



Rooted in Generosity

by Pastor Bradley

Beloved Friends,

It was a simple sentence in my Stewardship letter: Every single thing we do at Gloria Dei is connected to someone's generosity. I'm not sure I really even thought deeply about the idea. It served as a good, clear opening sentence, the kind of sentence writers hope will draw you into the paragraph. However, it's really impacted me.

Everything I do in a day is somehow, and in some way, connected to you. Sometimes that's so beautifully direct. When I hold up the chalice at the altar, I imagine the people in the working sacristy who washed it and filled it with wine; wine, which was ordered by Karen because more of you gave an offering. I know who funded the donut holes that the children race to snag as soon as we proclaim, "Go in peace. Serve the Lord."

Gloria Dei Guide

October 2018

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Worship

Sundays 8:15 & 10:45 am



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Sometimes I don't know who has provided for the moment. Who made that whiteboard in room 203 possible, the board that now lists all the items for the next newsletter? Each article, highlighting the living, breathing life of Gloria Dei. Who provided the funds for the piano that sits in Room 100 that's used by our littlest singers on Wednesday when they practice? Who wrote a check that made sure the Sunday School could cut out bright yellow giraffes for a project? Who piled up the food in the red bin by the door? Who started the library? Who provided the nice chair I'm sitting in to write this devotion?

It's stunning to think how deeply connected we are; how one act of ministry is connected to so many of you. All of the regular acts of caring and justice that we do in a week happen because someone, perhaps now living with the saints, decided the doing the work of God was worth an investment of prayer, time, and money.

Try it. Next time you hold the hymnal, look to see if there's a name in the front. When you pull into the parking lot, imagine the faces that sacrificed to buy the land, pour the asphalt, and then re-do it when it deteriorated. Think of the people who sat in your pew; maybe even the ones who bought it in some long-ago capital campaign. Imagine the faces of those who taught confirmation class to the kids who are now grown up and serving as mentors in our current confirmation program. Imagine their faces; their hands holding on to yours.

Imagine that everything we do is connected to someone. Give thanks that through these "things" you are connected. All of us, rooted together in generosity.

Pastor Bradley E. Schmeling

Special Congregational Meeting scheduled for October 14



At a September 25 special meeting, the Gloria Dei Congregational Council voted to accept and endorse resolutions from both the Organ Committee and the Chancel Redesign Task Force. Subsequently, the council also called a Congregational Meeting for October 14 for the purpose of reviewing these resolutions, gathering thoughts from the congregation, and voting on a resolution to put these resolutions into action.

There will be an educational forum on October 7 between services to review the proposals of the Organ Committee and Chancel Redesign Task Force and answer pertinent questions and gain feedback in preparation for the October 14 Congregational Meeting.

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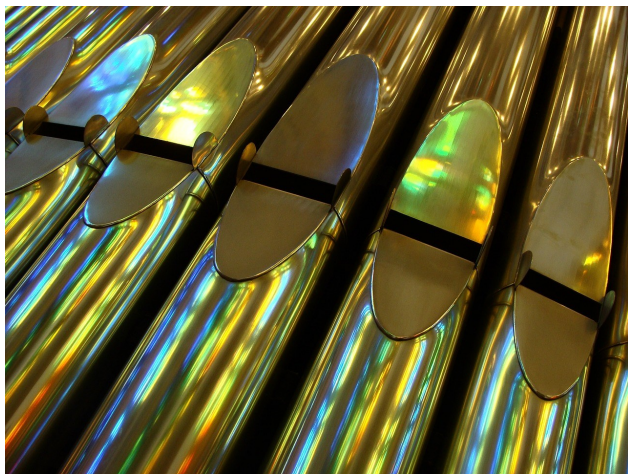
Resources are available regarding the selection process for both the Organ and the Architect:

Information regarding [Organ Selection](#)

Information regarding [Architect Selection](#)

Gloria Dei members have received a mailing that includes these materials, the proposed resolution, as well as messages from both Pastor Bradley and our Congregation President, Marshall Saunders.

All members are encouraged to attend the October 7 forum which will be an opportunity to answer questions, and gain feedback and outline the next steps in this process.



prayer. My heart told me this is where I would feel at home!

My first day I was given a tour through the church, and my heart leapt when I saw the third floor of the building! It wasn't disappointment at the older classrooms, seemingly forgotten, with mix-matched furniture and a dark atmosphere. No, it was excitement! This could be the place remade especially for our elementary children! First though, the Children's Ministry Team must see the vision themselves!

