



Gloria Dei Guide

March 2019

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Worship

Sundays 8:15 & 10:45 am

Wednesdays of Lent 7:00 pm

Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign

by Pastor Javen

For more than 35 years, Greater Minneapolis Community Connections (formerly Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches) has coordinated the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign, the annual grassroots food and fund drive that provides more than half the food distributed by 300 food shelves throughout the state. Minnesota FoodShare began its work in 1982 with a campaign advanced by congregations to restock food shelves in the 7-county Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. The effort was so successful and the need was so evident, the March Campaign became a statewide program just one year later.

Minnesota FoodShare envisions a Minnesota where all residents have access to healthy food and no one struggles with food insecurity. The March Campaign addresses these issues directly by inviting congregations to collect food and funds for local food shelves and advocate for long-term solutions to food insecurity and poverty in our communities. In 2018, over \$8.1 million dollars and 5.5 million pounds of food were raised by Minnesota food shelves and Minnesota FoodShare.

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At Gloria Dei, our Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign benefits our local food shelf, Francis Basket. As we did last year, we are focusing on

raising money. Food shelves can stretch cash donations much further than donations of food because of their access to discount products and programs. Of course, we welcome donations of food as well.

Sanctuary Redesign Update

by Mike Kruger

Getting involved in the sanctuary redesign effort at Gloria Dei has been quite an adventure and an amazing experience for me! It started with Tim Strand's demonstration one Sunday morning in the Chancel. He literally gave a "hands on" demonstration on why we needed to replace our current organ. Basically, Tim was showing us that our organ was beyond repair, and as a result, it is limiting the future quality and scope of our music program. I was convinced and intrigued as to how I might help.

At same time, Pastor Bradley introduced the idea that there may be an even bigger question than just replacing the organ: "Will a new, repositioned organ drive us to explore other opportunities for renewal? Should we be looking at how we currently worship and examine whether the Chancel's original design continues to meet our existing and future needs?"

I set up a meeting with Pastor Bradley to indicate my interest in helping to answer these questions. As we all know, Pastor Bradley has a way of delivering a compelling message. He not only inspired me to serve, but wondered whether I would be willing to chair a Task Force to explore all the possibilities for the Chancel and measure the interest of the Gloria Dei family. Both of us agreed that we would need a strong consensus of congregational support for any major change...we would need to know that we could financially support the project...and we needed to respect the tradition and beauty of the space.

Our Chancel Redesign Task Force and its sub-teams were formed early last summer and have been extremely active since our first meeting... and I have learned many things along the way!

First, I've learned that Gloria Dei's faith family is very committed to the future vitality of our congregation and the space in which we come together each week to worship. 120 members attended our 11/18/19 "Needs Assessment Workshop" to share their ideas and questions on the Sanctuary. The turnout far exceeded anything our architect, Jim Hundt, had ever experienced on other church projects throughout his long career! Gloria Dei members clearly treasure our church home, but also understand we need to change and grow as a congregation.

Second, feedback from the congregation is critical to success. All of the major elements in the draft design plan reflects the comments made by participants in the Workshop. When the final design is introduced on May 19, members of Gloria Dei will be able to "connect the dots" back to the congregation's input from 11/18/19. The design will truly be congregation driven.

Third, the proposed design will also reflect the ELCA's Principles of Worship, a document compiled in 2001-02 by 100 national church leaders with expertise in liturgy and music. Principles of Worship is intended as a guide for congregations going through renewal as they

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prepare for a changing world and enter into the next generation of worship life. The extensive guide contains sections on Language, Music, Preaching, and Worship Space, all relevant to Gloria Dei as it explores the future needs of its members.

A section title from the ELCA's Principles of Worship states that "the renewal of space for worship is an opportunity for the renewal of a worshipping community". The process has certainly done that for me. Through these discussions, I have a much deeper understanding of my own needs in faith and worship...not just in the physical space, design, and furniture of the church, but our collective need to keep exploring ways to improve and grow and reach out as a congregation.



*Mike Kruger,
Chair of Sanctuary
Task Force*

Much more information will be coming and more conversations will be had in the months ahead! In the meantime, please be sure to review the Needs Assessment Report and Summary posted on the Gloria Dei Website or stop by the Office to review a hard copy.

