

Gloria Dei Tidings

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Greetings Gloria Dei,

Your Church Council has spent the last year evaluating the current governance structure of the church. Through discussions with fellow ELCA Congregations and the SE Iowa Synod the council plans to propose changes to the Constitution at the May congregational meeting. The changes hope to address the following goals:

- Greater involvement in the number of members that can participate in the life of the church
- Short term commitments to help prevent burnout and provide options to fit different schedules
- Greater flexibility to address congregational interests and community needs
- Allow people to become involved in more than one area of interest

The proposed changes would alter the current structure from 7 constitutionally mandated committees (the 6 in the chart below plus the property committee) to 3 working groups: Worship, Service to others, and Growth in faith. The work of current committees would continue within newly formed working groups. However, new short-term or activity-specific groups can be formed by any member of the congregation to address congregation and community needs.

<i>Worship</i>	<i>Service to Others</i>	<i>Growth in Faith</i>
<i>Worship</i>	<i>Evangelism & Social Ministry</i>	<i>Youth Ministry & Adult Education</i>

These working groups would be represented on council by an ‘advocate.’ Unlike the current structure, advocates would not be responsible to chair or attend meetings related to ministry and events within the working groups. This would increase the pool of volunteers by eliminating the need of council members to attend/run meetings. In addition, members of the congregation may participate in current groups or create new groups that fit their interests without committing their time to council meetings. Any group that is formed to address a need can be disbanded upon completion of the event. This way people can participate without fear of agreeing to a ‘never ending’ commitment.

Along with structural changes, the make-up of council would reduce from 10 elected positions (7 committee chairs plus President, Secretary, and Treasurer) to 6-8 (3 advocates, President, Secretary, and Treasurer with an option for the congregation to elect up to 2 at-large members if needed). The advocates and President would still have 2 year terms (with a maximum of 2 terms). At-large members give the congregation flexibility to adapt future council size without changing the constitution again.

While most of the current constitutionally mandated committees would no longer be required, there would be 5 standing committees - 2 of which are new. The Nominating, Audit, and Finance committees will continue and a Mutual Ministry committee and Personnel committee would be added. These committees along with the property committee would work with the executive committee of the council (made up of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Pastor). The Mutual Ministry committee is a space for the pastor to reflect and receive support and have a sounding board for ministry ideas outside of the church council. The Personnel committee assists with the hiring and management of congregational staff .

On March 24, a presentation was made and produced great discussion and feedback. The general sentiment was to move forward and have opportunities for further conversation. These changes will require two congregational votes. The first of those votes will be in May, and if it passes, the second vote will take place in November. New council members would be voted on in May 2025.

On behalf of your Council and with gratitude for your questions and input as conversation continues,
 President Scot Reisinger

Worship

- ◆ Join us in person or on Facebook Live each Sunday at 9 a.m.
- ◆ Watch on YouTube - posted by 11 a.m. each Sunday - GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH (gloriadeicr.com)



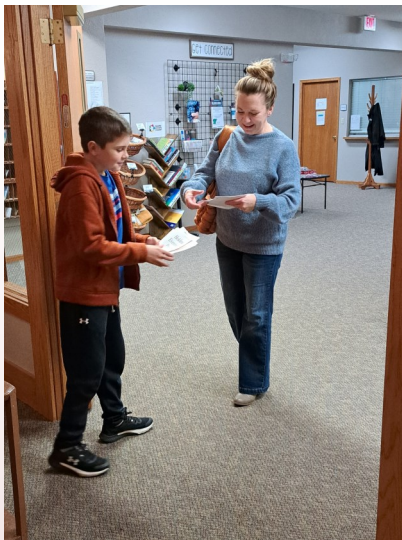
CREATED TO BE
OUTDOOR MINISTRIES CURRICULUM

New Orleans
FRENCH QUARTER

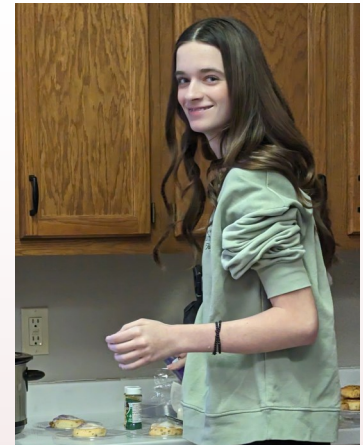
Our next Others First Breakfast on Sunday, April 7 will be hosted by our High School youth. A free-will offering will be collected to help fund their summer trip to New Orleans.



