though most were glad to see it finished, there were those who expressed regret that it would be another year before the next GDLC General Meeting.

2019 Synod Assembly

by Cathy Sedacca, Congregation Council Vice President



I attended the St Paul Area Synod Assembly last week along with the pastors and other members of Gloria Dei. Over a day and a half, we elected new leaders, heard updates from around the synod, worshipped and socialized.

One highlight was the presence of Tim and Paul and a variety of Gloria Dei musicians and choir members to assist with the worship services. I believe that our whole Gloria Dei section (that we affectionately called the "cool section") was swollen with pride to hear the familiar musical talents of our own Gloria Dei members.

Another high point was Pastor Javen's presentation of a resolution against conversion therapy. He presented an eloquent argument for abolishment of the practice citing examples of the damage it has caused, as well as the ineffectiveness and more importantly the lack of necessity. (This resolution passed with unanimous support, by the way).

Lastly, I enjoyed watching the leadership style of Bishop Lull. She is such a great example of what people appreciate in women leaders. She is both competent and confident, yet humble and accessible.

She is open to listening, and when she listens she actually hears.

There are a lot of good things happening in the St. Paul Area Synod!



All Church retreat

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN
ALL-CHURCH ALL-AGES

January 17-19, 2020

Connect With New Friends

Join Gloria Dei members of all ages as we spend a weekend together worshipping, learning, playing, resting, and feasting. **Camp Courage** is fully accessible for those of all mobility types and has delicious made-from-scratch meals and very comfortable lodging for all ages.



Activities

Stay inside or play in the snow- or both! This retreat will have many options for your recreation time.

Did you say zip line?

Shoot some hoops or play volleyball in the open gym, organize an afternoon broom-ball game, take a nature hike with your camera, build an outdoor camp fire, go sledding or tubing, bring your favorite book and read by the indoor fireplace, create some art in the arts & crafts building, or sign up for a fully accessible winter low/high ropes course with zip line included (all ages/ abilities welcome).

Worship together

Tim Strand and Paul Friesen-Carper along with other favorite GDLC musicians will be accompanying our retreat, leading us in familiar and new songs. **Pastors Javen, Lois and Bradley** will have some devotional words to share with us during evening prayer and morning devotions, as well as a worship service before we leave on Sunday morning.

Programming for all ages

Whether you're a single adult, an empty nester, or a busy parent with elementary kids and teenagers, there will be workshops, games, ice breakers, and learning opportunities for all ages. Children's Director, Kyrstin Schwartz and Youth Director, Katie LeClair, will be hanging out the whole weekend along with our pastors and other special guests who will be teaching, playing, and leading the retreat.



Pricing

We've booked one entire side of the camp so we can bring as many members and friends as possible. Lodging for single adults is limited and we encourage everyone to register early to help us plan ahead. Prices below reflect 2 nights/ 5 meals. Pricing for 1 night/ 3 meals is available online.

Register Today!

Children 3 & under are free.

One person	\$ 160.00
Family maximum	\$ 480.00

Location

Camp Courage is one hour northwest of the Twin Cities
8046 83rd St NW, Maple Lake, MN 55358

Questions

office@gloriadeistpaul.org

<https://www.gloriadeistpaul.org/event/all-church-winter-retreat/>

Support of ReconcilingWorks and Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries

by Mo Fahnestock, Social Justice and Outreach Committee

For many years Gloria Dei has supported Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries and ReconcilingWorks, two organizations working for the full inclusion of LGBTQ people in the Lutheran Church. Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries (ELM) works to create welcome in the pulpit while ReconcilingWorks works to create welcome in the pews. These are separate important ministries that are unique and complementary.



Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries

ELM believes the public witness of LGBTQ ministers transforms the church and enriches the world. ELM acts on belief through three main programs:

Proclaim is a professional community of publicly-identified LGBTQ rostered ministers and seminarians. (Both Pastor Bradley and Pastor Javen are members of the Proclaim community.) This program has been growing rapidly. In 2014, there were 135 Proclaim members across the country and today membership exceeds 300.

The **Accompaniment** program supports LGBTQ candidates who are engaging in the Lutheran candidacy process, preparing for ordained ministry. The purpose of Accompaniment is to walk with candidates, recognizing that even though the ELCA policy has changed to welcome LGBTQ ministers, it is not always a welcoming journey. Today, about 10% of ELCA seminarians are members of Proclaim.

