



Gloria Dei members at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in August in Milwaukee.

L-R: Pastor Bradley Schmeling, Clarence Smith, Tim Blevins, Paul Friesen-Carper, Bishop Patricia Lull and the Rev. Dr. Robin Steinke

2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly

by Pastor Bradley Schmeling

Dear Friends,

Our denomination, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), holds a churchwide assembly triennially—to worship, vote on matters of governance and policy, and be church together for the sake of the world. I had the honor of serving as one of the voting members from the Saint Paul Area Synod, as well as serving as preacher for the Wednesday worship service. Our Assistant Director of Music, Paul Friesen-Carper, was one of the musicians who planned and led every day. Truly, the music and worship broke open my heart. I think I cried every day at some point in the liturgy.

I've been to quite a few of these national gatherings. My sense of this assembly was that our church body claimed its place in the world in some clear and important ways. In many cases, a more cautious approach recommended by the national church council was replaced with a more activist position. This past week's churchwide assembly was full of important votes and actions, including:

- Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton was reelected for a second six-year term on the first ballot.

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Gloria Dei Guide

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Worship Schedule

Sept. 8

8:15 & 10:00 a.m.

Sept. 15 - May 17

8:15 & 10:45 a.m.



**GLORIA
DEI** 
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Special Rally Day Schedule

Sunday, September 8, 2019

Worship: 8:15 a.m. and 10 a.m.

September 8

8:15 & 10 a.m.

Brief Sunday School 9:30-9:55 a.m. for children and teachers to meet.

Picnic meal and fun on the front lawn (Snelling Avenue) begins at 11 a.m.

Rally Day gathers those who have been here often and those who are here for their first time. God's grace knits us together into a new communion. It's a great chance to make new friends, and reach out to someone you've never talked with before. We kick off a new year of programming, Sunday School and ministries together.

- [Shobi's Table](#) (Saint Paul Area Synod's re-energized Pay as You Can cafe) will provide wraps.
- Bring a prepared salad, or any ingredient that you'd add to salad, or a dessert that others can enjoy with you.
- Please **no peanuts** to help those with allergies feel welcome.
- Bouncy House for the kids.
- Interactive displays about Gloria Dei's outreach ministries on our front lawn .

- Help pack grocery backpacks for students at Highland Park Elementary School.
- Visit our Care for Creation's new compost and recycling bins.
- To help us work toward less waste, consider bringing your own dishes, cups/water bottles and utensils for lunch.

We invite you to join us for a fulfilling day of community where you can make new friends and see other friends. Watch for people standing by themselves and introduce yourself.

Can you help with set up, clean up, or activities? Contact [Pastor Lois](#) or [Linda McDonald](#), or jump in Sunday to help where needed.

Pastor's Message from Page 1

- A declaration of apology to our siblings of African descent, which was received by the African Descent Lutheran Association with thanks and a call for accountability and living into the words shared.
- Approved resolution declaring the ELCA is a "sanctuary church body," encouraging participation in the ELCA AMMPARO initiative for migrant children, discernment of care for our immigrant neighbors in our context, and the promise of forthcoming resources for this work.
- Approved support for the World Council of Churches' *Thursdays in Black*, an awareness movement for a world without rape and violence.
- Voted to commemorate June 17 as a day of repentance, in honor and remembrance of the martyrdom of the Emanuel 9, those murdered by a shooter at Mother Emanuel Church in Charleston, South Carolina.

"... our church body claimed its place in the world in some clear and important ways."

- Approved a declaration for inter-religious commitment, reaffirming ecumenical and interfaith partnerships. Our own Bishop and Gloria Dei member, Patricia Lull, chaired this project.
- Approved the recommendations from a strategic task force that has been studying how to work toward authentic diversity in our church.
- Approved memorials: affirming but not "endorsing" the Poor People's Campaign, care for immigrants and refugees, and other statements. This was a disappointment to many in the assembly hall.
- Adopted a new social statement, "Faith, Sexism, and Justice: a Lutheran Call to Action," and its implementing resolutions.
- Constitutional change for Deacons (rostered ministers of word and service) to be ordained, from the previous practice of consecration.
- Celebrated the milestones of 50 years of women's ordination, 40 years since the first woman of color was ordained, and 10 years since full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ clergy.

