

# Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 13, 2026

9:30 AM



**GLORIA DEI**  
**LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
GATHERING IN CHRIST ✝ SHARING HIS LOVE

**We welcome all who worship with us. If you are a guest, we are especially glad that you have chosen to worship with us today. Our worship is always enhanced by new faces and voices. If you are already a part of our church family, welcome home.**

**130 S. Lone Oak Dr. Leesburg, FL  
34748**

**Email: [gloriadeilutheranleesburg@gmail.com](mailto:gloriadeilutheranleesburg@gmail.com)**

**Phone:**

**352-787-3223**

# Participating in Today's Service:

**Pastor:** Reverend Tony  
VanCura, Pastor

**Music Director:** Len Cremisio

**After Worship Secretary:** Jeanne Talts

*(In order to assist the Pastor, if you need the Pastor to contact someone or address something)*

## **Assistant Ministers:**

**Reader:** Chris Russell

**Crucifer:** Leone Goding

**Assisting Minister:** Kathy Bush

**Ushers:** Byron Kirkpatrick  
Ritch Cassem  
John Kelly  
Craig Carlson

## GATHERING HYMN:

ELW 452 "Awake, O Sleeper, Rise From Death"

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism as the presiding minister begins.*

In the name of the Father, and of the ✚ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

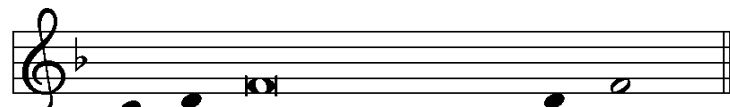
Most merciful God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✚ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

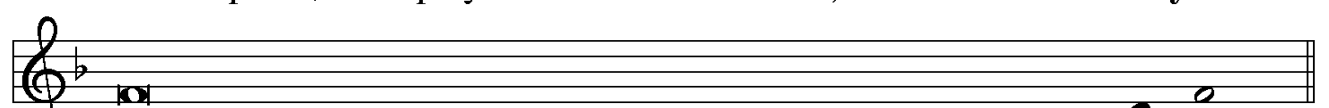
KYRIE. P. 138



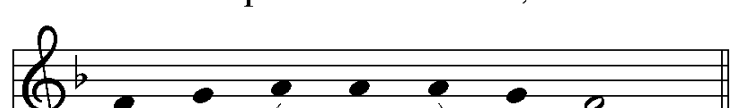
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



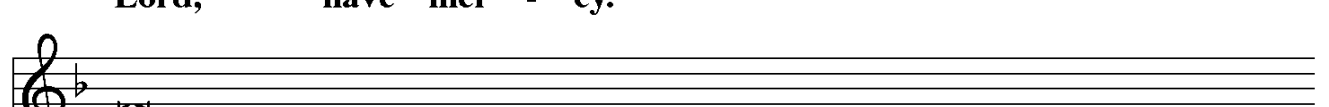
Lord, have mer - cy.



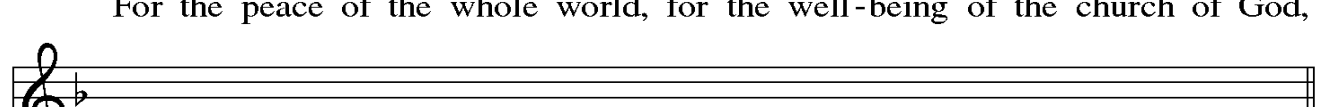
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



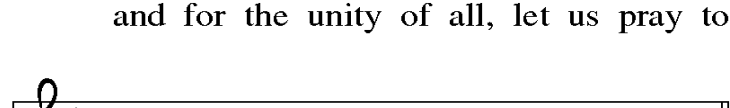
Lord, have mer - cy.



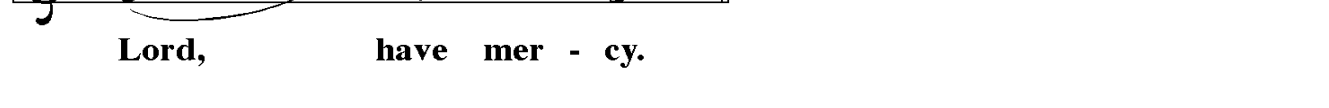
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



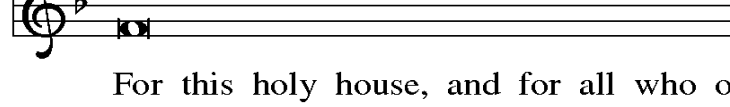
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



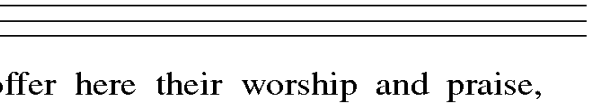
Lord, have mer - cy.



