

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, August 23, 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

Phone: 352-787-3223

Participating in Today's Service:

Pastor: Reverend Tony VanCura, Pastor

Music Director: Len Cremisio

After Worship Secretary: Helga LaCava

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

Assistant Ministers:

Reader: Vaike O'Grady

Crucifer: James Menchaca

Assisting Minister: Kathy Bush

Ushers: Crystal Kirkpatrick
Byron Kirkpatrick
John Kelly
Craig Carlson

GATHERING HYMN: ELW 645 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

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.**

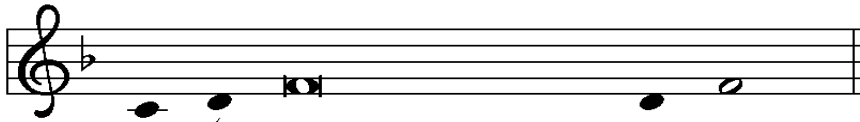
In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the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

APOSTOLIC GREETING

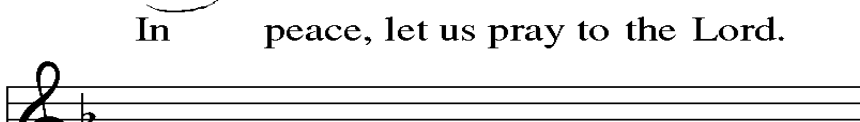
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

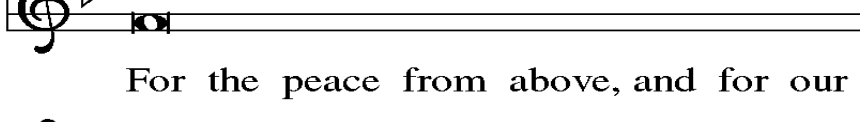
KYRIE: ELW pg. 138



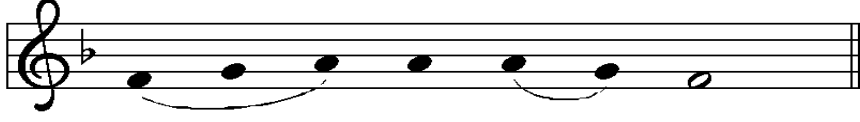
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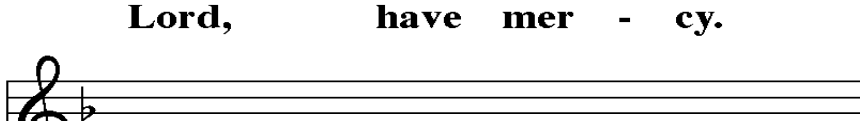
peace, let us pray to the Lord.