It was a true gift to represent you and our synod at this assembly. I'm exhausted, blessed and encouraged by our work in Milwaukee.

Sunday School begins September 8

by Kyrstin Schwartz, Children's Ministry Director

Grades 1 - 4 at Gloria Dei

In 2012, Gloria Dei launched its Water Tower program, which is our Sunday school program for grades 1 - 4 that follows a Workshop Rotation Model. Children meet in grade-level groups that rotate between different workshops each Sunday, and they study the same Bible stories for 3-4 weeks.

They meet in our third floor space that was painted by artist Debbie Knips. Just like our neighbor, the [Highland Park Water Tower](#), Gloria Dei's Water Tower has eight painted "windows" with a view of the Twin Cities.

This year students will focus on water. Students will rediscover the connection our third floor space has with our neighboring Highland Park Water Tower.

We will also dig deep into Bible stories where water plays a role, like the Woman at the Well, Moses from the Nile to the Red Sea, Jesus' Baptism, and Paul bringing the good news over land and sea. They will

create living water pictures with bubble paint, make edible sailboats, retrace Paul's travels and more. If you haven't checked out the Water Tower third floor space before, we invite you to use the stairs by the main office or the elevator by the sanctuary to get to third floor.



Join our Teachers and Volunteers for 2019-20



children. Youth (any age) can be assistants. Help every Sunday, every other week or one month a year. Water Tower teachers teach the same lesson every Sunday for a month, and children rotate through them. We love to partner volunteers' interests with their lessons, too. We have lessons around music, science, art, history, games, photography, movies, nature, cooking and more. Please prayerfully consider ways you may be able to be involved in Children's Ministry.

When you share your passion and gifts with children, you learn with them, grow your faith and become integrated into the Gloria Dei community. The most important aspect of volunteering is doing something that brings joy. Joyful service comes from the heart and uses your interests and gifts.

Quick! Count to 81. Last year we had **81** volunteers involved in Children's Ministry on Sunday mornings. This number is an incredible testament to the importance that Gloria Dei members put on our youngest members' faith formation. Our 81 volunteers were high school youth, young adults without children, many parents with children in the program, and wonderful adults whose children have already graduated high school. This year, we especially need teachers for the Water Tower age group.

The beauty of our Children's Ministry program is it offers a volunteer opportunity for every person. You can help with setup, teach or hang out with the

[Learn more online](#) or email
Kyrstin Schwartz at
kidsministry@gloriadeistpaul.org.

Sanctuary Renewal Information Meeting September 15 (between worship services)

After a summer of conversations and presentations, we will come together on September 15 at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall for an informational meeting. The Sanctuary Renewal Committee and others will share updated information about the Gloria Dei sanctuary renewal proposal based on this summer's dialogue. Seventy years ago, members of Gloria Dei made a major commitment to the current design of our sanctuary. Now, as a congregation, it's our turn to look ahead. Renewing our worship space will help renew us as a congregation. It will help us build on our leadership role in faith, community and justice long into the future. If you have questions about the proposal before this meeting, please review the [full report](#).

Garden of Giving Keeps Giving

by Katie LeClair, Youth Ministry Director

Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

Genesis 1:11-12



Sun hats off to our gardeners this year! We have been cultivating three small raised garden beds with produce being watered and harvested for Francis Basket, the Highland Food Shelf.

Cathay Hoven, Kristine Oberg, Jane Dresser, Amy Hinrichs, Laurie Possin, Katie Russel, Cara Sjodin and Stephanie Stegeman have done a fantastic job growing an abundance of vegetables.

- Roma tomatoes
- Grape tomatoes
- Cilantro
- Chives
- Parsley
- Onions
- Cucumbers
- Yellow onions
- Kale
- Zucchini
- Jalapeño peppers
- Poblano peppers
- Ghost peppers
- Lady bell peppers
- Red bell peppers
- Collards
- Hungarian yellow wax beans



Weekend Backpack Program

by Mary Jo Hallberg

The Weekend Backpack Program (WBP) team has been busy preparing for the 2019-20 school year. This is our fourth year of packing nutritious, kid-friendly food for children at Highland Park Elementary School (HPE). About 100 packs go home with the children on Fridays so they have enough food to eat over the weekend. To prevent any stigma around receiving food, all children are invited to receive a bag. Parents sign an opt-in letter to receive the nutritious food.