Pipe Organ Committee Update

by Lois Wattman

Efforts are continuing to address the longstanding challenges presented by Gloria Dei's aging pipe organ. At the October meeting of the congregation, these issues were recognized and acknowledged when the congregation approved the allocation of \$20,000 of existing organ committee funds to place a deposit on a high quality Casavant instrument made available by the Orgues Letourneau of Quebec. If the congregation approves proceeding with this project, the instrument can be repurposed and expanded by Letourneau at a very favorable price, and would then admirably meet the needs of Gloria Dei. To develop this possibility, members of the Organ Committee have been working with the Sanctuary Design Team and with architectural design specialists from Letourneau.

In the meantime, unfortunately, but not

surprisingly, problems with Gloria Dei's present organ have continued to multiply. On-going issues related to ciphers (notes that play continuously without the control of the organist) have increased. And, while the most critical issues have been addressed, it has been at a financial cost for necessary repairs. Because of the nature of some of the repairs the organ's capacity is increasingly becoming more limited. Additionally, there are more notes on the organ that simply do not play. For those interested in more detail, Music Director Tim Strand will soon be hosting additional "Up Close and Personal" sessions that will provide updates on this situation.

The Organ Committee is grateful for the support of the congregation. If you have questions, please talk to Tim Strand, David Soli or Gordon Braatz, co-chairs.

THOUGHTS FROM THE WATER TOWER

Rooted in Justice

by Kyrstin Schwartz



During the month of February, the Water Tower Sunday School classes (Grades 1-4) focused on being rooted in justice which is one of Gloria Dei's Guiding Principles adopted that past year. I have only been here two months and already I know this is an important piece of Gloria Dei. The response I received from Gloria Dei members asking for their participation was amazing! It didn't take long to have the rotations set. I extend a special thanks to our Racial Justice Committee, the Sanctuary Support Committee, and Gloria Dei members Stephanie Allyn, Lenore Franzen, and Kathy Krueger.

Throughout the month students:

- Learned about equality and why there are

times during the Sunday School hour that they help pack food for the backpack program.

- Heard from members of the Racial Justice Committee about Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s faith and how it influenced him. They even heard about the time Dr. King preached at Gloria Dei in 1957 during a conference.
- Listened to Joann Conroy, a speaker sponsored by Gloria Dei's Racial Justice Committee. Joann is an ELCA Pastor and the President of the ELCA American Indian/Alaska Native Lutheran Association.

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- Learned about issues of immigration from Gloria Dei's Sanctuary Support Committee members. An immigrant mom and her three children from Nigeria who are seeking asylum in America came and shared their story. Students wrote letters to our U.S. senators asking them to help make immigrants safe and welcome.

One of the Committee members shared "We were impressed by how much the children knew about immigration already—from school and discussions at home. I'm encouraged that the next generation will be informed and equipped to advocate for reform and be welcoming to immigrants who want to make this country their home."

This month has been a testament to the dedication of our Church and our members as we strive for justice. "He has told you, human one, what is good and what the Lord requires



from you: to do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8.

And God said, "Let There Be Snow" ... Our Weather Cancellation Policy

by Audrey Johnson

If the Saint Paul school district cancels school and/or after-school activities due to weather, Gloria Dei's facility will close as well. Therefore, on (insert date) Gloria Dei will be closed. All meetings are cancelled. Stay warm and blessed!

Over the past several months, Gloria Dei's staff has developed this written policy regarding building closure due to inclement weather. In previous winters, there has often been confusion about whether our building is closed and events canceled during major snowstorms. We hope this policy provides greater clarity to our members

and others in the community who use our facility. You will see this notice posted on our website and if you are planning to be at a meeting or event, you should expect notice of cancellation. Who knew that we would need to implement this policy so many times this winter!

Gloria Dei is not only a home for our members. We have countless outside groups using our facility throughout the year. While we understand the impact this may have on them, most organizations understand the need for this

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Gloria Dei Guide



The Sheridan Story Feeds Families

by Katie LeClair

Did you know that over 200,000 kids in Minnesota don't always have access to nutritious food they need through the week and over the weekend when they are not at school?

A local non-profit, founded in 2010, has big faith in both God and neighbors to meet this need. The Sheridan Story hosts volunteers to pack bags of food to feed families on the weekend for 201 schools in our area. No questions asked. If kids need food, volunteers will discretely place a bag of food for the weekend in kid's backpacks on Fridays so they have food.

