



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 worship on Wednesday
evenings during Lent at 7:00 PM**

DeiMinder

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



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

Lent, Holy Week & Easter Schedule

Wednesdays During Lent

Lenten Midweek Worship: Wednesday, March 3, 10, 17, 24
Worship at 7:00 PM; Meal at 6:00 PM



Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 28
Morning Worship: 10:30 AM
Sunday School: 10:30 AM
Adult Bible Study: 9:15 AM

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 1
Evening Worship: 7:00 PM

Maundy Thursday



Good Friday

Good Friday

Friday, April 2
Open Prayer: Noon – 3 PM
Evening Worship: 7:00 PM

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 4
Morning Worship: 10:30 AM
Easter Breakfast at 9:15 AM
(Prep. for breakfast at 8:45 AM)



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From the Council President

Spring is just around the corner, hiding behind our recently deposited snow banks. In spite of the frosty covered terrain, church life at Gloria Dei goes on. Please be a part of this church life. May the peace of the Lord be with you and your family now and always.



The Purchase Agreement with Frankel Development Corporation has been signed and the Land Contract will be signed as soon as the re-zoning has been finalized with Auburn Hills. This process may take some time so please be patient.

Gloria Dei welcomes Charlie Martin, Licensed Minister Intern, to our midst. He will serve as our Sunday pulpit supply until July and possibly longer. Come to church and introduce yourself to this nice gentleman.

Our Lenten schedule is off and running and we would encourage you to attend the 7P.M. services on Wednesday night and also the pot-luck which precedes the service at 6P.M. The service and pot-luck together are a model for Christian worship and fellowship.

Easter is April 4th. Plan to attend the Easter Breakfast from 9:15-10:00 A.M. The buffet breakfast will be hosted and served by the men of Gloria Dei. It has been a delicious meal in the past and this year's event should be no exception.

Our new council committees are functioning and I would like to thank one in particular. The Care committee of Steve, Jamie and Derek Firman have been busily engaged in calling on the sick and infirmed. God bless them in their work.

I will close with a note of sadness. Barb Lucas a member of the Gloria Dei Council recently passed to eternal glory. All of us on the Council will miss her smiling face and positive demeanor both on the Council and at church. Our deepest sympathies to Ray and the entire Lucas family.

Yours in Christ,
Gene Steensma
Congregation Council President
DeiMinder: March 2010

From our Licensed Minister Intern

To my Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

First I want to thank you all for your warm welcome to your Church family. It has been an interesting transition moving from my usual place of worship to worshipping with you every Sunday. Your friendliness, and acceptance of my learning the traditions and styles of your worship has made this easy.

As we have entered the Lenten season we look forward to the resurrection of our Lord and all that it means to us. While we struggle daily with our own issues in our lives this is a time for prayer and meditation on what this time must have been like for our Savior. We take the time in our own ways to come to the cross as we process through this time. We come to the Wednesday evening services, do our own personal Bible study, and reflect on the challenge that Jesus faced while feeling the impact of our own form of fast. When we march boldly on toward Good Friday we know we can endure because he has already saved us.



Sooner than we realize we will be refreshed in the glory of the Cross on Easter Sunday.

Your servant in Christ,
Minister Charlie

Dining out with Gloria is March 18



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

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH



We need help folding palms!

We will be folding palm crosses for Palm Sunday on Saturday, March 27 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!

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

There will be a special Easter Sunday breakfast on April 4 from 9:15-10:00 A.M. The men of Gloria Dei will be hosting the breakfast, and a free-will offering will be collected. Hope to see you there! (Men who are interested in assisting with the breakfast: please be at church at 8:45 AM to help prepare).



Lenten worship will be each Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM during Lent. A potluck supper will precede the service each week at 6:00 PM.

Coffee hosts are needed!



Coffee hour hosts are needed for many upcoming Sundays. If you are able to serve, please sign the sheet on the bulletin board in the east hallway, across from the library. Thank you in advance for volunteering!

In Memoriam: Barb Lucas

1943-2010

In last month's DeiMinder, we reported that Barb Lucas passed into the Church Triumphant on February 2 after health problems that lasted many months. A "Celebration of Barb's Life" was held at Gloria Dei on Sunday, February 14, with a luncheon held afterwards, hosted by the Gloria Dei Women of the ELCA. Pastor Mary Duerksen officiated at the funeral.