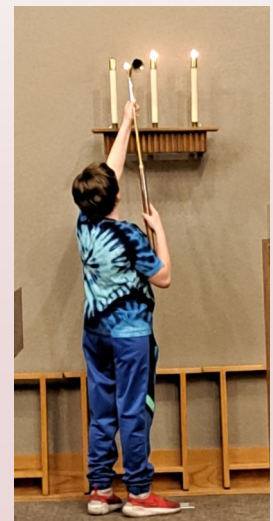
Thank you to everyone who served during the Simple Soup Suppers and Mid-week Lenten Worship!



Jude was one of our Ushers during mid-week Lenten Worship. Gabby helped served her mom's delicious soup and Lance enjoyed lighting the candles. Thank you to many of our confirmation youth for serving during Lent.



Char DeWitt, Melody Wiebold, Ginger Larson, Lonny Larson, and Seth Fultz



Pray

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, who in your self-emptying love gathered up and reconciled all creation to the Father. Innumerable galaxies of the heavens worship you. Creatures that grace the earth rejoice in you. All those in the deepest seas bow to you in adoration. As with them we give you praise, grant that we may cherish the earth, our home, and live in harmony with this good creation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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Thank you to our blood donors for helping out at our March Blood Drive.

We collected 12 units of blood which will help up to 48 people! Our **next blood drive** will be held by Holy Redeemer in July.

April Calendar

Wednesday, April 3	5:00 pm - Adult Study; "Life Lessons from Mark"
Thursday, April 4	7:00 am - Women's Study
Sunday, April 7	9:00 am - Worship 10:15 am - Others First Breakfast Hosted by High School Youth (Free-Will Offering for Youth New Orleans Trip)
Wednesday, April 10	5:00 pm - Adult Study; "Life Lessons from Mark" 5:30 pm - BLAST Dinner (everyone is welcome) 6:00 pm - BLAST activities 6:00 pm - Confirmation Class
Thursday, April 11	7:00 am - Women's Study 6:30 pm - Council Meeting
Sunday, April 14	9:00 am - Worship 10:15 am - GiFT
Tuesday, April 16	6:30 pm - Circle of Faith
Wednesday, April 17	5:00 pm - Adult Study; "Life Lessons from Mark" 6:00 pm - Confirmation Class (Assemble Personal Care Kits)
Thursday, April 18	7:00 am - Women's Study
Saturday, April 20	9:00 am - Prayer Shawl
Sunday, April 21	9:00 am - Worship (Earth Day) 10:15 am - Community Trash PICK-UP Event
Wednesday, April 24	5:00 pm - Adult Study; "Life Lessons from Mark" 6:00 pm - Confirmation Class
Thursday, April 25	7:00 am - Women's Study 11:00 am - Young at Heart will gather at Pizza Ranch (2450 Westdale Dr. SW)
Saturday, April 27	8:00 am - Property Spring Clean Up 9:00 am - Youth Can Redemption Day
Sunday, April 28	9:00 am - Worship 10:15 am - GiFT (Visioning)

Earth Day is April 22nd

What can we do as community to keep our earth clean and healthy for everyone?

Hold a COMMUNITY TRASH PICK-UP EVENT!

On **Sunday, April 21** we invite you to join community members/neighbors as we pick up garbage, litter & debris in our community.

Show your love for our neighborhood and help beautify our community. **After worship we will meet in the fellowship hall** for some refreshments and cookies, then plan our destinations.

Bring heavy duty gloves if you have them. Trash bags will be provided. Many hands make light work so bring your friends and family! If you have questions or need other information please contact Coralie Vail at 319-396-2641. Email: community@gloriadeicr.com



Study

April 7

- ◇ Acts 4:32-35
- ◇ Psalm 133
- ◇ 1 John 1:1--2:2
- ◇ John 20:19-31

April 14

- ◇ Acts 3:12-19
- ◇ Psalm 4
- ◇ 1 John 3:1-7
- ◇ Luke 24:36b-48

April 21

- ◇ Acts 4:5-12
- ◇ Psalm 23
- ◇ 1 John 3:16-24
- ◇ John 10:11-18

April 28

- ◇ Acts 8:26-40
- ◇ Psalm 22:25-31
- ◇ 1 John 4:7-21
- ◇ John 15:1-8

Thank You

Our thanks to the following members of our "team" in March:

- ◆ **High School Youth** for their hard work helping with Holy Saturday Easter Event.
- ◆ All the Congregation for the generous donations of Easter candy.
- ◆ **Emily Lauer** for her solo during Good Friday Worship.
- ◆ **Karen Goedeken** for coordinating the LWR efforts.
- ◆ **Ron Miller** for his diligence in the construction of our new elevator.