Gloria Dei had 179 people sign up to help with the effort on Wednesday, February 20. And then... a monster winter storm warning hit! Business and schools closed with some snow totals falling in less than one day of 10" or more. Through this, over seventy volunteers still showed up to serve - from elementary grades all the way through seniors of congregation, an intergenerational effort of love and concern for local kids.



with Help from Gloria Dei Members

We were divided into several crews: box makers and tapers and labelers, assembly line bag stuffers, box flatteners, and more. Each bag had a can of vegetables, a can of chicken, a can of fruit, a can of soup, and pasta. In about 90 minutes, we packed 3,960 bags, which equals 15,180 servings.

"It felt great knowing that a few hours of our volunteer time helped reduce hunger in our community, but it feels really awful learning that 15% of kids in MN lack access to sufficient food," said Susan Davis-Ali, a member of GDLC and co-chair of our Social Justice and Outreach Committee.

"What an uplifting night," Tanya Wright, GDLC member who brought two of her children to serve. "My heart is full because the kids will have full bellies. And it only took a short amount of time to make big progress."

We thank everyone for serving and hope to do this again when the weather isn't so severe. Volunteers are always needed in smaller groups at public packing events. You can visit thesheridanstory.org for ways to volunteer.



20-Somethings/30-Somethings Group

by Chloe Ahlf

Five years ago, four young adult members went to the pastors at Gloria Dei and asked to form a ministry for young people like them. Often caught between being a youth and having school-aged children, young adults exist within the church and serve in many capacities but can feel like they lack a clear peer community.

"I saw a lot of other young adults in church on Sundays and was curious about how to connect with them outside of sanctuary doors," says Chloe Ahlf, one of the group's founding members. Together, with the pastors' blessings, the four founding organizers formed the 20-Somethings/30-Somethings Young Adults Group. The group invites young adults to gather and form community outside of worship. Meeting the second Tuesday of every month, the group rotates among different restaurants in the Twin Cities and also gathers for occasional volunteer opportunities or to study scripture in-between services.

"I am so grateful to have this group," says

Meredith Pain, one of the founding members.

"The second Tuesday of the month happy hour is such a bright spot in my month."

Rosa Prigan has been a part of the Young Adults Group since August, when she started attending worship at Gloria Dei. "I was interested in the group because when I moved to St. Paul, I didn't know anyone," she says. "I wanted to make friends outside of work who were like-minded."

The first gathering Rosa came to was a potluck at Pastor Javen's house, and she has been coming both to the group and to church ever since.

Jake Seamans has had a similar experience. "It's been great to meet other young adults and to know that Gloria Dei makes it a priority to have young people connect with each other," he says. Jake has been joining the 20s-Somethings/30-Somethings for more than a year. His connections in the group have led him to become more involved in other church ministries, too. For many, like Jake, the Young Adults Group has

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New Member Spotlight: Peter Bonney

by Chloe Ahlf

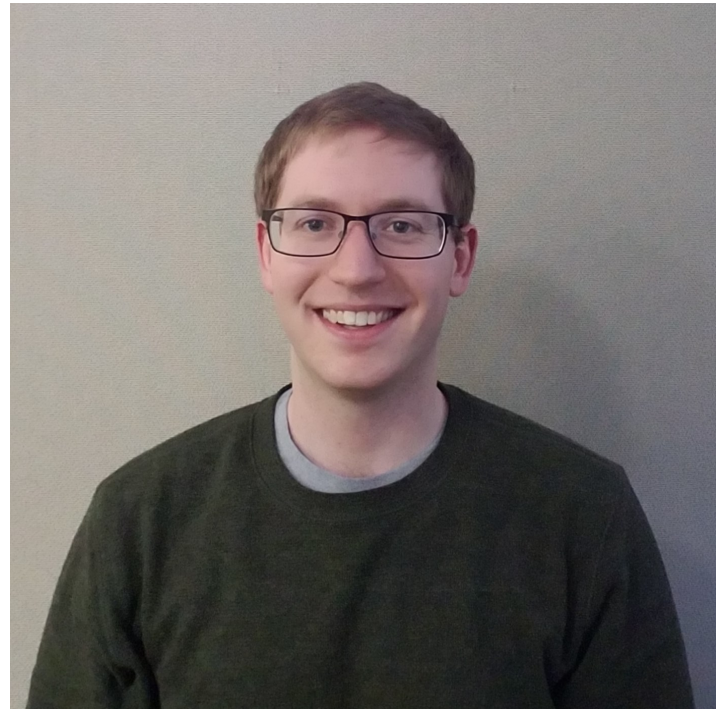
- Joined February 10
- Lives in the Grand Ave neighborhood of St. Paul
- Works as a Researcher in Veterinary Epidemiology at the University of Minnesota
- Originally from La Crosse, WI

What drew you to Gloria Dei?

