



Gloria Dei's Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive

Season of Gratitude, Generosity and Gracious Hospitality

by Pastor Javen Swanson

As we begin November and anticipate the holidays ahead, many of us enter a season of reflection and consider all the ways God has provided for us this past year and how God might use us to be a blessing to our neighbors.

At Gloria Dei, we have many opportunities to give back in the weeks ahead.

Gloria Dei's annual Thanksgiving Food Drive in support of Keystone Community Food Shelf will be on Sunday, November 17. Our November Second Offering will also benefit Keystone, and monetary donations to the food shelf go much further than our own food donations—so please give generously. This year the American Farm Bureau Federation calculates that the average cost of a family's Thanksgiving meal is \$48.90. You might consider that number as a guide for your giving. You may choose to give to the [Second Offering](#) any time between now and the end of the month. If you choose to purchase groceries to donate, please fill a bag with non-perishable groceries, bring it to church on

“... share the love of Jesus ... in this season and throughout the year.”

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Gloria Dei Guide

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Worship Schedule

8:15 & 10:45 a.m.

Education Hour 9:30-10:30 a.m.



Update: Sanctuary Renewal and Organ Replacement

by Mike Kruger, Sanctuary Renewal Task Force Chair

On October 13, over 200 members of Gloria Dei attended the Special Congregational Meeting, about the Sanctuary Renewal/Organ Replacement Master Plan. With a broad consensus of support, the congregation accepted the proposed Sanctuary Renewal Master Plan and authorized going forward with the Rise, O Church campaign to measure the congregation's financial commitment to the Plan. The meeting was a milestone for us, and the vote reflected the congregation's overwhelming support to see what resources we will have for the plan.

So, where does this recent congregational approval put us in the overall process to replace our organ and renew our sanctuary? It was a big first step, and actually, it's just the beginning of our journey. The following summarizes the five steps we need to complete before we are done:

Step 1: Concept Phase (Completed)

- Needs assessment: Congregation determined what needed to be done.
- Renderings: Drawings captured the congregation's recommendations.
- Congregational consensus: Congregation supported moving forward. (Ninety-three percent of those who voted on October 13 supported proceeding to Step 2.)

Step 2: Funding Phase

- Fundraising: Survey the congregation on available resources.
- Final plans: Will reflect these financial commitments; we will hold a congregational meeting in May 2020 to request final approval.

Step 3: Design Phase

- Draft architectural and engineering plans.
- Select a general contractor.
- Set final budgets.

Pastor's Message from Page 1

Sunday, November 17, and put it in one of the red barrels near the entrances.

During the month of December, Gloria Dei lives into our mission to be a caring, healing and welcoming community as we open our doors to homeless families in transition to long-term housing and host overnight guests of Project Home, an Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul program.

We invite your participation for an evening, an overnight shift or more as you are able, in our shelter (lower level) during December. Make it a fun night with family and friends; make it a night of sharing and giving. We have over 200 volunteer shifts to fill over the course of the month. You can learn more about this ministry and sign up for a shift [online](#).

Maybe you want to celebrate Christmas with gifts to share with those in our community who lack means to give to their loved ones. The "Giving Tree" will be up soon near the library with tags to indicate ways you can give gifts to families in need in our community. Each tag will include wrapping instructions and information about when to drop off the gifts at church.

Thank you for all the ways you help our congregation share the love of Jesus with our neighbors—in this season and throughout the year.

Thanksgiving Day
Worship with Holy Communion
November 28
10:00 a.m.

Gloria Dei Families of Faith Classes

by Kyrstin Schwartz, Children's Ministry Director

Parents are the first and most important teachers and models of faith for children. For that reason, we gather parents and their children at each level for conversation and activities around one particular aspect of faith. We design these events to draw families together in community, to learn together and to spark further conversation at home.