After a year the Children's Ministry Team began to question what might be the best future for our Elementary Sunday School.

I introduced them to the **Workshop Rotation Model of Sunday School**, where children learn Bible stories by rotating through 3-4 different lessons based on the same story or theme. Each lesson is taught with a different type of activity or method of learning – art, drama, science, etc. The different learning styles of children are engaged to keep more children involved.



A Personal History of the Water Tower

by Deacon Pat Derry

I arrived at Gloria Dei in August of 2010. I had accepted the position of Director of Children's Faith Formation without so much as seeing or personally meeting anyone from Gloria Dei! Interviewing was done by Skype, since I was living in Norway at the time. You might ask, "What caused you to accept the position?" Certainly it was the Spirit, but also Pastor Lois, who began each long-distance Skype call with a

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Water Tower from page 3

And the repetition helps children to remember and to go deeper into the story. These lessons are taught by teachers, who teach with a medium they enjoy, and who teach one lesson 3-4 times, to a different class each Sunday. This all means that children learn fewer Bible stories each year, but that they remember and go deeper into the stories.

The Children's team visited three other churches who had begun using Workshop Rotation and saw how each church altered their space to make the "Sunday School" area especially appealing to children. The churches also reshaped the workshops to hint at different learning strategies that would be used in each one. The team heard stories of kids excitedly running to find out which room they would visit each Sunday. They heard from teachers who said how much more fun it was to teach, with a focus on something they had a passion for, with a shorter commitment, and repeating the lesson so they could get better at it each week. They heard of the "Shepherds" or "Guides" who accompany the children every week, but have no preparation, and who get to learn in interesting ways themselves! The Children's Ministry Team was hooked!

In spring of 2012, the team brought the idea to the Church Council, who approved their plan. They then held several forums and invited parents to learn more and even participate in a few workshops so they could experience the difference themselves. The reaction was overwhelmingly positive! So now the team began to dream and plan. What theme could Gloria Dei use to design our space, and what would ring familiar to kids in Highland? I don't remember which member of the team first came up with the idea, possibly Kenton Johnson, but suddenly the Water Tower was in our thoughts. The Highland Water Tower is beautiful, it is high up, with lots of steps to get there, and water is important! Water is important in faith life too! We thank God for creating water, the gift of life, and for the water of baptism, giving new life. We proclaim Jesus, the Living Water, as our Savior! It felt a perfect fit!

That summer of 2012, the third floor rooms were stripped. Derrald, Carter, and Janelle Peterson tore out the ancient green chalk boards that were glued to the walls. Steve Teipel and Greg Berger sanded and gave the walls a fresh coat of paint. Susan Gangl painted a map of Palestine from Jesus' time on the wall of the map room. Grace Hartman stripped and refinished two old oak cabinets which were put to new use. Many others gave of their time and energy to make the Water Tower lovely!



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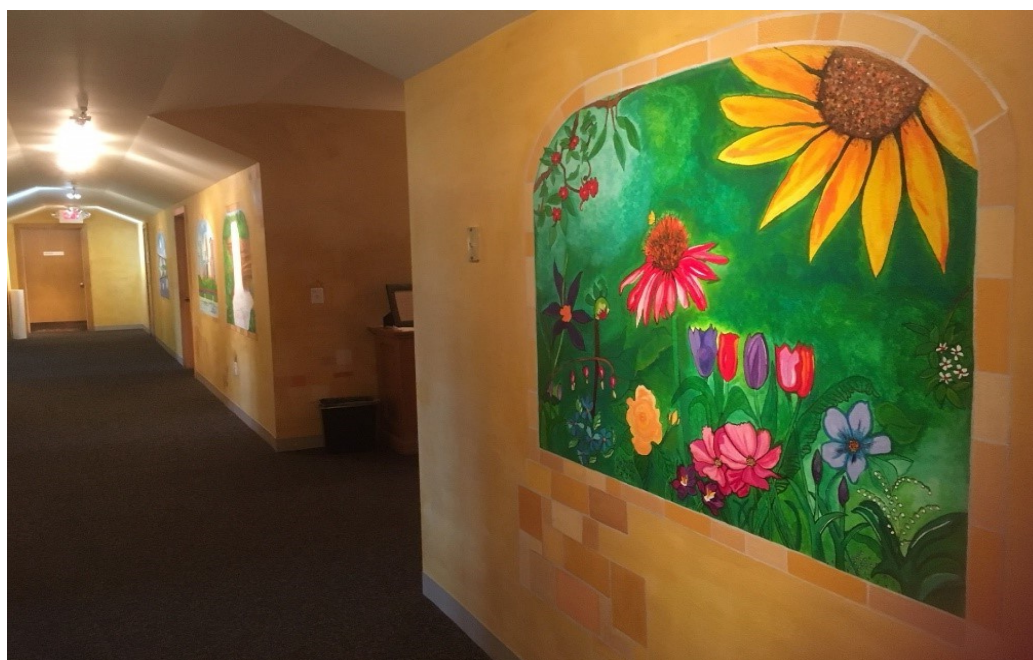
Debbie Knips was invited to paint 8 murals in the hallway, to represent the 8 arched windows on the observation deck of the Water Tower. Three windows display scenes from Minneapolis and three more were scenes from St. Paul.