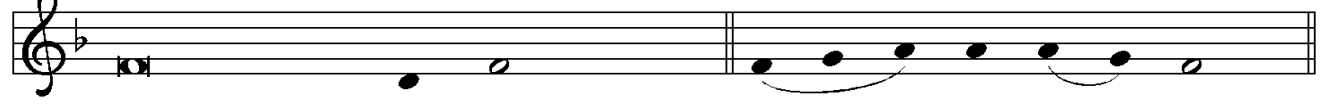
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



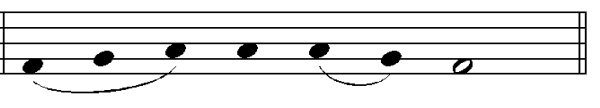
let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.



A - men.

## HYMN OF PRAISE P. 139

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

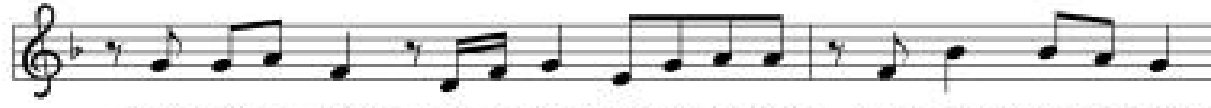
All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you;  
**And also with you.**

Let us pray:

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## WORD

### FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

<sup>15</sup>Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" <sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup>'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. <sup>21</sup>So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The Word of the Lord;  
**thanks be to God.**

### PSALM: Psalm 103: [1-7] 8-13

*Read responsively, the congregation speaks the bold lines.*

<sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

**<sup>2</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all God's benefits—**

<sup>3</sup>who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases;

**<sup>4</sup>who redeems your life from the grave  
and crowns you with steadfast love and  
mercy;**

<sup>5</sup>who satisfies your desires with good things  
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

**<sup>6</sup>O LORD, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.**

<sup>7</sup>You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.

**<sup>8</sup>LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**

<sup>9</sup>you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.

**<sup>10</sup>You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

<sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

**<sup>12</sup>As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

<sup>13</sup>As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

## **SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

<sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord.

Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

<sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,

and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

<sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The Word of the Lord; **thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

**ELW 151 “Alleluia, Lord to Whom Shall We Go”**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

**GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup>Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup>“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made.

<sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’

<sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place.

<sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

*The gospel concludes:*

The gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY:**

**ELW 359 “Where Love and Charity Prevail”**

**MESSAGE: Rev. Tony VanCura, Pastor**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*

*Please remain standing.*

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit**

**and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Lord in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

# MEAL

## OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. A second collection is received today for our hunger ministry.*

Deuteronomy 16:17

Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord, your God, which he has given you.

## OFFERTORY: ELW 184 "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

*After the table is set, the assisting minister leads in prayer. Please stand at the invitation to pray:*

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS: ELW pg. 144 "Holy, Holy, Holy"



## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

*The Presiding minister leads the Eucharistic Prayer*

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of  
sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

### **\*THE LORD'S PRAYER** *(Spoken)*

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The banquet of our Lord is prepared and offered to all. Taste and see the Lord is good.

**LAMB OF GOD: ELW pg. 146 “Lamb of God”**

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN:**

**ELW 472 “Eat This Bread”**

**ELW 471 “Let Us Break Bread Together”**

**DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION:**

*Communion is open to all. We offer wine in individual glasses, followed by the Common Cup for those who prefer this tradition. The center ring of the tray contains white grape juice for those who prefer juice instead of wine. Gluten-free wafers are also available to anyone who requires or prefers them.*

**COMMUNION BLESSING**

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen and preserve you unto eternal life.

**POST COMMUNION CANTICLE:**

**ELW 207 “Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise”**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Please remain standing:*

Let us pray together. **We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## SENDING

### BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✙ give you His peace.

### THREEFOLD AMEN *(SUNG)*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SENDING HYMN:

**ELW 544 "Praise the Lord, Rise Up, Rejoicing"**

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

*The end of Worship –  
The beginning of Christian Ministry.*

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**Gloria Dei Lutheran Church**  
**www.gloriadeielca.com**  
**130 South Lone Oak Drive**  
**Leesburg, Florida 34748**

|                                  |                                                                              |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Reverend Tony VanCura, Pastor    | <a href="mailto:pastorgdlclesburg@gmail.com">pastorgdlclesburg@gmail.com</a> |
| Evelyn Rollins, Administrator    | c. 352-787-3223                                                              |
| Leonard Cremisio, Music Director | c. 352-638-3695                                                              |

- Altar Care:** Crystal & Byron Kirkpatrick,  
Craig Carlson
- After Worship Sec.:** Helga LaCava *(In order to assist the Pastor, if you need the Pastor to contact someone or address something)*
- Counters:** Jeanne Talts
- Greeters:**
- Fellowship:** Jeanne Talts, Vaike O’Grady
- Communion Wine:** Given to the Glory of God.
- Altar Flowers:** Jeanne Talts, in honor of Vaike and Tom’s anniversary.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS!