We recently had our Kindergarten Families of Faith class that focused on Jesus, Our Friend, and introduced them to their special new Bible, *The Jesus Storybook Bible*. During the class, children and their parents went on a treasure hunt around the church. Both students and parents said they had fun being in parts of the building they may never have been before. They checked out the vestry, chapel, narthex, copy room, gym and the library.

We offer Families of Faith classes for 3-year-olds through sixth graders. New this year, we added classes for 1-year-olds and 2-year-olds. At the 1-year-old class, a Baptism Birthday party, we celebrate their Baptisms and share different ways to honor their Baptism date at home every year.



Urban Plunge: Eighth Grade Retreat

by Katie LeClair, Youth Ministry Director

For the past two years, eighth grade Confirmation students have done an overnight “Urban Plunge” retreat at Augsburg University. The retreat immerses students in empathy training exercises, along with hands-on activities to understand local poverty. They learn:

- About life for local targeted minorities (elderly, Muslim, LGBTQ+, African-American, Immigrant, etc.).
- How to discern:
 - The messages of misinformation (you’re not good enough, you’re going to be poor forever, etc.).
 - The mistreatment (you have to live in segregated housing, you can be fired for being who you are, you get less government assistance).
 - And the resulting behaviors when people internalize falsehoods (mass incarceration, chronic obesity, poor health, crime).

This year, we withstood a cold and rainy Saturday as we traveled by light rail and bus around Minneapolis to see how many neighbors live. We also met with gracious hosts at Bethany Lutheran on Franklin Avenue, and representatives of CAIR – Council on American-Islamic Relations to see what the Spirit is up to in the city.



Tim Farwell said, "There were good snacks. We played games that made us express ourselves in ways we didn't think we could. It took courage. Walking downtown and in different areas of the city was eye opening. We talked about oppression, stereotypes and poverty. In the thrift store, things were less expensive. At the store downtown, there were much more expensive items. It was different than what I thought it was going to be but I enjoyed it. Overall, I would recommend going on the retreat."

"We learned a lot about having power or not having power in different activities. I enjoyed sharing ideas about the misinformation that is

easily spread. It was a really great time and I got to see parts of Minneapolis that I've never seen before. Taking the public transportation (bus and light rail) was a fun way to experience the retreat. Thank you to Katie and Pastor Lois along with Augsburg University for facilitating a fun time," said Ethan Andler.

"The Urban Plunge was a great experience for everyone, we learned about the Muslim religion, listened to the Quran, and found out more



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Wanted: Project Home Volunteers

We need 200 volunteers to help in December, when Gloria Dei opens its doors to homeless families from the Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul program who are in transition to long-term housing. Learn more at the Project Home table near the library on Sunday mornings. [Sign up to volunteer.](#)

Midweek Prayer with the Grinch and Other Saints

Most of us are familiar with Dr. Seuss's magical tale of a sourpuss turned Saint Nick through music and community. But is it possible the Grinch still has another lesson to learn? In this delightful retelling of the Magnificat, the Grinch and sweet Cindy Lou Who work through what true transformation looks like in the Christmas season.

Wednesdays, December 4, 11 and 18
6:30 p.m.

Based on
How the Grinch Learned the Magnificat
by Pastor Emmy Kegler of Grace Lutheran Church
(northeast Minneapolis)

Sanctuary Renewal from Page 2

Step 4: Construction Phase

- Make structural, mechanical, electrical, acoustical and technological modifications.
- Install the new organ and casework.

Step 5: Celebration Phase

- Commemorate our new worship space and organ within our own faith family and with Gloria Dei friends within the Saint Paul community.

