



## 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

**Ash Wednesday Worship – Feb. 17 at 7:00 PM**

# DeiMinder

83 Years of Celebrating the Glory of God • February 2010 Newsletter

LENT  
is for  
LIFE



not just  
for  
chocolate.

## GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship with Holy Communion: 10:30 AM  
Sunday School: 10:30 AM - Adult Bible Study: 9:15 AM

Welcome to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church! You're invited to join us in worship each Sunday at 10:30 AM. Those who are interested in learning more about our congregation, or would be considering about becoming a member of our congregation, please speak with Gene Steensma, our council president, 248-332-9647 or email [gene.steensma@gloriadei.cc](mailto:gene.steensma@gloriadei.cc)

LENT  
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LIFE



Lent begins and thousands of devout chocoholics begin 40 days of fasting, only to be found on Easter Sunday in a corner somewhere with the most enormous pile of chocolate. But the benefits of a spiritual spring clean has the potential to reach much deeper and last longer than this rather superficial approach to Lent.

In Lent we are reminded of Christ's humanity. Taking on our human form he shows us that these human bodies can handle the presence of God. His temptations were as real as ours and when we join ourselves to him, we too can be freed from the control of our sinful nature. The spiritual disciplines Christians practice in lent (and at other times) are aimed at voluntarily increasing our capacity for interaction with the kingdom of God. Or that is at least how Dallas Willard puts it. His, The Spirit of the Disciplines, is well worth a read if you are interested in exploring how and why spiritual disciplines are our necessary part in letting God in to transform our lives.



*"God in regeneration renews our original capacity for divine interaction. But our body's substance is only to be transformed totally by actions and events in which we choose to participate from day to day" (p92)*

So give up chocolate by all means, but it is what you do while you are not eating chocolate that will probably make a bigger impact on your life.

— From "Living Open Source" Blog, [www.livingos.com](http://www.livingos.com)

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

## From the Council President



May the peace of the Lord be with you!

I would like to thank each of you who attended the Annual Meeting of Gloria Dei. The positive attitudes of the attendees and Council gave me a wonderful feeling of Christian unity. It has been a tumultuous time for the membership but your loyalty has not gone unnoticed or unappreciated.

The property sale is near completion with a land contract signing scheduled for early in February. We will keep you abreast of the latest developments. Even after the signing our budget projection will be tight and the Council will exercise caution on every expenditure.

Please keep your stewardship commitment up to date.

The Council welcomes Jamie Firman and Mike Newsock to the fold this month. Both will be welcome additions and make significant contributions. Committees will be set at the February Council meeting. January 31st Gloria Dei welcomed Charlie Martin as our new Licensed Minister Intern. Plans now are for him to serve at least through July. I would be remiss if I did not thank Pr. Bud Miller and Carl Bloom for their dedicated service. They have served us extremely well. We thank God for their presence among us.

We have turned another page in the history of our beloved Gloria Dei. Plan to be a participant and not just an observer. God is counting on you and so am I.

In Christ's love I remain,  
Gene Steensma  
Congregation Council President

## Dining out with Gloria is February 18



Join us for an evening of fun, food and fellowship at Dining out with Gloria on Thursday, February 18 at 7:00 PM. We'll be meeting at Buddy's Pizza on Walton Blvd., at Squirrel Road in Auburn Hills. Remember to invite FRAN (Friends, Relatives, Associates and Neighbors) to join us!

## A Celebration of Barb's Life



We are sad to report that Barb Lucas passed into the Church Triumphant on February 2 after health problems that lasted many months. A "Celebration of Barb's Life" will be held at Gloria Dei on Sunday, February 14 at 2:30 PM. A luncheon after the service will be held at the church, hosted by the Gloria Dei Women of the ELCA. Ray is requesting that no flowers be sent, but instead please plant Barb's favorite flowers, daffodils, in the spring. Memorials can be made to the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church Memorial Fund, The Troy Historical Society, or the American Diabetes Association. A special memorial honoring Barb will be in the next issue of the DeiMinder. Please keep Ray, their daughter Joy and son Russ in your prayers, and all those who mourn. We give thanks to God for Barb's presence in our lives.

## Women of the ELCA will honor Barb

The Gloria Dei Women of the ELCA chose Barb as the 2010 Gloria Dei Woman of the Year. Joy Lucas will be accepting the award on her mother's behalf at the synod's Katy York Honoring Women Luncheon on February 13 in Allen Park.



Ash  
Wednesday

## Ash Wednesday is Feb. 17

Ash Wednesday is February 17th. The Ash Wednesday Holy Communion service will be at 7:00 PM.

**Lenten worship will be each Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM starting February 24. A potluck supper will precede the service each week at 6:00 PM.**

## Pastoral News

A big thanks Mr. Carl Bloom for his pastoral service to our congregation following Pastor Bud Miller's departure. Our congregation is grateful to him for leading worship, working with the worship and music committee, and for visiting members who were homebound or hospitalized.

Gloria Dei welcomes Mr. Charlie Martin, who will begin leading worship on Sunday, February 7. Charlie is an intern in the synod's licensed ministry program, and has experience in leading worship. Pastor Schroeder from Abiding Presence in Rochester Hills will be mentoring Charlie during his internship and will be available for pastoral care during Charlie's time at Gloria Dei.

