

# Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

First Sunday in Lent

Sunday, February 22, 2026

9:30 AM



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

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**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.**

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

### **Participating in Today's Service:**

**Pastor:** Pastor Lynn M. Fonfara

**Music Director:** Len Cremisio

**After Worship Secretary:** Julie Eld *(In order to assist the Pastor, if you need the Pastor to contact someone or address something)*

#### **Assistant Ministers**

**Reader:** Arlene Kelly

**Crucifer:** James Menchaca

**Assisting Minister:** Vaike O'Grtady

**Ushers:** Crystal Kirkpatrick, Byron Kirkpatrick, John Kelly, Craig Carlson

## **Prelude:**

## **WELCOME AND WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **PREPARE FOR WORSHIP: ELW 801 “Change My Heart, O God”**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt  
and blots out all offenses.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:  
Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:  
Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign,  
and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,  
and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin,  
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:  
Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,  
and for disregarding Christ’s call to come forth to life:  
Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God’s steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God,

you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead

dwells in you,  
pours God's love into your hearts,  
and gives you life and peace.

**Amen.**

**ENTRANCE HYMN: ELW 325 "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"**

## **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: ELW 154 Kyrie** *(Sing 2 or 3 times)*

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **WORD**

### **FIRST READING: Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7**

*Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.*

<sup>15</sup> The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

<sup>3:1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.' " <sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, <sup>5</sup> for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one

wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM: Psalm 32**



Psalm 32:10  
Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.  
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<sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions I are forgiven,  
and whose sin is I put away!

<sup>2</sup> **Happy are they to whom the LORD im- I putes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there I is no guile!**

<sup>3</sup> While I held my tongue, my bones with- I ered away,  
because of my groaning I all day long.

<sup>4</sup> **For your hand was heavy upon me I day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the I heat of summer. R**

<sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- I ceal  
my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then  
you forgave me the guilt I of my sin.

<sup>6</sup> **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you  
in I time of trouble;  
when the great waters overflow, they I shall not reach  
them.**

<sup>7</sup> You are my hiding-place; you preserve I me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts I of deliverance.

<sup>8</sup> **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that I you  
should go;  
I will guide you I with my eye. R**

<sup>9</sup> Do not be like horse or mule, which have no I understanding;  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will I not  
stay near you."

<sup>10</sup> **Great are the tribulations I of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those who trust I in the LORD.**

<sup>11</sup> Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice I in the LORD;  
shout for joy, all who are I true of heart. **R**



## **SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19**

*Through Adam's disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ's obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.*

<sup>12</sup> Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned <sup>13</sup> for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. <sup>14</sup> Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

<sup>15</sup> But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. <sup>16</sup> And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. <sup>17</sup> If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup> Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. <sup>19</sup> For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW 176 "Lenten Acclamation"**

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11**

*Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. <sup>2</sup> He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." <sup>4</sup> But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on

the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,'

and 'On their hands they will bear you up,

so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, <sup>9</sup> and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,

and serve only him.' "

<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

*The gospel concludes:*

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

*The assembly is seated.*

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 808 "Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song"**

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead.**

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

**he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come 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 INTERCESSION

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

## 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.*

*The assembly is seated.*

## 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 185 "Create in Me a Clean Heart"

#### OFFERTORY PRAYER

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

O God, maker of heaven and earth,  
your steadfast love embraces all creation.  
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth  
and bring forth its bounty.  
Through these gifts of bread and wine,  
draw us into the death and life of your Son,  
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.  
We ask this in Jesus' name.

**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 189 "Holy, Holy, Holy"



## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

*The Presiding minister leads the Eucharistic Prayer*

O God triune, ... The earth is full of your glory.

**The earth is full of your glory.**

O God triune, ... The earth is full of your glory.

**The earth is full of your glory.**

In the night ...

Gathered around this table ...The earth is full of your glory.

**The earth is full of your glory.**

O God triune, ... The earth is full of your glory.

**The earth is full of your glory.**

*At the conclusion of the Eucharistic Prayer, all say:*

Amen, and amen.

**Amen, and amen.**

**\*THE LORDS PRAYER** *(Sung)* **ELW Pg. 305**

*(Those who wish may hold hands as a sign of Christian unity).*

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the pow'r and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to the table.

Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

**LAMB OF GOD: ELW 198 "O Lamb of God"**

## **DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

*All Baptized Christians are welcome to commune. Those who do not wish to commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing (fold your arms over your chest).*

*The Body is available as bread or gluten-free Host.*

*The Blood is available as wine (large chalices) or non-alcoholic juice (small chalice).*

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:*

*The body of Christ, given for you.*

*The blood of Christ, shed for you.*

*The appropriate response is:*

*Amen.*

*During the distribution, please pray silently or join in singing.*

**HYMN: ELW 609 “Chief of Sinners Though I Be”**  
**CHOIR: “To A Peaceful Garden”**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*Please remain seated:*

God of our salvation,  
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,  
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.  
Through the body and blood of your Son,  
may we become Christ’s body in the world,  
bearing witness to your love for all creation,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **SENDING**

### **BLESSING**

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:  
God, who calls all things into existence,  
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,  
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,  
✠ bless you now and always.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN: ELW 613 “Thy Holy Wings”**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE: Voluntary**

***The end of Worship –***

***The beginning of Christian Ministry.***

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**Gloria Dei Lutheran Church**  
**[www.gloriadeielca.com](http://www.gloriadeielca.com)**  
**130 South Lone Oak Drive**  
**Leesburg, Florida 34748**

Pastor Lynn M. Fonfara	c. 352-249-8533
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.: 9:30 a.m.** Julie Eld *(In order to assist the Pastor, if you need the Pastor to contact someone or address something)*

**Counters:** Arlene Kelly, Lillian Ostrander

**Greeters:** 9:30 a.m.

**Fellowship:** Craig and Christine Carlson

**Communion Wine:** For February is given to the Glory of God.

**Altar Flowers:** Given to the Glory of God

# ANNOUNCEMENTS!

## THIS WEEKS CALENDAR

Sun.	2/22	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship
Mon.	2/23	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues.	2/24	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Wed.	2/25	9:30 a.m.	Call Committee Meeting
		4:00 p.m.	Lent Service
		4:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Fri.	2/27	9:00 a.m.	LWR Quilting
		9:00 a.m.	Mary Martha
		12:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.	Retreat
Sat.	2/28	8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Retreat

## NEXT WEEKS CALENDAR

Sun.	3/1	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship/ Healing Service
Mon.	3/2	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues.	3/3	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		10:30 a.m.	WELCA Board Meeting
Wed.	3/4	9:30 a.m.	Call Committee Meeting
		4:00 p.m.	Lent Service
		4:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Thurs.	3/5	10:30 a.m.	Ruth Circle

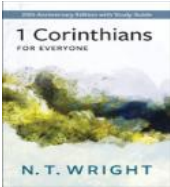
Attendance for Sunday, February 15, 2026: 80

## BIRTHDAYS

Ralph Hallberg  
Maureen Skurecki

February 25<sup>th</sup>  
February 26<sup>th</sup>

## BIBLE STUDIES



### Zoom Bible Study

For the Monday Zoom Bible Study we are studying *1 Corinthians for Everyone*, by NT Wright. 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.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### No Flowers During Lent

In keeping with the solemn season of Lent, there will be no flowers in the sanctuary from **February 18 through April 2**. This practice helps us reflect prayerfully as we journey toward Holy Week and Easter.

## WE NEED VOLUNTEERS.....



### Soup Supper Volunteers Needed!

Join us in serving during Lent! Volunteers are needed for Soup Suppers on Wednesdays, **February 25–March 25**, starting at **4:30 PM right after the Lenten service**. A sign-up sheet is available in the Fellowship Hall. We'd love your help—thank you for serving! 🍲



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 enter your name on the kitchen counter sign-up sheet or contact the church office.** Thank you!





**Prayer List Update.** Our Daily Prayer List has grown quite long over time, and many entries are now out of date. In order to keep our prayers current and meaningful, the following categories will be removed **from the Daily Prayer List starting February 8th.**