Childhood hunger is a real problem in Highland and many places. The WBP is a tangible way for our congregation to take action to reduce hunger in our neighborhood. **New this year**, pre-school children now attend HPE and we will pack bags for those little ones as well.

Food Fairies

The children get excited when they see the “food fairies” arrive on Friday mornings. This is a term given to them by a child and quickly adopted. Teachers are extremely supportive and think it makes a difference in their lives.

One of our volunteers shared a story about a girl who was always the first to ask to take any extras home for her brothers and sisters. When the volunteer was worried about her backpack being too heavy, she fiercely proclaimed, “No, my backpack won’t be too heavy. I’m strong. I can do it,” proud to bring home food to her family.

Get Involved

This program works because of volunteers like you. It is fun, doesn’t take much time and you have the flexibility to sign up when you are available.

Our Sunday School classes take turns packing bags twice a month. Families and groups can sign up together. Sign up below and make it a family event.

- [Pack bags](#) at Gloria Dei.
- [Deliver/Distribute](#) bags on Friday mornings (and some Thursdays).

You’ll find more information about each task when you click on the links above.

Join us on the lawn on Rally Day to help pack 100 bags and ask questions. No registration necessary.

The WBP team meets a couple of times a year and

welcomes you to join the fun. The rest of the time, we work in the school, pack bags at Gloria Dei, order food, etc. [Email Mary Jo Hallberg](#) for more information.

Financial Support

The only cost for the WBP is to purchase the nutritious kid-friendly food from The Food Group. Awesome volunteers accomplish everything else.

We raise much of our money from the September Second Offering (Rally Day), and we appreciate your generosity. We welcome all donations, and your financial support helps provide in these ways:

- \$3.50 sponsors one child for one week.
- \$119 sponsors one child for the entire year.

To donate:

- Give to Second Offering on September 8, which will go to the Weekend Backpack Program.
- Send a check to Gloria Dei with Weekend Backpack Program on the memo line.
- Click [here](#) to donate online.

Join the WBP pack to help prevent hunger for local children!

**On September 15, we
return to our non-summer
worship hours. Gloria Dei
welcomes everyone to
worship and be part of our
activities.**



Worship With Us
Sundays 8:15 & 10:45
Education Hour 9:30

Journey to Tanzania

by Pastor Bradley Schmeling

Seven of us from Gloria Dei are traveling to visit the Lutheran Church in Tanzania, Iringa Diocese, to explore whether our congregation could become partners with a congregation there. The Saint Paul Area Synod, our jurisdiction, is matched with the Lutheran Church in Guatemala and the Iringa Diocese in Tanzania. As you know, Gloria Dei already has a long and rich history with the people of God in Guatemala, both Catholic and Lutheran. Could we add another global relationship to our mission?

Traveling with me on this trip are Carol Engel, Barbara Borne, Julie Marcotte, Laura Willemssen, Leigh Frost and Kris Peterson. Our little crew leaves on September 19 and returns on October 1. It takes three days to get to Iringa (two planes and a day-long bus ride), a part of Tanzania in the mountains where the Lutheran cathedral is located.

We'll spend several days learning about how the church operates, visit schools, hospitals and an orphanage. We'll even have some time to go on a safari in one of the largest reserves in Africa. Over

the weekend, we'll travel to a rural congregation to share community and Sunday morning worship, and they asked me to preach.

Our hopes for this exploratory journey are to connect with Lutheran siblings in Africa, learn about how the gospel is growing the church, and discover what a partnership with a congregation or institution there might look like for us. When we return, we'll share what we learned in a Sunday Forum in November and then begin the discussion about developing a global partnership.



Other congregations who have made this journey and built relationships over time tell wonderful stories about how African Lutherans have inspired them to deeper faith. Pray for us as we make this significant pilgrimage.

Bearing Witness: Concert and Multi-media Event for Justice

Join the Gloria Dei community of faith to be the difference we want to see.