Barb was born in Lansing in September 1943 and was an only child. She was baptized, went to elementary school (1st-8th grade), and was confirmed at Trinity Lutheran Church. She graduated from Sexton High School in Lansing. Barb's father died in 1959 (he was of Swedish and Norwegian descent), and mother (who was of German descent) worked as a baker in the Lansing hospital to support the family. Barb moved to East Lansing in 1961 and attended Michigan State University. After a few years at MSU, she went to the University of California, Santa Barbara. After returning to Michigan, she moved to Dearborn and began work as a travel agent, ending up in Rochester by 1968. Ray met Barb when she was working at Suburban Travel in Rochester. After Ray's first wife died, he and Barb started dating in January 1976 and were married in June 1976 in Lansing at Barb's home church. Barb ended her business career to help Ray raise his son Russ - and a year later, their daughter Joy was born.

The Lucas family lived mostly in Oakland Township and in 1995 moved to an apartment in Auburn Hills. In the 1990's, Barb spend a lot of time caring for her mother (who died in 1995). As an only child, the care of her mother fell completely on her, along with Ray's assistance. Barb and Ray belonged to several Lutheran churches before coming to Gloria Dei (introduced to them by John and Margaret Blake). The couple very much enjoyed attending services at Gloria Dei and joined our congregation several years ago.

Barb enjoyed fairly good health up until August of last year, except for some major health problems in the early 1980's. In late summer

of 2009, she had to undergo bypass heart surgery. Many complications followed and she never recovered. In February 2010, Barb was posthumously named as the 2010 Gloria Dei Woman of the Year. Joy accepted the award on her mother's behalf at the Synod's Woman of the Year luncheon in February.

We give thanks to God for Barb's life and give thanks for her presence in our lives. Please keep Ray, their daughter Joy and son Russ in your prayers, and all those who mourn.

(Thank you to Ray Lucas for his assistance with this article)

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, Roth Anderson, Rhonda Chilkott, Carrie Cook, Vickie Edds, Mary Ann Ferry, The Fugel Family, Ken Fox, Kiara's Mom, Krista Glazmere, Jeffrey Gorecki, Debbie K. Hunt, Nancy Kelly, The family of Lucille Klimowicz, The family of Barb Lucas, Janie Miller, Pearl Penrybacker, Mrs. G. Polasek, David A. Reese, Annie C. Reese, Myrtle Schluchter, Noreen Smith, Family of Robert Spencer, Shawna Trupiano Family, Emma Vidlund, Peter Vidlund, Jamie Williams, Donna Williamson and the military in all areas of the world.

Mostly about people

Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday, March 13.....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.....The Easter Flowers order form is in this issue of the DeiMinder; all orders are due Sunday, March 21.

Lutherans respond generously

With immediate and long-term help for Haiti



PAUL JEFFREY/ACT ALLIANCE

Women line up to receive food and emergency supplies from the Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service in Gressier, outside of Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

The 7.0 magnitude earthquake that rocked Haiti Jan. 12 had global reverberations as relief agencies scrambled to respond. But the Lutheran response was grounded in a long-term presence in Haiti.

The quake's devastation was severe, affecting some 3 million people in the poverty-stricken country, with as many as 150,000 deaths and thousands injured, according to the Haitian government.

The International Organization for Migration estimated that 370,000 people are living in makeshift houses with limited access to clean water and sanitation.

ELCA International Disaster Response, working through its partners (the Lutheran World Federation, Action by Churches Together Alliance, Lutheran World Relief and Church World Service) committed \$1.6 million for immediate relief and recovery following the earthquake, said Megan Bradfield, associate director for international development and disaster response.

Working with several partners in this response is an asset, said Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director for Global Mission. Those partners include "ELCA congregations who are directly involved with their own projects," he said. "That's one of the gifts that we provide: that we are in a position to bring those companions together."

The ELCA initially distributed \$300,000 to support the LWF's work providing blankets, sanitation and hygiene kits, and constructing shelters. LWF is one of the primary on-site agencies for ACT Alliance in this disaster. The ELCA also provided \$150,000 to LWR to send and distribute material aid, including health kits and quilts. An additional \$150,000 helped CWS construct temporary water systems and distribute water purification materials. Source: "The Lutheran"

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Easter Flowers Order Form

The deadline to order is Sunday, March 21.

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.

Please indicate the number of plants you would like in the form below. You may designate each plant in memory or honor of a loved one.