Special Requested Prayer

Memorium

Healing

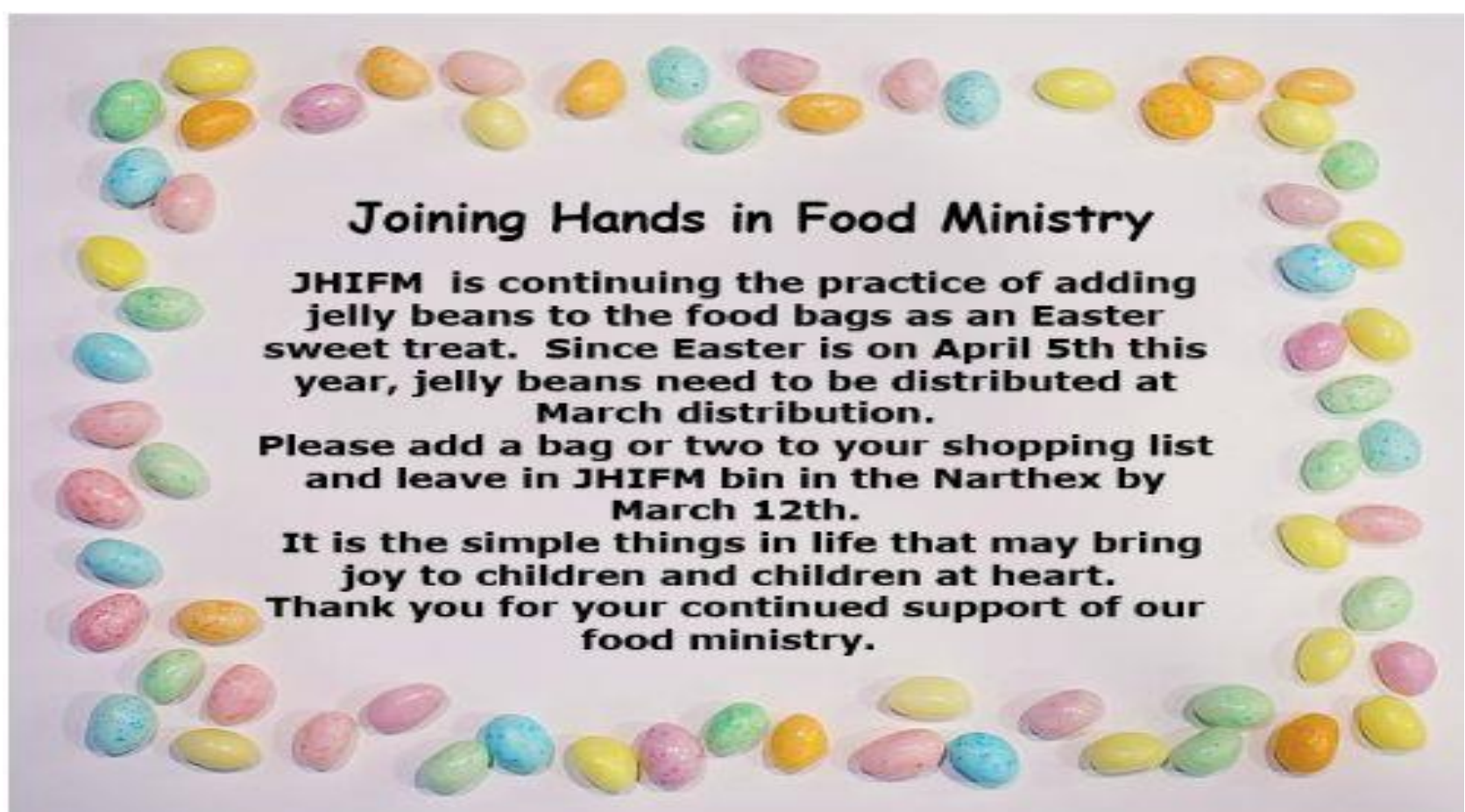
Chronic Illness

If you would like to have someone included on the updated Prayer List, please contact the Church office at 352-787-3223 or Christine Carlson at 516-458-7355 or email at skauvold.carlson@gmail.com so we may continue to lift up current prayer needs together.

Thank you for helping us keep this ministry active and relevant.



**Order Easter Plants. Honor or Memorialize a loved one or special event by ordering Easter plants** to decorate the sanctuary. Fill out the included form and return it by **Sunday, March 29th.** Thank you for helping make our Easter celebration beautiful and memorable!



## 🎵 Support Julian Menchaca's High School Band! 🎵

Julian is participating in his high school band fundraiser to help purchase new marching uniforms, repair the band's box truck, and replace or repair instruments that are more than 15 years old.

These goals cannot be reached without community support. If Julian reaches his \$1,000 donation goal, his end-of-year field trip will also be fully paid for! Please consider helping Julian reach his goal and supporting the band's students as they work toward an incredible high school experience.

Donate or learn more at:  
<https://vraise.org/WhfOt5>

Thank you for supporting our youth!



**Photographs for the Online Church Directory.** The regular Sunday photography sessions for the Online Church Directory have ended. However, we can schedule a one-on-one session after any Sunday service if you have missed the initial opportunity or if you have PPR (Post-Photograph Remorse) and wish a re-take. Please contact either Linda Steege (815-222-6195) or Dick Healy (352-223-4800).



A friendly reminder about the signup sheets in the Fellowship Hall: Please be sure to sign up for Lay Reader, Crucifer or Assistant Minister by the third week of each month. This helps us avoid any mix-ups or double-booking the volunteer spots and ensures you're included on the Glorion's Worship Leaders Schedule.

The Glorion begins production during the third week of each month and is printed for the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month, so timely sign-ups are very important.

Thank you for your help and for serving our church!

