

July 2018

Gloria Dei Family –

We bring you greetings from Gloria Dei Church, its Pastor, Church Council, Staff, and Lay Leaders. Hope you are staying cool! We also hope that you have some plans for rest and relaxation during the last weeks of summer.

There is a lot going on this summer at Gloria Dei. We will share an overview of the following events and activities in this letter:

- Our congregational meeting on June 10th
- Community Meals serving it's 7000th participant
- Youth Mission Trip leaving on July 22nd
- Vacation Bible school from August 6-10
- Pastoral changes and a search for an interim pastor
- Update on giving, expenses, and pledging.

Congregational Meeting: We had our congregational meeting on June 10th and passed Goal 1 of our Strategic Plan and our 2018-19 Budget (our new budget year is September 1 to August 31). Strategic Planning Goal #1 - Improve and enlarge our ministry capacity for children, youth, and families through an integration of multiple objectives. The three main areas of impact are building improvements, programming improvements, and technology improvements.

Several of the key elements of the strategic plan:

- making the welcome and ramp areas before the elevator to the Sunday School rooms more inviting and bright,
- creating a soft "Prayground" in the rear left area of the sanctuary for children and parents,
- shortening two pews towards the front of the sanctuary in order to provide wheelchair accessible aisles,
- updating the youth spaces – Underground and Couch Rooms,
- doing two intergenerational Family Nights each quarter – movie nights, ice cream socials, etc. We will depend on our Age Level Ministry Directors Betsy Maier (Seniors), Chris Frank (Youth and Young Adults) and our new Children and Family Ministries Director when we complete that search,
- adding staff for a new Program Assistant (10-15 hours a week),
- creating more interaction with our Preschool parents through education and fun activities,
- upgrading our website to include the ability to live-stream our services, interactive elements, and the flexibility to be more adaptive to our needs,
- updating the technology (computer, screen, cameras, and projector) in the sanctuary.

We are excited about these new ministry opportunities and upgrades. But we need you to be part of all of this excitement, too. We will dedicate these areas on Sunday, September 16th, with a Fall Kick Off Sunday with one worship service and a picnic after church. Join us and spread the news about Gloria Dei to your friends, neighbors, co-workers, and others you come in contact with. Don't you want to share this place with others in your life?

Community Meals: Our Tuesday Community Meals Program just passed their three-year anniversary. At this point they have served over 7,000 meals. That is an incredible amount of lives impacted. The folks who come to eat with us are a wonderful bunch who have formed community together. They look out for each other and support each other in some really powerful ways. We want to thank everyone who volunteers their time for this program. The “Kitchen Crew” is a blessing to us and to our Tuesday night community.

Vacation Bible School: Our VBS is scheduled for August 6-10. The program is Raging Rapids and the kids are going to have quite an adventure. Join our VBS Team to help us break another record of kids and adults involved in this ministry. Contact Kelly Podlaszewski, our outgoing Children and Family Ministries Director at kidsandfamily@gloriadei.com to sign up. They still need several volunteers to teach and help with the program. We are in the process of doing interviews for the Director of Children and Family Ministries position and hope to have a new person in place by the early Fall. Kelly is continuing to help us out with VBS and creating the “Prayground.”

Youth Mission Trip: Over 20 youth and adults will be heading out on Sunday, July 22nd, for the annual Youth Mission Trip. They are going to work on houses and other much needed renovations with other mission youth in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. We ask you to pray for them during their weeklong faith and mission experience.

Pastoral Changes/Interim: This Spring brought changes to our pastoral staff, as well. Pastor Jim left us and is seeking a new call. We wish him the very best on his new adventure. We had a lovely farewell Sunday for him on May 20th. We are on track, according to the Synod, to receive an Interim Pastor in the fall. We hope to welcome this person on our Kick Off Sunday, September 16. We ask for your continued prayers and support of our congregation during this transitional time.

Budget/Giving Update: We are a bit behind on our income and spending budget, due to excessive snow removal and tree work required after a number of storms this winter. If you are able and feel called to give additionally at this time to help us catch up, we would greatly appreciate that gift.

Pledging: 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. When we passed our budget for our 2018-2019 fiscal year, it reflected our strategic goals of improving and expanding the children, youth, and family ministries at Gloria Dei Church. To do this planning, we depend on you to let us know how and when we will receive your generous gifts over the next year. Without your support we cannot do what we are called to do. You can find the current pledge card on our website – gloriadei.com. You can give to Gloria Dei in a number of ways – by check or cash, by electronic giving online, annually with your IRA distributions, gifts of appreciated stocks, and you can even text your giving from the pews (there are cards explaining the process in the pew racks). We appreciate you and your support always and in all ways!

We hope that the quarterly letters we have been sending allow you to monitor your family’s giving, while also providing you with the opportunity to learn about and celebrate what is happening at Gloria Dei Church. 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 your church as we move into the future.

Grace and Peace –

Pastor Karyn, Church Council, and the Generosity Team