



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

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN church

DeiMinder

81 Years of Celebrating the Glory of God

March 2009

Join us for a pancake breakfast on Sunday, March 15 (9:15 – 10:15 AM)

Midweek Lenten Worship Services – Each Wednesday in March at 7:00 PM



LENT

Join us for Lenten midweek worship:
Wednesdays in March at 7:00 PM
Sunday Lenten Services: 10:30 AM

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. Mary T. Duerksen, Pastor

Please see page 7 for contact information

Sunday Worship with Holy Communion: 10:30 AM

Adult Bible Study and Confirmation Class (7th grade+): 9:15 AM

Sunday School for children ages 3 years to 6th grade: 10:30 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 becoming a member of our congregation, please speak with Pastor Mary Duerksen, 248-373-5222 (office), 810-245-1798 (home) or email her at pastor@gloriadei.cc.



Please remember all those in need of prayer, including:

Pastor Cherlyne Beck
Family of Ann Bellow
Greg Blanchard
Lt. Col. "Buffy" Burkel (Iraq)
Rhonda Chilkott
Joyce Corey
Dr. Ela
Joel Englund
Larry Firman
Craig Fortuna
Jeffrey Gorecki

Peg Gotschll
Zoey Jamerson
Ray Lucas
Pearl Pennybacker
Family of Sharon Schaefer
Virginia Smith
Delores Steensma
Heather Stevens
Bill Vandecar
Msgt. Donald Vick (in Iraq)

Dining out with Gloria is March 19

Join us for an evening of fun, food and fellowship at **Dining out with Gloria**, at Fino's Restaurant on Dixie Highway, north of Walton in Waterford on Thursday, March 19 at 7:00 PM. Remember to invite FRAN (Friends, Relatives, Associates and Neighbors) to join us!



GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH



From the desk of the Pastor

REV. MARY T. DUERKSEN

By the time you read this I will be in the Holy Land, assisting my colleague Pr. Sue Sprowls, in escorting a group of college students from Univ. of Michigan as we visit a variety of sites. In addition to some of the traditional Biblical places we plan to see there, we are also going to spend time with members of the Ev. Lutheran Church in the Holy Land. This synod, a companion Synod of the SE Mich. Synod, has 6 congregations, 4 schools, a hospital and a number of smaller projects in its' territory. Augusta Victoria Hospital, on the Mt. of Olives, is a world-class hospital featuring specialized care for children needing kidney dialysis and other specific care. We will be joining 3f folks from our own Synod on some of our tours-Scott Thams, Calvary Clarkston, serving 3 months as an Ecumenical Accompanier, Pat Ochodnicky, St. George, Brighton, same, and Chelsea Mathis, and ELCA Missionary working for ELCJHL Bisop Mounib Younan. Chelsea graduated from UM last year, and is a member of Lord of Light Lutheran in Ann Arbor. I am eager to make contact with our fellow Lutheran Christians there and see for myself how the situation in the Holy Land affects them. Please pray for me and our trip.



Gloria Dei Future Update

While I am away, there will be a number of matters working to bring significant change to our life together at Gloria Dei. Some of these we have discussed in our annual meeting last January.

One of them is that we are pursuing a relationship with Sylvan Lake Lutheran congregation to find out whether it is desirable or feasible for us to share pastoral services with them, and in what other ways we can join forces to do our ministry, while remaining independent as separate congregations. I will be conducting the first part of that exploration, even while your Executive Committee and I continue in

dialogue with St. Andrew's, Bloomfield Twp.; Ascension, Waterford and Sylvan Lake. Shortly upon my return (March 2) I will be able to tell you more about how that may work out for us.

On a much more critical matter, our Council has determined that we cannot sustain our ministry in the future without a much larger income, even if we share pastoral expenses with another congregation. Let me give you the math:

Approx. Monthly Shortfall \$8,000.00

Approx. income/pastor sharing \$3,000.00

The Council has approved a follow-up counter offer to be made to the original developer we've been working with these past 3 years-which would give us the needed income to make up the shortfall.