The remaining two windows present the flora of Minnesota. Debbie painted the entire summer! The walls eventually became windows, and glowed with beautiful images and colors! Gifts were given - a large TV for the movie room, bookshelves, rugs, chairs and tables for our workshops. The third floor was becoming the Gloria Dei Water Tower!



Rally Day, September 9, 2012, The Water Tower had an Open House and lessons began in the new space. On March 17, 2013, the Water Tower was dedicated and those who participated in creating the new space were officially thanked. It was an exciting day for the Children's Ministry Team, who had a dream and who worked hard to make it happen, for the children, who had a dedicated space of their own, and for me, to see Gloria Dei embrace something special for their children!

The Water Tower continues to evolve. The new Children's Ministry Team hopes that more murals can be painted in the workshops, that costumes can be sewn for our drama lessons, that more teachers will realize the joy of teaching within their area of passion, and that more parents will understand how exciting it is to learn about the Bible through many different experiences. It is our prayer that adults will grow in their faith together with their children! May God bless Gloria Dei's Water Tower, and those who teach and learn there together!



Meet some of our Confirmation leaders

We are so lucky to have our Confirmation leader volunteers! Starting this month we will introduce leaders. If you see a leader around church, say thank you!

Elizabeth Allen

Hello! I will be co-leading confirmation small group this year with Angela Gallant.

I have been a member of Gloria Dei since 6th grade. I was confirmed here, married here and my kids were baptized here. All that means is while the space and place feels familiar, I am sitting here shocked that I have a child going through the youth group and confirmation process I feel like I was experiencing personally only a couple of years ago.

My husband, Chris, and our family moved from Highland Park to Woodbury 3 years ago. We have Natalie, 7th grade, Madeleine, 4th grade and Charlie, 1st grade. I manage the Partnerships team at TPT-Twin Cities PBS. For all you TPT members out there, we thank you for your support.

I remember one of Gloria Dei's former pastors, John Manz, once saying to our confirmation group: "I learn more about my faith from people exploring and experiencing it for the first time than any theology book or life experience of my own."



Ryan Wynn

Hi my name Ryan Wynn. I currently am a biology teacher at Anoka Senior High School. In addition to teaching at Anoka I am also a varsity offensive line coach for the football team and coach boys lacrosse as well. I have taught and coached at Anoka for three years and am already enjoying my fourth year.

I grew up in Maple Grove and went to Maple Grove Senior High. After high school I attended the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities where I also played offensive line for the football team. After I graduated, I went to Hamline University for my teaching license as well as my Masters degree and administrative (principal) licensure. I married my wife, Nicole, in May of 2016. Pastor Javen presided over our wedding. Nicole and I live in Highland Park with our wonderful dog Annie.

Nicole and I became members of GDLC back in January of 2016. We both grew up Catholic, but didn't really feel connected with the Church as our families weren't regular attendees. As we were engaged we really wanted to make sure we felt our marriage was connected with God. It was important for us to find a church that I identified with our beliefs and truly represented what we felt God to be. GDLC represents that for us. We love the tradition, the activism, and the acceptance of all people and we feel that's the way God is too.

Since Nicole and I joined GDLC we have felt closer to God than we have ever felt and have had our faith grow in ways that we never would imagine. I love teaching, I love working with kids. I am also excited to learn from you as well from our experiences and studies that will explore and deepen my faith further.