Thursday, September 12 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Sponsored by Gloria Dei's Racial Justice Committee and Immigration Sanctuary Support Team

Reception at 6:45 p.m. in the Gathering Place

Concert at 7:30 p.m. in the Church Sanctuary

While this event is free, we ask you to consider a donation to support Saint Paul's [Center for Victims of Torture](#) and the [ELCA's AMMPARO](#). We ask everyone to [RSVP](#), and you will then have an opportunity to make a donation. Walk-ins are welcome.

Gloria Dei Choirs Start in September

by Tim Strand, Music Director

Adult Choirs	Children's Choirs
<p><i>Chancel Choir</i> Director Tim Strand</p> <p>September through May Sings most Sundays and at festival services. Rehearses in the Choir Room Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m., starts September 4.</p>	<p><i>Alleluia!</i> Director Ahna Logan</p> <p>Kindergarten through Grade 2 Rehearses in Room 101 Wednesdays, 5-5:45 p.m., starts September 11.</p>
<p><i>Matins Singers</i> Director Tim Strand</p> <p>Sings once a month at the 8:15 a.m. service. Rehearses in the Choir Room 7:30 a.m. on those Sundays to learn something new to sing in worship that morning; starts September 29.</p>	<p><i>Schola Cantorum</i> Director Paul Friesen-Carper</p> <p>Grades 3-6 Learn to sing and play percussion instruments and choirchimes. Rehearses in the Choir Room Wednesdays, 5-6 p.m., starts September 11.</p>
<p><i>Handbell Choir</i> Director Paul Friesen-Carper</p> <p>Plays in worship once a month. Rehearses in the Balcony Two Saturdays a month, 9:30-11 a.m., starts September 14.</p>	<p><i>Schola Choirchimes</i> Director Tim Strand</p> <p>Same as above (Schola Cantorum)</p>



Transportation Options

by Jill Stewart, Parish Nurse

If you or someone you know are in need of transportation options, the list below may help. (This article also available on our [website](#).)

Carpools, Taxis or Ride Sharing Services

Carpool with a neighbor or friend for rides to church or appointments. Use taxis or ride sharing services (Lyft or Uber); however, some of those drivers are unfamiliar with helping people with vision, hearing or mobility problems.

Options with Specially Trained Drivers

Mobility4All, ride service with trained drivers, is coming soon (expected this fall), with specially trained drivers that are “on call” like Uber or Lyft drivers.

Metro Mobility also has trained drivers. You must first register with them and schedule appointments by phone ahead of time. You need a form from a healthcare provider that indicates you have difficulty using a typical bus due to a health condition. A physician or registered nurse can complete the form for you and send it to Metro Mobility.

Services for Senior Citizens

Lyngblomsten, Lutheran Social Services (LSS) and Fairview all offer services specifically for senior citizens. LSS also has volunteers that can drive or accompany seniors for errands or appointments. Call them or visit their websites for details. Every county in the metro area also offers some form of senior transportation.

Resources in your Area

One of the best ways to find out about transportation resources in your neighborhood is [Minnesota United Way 2-1-1](#), which serves everyone and is available 24/7. Dial “2-1-1” (from any phone) to call United Way 2-1-1 (formerly called First Call for Help).

If you are Medicare-eligible, dial 800-333-2433 for the Senior LinkAge Line. United Way 2-1-1 workers know fees and schedules for all services in your area and can help you find and book a ride.

Submission Deadline for October *Guide*
September 13, 2019

Financial Update

Capital Fund Information	
Contributions YTD	\$259,746
Monthly mortgage payments	\$ 18,752
Capital Improvement Cost Year-to-Date	\$ 30,790
Balance in Capital Accounts July 31	\$416,270
Mortgage Balance July 31	\$2,685,468
Sanctuary Renewal/Organ Costs	
Architect Fees YTD	\$ 71,244
Organ Costs YTD	\$ 0
Operating Information July 31, 2019	
Total Offerings	\$ 95,500
Ahead(Behind)	\$ 4,088
Total Income	\$ 108,491
Total Expenses	\$ 106,615
Net for Month	\$ 1,676
Total Year-to-Date Offerings	\$726,549
Ahead(Behind)	(\$ 3,985)
Total YTD Income	\$860,650
Total YTD Expenses	\$857,476
Net for the Current Year	\$ 3,174

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