

# Gloria Dei Guide

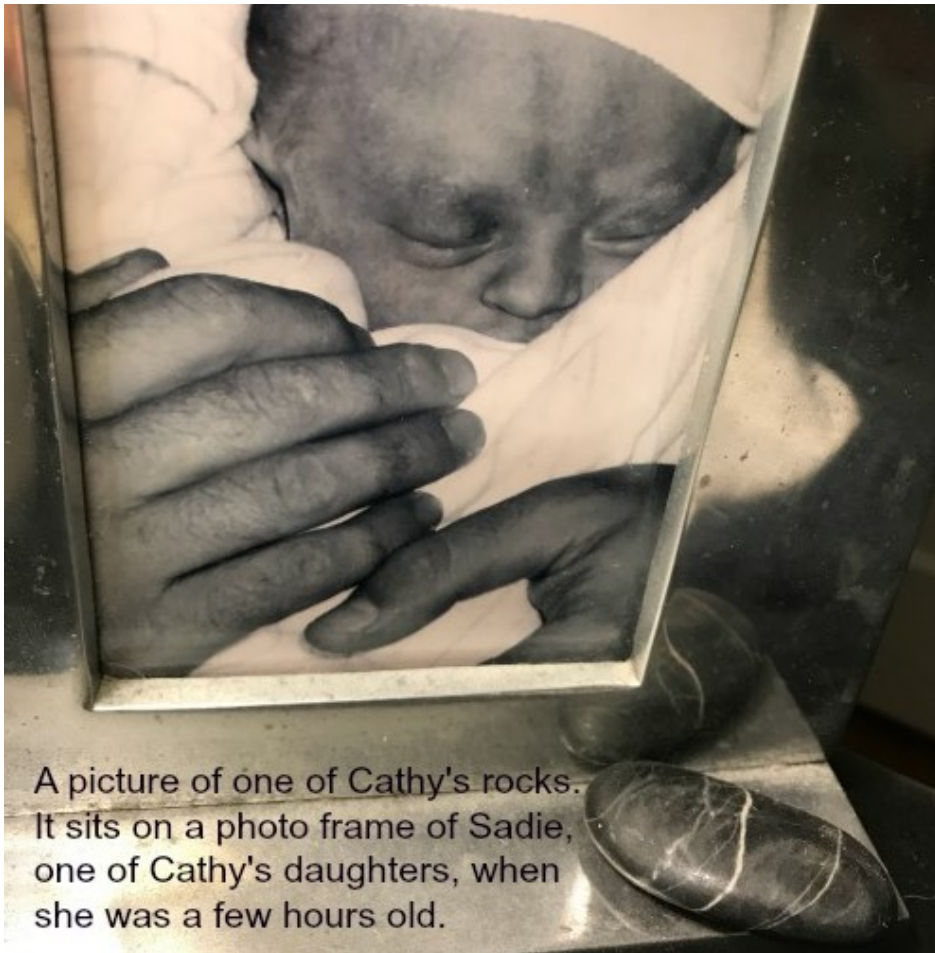
November 2018

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## Worship

Sundays 8:15 & 10:45 am



A picture of one of Cathy's rocks. It sits on a photo frame of Sadie, one of Cathy's daughters, when she was a few hours old.

## Why Invest in This Project?

by Cathy Sedacca, Congregation Vice President

On October 14, Gloria Dei voted to put a down payment on an organ that can be rebuilt in our sanctuary and hired an architect to help us consider our worship needs for the present and future. Join us after the second service on November 18 for a workshop with architect Jim Hundt to share you thoughts, dreams, and challenges. Lunch will be provided. You can [RSVP online](#).