I like the traditional liturgical service with organ music. I also liked that there were young people here, and that Gloria Dei is inclusive of all people.

Why is it important to you to have a young adult community at church?

I like meeting people who are at the same stage of life as me, and also in a similar stage in their faith journey. I've been enjoying getting to know more young people at Gloria Dei, seeing what my peers are interested in and what they are doing in the church.



Now that you're a member, what's next?

I play piano and would like to use my musical gifts in worship, get more involved in the young adult group, and also learn more about the hunger outreach initiatives that Gloria Dei is involved in.

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been a point of entry into fuller life in the congregation. For others, it's led to a more vibrant faith life and deeper connections at Gloria Dei.

Megan Henry has been a member of Gloria Dei for many years and is one of the founding members of the Young Adults Group. "It's so nice to connect with other members in their 20s and 30s because I know there will be a friendly face at church the next Sunday," she says.

With each gathering, the same things hold true among the young adults present: lots of laughter; an excitement to get to know one another; genuine concern when sharing in one

another's troubles; and a deep gratitude for the God that pulls us all together from the busy corners of our young adult lives.

"Being a part of this group has bridged my faith from adolescence to adulthood," says Rachel Manz, another founding member. "The community and friendships I have gained will last a lifetime."

Anyone who considers themselves a young adult is welcome to join! The next gathering of the 20-Somethings/30-Somethings will be March 12, from 6-8pm, at the Naughty Greek (2400 University Ave W, St. Paul). To join our mailing list, shoot us an email at 20s-30s@gloriadeistpaul.org.

Lenten Evening Prayer

by Paul Freisen-Carper

The evening prayer service that we will use on Wednesdays this Lent is one that I wrote at Holden Village for the winter community in 2006. Like the much beloved *Holden Evening Prayer*, written by Marty Haugen, its original scope was to provide for a community's worship in one specific place and time. That community had a particular set of gifts, needs, and values that informed its creation. And so I held that community in my heart and mind as I wrote this service—seeking to be rooted in the environment, to be faithful to God's habits of empowering the powerless, to honor diversity of experience and belief, and to lift up collaborative leadership.

The service that emerged bears the marks of those commitments. By reimagining biblical and liturgical language through lenses of intimacy with creation and God's preferential option for the poor, it proclaims our rooted and radical faith. By seeking to honor the plurality of voices and identities wrapped up in the worshipping community, it tries to open points of entry for those who have been excluded. By finding Trinitarian language that is at times non-gendered and at others multi-gendered, it seeks to broaden our vision of the divine while lifting up God's inherently cooperative nature. By using string ensemble leadership, including a mutual confession and forgiveness, and incorporating a melody meant to be sung in a round, it holds up a collaborative model for Christian life.

My writing of the service owes a great debt to Larry Houff (himself a formidable musician), who has been a generous mentor and colleague to me, and who while serving as interim pastor at Holden suggested that I write the service. He noted that the church's history of praying at evening includes multiple and polyvalent traditions, which inspired me to borrow elements specific to vespers (hymn of light, Magnificat, Incense psalm) and compline (confession and forgiveness, commendation) and to use elements



common to both services (psalmody, readings, prayers, blessings). He commended to me the theme of pilgrimage, which gathers us into and sends us out from the service. And it was his idea that we employ string players in the village to surround our Saturday night Lenten worship in much the same way that Bach uses strings to form a halo around the recitatives of Jesus in his St. Matthew Passion.

Like other services written for specific communities, it is not locked into that time and place. And I hope that Gloria Dei will come to appreciate it, and maybe even love it. But more than that, I pray that it generously accompanies us through Lent this year—that it provides us moments of joy, of challenge, and of contemplation; that through it we sense God's powerful movement within and around us; and that it propels us toward an Easter celebration rich in gratitude for baptism, new life, and resurrection.