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

|              |             |                   |                               |
|--------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Sun.</b>  | <b>9/13</b> | <b>9:30 a.m.</b>  | <b>Sunday Service</b>         |
|              |             | <b>11:00 a.m.</b> | <b>God's Work. Our Hands.</b> |
| <b>Mon.</b>  | <b>9/14</b> | <b>7:00 p.m.</b>  | <b>Zoom Bible Study</b>       |
| <b>Tues.</b> | <b>9/15</b> | <b>10:00 a.m.</b> | <b>Morning Prayer</b>         |
|              |             | <b>4:30 p.m.</b>  | <b>Choir Rehearsal</b>        |

## NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR

|              |             |                   |                                            |
|--------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sun.</b>  | <b>9/20</b> | <b>9:30 a.m.</b>  | <b>Sunday Service/<br/>Hunger Offering</b> |
| <b>Mon.</b>  | <b>9/21</b> | <b>7:00 p.m.</b>  | <b>Zoom Bible Study</b>                    |
| <b>Tues.</b> | <b>9/22</b> | <b>10:00 a.m.</b> | <b>Morning Prayer</b>                      |
|              |             | <b>4:30 p.m.</b>  | <b>Choir Rehearsal</b>                     |
| <b>Fri.</b>  | <b>9/25</b> | <b>9:00 a.m.</b>  | <b>Quilting</b>                            |

**Attendance for Sunday, September 6, 2026: 59**

## BIRTHDAYS

**Deborah Cassem** **Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>**

## ANNIVERSARY

**Chris and Karen Russell** **Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> 38yrs.**

## BIBLE STUDIES

### Zoom Bible Study

For the Monday Zoom Bible Study, we are studying a variety of topics. We meet **every Monday at 7pm.** Contact the church office for the Zoom meeting link.

**Interested in Leading a Bible Study?** We are looking for individuals who feel called to lead a Bible Study group. If you have a passion for scripture and a desire to help others grow in their faith, we encourage you to consider this opportunity. If you're interested or would like more information, please speak with Christine Carlson.



If you would like to join Gloria Dei Church, please see Pastor Tony after our 9:30 Sunday service. You can also give him a call at 407-765-2822.



There are Gloria Dei members of our congregation who would come to church if they had a way to get here. We need volunteers for our "Rides to Church" program. If you would like to get involved in this ministry, please call the church office at 352-787-3223.

## WE NEED VOLUNTEERS.....



We need **volunteers for Assisting Ministers, Crucifers and Readers!!!** If you would like to try it but need a little more information, please contact the church office. Thank you.



## Help Host Our After-Worship Gatherings!

We're looking for volunteers to provide light refreshments—such as snacks, coffee, and juice—after worship on Sundays. It's a great way to extend our fellowship and hospitality. **If you'd like to help, please contact Marie Davids via email at [mewdean@live.com](mailto:mewdean@live.com).** Thank you!



**WELCA stands for Women of the ELCA, which means every woman of Gloria Dei is already part of WELCA.**

While participation has changed as seasons of life bring moves, health concerns, and aging, the heart of WELCA remains strong and welcoming.

If you are able, we warmly invite you to become more involved through the **Mary Martha Circle** or **Ruth Circle**. If monthly meetings aren't possible, your help with projects and special gatherings is always welcome and appreciated.

WELCA's mission is "**Mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.**" Together, we grow in faith, support one another, use our gifts, and serve our church, community, and world.

**For more information, please see Leone, Dianne, or Loraine.**



**Missed the Gloria Dei Video Presentation? Watch It Online!**

Last Sunday everyone got to see the new Gloria Dei Video/slide presentation. In case you missed it or would like to see it again or invite someone else to view it, there is a link to the video posted on the homepage of our website for your use.



***WE CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO COME AND JOIN THE CHOIR!***

*Rehearsals will begin on **Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>** starting at **4:30pm.***

*You do not need to attend every rehearsal as all our music is available online. We would Love for you to join us.*

*Whether you're an experienced singer or just someone who loves music, there's a place for you. Our choir is more than just voices, it's a welcoming community where people come together to share in the joy of singing and witness the power of sung prayer.*

*Please speak to Len or any choir member for more information!*



**Date:** Saturday, October 3, 2026

**Time:** 11 am – 3 pm

**Location:** First Presbyterian Church of Leesburg  
200 Lone Oak Drive Leesburg, FL

**\$10 Ticket Includes:** Lunch, a lively fashion show, empowering awareness resources, and plenty of surprises. Let's crush cancer one cup, one conversation, and one connection at a time.



A reminder that the next **Glorion** article submissions are due **Tuesday, September 22nd**.