Pastor Bradley asked the church council to think about why we might invest such time, energy, and resources in a project like this. Congregation Vice President Cathy Sedacca had the following response:

*I have thought a bunch about this and have tried to organize my thoughts and not start with "When the earth cooled..." So I'll start here: I like rocks. I have them all over my house, from a boulder retaining wall in the back yard, to granite counter tops in my kitchen, to smaller pocket sized rocks that are discreetly*

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*Investment from page 1*

*displayed around my house. It's hard to explain why I like them, maybe it's that they're solid and they've been around a while. I read somewhere that most common rocks we find on a beach or in a field are around 500 million years old. There is something comforting about that. And the fact that they are beautiful, made by God, and they really don't change.*

*When I look at Gloria Dei and worship and my faith, I enjoy that the service is pretty traditional. I like the familiarity of having grown up singing the same hymns and participating in the service where the hymns, the readings, the sermon, are all mostly in the same order every time. I enjoy the sound of the organ, playing with those hymns. Music was very important in my family. Believe it or not, my entire family often had a part in the worship service playing flute, trumpet, piano, percussion or singing. People joking called us the Von Seversons. Music is part of how worship happens. And to me music makes worship beautiful, it was made by God and I really don't want it to change. Also, we have a really pretty chancel. I love the light and the traditional space. My extended family has visited for Christmas programs and confirmations and have all commented on what a pretty church we have. I've grown accustomed to that and raised my kids here. I really can't imagine how we can make it better.*

*The music, the organ and the chancel have all become rocks in my life. They are mostly unchanged since my childhood, or since I became a member at Gloria Dei around 15 years ago. Like the other rocks in my life, these rocks are comforting to me, and it creates a bit of stress to think about messing with them.*

*But change happens whether we want it to or not. This is going to be a big, messy, costly project that is going to result in changes. But when I think about the alternatives, (1) do nothing, 2) find something much cheaper. I worry about the unintended consequences. Let's face it, the organ is going to poop out one day, and that is going to change worship – both the sound of it and the look of it. It seems to me that the best way to ensure that I, and everyone else, can be happy with the changes to our space is to lean into them. Steer the outcomes in a direction that we can all be proud of, that keep the elements that are most important to us, like the sound of worship and the look of the space we worship in. This is an investment of our time and money into the future of Gloria Dei, and I look forward to having conversations about what is most important to all of us, and working with architects and designers to see what is possible. I think that together we can make deliberate brave decisions and steer our way to something we will be proud of.*

## Meet Elizabeth Trites, our interim co-director of Schola Cantorum

### When did you join GDLC?

I started coming to Gloria Dei in September 2017.

### Tell us a little about your “day job”

I teach Kindergarten – 8th grade students general music (singing, percussion, recorder, Orff instruments, etc.) at Woodbury Leadership Academy.

### How did you come to know you wanted to work with kids?



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*Trites from page 2*

From babysitting to camp counseling to teaching experiences, I've always liked working with kids because when you're with them, you get to continue sharing in their joy and spontaneity. I love that my job is to nurture kids' love of music, and I even get to be a little goofy while I do it!

### **What kinds of musical activities were you involved in as a child?**

As a kid, I loved participating in a lot of music – I was in band, jazz band, and choir every year from 6th grade all the way through college! I also took private lessons for voice and saxophone.

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## **Meet Jessica Hauer, our new chef**

### **When did you join GDLC as a member?**

We started our journey as visitors in 2012 and became members in 2013.

### **Who is in your family?**

I am married to Steve and we have 3 kids. Kaylee (13), Kristianna (11) and Briannah (almost 2)

### **What is a favorite cooking memory of your childhood? Is there someone who taught you to bake/cook?**

I remember making my own cake (from a box) for my eighth birthday. That was the one and only thing I made growing up. After moving on my own, I couldn't cook at all. I burned everything and the microwave was my best friend. I started to experiment with food and baking in 2010 and it TURNED OUT DELICIOUS!

### **Where do you get your menu ideas?**

My children love to give their input. Also I love challenges from others when baking desserts. So when I'm given two items to try to marry into a master piece gets me excited for baking. Some turn out and some don't. My favorite cupcake was beer and bacon cupcake.

### **What are some of your “tricks” for motivating kids to do well as a choir?**

Singing is an especially personal art form, so I try to build kids' confidence in their own voices and help them feel successful. Sometimes, that looks like challenging them to continue improving; sometimes, it's celebrating their success when we do things really well.

### **What do you like to do on a day off?**

I love to meander around the beautiful parks of the Twin Cities, especially Como and the Minnesota Zoo, and draw or take ceramics classes. But sometimes, nothing can beat staying in to watch a Disney movie and bake cookies!