Angela Gallant

Hi! I'm Angela Gallant and my family and I have been members of Gloria Dei since we moved to Mendota Heights about 6 years ago. My son Gray is in 7th grade and my daughter Sylvia is in 5th grade. This will be our first exposure to confirmation at Gloria Dei. While I haven't led a confirmation group before, I have been involved with the children's ministry program at Gloria Dei, so I recognize many of your names from GAPP or Water Tower rotations. I feel so fortunate to be part of a congregation that has such organized, engaging program for people of all ages!

When I was in confirmation, the focus was really memorizing all sorts of verses and questions and answers from Luther's Small Catechism. And, while I feel that I learned quite a bit from the experience and saw my faith grow over those years, I am looking forward to experiencing confirmation at Gloria Dei where it seems as if there will be a greater emphasis on looking for God at work in our lives and in the lives of those around us. I look forward to exploring the Christian faith with you and watching for God at work – asking hard questions and accepting that we might not have all the answers.

My job is teaching math at Inver Hills Community College. I feel fortunate to work with students with a wide variety of backgrounds – younger students, older students, GLBTQ students, first-generation college students, PSEO students who are getting some college out of the way while still in high school, immigrant students, students who have lived in the St. Paul metro area all their lives, etc.

For fun, I love to play piano, paint mandala rocks (my favorite one is shown below!), read, cook, knit, and go on walks with friends.



Megan Zeiher

Hi, my name is Megan Zeiher and this is my first year as both a member, and in serving at Gloria Dei as a confirmation leader.

My fiancé, Christian, and I were drawn to GDLC when searching for a church to attend together after college. We were looking for a place of worship and community that both mirrored our values and challenged us to be more active in our faith practice--we believe we have found that in GDLC. We are getting married on October 13th of this year, and Pastor Bradley will be the officiant at our wedding.

I currently work at Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa as the Recruitment Coordinator and teach yoga at Amazing Grace Lutheran Church for Yogadevotion on Monday nights. I also run an ultra-small business called Studio Red Pine.

Christian and I grew up in Le Sueur, Minnesota, where we both attended the same church with our families. I have wonderful memories of my own confirmation class and especially loved the small group time and the community and I earning it provided throughout my teen years. I am excited to experience confirmation in this different role!

For fun I like visiting the boundary waters canoe area, reading and writing poetry, learning about herbs/ancient medicine, baking, rock climbing, climbing fourteeners, hiking, playing board games, thrifting/antiquing, photographing nature, making things with my hands, camping, spending time with family, and traveling.

The Welcoming Community Committee needs your input



As a newly commissioned committee, the Welcoming Community Committee is striving to increase our congregation member's welcome and connectedness to one another within the changing, diverse, and growing community of Gloria Dei. But we need your help!

Read about committee member Julie Printz' story at Gloria Dei and about some of the types of questions the committee seeks to answer:

"On Rally Sunday, as I entered the doors and headed up the ramp by the gym, I was met by exuberant kids and parents with their coffees laughing together. Another wonderful new church season, I thought. But who are all these people? I realized that I recognized almost no one. The scene brought me back to what seemed like a few short years ago when my daughters, now 18 and 21, were bringing me their Sunday School crafts. It seemed hard to fathom that so much time has passed. Maybe because I filled these past 18 years with constant church volunteer activity - auction committee, Outreach committee, confirmation and children's choirs, Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, Council and too many other things to count. In that time I met a lot of Gloria Dei folks of all ages and stages. I feel lucky to know so many of you yet overwhelmed by all the new faces.

I've recently stepped back from all this activity to focus on other endeavors. So I pause and wonder, how will I get to know this younger generation of parents and kids and other new members? We have these natural networks at Gloria Dei based on age and stage of life that seem daunting to reach beyond. How will I feel connected to Gloria Dei when so many of the people I parented alongside have faded from church activity as well?"

By taking a short survey, you will tell us parts of your own Gloria Dei story. And rather than working from our own assumptions on what you need to feel more welcome and connected, we will have your thoughts to work from.

The survey will be completely confidential and available both online and on paper. It will be available over a three week period in October. Results will be included in a future Guide article. Look for details in e-news and Sunday bulletins.

Guatemala 2019 Travel

by Chloe Ahlf



We worshipped with El Mirador Church in Guatemala City on Sunday morning,” Katie LeClair, youth director at Gloria Dei, remembers.

