



GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

Organized in 1927 as St. Johns Lutheran Church
A part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
2600 Pontiac Road
Auburn Hills, MI 48326

First Class Mail

Join us for Holy Week and Easter Services! The complete schedule is on page 2.
Update: Pastor Mary will be leading worship through Easter. Details inside.

DeiMinder

81 Years of Celebrating the Glory of God

April 2009

Join us in worship during Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday, April 5: Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Maundy Thursday, April 9: Evening Worship 7:00 PM
Good Friday, April 10: Evening Worship 7:00 PM
Easter Sunday, April 12: Morning Worship 10:30 AM

*Complete schedule on page 2.
Pastor Mary will be leading worship at these services.*



GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

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April Worship Schedule

Gloria Dei will continue to have Sunday worship at 10:30 AM

Lenten Midweek Worship: Wednesday, April 1
Worship at 7:00 PM; Meal at 6:00 PM



Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 5

Morning Worship: 10:30 AM
Sunday School: 10:30 AM
Adult Bible Study: 9:15 AM

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 9

Evening Worship: 7:00 PM

Maundy Thursday



Good Friday

Good Friday

Friday, April 10

Open Prayer: Noon – 3 PM
Evening Worship: 7:00 PM

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 12

Morning Worship: 10:30 AM
Easter Breakfast at 9:15 AM



Sunday, April 19

Morning Worship: 10:30 AM
Sunday School: 10:30 AM; Adult Bible Study: 9:15 AM

Sunday, April 26

Morning Worship: 10:30 AM
Sunday School: 10:30 AM; Adult Bible Study: 9:15 AM



From the desk of the Pastor

REV. MARY T. DUERKSEN

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is with deep regret that I inform you that, due to the lack of funds to support a full time pastor, I will no longer be serving you full time. The hard economic times and falling property prices have not enabled us to complete the property sale with which we were going to fund our second phase redevelopment. You will see further details on this from your Council leaders in this issue.

It is so hard to end a great relationship when there is no real pastoral or congregational reason to other than the lack of resources to support that relationship. I know your Church Council has struggled long and hard to prevent this from happening but the circumstances are just too overwhelming.

For my part, I want you to know that Mike and I will always consider you church family, and we appreciate all the love, affection and support you have shown us.

As of this DeiMinder issue, I have negotiated with the Council to be able to be your 'supply' pastor through April 12 (Easter Sunday) so that we may celebrate our Lord's resurrection together and arrange for an orderly transfer of responsibilities. I will not have regular office hours nor be able to do more than minimal pastoral duties as negotiated. We do not know whether this arrangement will continue after Easter--it is important to my family's well-being that I be employed full time as soon as possible--so we will have to see if another full-time assignment is available for me.

This is sad for everyone, and understandably upsetting. Please be assured that your Council is working hard with representatives from our Southeast Michigan Synod to ensure continuity of the fine minis-



try of Gloria Dei in the future. Many options are being explored, and you are invited to share your ideas with the Council as well.

No congregation could have supported a pastor better than you have supported me. I have sought to give you my best leadership, spiritual care, teaching and preaching. Thanks to all of you who came on March 29th to celebrate our ministry together, and for the many gifts, best wishes, prayers and expressions of love. I wish I could return them all individually!

You will always be the church of my heart. Be strong, fear not, God is with us.



Pastor Mary Duerksen

Attention Gloria Dei Members:
We know you'll be at Easter worship services. But did you invite FRAN?



Friends | Relatives | Associates | Neighbors

**Invite FRAN for Easter.
Invite FRAN every Sunday!**

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

From the Congregation Council President



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The peace of the Lord be with you now and always.

There has been much conversation and speculation regarding the future of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. As Congregational President I would like to convey to you correct information and not add to the number of rumors floating about.

First: The final purchase agreement with Boncore Development is now in default. Boncore Development could not meet the terms of our final offer. We have been negotiating with Boncore for over three years but have not been able to agree to a suitable settlement. Boncore has been unable to secure leases for his building projects and therefore unable to secure financing in what is a very stringent financing market. Also a very bad economic climate has made the real estate market very difficult. Vacant property is not selling unless a potential buyer comes with a project that is "shovel-ready". The tightness of the money markets, the slowing of the entire economy, and the lack of demand for vacant property has left us with limited options.