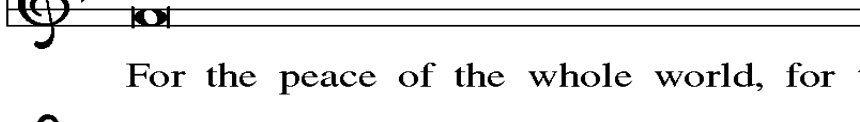
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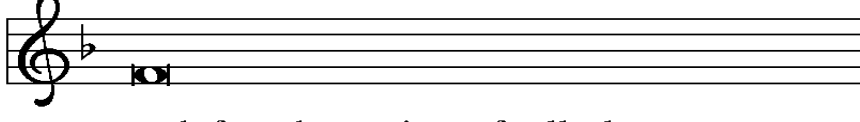
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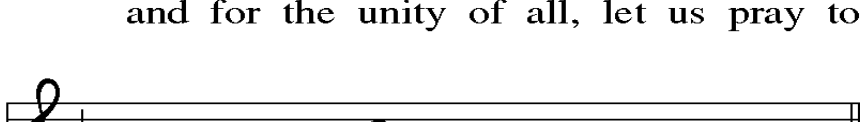
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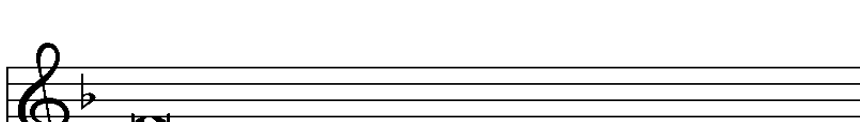
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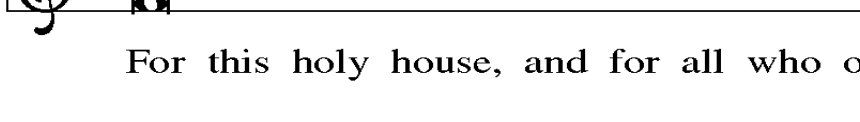
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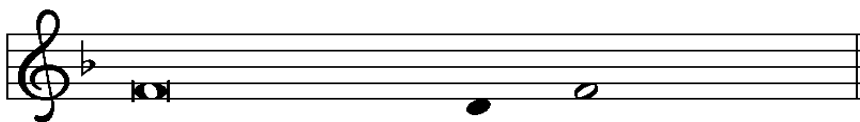
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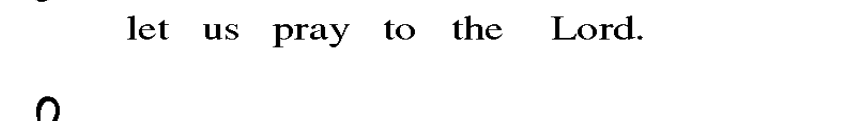
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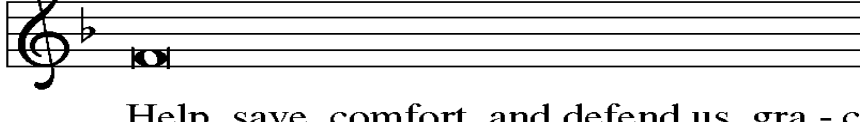
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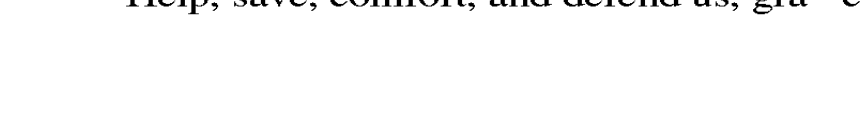
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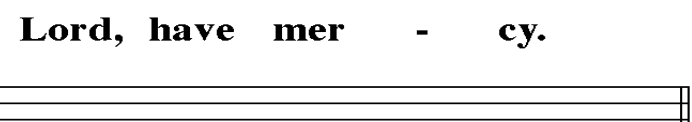
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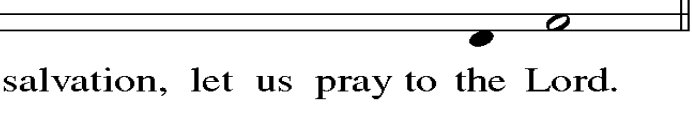
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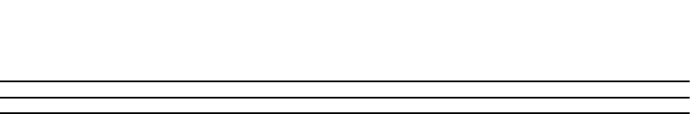
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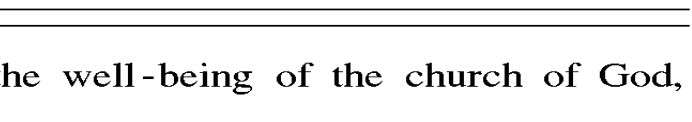
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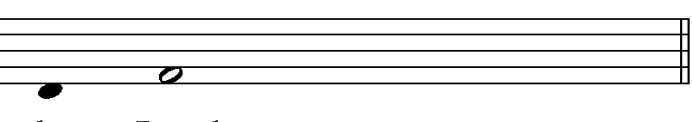
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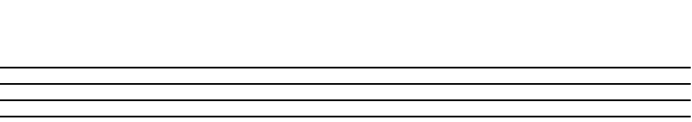
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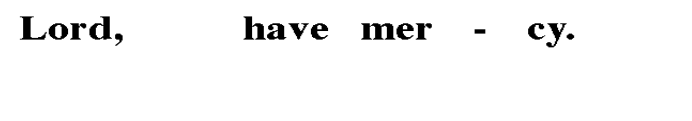
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HYMN OF PRAISE: ELW pg. 139

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 God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 51:1-6

¹Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,
you that seek the LORD.
Look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.
²Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;

for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.