Flower Type	Price	Quantity Ordered	Flower Type	Price	Quantity Ordered
Tulips	\$7		Lilies	\$10	
Hyacinths	\$7		Hydrangae	\$14	
Daffodils	\$7		Azalea	\$14	

Your Name: _____

Number of plants ordered: _____ Total order: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to Gloria Dei, and put your order in the offering plate on Sunday or mail back to the church. The deadline is Sun., March 21.

Plant 1:

- Memory
 Honor

Plant 2:

- Memory
 Honor

Plant 3:

- Memory
 Honor

Plant 4:

- Memory
 Honor

Thank you!

What is Lent?

Lent is a 40-day liturgical season that begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes at the Great Vigil of Easter. Sundays are not included in the 40-day count because every Sunday is a joyful celebration of Jesus' resurrection. Though not biblical, Lent has long been a tradition in the Christian Church, and it is thought that the tradition of the 40 days recalls the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness, fasting and being tempted by Satan (Matthew 4:1-11). Lent is considered a time of penance and discipline.



Because of Lent's penitential nature, worship tends to be more solemn, and purple is the liturgical color of the season. Some congregations remove flowers from the worship space, and for many, songs of praise like the Gloria in Excelsis ("Glory in the highest") and expressions of joy like the exclamation "Alleluia" ("Praise the Lord") are removed from the liturgy until Easter. Many congregations hold special mid-week worship services and promote other devotional activities to help their members concentrate on the Lenten disciplines of fasting, almsgiving (charity) and prayer.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. On this day, Christians focus on their complete sinfulness and the necessity of Christ's suffering and death to insure their salvation. Ashes are referred to many times in the Old Testament as signs of sorrow, mourning, humility, and repentance, and on Ash Wednesday they are used to remind people of their mortality -- that "you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). Many churches use ashes during Ash Wednesday worship in a ritual called the Imposition of Ashes. In this custom, ashes are mixed with a small amount of oil and applied to the forehead of each worshipper.

The Sunday of the Passion or Palm Sunday begins the last week of Lent, known as Holy Week. During this holiest time of the church year, the worship services relive the final week of our Lord's human life. Holy Week includes Maundy Thursday, when Christians observe Christ's "Last Supper" -- the institution of the Sacrament of Holy Communion -- and the mandate to serve one another in love. Good Friday commemorates the imprisonment, trial and death by crucifixion of Jesus.

Lent culminates on Saturday evening of Holy Week in the Great Vigil of Easter, when Christians gather in darkness, light new fire, and celebrate the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies in the resurrection of Christ.

Source: ELCA



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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.



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 6 PM: Potluck supper 7 PM: Lenten worship ★Jennifer Wittenstrom	4	5	6
7 AM Gordy G. 9:15 A: Adult Bible Lec Al Nelson Study Grt Kay D. 10:30 A: Sunday School Aco Sebastian 10:30 A: Worship w/ Sac Delores S. Holy Communion Cof NEEDED!	8 ★Nancy Leko	9	10 6 PM: Potluck supper 7 PM: Lenten worship	11 7 P: Council Meeting ★Bruce Robertson	12	13 Bedtime: Turn clocks ahead one hour ★Bill Vandecar
14 AM Gene S. 9:15 A: Adult Bible Lec Steve F. Study Grt Nelsons 10:30 A: Sunday School Aco Derek F. 10:30 A: Worship w/ Sac Scott J. Holy Communion Cof NEEDED!	15	16	17 6 PM: Potluck supper 7 PM: Lenten worship	18 7 PM: Dining out with Gloria at Palm Palace (Squirrel between Walton and University)	19	20
21 AM Derek F. 9:15 A: Adult Bible Stdy Lec Gene S. 10:30 A: Sunday School Grt Sharon C. 10:30 A: Worship w/ Aco Angela R. Holy Communion Sac Sebastian <i>Newsletter deadline</i> Cof Firmans <i>Easter flowers deadline</i>	22	23	24 6 PM: Potluck supper 7 PM: Lenten worship ★Robert Englund ★Andrea Sheys	25	26	27 10 A: Palm Folding
Palm Sunday 28 AM Sebastian 9:15 A: Adult Bible Lec TBA Study Grt Bill V. 10:30 A: Sunday School Aco Daniella B. 10:30 A: Worship w/ Sac Linda N. Holy Communion Cof NEEDED! ★Jan Polasek	29	30	31	<i>Worship Assistants - Legend</i> <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		