A second idea explored was that of a "shared ministry". Sharing the Pastor's time and financial package was discussed with Sylvan Lake Lutheran Church in Sylvan Lake. At this point in time Sylvan Lake Lutheran Church is not able to commit to this arrangement.

A third strategy is negotiating a land contract with Frankel Corporation to whom we sold several acres to back in the 1980's. That property now has the Champion Building and Plant Moran Building on site. This process is in the very early stages. We expect any negotiations, if any, to be very difficult. Frankel Corporation currently has 50,000 square feet of unleased office space.

A fourth discussion item was a possible merger with Good Samaritan Lutheran Church (on Walton Blvd., just west of Baldwin Rd.).

This is within the realm of possibility but council members seemed unsure about the prospect of this.

The latest development is undoubtedly the least desirable and makes all of us on the council sad to the core. I am sure the congregation will find this very sad when the news spreads. Pr. Mary Duerksen has volunteered to step-aside so the burden of her financial package will not continue to weigh so heavily on the church budget. This was a completely unselfish act on her part and we cannot know how hard this decision must have been for her. She has been more than our spiritual leader, she has also been our friend and confidant day in and day out. May God Bless her in her future endeavors.

Pastor Mary's vacancy creates a pastoral void the council is currently addressing. Options, though limited, are available and the council will pursue any that are in the best interest of Gloria Dei. The latest development is that Pastor Mary has agreed to stay on temporarily as a "supply pastor." This means that we will have a full schedule through Easter and beyond for a yet undefined period. You will find the current schedule on page 2 of this newsletter.

The Southeast Michigan Synod staff will offer us counsel on filling this vacancy.

The council will do its best to keep the membership informed. In the meantime be loyal to your God and your church and each other by attending and supporting our weekly services.

In the name of Christ I remain,

Gene Steensma
Congregational President



We need help folding palms!

We will be folding palm crosses for Palm Sunday on Saturday, April 4 at 10:00 AM. If you've never done it before, seasoned pros will be on hand to assist you -- it's easy and fun!

Please remember all those in need of prayer, including:

*Rhonda Chillkott
Family of Ruth Clark
Joyce Corey
Family of Dave Duerksen
Dr. Ela
Jamie Firman
Larry Firman
Jeffrey Gorecki
Nancy Kelly
Kiara*

*Pearl Pennybacker
Family of Joan Schultz
Delores Steensma
Don Steensma
Msgt. Donald Vick (in Iraq)
Amber Whitehead
Donna Williamson
James Wyatt
Rick Wyck (in Iraq)*

Dining out with Gloria is April 23



Join us for an evening of fun, food and fellowship at **Dining out with Gloria**, at the Palm Palace restaurant in Auburn Hills on Squirrel Road on Thursday, April 23 at 7:00 PM. Remember to invite FRAN (Friends, Relatives, Associates and Neighbors) to join us!

Come to church early on Easter Sunday for a special breakfast!

There will be a special Easter Sunday breakfast on April 12 from 9:15-10:00 AM. The Gloria Dei youth will be hosting the breakfast, and a free-will offering will be collected to help defray the expense of youth camp activities this summer. Hope to see you there!



Mostly about people

For pastoral needs during this time of transition, (hospital visits, etc.) please contact Gene Steensma (248-332-9647) or Scott Johnson (248-652-6578), or any council member and they will assist with making arrangements.....Delores Steensma wishes to thank everyone for their prayers, calls and cards as she recuperates from hip replacement surgery..... Please keep Pearl Pennybacker in your prayers as she recuperates at Canterbury after a recent hospitalization.....If you are interested in assisting with the Easter Sunday breakfast (fundraiser for youth summer camp), please contact Dorothy Chilkott (248-332-2432 or doro-thy.chilkott@gloriadei.cc) for details.....Please note Pastor Mary and Mike Duerksen have a new address: 1425 Bald Eagle Lake Rd., Ortonville, MI 48462We need your assistance with palm cross folding for Palm Sunday! Come to church on Saturday, April 4 – seasoned pros will be on hand to assist you; it's easy and fun!.....Weather permitting, we'll have an outdoor palm procession on Palm Sunday, so be sure to come to worship on April 5!.....We thank the members of the Praise Band 150, including Pastor Mary Duerksen, for sharing their musical talents with us during worship on March 29.....We also thank our musicians Eleanor Beaver, Dorothy Chilkott, Yvon Lowe and Mike Newsock for all of their contributions to our worship services, especially during Lent, Holy Week and Easter!.....Flower donors and coffee hosts are needed for several upcoming Sundays; if you are interested in donating or hosting, please sign the sheet on the east bulletin board across from the library. If you are unable to serve but would still like to donate money towards a coffee hour, please contact the church office.