The **Ministry Engagement** program works with congregations, synods, and other ministry sites to open a diversity of calls to qualified LGBTQIA+ candidates. ELM has volunteers who attend Synod assemblies to share information and support candidates. And we help congregations to become welcoming to LGBTQ ministry staff.

Reconciling Works

Among other things, ReconcilingWorks administers the *Reconciling in Christ* (RIC) program, a way for Lutheran congregations to publicly declare their welcome of LGBTQ people. Gloria Dei has been an RIC congregation since the year 2000.

In 2015, the *Reconciling in Christ* program served 440 congregations and today 849 congregations have become RIC. Unfortunately, in today's political climate, violence has increased 87% towards LGBTQ community and the biggest request of ReconcilingWorks is how to talk and understand the terminology in the LGBTQ world.

Aubrey Thonvold, Executive Director of Reconciling Works, shared with the Social Justice and Outreach Committee that "Reconciling Works is deeply grateful for the partnership we have with Gloria Dei. Your community lives out its welcome statement in public and bold ways."

In the month of June, Gloria Dei's second offering will be split between ReconcilingWorks and Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries.

Please give generously to support these two organizations!

Gloria Dei Congregation Council Members

At the May 12 Semi-Annual Meeting of the Congregation, elections were held for two-year term on the Congregation Council. Here are fun facts and photos from a few of them. Look for the rest of the members' bios on the board in the hallway by the Vestry.



Cathy Sedacca

Council Position
Vice President

How long you've been a member of GDLC
15 years

When you were little, what did you want to be when you grew up? Dorothy Hamill

Who is a teacher who had a big impact on your life? My kindergarten teacher. She


was mean & I still think about that.

What other organizations are you involved in? I'm on the board of the Turnaround Management Assoc. An advisory board for the Academy of Women's Empowerment

Do you have a re-occurring dream? I used to have nightmares about the hamburger helper hand. He was under my bed with a huge pot for me to get into and all my family was there to say goodbye to me.



Carolina Schutt



Council Position
Human Resources Chair

How long you've been a member of GDLC **33 Years**

Who is a teacher who had a big impact on your life? College professor, took multiple classes from Dr. Matilde Espinosa & invited me to work with her as an undergraduate research assistant

Do you have a re-occurring dream? I did not study for an exam or did not complete homework

If you were to get another degree, what would you study? Medical degree— Pathology specialty

Thank you for your service!

Marshall Saunders



Council Position
President

What was your first car? Jeep CJ— White with baby blue trim

When you were little, what did you want to be when you grew up? I wanted to be Steven Spielberg

What is your favorite movie? Cool Hand Luke— It's a perfect Christ analogy

Scott Karli




Council Position
Member at Large

Who is in your family? My wife Maggie and our two children, Jameson and Nora. We've been members of Gloria Dei for seven years.

What is your favorite television show? The West Wing. Josiah Bartlet will always be my president.

What other organizations are you involved in? In my professional capacity I teach students who are blind and visually impaired, striving for equity and accessibility in education. To that end, I am involved with and have contributed to non-profit organizations (Louie's Vision and VSA Minnesota) that promote the empowerment of people with disabilities through art, experiences and adventure.

Jill Karl



Council Position
Secretary

How long you've been a member of GDLC
11 years

Who is in your family? Chad, Avery & Jocelyn

What was your first car? 1987 Buick Century

What is your favorite music? Bob Dylan— Great Minnesota camping music



GDLC Giving Garden

WEED+WATER+HARVEST

Sign up to serve today!
<https://tinyurl.com/y6gyjbha>

All produce grown in the Giving Garden is donated to Francis Basket, a local food shelf operated by Neighborhood House. Francis Basket is located on West Seventh Street in Saint Paul.



Neighborhood HouseTM

Financial Update

Capital Fund Information

Contributions YTD	\$181,623
Monthly mortgage payments	\$ 18,752
Capital Improvement Cost Year-to-Date	\$ 29,608
Balance in Capital Accounts April 30	\$413,854
Mortgage Balance April 30	\$2,714,674

Sanctuary Renewal/Organ Costs

Architect Fees YTD	\$ 53,195
Organ Costs YTD	\$ 0

Operating Information April 30, 2019

Total Offerings	\$ 104,060
Ahead(Behind)	\$ 671
Total Income	\$125,760
Total Expenses	\$120,721
Net for the Month	\$ 5,039
Total Year-to-Date Offerings	\$444,764
Ahead(Behind)	(\$13,564)
Total YTD Income	\$529,929
Total YTD Expenses	\$495,873
Net for the Current Year	\$ 34,056

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