Remembering and Rejoicing: Keeping the Holy Days with Mt. Zion Temple

by Pastor Bradley

Gloria Dei is preparing for Easter with forty days of Lent. Mt. Zion is preparing for the Passover. Both communities have special ways of leading the congregation into the wonder, depth, and power of our holiest days. This year, we decided to walk together, trusting that learning about one another's faith will help us to deepen our own.

On Sunday mornings and at Wednesday Evening Prayer, you'll notice some themes from Hebrew scripture and reflection. The pastors will preach on the Old Testament readings for the Sundays in Lent. We'll sing the Psalms, our shared interfaith hymnal, in some different ways. We'll even learn a bit of Hebrew.

Remembering: A Pulpit Exchange

On Friday, March 15th, 7:30 p.m., Pastor Bradley will preach at the Shabbat service at Mt. Zion. The readings for that day call for the community to remember the holocaust. Pastor Bradley will

reflect on what it means for Lutherans to "remember," knowing that some in Lutheran church were participants in the horror. We trust that faithful remembrance can be healing and draw us closer together. Gloria Dei members are invited and encouraged to attend.

On Sunday, March 17th, 8:15 and 10:45 a.m., Rabbi Adam Spilker will preach at our morning services. The Hebrew reading that day is the story of Abraham and the promise to make of his family a great nation. Rabbi Spilker will reflect on how we remember Abraham's faithfulness to move forward into partnership and community. Members of Mt. Zion are invited to join us for those services.

Rejoicing: Joint Bible and Torah Sunday

To prepare for Passover, Mt. Zion will be studying the Passover story on Saturday,

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Let There Be Snow from page 5

policy and very few organizations have had to find alternative venues to meet. We have made a few exceptions in specific situations; obviously our Project Home commitment in December and January required that our building remained open to our guests, so Gloria Dei volunteers plowed through the snow and cold to meet our commitment to providing shelter, and a sold-out speaking event and book signing of *Shameless* by Nadia Bolz-Weber was held on January 31 in spite of the frigid cold temperatures.

Don't think it's an automatic snow day for the staff! With public transportation, cautious driving and much perseverance, staff members find a

way to get to the church if absolutely necessary (we do still need to get bulletins printed for Sunday mornings!) or work remotely, based on workload and project. And give a big thank you to our custodial staff. You will see Jeff, Greg and David at various times shoveling the numerous sidewalks and stairways surrounding our building. Our plowing service has made us a priority, especially on Sunday mornings to minimize the impact on our worship schedule. The challenge is where to put all that white stuff!

So just wait, the days are getting longer. The sun is setting later and later. The snow will melt. The ice dams and mega-icicles will drip away.

And there was snow. And God said, "It is good".

Lent Schedule

Lent began on March 6

Wednesdays of Lent

- 5:00 p.m. Children's choirs
- 5:30 p.m. Community Soup Suppers \$7.00 for adults; \$5.00 for children
- 6:00 p.m. Bible Study with pastors and leaders: Reading the Stories of Jesus through a Jewish Perspective
- 6:00 p.m. Walk the Labyrinth
- 6:30 p.m. Confirmation for grades 7-10
- 7:00 p.m. Midweek Worship – Using a setting of Evening Prayer written by Paul Freisen-Carper



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April 13th, 9:00 a.m. Gloria Dei members are invited to participate.

To prepare for Easter, Gloria Dei will be studying the Passion According to Luke, April 14th, 9:30 a.m. Mt. Zion members will join us.

These are exciting ways for us to get to know one another better and to journey together in being God's people. We're excited about this Lenten journey. Join the journey!

Financial Update

Capital Fund Information

Contributions YTD	\$28,100
Monthly mortgage payments	\$18,752
Capital Improvement Cost Year-to-Date	\$29,608
Balance in Capital Accounts January 31, 2019	\$349,063
Mortgage Balance January 31, 2019	\$2,743,591

Operating Information, Jan 31

Total Offerings	\$126,467
Ahead(Behind)	(\$97)
Total Income	\$136,728
Total Expenses	\$125,606
Net for the Month	\$11,122
Total Year-to-Date Offerings	\$126,467
Ahead(Behind)	(\$97)
Total YTD Income	\$136,728
Total YTD Expenses	\$125,606
Net for the Current Year	\$11,122

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.

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