Earth Day is April 22

Wednesday, April 22 is Earth Day. Gloria Dei actively participates in paper, inkjet cartridge and cell phone recycling. We thank everyone who assist with these programs. Don't forget the church receives money for each computer printer inkjet cartridge that we turn in, as well as for cellular telephones that you no longer need. Collection boxes are located in the east and west hallways. If you are interested in bringing a collection box to your work, please contact Scott Johnson.



GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

Easter Flowers Order Form

For generations, it has been customary at Gloria Dei to adorn the chancel on Easter Sunday with flowers, given in memory or honor of loved ones. Again this year, we are making plants available to purchase, which may be taken home after the Easter Sunday worship service or planted in the Glory Garden.

You have a choice of daffodils, hyacinths or tulips.

The cost is \$7.00 per plant. **All orders are due by Sunday, April 5.** This year the plants are in 6" pots, so the price is significantly lower than previous years. You may wish to order additional plants if you will be planting them at home.

We apologize for the short notice this year. Please turn in your order by Sunday, April 5 – you may also call the church (248-373-5222) and leave a message with your order, or email scott.johnson@gloriadei.cc and mail a check to the church. Thank you for your cooperation!

Checks should be made payable to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. Indicate "Easter Flowers" in the memo section.

Your Name: _____

Total Number of Plants: _____ Total \$ _____

Example: Plant Type: Daffodils Hyacinth Tulip

Memory Honor Jack and Gunda Frost

Plant #1 Plant Type: Daffodils Hyacinth Tulip

Memory Honor _____

Plant #2 Plant Type: Daffodils Hyacinth Tulip

Memory Honor _____

Plant #3 Plant Type: Daffodils Hyacinth Tulip

Memory Honor _____

The DeiMinder: March 2009

Special prayer service at St. Andrew's

St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Bloomfield Hills (Telegraph between Quarton and Maple Roads) is holding a series of special prayer services, "Hanging onto Hope" – a service of wellness and peace. Help get through these tough economic times in Michigan. The prayer services will be held April 16, May 21, and June 18 at 7:30 PM. For details, please call 248-646-5207.

Easter Meditation

by Dr. David Truemper

This Easter meditation is a sermon preached by Dr. David Truemper, Former Chair of the Department of Theology, Valparaiso University. It was delivered at the schools chapel just days before his death after a long struggle with cancer. The name of the chapel? Chapel of the Resurrection.

"Life Everlasting

From the perspective of my deathbed, the promise of *Life Everlasting* that I've named in the Creed and trusted since childhood has become more precious than ever. Yet it cannot be what we so commonly and easily assume – a mere extension, even an endless prolonging, of our days. The prospect of more and more days, even on the other side of some boundary, now seems more burden than hope.

The ancient psalms help us to understand the promise more truly. The one we call Psalm 90 prays that God would teach us to number our days, so our hearts might learn wisdom, beginning with the truth that our days are full of iniquity, fly like a dream, and come to an end with a sigh. But that same song begins with a promise, 'Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.'

There is the promise of life everlasting – not time of any sort, however new or long, but a place. We dwell in the Lord. That is enough. Or as the apostle put it, 'Our lives are hid with Christ in God.' Here, in the communion of those who have died with Christ in Baptism, we find our resting place. There we abide, for now, and for eternity.

I believe in the life everlasting. Amen"

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Worship with Holy Communion: 10:30 AM

Sunday School: 10:30 AM • Adult Bible Study: 9:15 AM

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*Youth member

If you are interested in becoming a member of Gloria Dei, please contact Gene Steensma at 248-332-9647 or email gene.steensma@gloriadei.cc

The calendar and worship assistant list is now on a handy insert included with this newsletter. Additional copies are available at church or it can be downloaded at www.GloriaDei.cc.