

# Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 3, 2026

9:30 AM



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

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**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.**

As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

**Participating in Today's Service:**

**Pastor:** Pastor Lynn M. Fonfara

**Music Director:** Len Cremisio

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

**Assistant Ministers**

**Reader:** Art Zerbel

**Crucifer:**

**Assisting Minister:** Patricia Bressler

**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”** *(3 times)*

### **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 645 “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”**

### **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**

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **WORD**

### **FIRST READING: Proverbs 4:10-18**

*The way of wisdom is your life*

- <sup>10</sup> Hear, my child, and accept my words,  
that the years of your life may be many.
- <sup>11</sup> I have taught you the way of wisdom;  
I have led you in the paths of uprightness.
- <sup>12</sup> When you walk, your step will not be hampered,  
and if you run, you will not stumble.
- <sup>13</sup> Keep hold of instruction; do not let go;  
guard her, for she is your life.
- <sup>14</sup> Do not enter the path of the wicked,  
and do not walk in the way of evildoers.
- <sup>15</sup> Avoid it; do not go on it;  
turn away from it and pass on.
- <sup>16</sup> For they cannot sleep unless they have done wrong;  
they are robbed of sleep unless they have made someone stumble.
- <sup>17</sup> For they eat the bread of wickedness  
and drink the wine of violence.
- <sup>18</sup> But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn,  
which shines brighter and brighter until full day.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 119:25-32**

*Set the way of faithfulness before me. (Ps. 119:30)*

- <sup>25</sup> My soul cleaves <sup>l</sup> to the dust;  
give me life according <sup>l</sup> to your word.
- <sup>26</sup> I have recounted my ways, and you <sup>l</sup> answered me;  
instruct me <sup>l</sup> in your statutes.
- <sup>27</sup> Make me understand the way of <sup>l</sup> your commandments,  
that I may meditate on your <sup>l</sup> marvelous works.
- <sup>28</sup> My soul melts a- <sup>l</sup> way from sorrow;  
sustain me according <sup>l</sup> to your word.
- <sup>29</sup> Take from me the <sup>l</sup> way of lying;  
let me find grace <sup>l</sup> through your teaching.
- <sup>30</sup> I have chosen the <sup>l</sup> way of faithfulness;  
I have set your judg- <sup>l</sup> ments before me.
- <sup>31</sup> I hold fast to <sup>l</sup> your decrees;  
O LORD, do not put <sup>l</sup> me to shame.
- <sup>32</sup> I will run the way of <sup>l</sup> your commandments,  
for you increase my <sup>l</sup> heart's capacity.

## **SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10**

*Christ is the cornerstone of God's saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.*

<sup>2</sup> Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation <sup>3</sup> if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup> Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup> like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious,  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

<sup>7</sup> This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner,"

<sup>8</sup> and

"A stone that makes them stumble  
and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

<sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW 172 "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah"**

### **GOSPEL: John 14:1-14**

*On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.*

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup> "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I

will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to the place where I am going." <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

<sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? <sup>10</sup> Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup> Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

*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 MONTH: ELW 735 "Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth"**

## **BAPTISM**

### **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.*

*There will be a second offering to benefit Lake Sumter Children's Advocacy Center for Rachel's Day.*

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 477 "I Received the Living God"**

**CHOIR: "It is Well with My Soul"**

## **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 389 "Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing"**

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

**Counters:** Jeanne Talts

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

**Fellowship:** Jeanne Talts, Vaike O'Grady, Art Zerbel

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

**Altar Flowers:** For May is given to the Glory of God.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS!

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sun.	5/3	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship/Baptism Rachel's Day
		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

## NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sun.	5/10	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship/ Brief Order For Healing
		11:00 a.m.	Bible Study (Book of Acts)
Mon.	5/11	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues.	5/12	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		10:30 a.m.	WELCA Board Meeting
Wed.	5/13	9:00 a.m.	Call Committee Meeting
		4:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Thurs.	5/14	10:30 a.m.	Ruth Circle

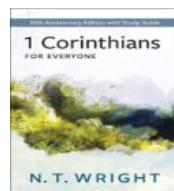
Attendance for Sunday, April 26, 2026: 67

## BIRTHDAYS

Carolyn DeLong

May 6<sup>th</sup>

## BIBLE STUDIES



### Zoom Bible Study

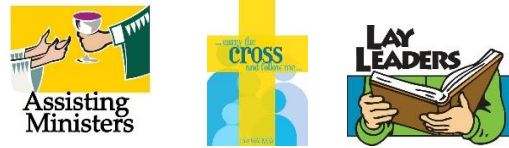
For the Monday Zoom Bible Study we are studying *1 Corinthians for Everyone*, by NT Wright. We meet **Every Monday at 7pm**. Contact the church office for the Zoom meeting link.

**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.

## Bible Study Opportunity

We warmly invite all members and friends to participate in an enriching Bible study on Acts, held at 11:00 a.m. on Sundays: May 3, 10, 17, 24 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.



### **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).
- Thermostat is adjusted as the A/C is not cooling an empty building.
- Alarm is set upon your exit.

**Articles for the June Glorion are due by May 20<sup>th</sup>** Getting everything in on time helps us stay on track to review and publish the newsletter by **Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>**. Thanks so much for your cooperation and timely submissions!