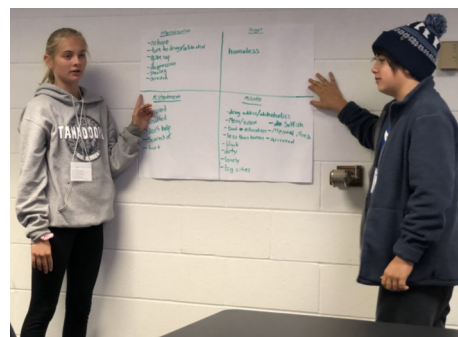
At the May 2020 congregational meeting, we will present the specific timeline for these steps, along with the request for final approval of the Master Plan. We will seek ongoing guidance and feedback from the congregation all along the way.

As Pastor Bradley stated at the October 13 Congregational Meeting, the Rise, O Church campaign will challenge us. Yet, Gloria Dei's 111-year tradition is to always **rise** to the challenges before us as we prepare with God's grace "to welcome, to sing and to serve."

Urban Plunge continued from Page 4

about the people around us with several icebreakers. We walked to Augsburg University and learned about what it's like to live in a world where you can't pay your taxes or car insurance. Next, we took a train, walked around downtown, and experienced what it is like for people from all different economic classes, and more. We discussed how we can help people in our community and how that makes our community better. We saw other churches serving community meals like we do at Gloria Dei, and learned how we can make the world a better place," said Maddie Cerio.

Nora Branstner said, "I really enjoyed the Urban Plunge I experienced. I learned a lot and had a great experience. The group I was with saw and did a lot of cool things: a college with a prayer room, went on a city bus, saw a metro station, visited different types of shops and a lot more. I



really enjoyed being able to make a lot of friends on this retreat and I also got closer with the friends I already had. I also had a lot of fun learning about managing

your money with the game we played on Saturday. This experience showed me more about how some people don't have a lot of money and how they use what they have to survive.



Lutheran
Social Service
of Minnesota

**Lutheran Social
Service of MN**

Gloria Dei members are fortunate to have a counselor onsite two days a week. Karen DeBaun, LICSW, offers counseling services, available to any of us. Typically, she is here Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Call Karen at (612)-879-5320 for more information or to schedule an appointment.



Favorite Holiday Movies

November includes preparations for the upcoming holidays, starting with Thanksgiving. As winter begins to embrace us, movies may become a popular pastime. One popular holiday movie among our Gloria Dei staff was the 1946 classic, *It's a Wonderful Life*, with Jimmy Stewart.

- Pastor Bradley—*It's a Wonderful Life*
- Pastor Lois—*Christmas Eve on Sesame Street*
- Pastor Javen—*Elf*
- Tim Strand—*Love Actually*
- Paul Friesen-Carper—*The Nightmare Before Christmas*
- Jill Stewart—*It's a Wonderful Life*
- Katie LeClair—*Walton's Homecoming*
- Kyrstin Schwartz—*White Christmas*
- Jeff Barth—*Christmas Vacation*
- Al Benoit—*The Christmas Shoes*
- Beverly Sargent—*It's a Wonderful Life*
- Sonia Hernandez—*Home Alone 1*
- Karen Earhuff—*Christmas in Connecticut*
- Linda McDonald—*Home Alone 1 and 2*

Submission Deadline for December Guide
November 15, 2019

Financial Update

Capital Fund Information

Contributions YTD	\$ 310,262
Monthly mortgage payments	\$ 18,752
Capital Improvement Cost Year-to-Date	\$ 43,941
Balance in Capital Accounts September 30	\$ 415,967
Mortgage Balance September 30	\$ 2,433,506

Sanctuary Renewal/Organ Costs

Architect Fees YTD	\$ 71,244
Organ Costs YTD	\$ 0

Operating Information September 30, 2019

Total Offerings	\$ 96,845
Ahead(Behind)	\$ 8,603
Total Income	\$ 130,068
Total Expenses	\$ 125,887
Net for Month	\$ 4,181
Total Year-to-Date Offerings	\$ 895,403
Ahead(Behind)	\$ (9,546)
Total YTD Income	\$1,090,350
Total YTD Expenses	\$1,120,499
Net for the Current Year	\$ (30,148)

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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