### **What tips do you have for aspiring chefs?**

Cooking is a trial and error process. All recipes can be adjusted or tweaked to your flavor palette.

### **What are three things you enjoy about our Wednesday night suppers?**

- 1) friendly atmosphere
- 2) making desserts for others and it's not left at my house so I don't indulge in too much
- 3) fast pace

### **What do you like to do on a day off?**

Spending time with my family, camping, gardening, canning, baking and experimenting with new recipes.



## Upcoming Opportunities for Service

### Project Home

In our mission statement, we proclaim “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.” During Advent, the season of waiting and giving, Gloria Dei lives into our mission by opening our doors to homeless families in transition to long-term housing and hosts overnight guests of Project Home, a program of Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul. We invite your participation for an evening, an overnight shift, or more as

you are able, in our shelter during the month of 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!

**Evening Hosts** are here 5:30-8:30pm every evening, welcome guests, helping them find their way around the church, playing and reading with children, supervising the gym, etc. through the early evening hours. Volunteers also prepare a healthy snack with ingredients provided by Project Home. (Please don’t feel a need to bring something to serve; Project Home provides healthy snacks each evening.)

**Overnight Hosts** sleep at church overnight, weekdays from 8 pm – 7:30 am and Fridays and Saturdays from 8 pm – 9 am. Overnight volunteers spend the evening with guests, see them safely to bed, prepare a simple breakfast, and help them on their way in the morning.

We also have volunteer opportunities on move-in and move-out days. See the volunteer sign-up form for more information about these shifts.

You can sign up online at [gloriadeistpaul.org](http://gloriadeistpaul.org) or in-person on Sunday mornings in November. Find our table outside the Library! Cash donations to Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul, specifying Project Home, may be dropped off at the Church Office. Donations will support ongoing needs in caring care for people in transition. Our December second offering, collected on December 15, will benefit Project Home.



## Upcoming Opportunities for Service

### Thanksgiving Food Drive

Gloria Dei's annual Thanksgiving Food Drive in support of Keystone Community Food Shelf will be held on Sunday, November 11. Our second offering that day will also benefit Keystone, and monetary donations to the food shelf go much further than our own food donations — so please consider giving generously to our second offering! If you do choose to purchase groceries to donate to the food shelf, please fill a bag with groceries bring it to church on Sunday, November 11. See the list of items that are requested by Keystone below:

- Rice
- Flour
- Turkey
- Bread/Rolls
- Soy Sauce
- Sugar
- Ham
- Carrots
- Sriracha
- Baking Soda
- Potatoes
- Celery
- Ketchup
- Baking Powder
- Sweet Potatoes
- Apples
- Mustard
- Vegetable Oil
- Cranberries
- Onions

If you can help deliver donations to the food shelf after the 10:45 am service on November 11, please contact Pastor Javen at [prjaven@gloriadeistpaul.org](mailto:prjaven@gloriadeistpaul.org).

### The Giving Tree

Will you celebrate Christmas by sharing gifts with those who lack means to give to their loved ones? The Giving Tree will be up soon with tags indicating ways you can give gifts to a family in need in our community. Wrapping instructions and information about when gifts need to be dropped off at church will be available on each tag.



## Clearing the Space: One Woman's Journey

by Nancy L. Agneberg



I don't know what I don't know.

Those words kept floating through my head while on the recent sacred sites tour, and I wondered why I didn't know and what else do I need to know? What lurks merely as a shadow in the perimeter of my mind and heart because I have not seen and have not heard, have not asked nor perhaps didn't want to know? How rarely, if ever, have I thought about the original peoples who lived and worked and worshipped and played on the land where we now live and work and worship and play? And why don't I know the history of domination and deception over peoples who were not considered fully human?

At the beginning of the sacred sites tour one of our guides, Bob Klanderud (Dakota), walked around our circle holding a large abalone shell of smoking herbs, and one by one each of us drew the smoke with our open hands over our body. A spiritual practice of cleansing and blessing, and for me, at least, a reminder to be fully present. He repeated this practice at our second site, Fort Snelling State Park, where he also drummed and

sang to his relatives, adding he has “met many spirits here.”