If he does not accept our offer, we are working with another possibility which would mean selling the entire property, but receiving income on it over 5 years or more.

This would mean that in 5 years or so we'd have to find another location to develop as our church's main site. This could be an existing building, an existing church building, or something else.



Now is the time for YOU to communicate your thoughts and ideas to your Council members. We need to know what options you consider most worth pursuing. We need to know how you feel about ALL options-even those that seem the least desirable. There will be official updates coming through the month of March, and a time for a congregational meeting to discuss these matters together as God's people.

I know how tough it is to read these words-and to ponder their meaning. The severe economic recession has set Gloria Dei back severely in our original planning for the next 5 years. We are faced with having to consider some unpleasant options. However, this does not mean that God is abandoning us. God works through

tough times and good times, through saints and sinners, in ways we can scarcely imagine.

During these next few weeks, I ask you to do just 3 things-pray, support and communicate.

Pray-not just that Gloria Dei will somehow 'survive'-but that God will show us how he wants us to 'thrive'-even if it means enduring much change.

Support-Support your leaders, support each other. Support us financially as well. Show us you are there to be counted on! These are very hard matters to consider. Regard each other in Christian love, seeking peace and forgiveness at every turn. Be patient with one another, putting the best construction on what each person says and does.

Communicate-Neither your pastor nor your Council are blessed with the ability to read minds. Find a way to express yourself. Talk, write, leave messages, send emails. Let us know how you think we should proceed. **Focus on the future**-not on blaming people for the past. The past is dead. We are where we are. Put your energies into envisioning the present and future as Jesus would like us to!

May God bless you in many ways this month.

Pastor Mary Duerksen

Wednesday evening services during Lent



Please join us for midweek Lenten evening worship services during March on Wednesdays! Services will be held at 7:00 PM on March 4, 11, 18, and 25. A potluck supper will be held at 6:00 PM. Please bring a dish or dessert to pass. We're sure there will be enough food for everyone!

Pancake Breakfast will be March 15

Coming March 15th (9:15 AM -10:15 AM): Pancake Breakfast sponsored by Gloria Dei Youth-join us for all you can eat pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee. A free will offering to benefit summer camp activities will be taken. Matching funds have been applied for courtesy of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.



Mostly about people: *Our Christian Sympathy is extended to the Bellow family - Ron's mother, Mrs. Ann Bellow died in late February. Please keep Ron, Kathy, Jared, Caleb and all those who mourn in your prayers..... Midweek Lenten Services will begin on March 4 at 6:00 PM (potluck) followed by Evening Prayer.....The Tuesday morning (11 AM) Bible study series continues this month; the group will be studying the book of Hebrews..... Pastor Mary is looking for volunteers willing to take part in some skits during the Lenten season. Please let her know if you're willing to help out.....Joel Englund would like to thank everyone for their calls, cards and visits during his recuperation.....Please update your directory - Joyce Corey has a new address: 995 N Cass Lake Rd, Waterford, MI 48328. Phone: 248-481-2609.....Don't forget to turn your clocks forward one hour before going to bed on Saturday, March 7.....Join us for Dining out with Gloria on Thursday, March 19 at 7:00 at Fino's Restaurant in WaterfordThank you to everyone who generously contributed to the Souperbowl fundraiser on Superbowl Sunday; we collected nearly \$200, which was donated to The Lighthouse. We also thank everyone who assisted with the Souperbowl luncheon following the worship service.....You're invited to a Chili Cook-Off at Christ Lutheran Church in Waterford on Saturday, March 14. Pastor Mary's Praise Band 150 will be providing music. Please see Pastor for details.....Thank you to everyone who donated goodies for the Sweets for your Sweetie fundraiser; the money collected will help benefit summer camp activities.....*



GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Worship with Holy Communion: 10:30 AM
Sunday School: 10:30 AM • Adult Bible Study/Conf. Class: 9:15 AM

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*Youth member

If you are interested in becoming a member of Gloria Dei, please contact Pastor Mary Duerksen at 810-245-1798 or email heatherbrae@att.net

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.