And from **Cathy Siepman** a big thank you to:

- ◆ Soup chefs: **Laurie Weber, Denise Jorgensen** and **Chris Bock**.
- ◆ It wouldn't have been successful without the servers and clean up team: Thank you to **Geoff, Gabbie, and Hayden Weber; LaVonne Houser, June Teigland, Mike Bock, and Cathy Siepman**.

"Another successful five weeks of simple soup and bread suppers and many thanks to the cooks, servers, and people that attended. It was good fellowship and delicious homemade soups each week." Cathy said.

And a BIG thank you to Cathy for coordinating everything!

Donate

Items Requested for Personal Care Kits

Items are still being collected to make Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. The kits are one of the most requested items and make a simple yet profound difference to families struggling in poverty or living in disaster-affected areas. When families find their homes destroyed, or must flee for their safety, soap and a towel rarely make the cut for what they can carry. When they arrive at a refugee camp, they are scared, vulnerable and dirty from the travel. The simple items included in a Personal Care Kit provide much-needed self-care, critical germ fighting, and the chance to regain dignity amidst situations of fear and uncertainty. Put your faith into action by providing the following items: **lightweight, dark color, bath-size towels; bath-size bars of soap, any brand; adult-size toothbrushes; sturdy combs (no picks or fine-toothed combs); and metal nail clippers**. Please

place your gifts in the basket tower near the mailboxes. We will assemble the kits on April 17 and deliver them to Trinity Lutheran Church on April 20.



Game Time

Can you guess this riddle?

How does Moses make his coffee?

Send your answer to office@gloriadeicr.com or call 319-396-2641 to have your name put into a drawing for a small prize! *Clue: Spelling is important!*

We will draw a name on April 15th. Coralie Vail will contact the winner then! Happy Guessing!

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH FUNDRAISER

We would love your recycled cans or plastic bottles to help support the fundraising efforts for our high school youth's New Orleans trip this summer.

Clear bags will be available to pick up in the church office after April 1. We ask that all cans be brought in only the designated clear bags from the Can Shed. Drop off at the church April 22nd - April 26th. Our youth will take them to the Can Shed on Saturday, April 27th.

Cans and plastic bottles must be in separate bags.
WE WILL NOT COLLECT LOOSE CANS.
Coralie Vail can answer any questions you may have.
Email: Community@gloriadeicr.com



**CAN OR
PLASTIC
BOTTLE
DRIVE**



Starts back up on April 10th.

This month's theme is: Spring Celebration

Enjoy dinner at 5:30 p.m.
Egg hunt, crafts, games and lessons will begin at 6:00 p.m.

We look forward to seeing you!

BLAST BAGS

We still have a few BLAST bags left over from March. You are welcome to come by and pick one up! We will have additional bags available each month to share with our community. If you have a friend or know a neighbor who would enjoy these fun activities, please take an extra bag and share it with them.

Let's spread joy to others!

April bags will be available after April 7.

*"But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."
Hebrews 13:16*



Education

ADULT STUDY - SIX WEEK COURSE

LED BY PASTOR PHIL JORGENSEN

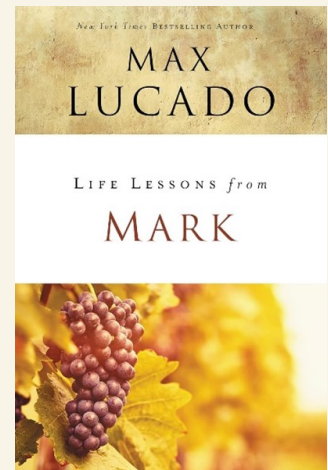
WEEK ONE

Wednesday, April 3rd

5:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday evening course exploring the book
"LIFE LESSONS FROM MARK" BY MAX LUCADO
Books are \$5 and can be purchased from the office.

Next Course Dates: April 10th, April 17th, April 24th, May 1st, May 8th



April Newsletter 2024

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

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Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

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Invite

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business@gloriadeicr.com
community@gloriadeicr.com

Website: www.gloriadeicr.com

Please remember to periodically check your mailbox in the church fellowship hall.

And like us on Facebook!

Others First Breakfast following worship on **Sunday, April 7**. We invite everyone to stay for fellowship and a warm breakfast.

BLaST Supper will be served on **Wednesday, April 10** at 5:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to join! **BLaST activities** will begin at 6:00 p.m.

Truck Loading for the LWR kits will be on **Saturday, April 20**. More details will be available in our weekly announcements.

COMMUNITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY following worship on **Sunday, April 21**. More details about this event on page 3.

Young at Heart, Gloria Dei's fellowship group for those over age 55, gets together monthly for breakfast or lunch. The group meets next at **11:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 25 at Pizza Ranch** (2450 Westdale Dr. SW)