Our other guide, Jim Bear Jacobs (Mohican), told us we could take pictures, but to be respectful and instead of “capturing” the day, to simply and quietly “be here.” But I admit it wasn't always easy to be there, to listen to the stories and the tragic history of loss and trauma, and I was grateful for the time we were given at each of the three sites to walk on our own, to absorb what we were learning, to ask for forgiveness, and to open to the sacred. We were standing in the Garden of Eden. We were walking where the song of creation lives with the first light of the sun and the first sound of the birds.

At the third site, Pilot Knob, which for centuries was a gathering place and burial ground for indigenous people, a “hill much visited,” Jim Bear told us the story of the White Buffalo Calf Woman, a story of unity and harmony, as three eagles soared over us, the perfect exclamation point for a day of deepening and new awareness.

## Generosity from area Rotary Clubs

*From Guatemala Task Force of the Saint Paul Area Synod*

Gloria Dei has a partnership with both the Lutheran Church and a Roman Catholic mission in Guatemala. We encourage members of all walks of life to join us on accompaniment and companion trips yearly to see God's love in action through the people of Guatemala. Gloria Dei member Ron Felt will join more than 25 others on a visit to our partners in Guatemala on an inter-generational trip from July 26 - August 3.

Here is an article from Saint Paul Area Synod's newsletter featuring Ron and his efforts to raise funds for MILAGRO Women's Education Center.

*Ron Felt of Gloria Dei Lutheran in St. Paul and the St. Paul Sunrise Rotary spearheaded a drive*

*to raise \$8000 for furnishings for the MILAGRO Women's Education Center. Ron worked diligently to reach out to other Rotary Clubs to attain this goal.*

*Rotary clubs in St. Paul, White Bear Lake, West Saint Paul, Lakeville, New Brighton, and Roseville all pitched in. The money raised exceeded the goal.*

*The funds have been sent to the ILAG and will be used to make the new MILAGRO Center even more comfortable. There are currently 8 young women studying there, with 5 more coming in January. More beds and wardrobes will be needed to house the new arrivals.*

*Thanks to Ron Felt and the neighboring Rotary Clubs for their amazing generosity.*

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## Rooted in Generosity — Sharing our Resources and our Building

*by Larry Nelson, Stewardship Committee Chair*

Are you still pondering your response to our "Rooted in Generosity" stewardship drive?

To date, we have received more than 220 pledges from members, committing resources to both Gloria Dei's operating and capital funds. If you have already shared your pledge or estimate of giving for 2019, thank you!

If you haven't yet shared your response, you can still participate. Place your pledge card in the offering plate on Sunday morning or mail it to the church office, or pledge online.

Your pledge gives our church leadership valuable information as they begin the process of planning our finances for the coming year. The more accurate a picture they have of our projected finances, the better they are able to make appropriate plans.

### **Please join us!**

for the "Celebration of Thanks" Breakfast on November 11th between services, and join other



members of Gloria Dei as we celebrate the generosity of our church and share our individual and community "Rooted in Generosity" stories. [RSVP](#) online by November 8.



## 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

## Sacred Site Visit

*by Ruth Halvorson*

The four-hour tour on October 6 to local sacred Native sites was filled with history and stories about our neighbors — narratives that have been kept mostly hidden. Heart breaking stories, painful stories, cruel stories. Who are we as white people? Who do we want to be? After sharing articulately and honestly, without anger or rancor the awful narrative of the dealings of our government and people with Native Peoples over the past century and a half, our Dakota and Mohican guides concluded with blessing us, wishing us well and proclaiming us their relatives. We are all related they declared.

## Financial Update

<b>Capital Fund Information</b>	
Contributions YTD	\$266,652
Monthly mortgage payments	\$18,752
Capital Improvement Cost Year-to-Date	\$88,297
Balance in Capital Accounts March 31	\$338,338
Mortgage Balance March 31	\$2,781,699
<b>Operating Information, Sept. 30</b>	
Total Offerings	\$88,473
Ahead(Behind)	\$2,743
Total Income	\$121,187
Total Expenses	\$118,118
Net for the Month	\$3,069
<b>Total Year-to-Date Offerings</b>	\$901,266
Ahead(Behind)	(\$13,293)
Total YTD Income	\$1,072,397
Total YTD Expenses	\$1,066,067
Net for the Current Year	\$6,330

