

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 26, 2026

9:30 AM



130 S. Lone Oak Dr. Leesburg, FL 34748

Email: gloriadeilutheranleesburg@gmail.com Phone: 352-787-3223



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.

Today is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in today's gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.

Participating in Today's Service:

Pastor: Pastor Lynn M. Fonfara

Music Director: Len Cremisio

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

Assistant Ministers

Reader:

Crucifer: Julian Menchaca

Assisting Minister: Vaike O'Grady

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

Prelude:

WELCOME AND WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP: ELW 752 "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

In the name of † the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

Amen.

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Holy God,
we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: ELW 807 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

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 151 Kyrie Eleison

HYMN OF PRAISE: ELW 819 "Come, All You People"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through 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: Ezekiel 31:7-15

God will shepherd Israel

⁷ Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: ⁸ As I live, says the Lord GOD, because my sheep have become a prey and my sheep have become food for all the wild animals, since there was no shepherd, and because my shepherds have not searched for my sheep, but the shepherds have fed themselves and have not fed my sheep, ⁹ therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: ¹⁰ Thus says the Lord GOD: I am against the shepherds, and I will hold them accountable for my sheep and put a stop to their feeding the sheep; no longer shall the shepherds feed themselves. I will rescue my sheep from their mouths, so that they may not be food for them.

¹¹ For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. ¹² As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³ I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴ I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵ I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 23



Psalm 23:1

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress

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¹ The LORD | is my shepherd;
I shall not | be in want.

² **The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

³ You restore my | soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of
death, I shall | fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff,
they | comfort me. R**

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my
enemies;

you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the
days | of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever. R**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:19-25

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.

¹⁹ It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²² "He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³ When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one

who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW 172 “Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”

GOSPEL: John 10:1-10

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

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: ACS 954 “You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd” *(See insert)*

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

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

Merciful God,
Receive our prayer.

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: ACS 1067 "For the Wholeness of the Earth"

(See insert)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

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

Merciful God,
accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.

You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day
when we will hunger and thirst no more.
Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,
that goodness and mercy may follow us
and bless the world you love.
In the name of Jesus,
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 473 "Holy, Holy, Holy"

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The Presiding minister leads the Eucharistic Prayer

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

...With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

... Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

... Send us forth,
burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

...we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.

Amen.

***THE LORDS PRAYER** *(Spoken)*

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

**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. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table of new life.
Receive the risen Lord.

LAMB OF GOD: ELW Page 208 Setting 10

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 789 "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us"

CHOIR: "Make Me A Blessing"

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Please remain seated:

Holy One,
through this meal you have made your home among us
and are making all things new.

Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,
to love our enemies,

and to bring your healing to the nations.

In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

BLESSING

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN: ELW 367 “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE: Voluntary

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

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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.** Janet Braun *(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: Jeanne Talts, Vaike O'Grady

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

Altar Flowers: Ritch and Debbie Cassem, in honor of their 57th Anniversary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS!
THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sun. 4/26	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship
	11:00 a.m.	New Member Reception
Mon. 4/27	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues. 4/28	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Wed. 4/29	4:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Fri. 5/1	9:30 a.m.	Women United Friendship Day Meeting

NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sun. 5/3	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship
	11:00 a.m.	Baptism
	11:00 a.m.	Bible Study (Book of Acts)
Mon. 5/4	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues. 5/5	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	10:30 a.m.	WELCA Board Meeting
Wed. 5/6	9:00 a.m.	Call Committee Meeting
	4:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Thurs. 5/7	10:30 a.m.	Ruth Circle
Fri. 5/8	8:30 a.m.	Joining Hands in Food Ministry

Attendance for Sunday, April 19, 2026:

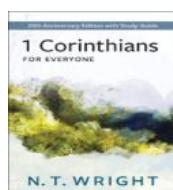
BIRTHDAYS

Sandy Kolb	April 25th
James Gable	April 27th

ANNIVERSARIES

Craig and Christine Carlson	April 23rd	49yrs.
Richard and Deborah Cassem	April 26th	57yrs.

BIBLE STUDIES



Zoom Bible Study

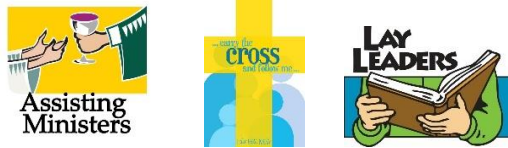
For the Monday Zoom Bible Study we are studying *1 Corinthians for Everyone*, by NT Wright. We meet **Every Monday at 7pm**. Contact the church office for the Zoom meeting link.

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.

Bible Study Opportunity

We warmly invite all members and friends to participate in an enriching Bible study on the Book of Acts, held at 11:00 a.m. on Sundays: May 3, 10, and 31. This thoughtfully prepared study, developed by the Synod, offers a meaningful opportunity for spiritual growth and deeper understanding of the early Church. All are encouraged to attend.

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



Looking for minutes of our Church Council meetings? They are in the Fellowship Hall on the bulletin board by the mailboxes. Council meets on the third Sunday of the month, and minutes are available at a reasonable time after that date. This will take the place of the Council Corner column.

Inaugural Spring Concert - I Hear America Singing!!

May 9th 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Lake Community Arts

3700 S. Hwy 27

Clermont, FL 34711

Experience an unforgettable evening of music at Lake Community Arts' inaugural spring concert, "I Hear America Singing!" This celebration of American music will feature the 100+ voice Lake Community Choir, the inspiring young musicians of Children Sing!, and more. From uplifting folk songs and spirituals to moving patriotic tunes, the program highlights the rich spirit and diverse sound of America's musical heritage. Join us for a thrilling night of music, community, and celebration you won't want to miss!

For more information contact CJ at legacyhippo@gmail.com

If you rather purchase with cash or in person, visit the Clermont Performing Arts Center via the side (south) door, at the box office down the main hall on the left.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED- May Friendship Day is being held at Gloria Dei on Friday May 1 at 9:30. Please join women from other churches in area for Fellowship, and Worship. Theme of the meeting is "A Place Called Home." This meeting lasts one hour. Please consider joining this gathering of women.



Thanksgivings & God-sightings

At the end of worship each week we will take time to lift up those people and events for which we give thanks to God, and those times we have seen God present among us.

Friendly Reminder: We kindly ask that everyone take a moment at the end of each meeting or gathering to ensure that you exercise the procedure to lock up the building.

- Ensure all exterior doors are fully closed and securely locked.
- Lights are turned off (if applicable).
- Alarm is set upon your exit.

