

September 2017

Gloria Dei Family –

Hello from Gloria Dei Church, its Pastors, Church Council, Staff, and Lay Leaders. We hope this letter finds you coming out of an exciting summer and preparing for the kick-off of our busy fall schedule here at GDC.



One of the highlights of the summer was our third Vacation Bible School. This year's theme was Hero Central. We had 125 kids, we had over 60 adult and youth volunteers, and we raised over \$1300 for one of our Preschool students fighting for his life after a recent diagnosis of brain cancer. The kids sang, did crafts, played outside, acted out Bible stories, ate snacks, and learned about science as they became super heroes for God. It was an amazing week and we thank everyone who helped make it possible, especially Kelly Podlaszewski, our Children and Family Ministry Director, and Rick and Jean Graber. We are grateful for the way our church came together again to make these kids our priority and to make our VBS shine.

Also, this summer 27 adults and youth went on a Group Mission Trip to Woonsocket, Rhode Island. They painted, repaired homes, got to know youth from around the country, talked about their faith journeys, and learned about mission work. It was our 22nd annual youth mission trip and the youth are already making decisions about where they are going next year. We are in the interviewing process of hiring a new Youth Director and are building an Advisory Team to help any new hire in guiding our youth ministry into the future.

Our kitchen is up and running and we're using it for our Fall Kick-off Sunday on September 17th. We'll have one service at 10am. We will bless backpacks and school supplies – so have your kids bring them to church so we can bless them. Or you can bring some supplies to send to your kids or grandkids, nieces or nephews, or donate to a local school. We will also bless our Preschool teachers and all teachers and educators of any kind during the service. After the service, we will head downstairs and outside for a picnic. The church will provide the meats and drinks. You are invited to bring sides and desserts. It will be a great day to enjoy the kitchen and deck. We'll have a separate dedication day for the new kitchen on Oct. 29., when we will have one service, celebrate Reformation Day, enjoy a meal after church, and thank all of the donors and volunteers who helped make the new kitchen possible.

Enclosed in this mailing is a Covenant Card for our Time and Talents campaign, *Step Up in Faith*. The life of a disciple is one of generosity, study, mission, and worship. We give with our hearts, our hands, our minds, and our wallets. Our *Step Up In Faith* campaign is asking you to think of giving in this multi-faceted way. Right now we are asking you to let us know your intentions for your time and talent gifts to the church. Discipleship is about being the church in this community and out in the world in all the ways we can. We are asking you to “step up” with your discipleship.

We are inviting you to fill out and return the enclosed Covenant form to the church to let us know how you will support us in carrying out our mission and ministry as a community of faith. We hope to get a filled in Covenant form this year from as many people as we have in our new 2017 church directory! You can return the form any Sunday at church on or before October 29th or mail it to the church office. We need your support to help us achieve our goals as a community to live out the call

of mission and ministry around the corner and around the globe. If you need additional copies of the form, they will be available at the back of the church and downloadable from the church web site. *We want each youth and adult member of your family to fill out a separate form.*

Through our time with our consultant we have identified a new identity statement that many of you may have already seen in the bulletin and tri-fold. It comes straight out of our Statement of Faith and the Marks of Discipleship. We hope to begin using it even more in our advertising and social media in the weeks to come.

Our Mission...

Love All, Serve All, in Jesus' Name.

Come as you are to grow in faith and to serve others.

We are a community committed to:

- ◆ Living in prayerful ways.
- ◆ Giving back because we have been blessed.
- ◆ Serving others through mission.
- ◆ Coming together to worship God.
- ◆ Strengthening our relationships.
- ◆ Asking questions and continuously learning.

Other consultant recommendations include our Council Retreat this Summer to make important decisions about procedures and planning, working with our HR Committee to clearly define job descriptions and policies, holding conversations and changing worship times to allow for flexibility between services, and increasing hospitality options on Sundays to create a better sense of community. We will continue to implement these and other recommendations in the future.

We hope that these quarterly letters allow you to monitor your giving, while also providing you with the opportunity to learn about and celebrate what is happening at Gloria Dei Church. We know that not everyone receives emails and this is the best way to assure that everyone is kept informed.

We want to sincerely thank you for your support of Gloria Dei Church in the past, in the present, and into the future. All the ways you participate in the life of the church are important. We invite you to be part of the wonderful things that are happening at Gloria Dei Church and to *Step Up In Faith* with us as we move into the future.

Grace and Peace –

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