“The entire church fed us an amazing lunch and we stayed the whole afternoon with them to help build floats for the Palm Sunday processional. While others were pounding nails and painting, I was getting a tour of the host family's yard, with its duck and chicken coops, two of which were in rusted old cars, bunny cages, and orange trees. Two little girls took me around and around the yard to teach me the Spanish words for all these things, as well as how to count in Spanish and the names of animals. And - how to believe in Jesus. That's what they taught me. I hope the next time I go, I see them again.”

Katie was a part of a delegation visiting our companions in Guatemala. Yes, we have friends in Guatemala! Alongside our partners in the Catholic mission in San Lucas Tolimán and La Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala (ILAG), we witness God at work throughout the world. And you can be a part of that witness, too!

Next year, a group of folks from Gloria Dei will be traveling to Guatemala to spend time with our companions. Practicing the values of accompaniment, we will be sharing in meals, worship, and prayer with these friends. The spirit of the trip is rooted in friendship and a shared faith.

You are invited to see God's church in action throughout the world. While making new friends, we also learn more about our own faith and grace and listen closely to how we are being called to love God and love our neighbor. The delegation will be traveling July 26 - August 3, 2019. If you are interested in traveling or being a part of this companionship, please speak with a pastor or email Julie Marcotte at jhmarco@us.ibm.com.



Join a Sunday Morning Pop-up *Gathering*!



You are invited to drop in for a Pop-Up Gathering on the second Sunday of each month, beginning in October. The name comes from *Gather* magazine, a publication of the Women of the ELCA (WELCA) offering reflections on biblical texts through a contemporary theological lens, and serving as a guide for conversations involving all members of the Gloria Dei community. Everyone is invited to participate!

Gather will provide a focus for each month's Pop-Up Gathering; discussions will be led by experienced devotional leaders, who will ensure that each discussion follows the interests of the group assembled that month.

Pop-Up Gatherings offer members of Gloria Dei a chance to be part of meaningful spiritual conversations within our faith community without having to join a formal group or commit to another night out on their busy schedules. They have been scheduled during the education hour to make it easy for people already at church on Sunday mornings to participate. Come as often as you can, but don't feel obligated to attend every month.

Gloria Dei has subscribed to *Gather* on behalf of Pop-Up Gathering participants. You will be given a copy when you arrive. No advance preparation is needed.

The first Pop-Up Gathering will be held on **Sunday, October 14, at 9:30 a.m.** in the Youth Room off the parking lot. Coffee and treats will be provided. We hope to see you there!

**Are you looking for a way
to connect spiritually and
socially with other members of
Gloria Dei?
The monthly Pop-Up *Gathering*
may be for you!**



Gloria Dei is a certified Monarch Waystation



Have you seen our monarch butterflies? Those of you walking or driving along the Eleanor Avenue side of Gloria Dei this past month have undoubtedly noticed the abundance of this magnificent creature. (See “Rooted in Generosity” by Pastor Lois in the September issue of the Guide.)

It turns out that the monarch butterfly is not only beautiful, but its numbers are declining. According to Chip Taylor, Director of Monarch Watch, “Monarch butterfly populations are declining due to loss of habitat. To assure a future for monarchs, conservation and restoration of milkweeds [and pollinators] needs to become a national priority.”

A resident of the “The Waters” (our next-door-neighbor), who has a passion for preserving the monarch butterfly habitat, noticed our rain garden with its abundance of monarchs. With the help of a Gloria Dei member, she contacted MonarchWatch.org, and asked that we be declared an official “Monarch Waystation”.

It turns out that the rain garden has just the components necessary, including milkweed, nectar plants, and sustainable management practices! We have been officially certified!

So, next summer, as you notice the monarchs flitting about, you can feel confident that our congregation (along with our next-door neighbors at The Waters) is doing its part to ensure that these magnificent creatures flourish.



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
651-699-1378

Financial Update

Capital Fund Information

Contributions YTD	\$199,446
Monthly mortgage payments	\$18,752
Capital Improvement Cost Year-to-Date	\$71,143
Balance in Capital Accounts August 31	\$306,557
Mortgage Balance August 31	\$2,791,148

Operating Information August 31

Total Offerings	\$76,123
Ahead(Behind)	(\$3,156)
Total Income	\$82,128
Total Expenses	\$112,025
Net for the Month	(\$29,897)
Total Year-to-Date Offerings	\$812,793
Ahead(Behind)	(\$16,036)
Total YTD Income	\$951,210
Total YTD Expenses	\$948,042
Net for the Current Year	\$3,168