

April 2018

Greetings Gloria Dei Family –

Happy Easter from Gloria Dei Church, its Pastors, Church Council, Staff, and Lay Leaders! We hope that you feel the excitement and energy of the risen Lord and the wonderful love of God during this season. Despite the recent snow it is indeed now spring and there are finally birds chirping and flowers budding. What a great time to send you some thoughts from your faith family at GDC and to kick off our 2018-2019 pledge campaign.

We had an amazing journey through the wilderness of the Lenten season. Between the special Growing in Grace Series taught by several of members of Gloria Dei and our preaching series reflecting on the wilderness journeys of the Jewish people and Jesus we were able to delve deep into our own wilderness journeys in life. We continued the emphasis on making the journey into Jerusalem with palms and processions on Palm Sunday. That day we also had over 80 children participate in our Easter Egg Hunt and our youth served 120+ persons during the pancake breakfast. Easter Sunday we delighted in our children singing as we celebrated the resurrection of Jesus in profound worship experiences.

This spring we have a new six-week Growing in Grace Series called “Hands and Feet: Putting our Statement of Faith into Action,” taught by Pastor Jim. This series will begin on April 17th. This summer, Pastor Karyn will teach a multi-week series on “Bad Girls of the Bible: Heroines and Harlots.” These education and formation opportunities are important for continuing to develop our faith as individuals and as a community. We hope you will join us.

Several ministry groups have been well received this Winter and Spring. Our “What Would Jesus Brew” gatherings have been engaging and fun. This group meets the second Thursday of each month at an area restaurant. On April 12th we will meet at Otto’s Brauhaus in Horsham. Come at 6:30pm for dinner or join us at 7:00 for “just” the conversation. The Men’s group meets in Sacred Grounds on the second and fourth Wednesdays from 8-10am. The evening Women’s group meets on the last Thursday of the month from 6:30-8pm. The morning Women’s group meets on the last Tuesday of the month from 8:30-10am. The energy and enthusiasm from these meetings is a great testament to our faith in action!

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As we plan for the spring here are some more ministries that you can participate in or help with:

- Join our VBS Planning Team! Help us insure this is another great year for all the kids who attend and are impacted by this important ministry. Contact Kelly Podlaszewski, Children and Family Ministries Director, at kidsandfamily@gloriadei.com to sign up. VBS is scheduled for August 6-10, so mark your calendars now. We had an amazing number of people help out last year and would love to repeat or surpass that number.
- We hope your youth will join us for “Friday Night Live”, planned and led by Chris Frank, Youth Director. They spend each Friday playing games, eating pizza, and getting to know each other.
- Join Senior Ministries Director Betsy Maier and her crew for a Lunch and Learn. On Sunday, April 22nd at 12:30pm they will have a “Loving your Home: 3 Ways to Enjoy Your House This Spring” event after worship. Sign up by April 17th for this informative event.

There are lots of ways to get involved at Gloria Dei Church; we encourage you to find one that fits you!

Our church mission is to **“Love all, Serve all, in Jesus’ name.”** To do this and the ministries you have read about in this letter, we need you. We are currently working on a budget that reflects our strategic goals of improving and expanding the children, youth, family, and senior ministries at Gloria Dei Church. Our fiscal year is September 1st to August 31st which is why our budgeting process is happening now. With your support, we can do what we are called to do. With your gifts, we can continue to make an impact in the lives of our children, youth, and families. With you, we can keep our building in top shape and our staff working for all of you. With you, Gloria Dei can be all that God is calling it to be. We need you and your generous support of our church’s mission and ministry. To plan, we need to know how and when we will receive your gifts. Enclosed is your giving statement through March and a pledge form. We are asking you to complete the pledge form and return it to GDC during the April 15th Pledge Sunday worship services or by mail by the end of April. You can also fill out the form online at www.gloriadei.com/stewardship.

As we enter into this blessed Easter season celebrating our Savior’s resurrection, we ask you to prayerfully consider your future giving to Gloria Dei Church. We are so thankful for all you have already done for our church and will appreciate anything you gift us with as we plan all of our activities and ministry outreach for the coming year. We want to sincerely thank you for your support of Gloria Dei Church in the past, in the present, and into the future. We invite you to be part of the wonderful things that are happening at Gloria Dei Church and to [join us in our 2018-2019 giving campaign](#) as we move into the future.

Grace and Peace –

Pastor Jim and Pastor Karyn, Church Council, and the Generosity Team