## Souper Bowl luncheon is February 7

Once again this year, Gloria Dei will be participating in the "Souper Bowl" fundraiser. We'll have a special soup luncheon following the worship service, with a freewill offering that will be donated to the Lighthouse of Michigan. Our congregation has been participating in the Souper Bowl since 2004 and since then, we've raised over \$1000 for charity! If you're able, please bring a cup of cut-up vegetables to add to the soup stock or a side dish to pass. We're sure there will be enough for all!



## Watch the Super Bowl at Gloria Dei on the big screen!

You're invited to an evening of fellowship, fun and football! Come to the Gloria Dei Super Bowl party on Sunday, February 7, starting at 5:00 PM. We'll be watching the game on the big screen TV in the fellowship hall. If you're able, please bring munchies to pass. Chili and hot dogs will be served for dinner. Bring a friend!



## Annual Meeting held in January

The 2010 annual meeting of the congregation was held on Sunday, January 31 at the church. A financial forecast for 2010 was presented, along with reports from the various Gloria Dei committees. The congregation voted to hold the current council members and its officers in place for 2010 for continuity during the property sale and the current financial situation. The congregation also elected Jamie Firman and Mike Newsock to the council.

**ANNUAL  
MEETING**

## Remember all those in need of prayer...

Please remember in prayer all those who are sick, hospitalized, homebound, or recovering -- including Geri Allen, Patti Amshay, Rhonda Chilkott, Carrie Cook, Vickie Edds, Mary Ann Ferry, The Fugel Family, Ken Fox, Kiara's Mom, Krista Glazmere, Jeffrey Gorecki, Jerry Gorecki, Debbie K. Hunt, Nancy Kelly, The family of Barb Lucas, Pearl Pennybacker, David A. Reese, Annie C. Reese, Myrtle Schluchter, Family of Robert Spencer, Shawna Trupiano Family, Emma Vidlund, Peter Vidlund, Jamie Williams, and Donna Williamson.

## Mostly about people

*If you are able to assist with the luncheon following the memorial service for Barb Lucas, please contact Delores Steensma (248-332-9657).....We're happy to report that Jennifer MacCormack, who lives in Haiti (working for the International Organization for Migration) is safe after the earthquake that hit Haiti in January.....Thank you to everyone who assisted with taking down the Christmas tree and decorations in January.....We were all glad to see Ruth Johnson who was in church in January, visiting from California.....Coffee Hour Hosts and Flower Donors are needed for several upcoming Sundays; if you are able to volunteer or donate, please sign up on the bulletin board in the east hallway, across from the library..... Offering statements were mailed out in January. If an error is found with your statement, please contact Scott Johnson.*



**GLORIA DEI  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*Sharing the peace of God's Grace with the World*

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\*Youth member

***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](http://www.GloriaDei.cc).***



**Gloria Dei participates in recycling and hopes you do too!** This newsletter is printed on 100% recycled paper (donated to our congregation). When you are finished reading the DeiMinder, please give it to someone who might also enjoy reading it, or recycle it. Thank you!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
				★Angela Rupp ★Walter Saddler		★Karen Collom
7 AM Gene S. 9:15 A: Adult Bible Stdy Lec Steve F. 10:30 A: Sunday School Grt Polaseks 10:30 A: Worship w/ Aco Sebastian 10:30 A: Holy Communion Sac Scott J. Noon: Souperbowl Cof Nelsons 5:00 P: Superbowl Party ★Karen Collom	8	9	10	11 7 P: Council Meeting	12	13 Women of the ELCA Honoring Women Luncheon
		★Sebastian Chilkott ★Mike Nyberg ★David Robertson			★Ariel Keffer	
14 AM Sebastian 9:15 A: Adult Bible Lec Bruce R. Study Grt Firmans 10:30 A: Sunday School Aco Derek F. 10:30 A: Worship w/ Sac Sebastian 10:30 A: Holy Communion Cof Dorothy C. 2:30 P: Memorial Service for Barb Lucas	15	16	17 7 PM: Ash Wednesday Service	18 7 PM: Dining out with Gloria at Buddy's Pizza (Walton Blvd at Squirrel)	19	20
	★Eleanor Beaver ★Helen Englund ★Joel Englund	★Nicole Nelson			★Katie Lektzian	
21 AM Bill V. 9:15 A: Adult Bible Stdy Lec Roxanne 10:30 A: Sunday School Grt Steensmas 10:30 A: Worship w/ Aco Angela R. 10:30 A: Holy Communion Sac Tracy V. <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> Cof <b>NEEDED!</b>	22	23	24 6 PM: Potluck supper 7 PM: Lenten worship	25	26	27
	★Marilyn Andrachick ★Tracy Vandecar	★Dorothy Chilkott	★Deb Hopkins	★Matthew Allbritten		
28 AM Kay D. 9:15 A: Adult Bible Lec Lynette M. Study Grt Lynette M. 10:30 A: Sunday School Aco Daniellia B. 10:30 A: Worship w/ Sac Linda N. 10:30 A: Holy Communion Cof <b>NEEDED!</b>					<b>Worship Assistants - Legend</b> <u>AM</u> Assisting Minister <u>Lec</u> Lector <u>Grt</u> Greeters <u>Aco</u> Acolyte <u>Sac</u> Sacristan <u>Cof</u> Coffee Hour Host  ★ = Birthday	