³For the LORD will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places,
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation;
for a teaching will go out from me,
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,
my salvation has gone out
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.

⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats;
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

The Word of the Lord;
thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 138

Read responsively, the congregation speaks the bold lines.

¹I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I will sing your praise.

**²I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.**

³When I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength within me.

**⁴All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words of your mouth.**

⁵They will sing of the ways of the LORD,
that great is the glory of the LORD.

**⁶The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty from afar.**

⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your
right hand shall save me.

⁸**You will make good your purpose for me;
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not
abandon the works of your hands.**

SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-8

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of
God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable
to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this
world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you
may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and
perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to
think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with
sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has
assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the
members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one
body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We
have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in
proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching;
⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in
diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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 16:13-20

The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he
asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴And
they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still
others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But who

do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.

¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The gospel concludes:

The gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 652 "Built On a Rock"

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.

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 840 “Now Thank We All Our God” (vs. 1)

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”

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

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 477 “I Received The Living God”

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE: ELW 840 “Now Thank We All Our God” *(vs. 2)*

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 820 “O Savior, Precious Savior”

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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

Reverend Tony VanCura, Pastor	pastorgdlclesburg@gmail.com
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:

Arlene Kelly, Lillian Ostrander

Greeters:

Fellowship:

Marie Davids, Helen Ames

Communion Wine: Given to the Glory of God.

Altar Flowers: Given to the Glory of God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sun.	8/23	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Service
Mon.	8/24	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
			Office Closed
Tues.	8/25	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
			Office Closed
Fri.	8/28	9:00 a.m.	Quilting

NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sun.	8/30	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Service
Mon.	8/11	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues.	9/1	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		10:30 a.m.	WELCA Board Meeting

Attendance for Sunday, **August 16, 2026:**

BIRTHDAYS

Jackie Goding	August 23 rd
Brian Mundy	August 24 th
MaryJane DeBarr	August 28 th

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.** Thank you!



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.



Gluten-Free Communion Wafers Available

We are pleased to offer **gluten-free communion wafers** for anyone who needs or prefers them.

If you would like to receive a gluten-free wafer during Holy Communion, simply let **Pastor Tony** know before the service begins. He will be happy to make sure one is available for you.

Our hope is that everyone can fully participate in the Lord's Supper, and we are grateful to be able to offer this option to our church family.



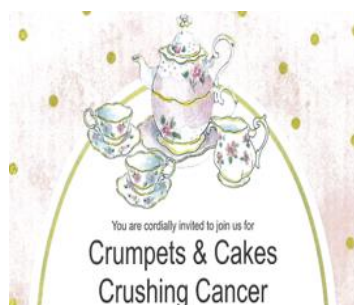
WE CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO COME AND JOIN THE CHOIR!

*Rehearsals will begin on **Tuesday, September 15th** 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.



Stay in Touch with Sandy Kolb

Sandy Kolb has recently moved up north to be closer to her family. She would love to stay connected with her Gloria Dei church family, and you are welcome to send her a note or card at her new address:

Sandy Kolb

Meadowview at The Wartburg

120 Wartburg Place - Room 120

Mt. Vernon, NY 10552

We know that receiving a card or note from a familiar face at Gloria Dei would mean a lot to her.

Please join us in keeping her in our thoughts and prayers as she settles into her new home.



🌴 **Evelyn Is Taking a Little Vacation!** 🌻

The Church Office will be **closed Thursday, August 20 through Monday, August 25**, while Evelyn takes a little time away to relax, recharge, and enjoy some well-deserved vacation time!

The office will reopen on **Tuesday, August 26**, and Evelyn will be back, refreshed and ready to go! Thank you for your understanding.