

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, July 5, 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.

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. The prophet describes an everlasting realm that contrasts with earthly nations, one marked by peace, humility, and freedom. Jesus associates with those excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with selfish desires; we lament flawed systems; and we seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather around word, water, and meal by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Here we find rest for our souls and hope for life in beloved community.

Participating in Today's Service:

Pastor: Reverend Tony VanCura, Pastor

Music Director: Len Cremisio

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

Assistant Ministers

Reader: Kathy Bush

Crucifer: Leone Goding

Assisting Minister: Patricia Bressler

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

GATHERING HYMN: ELW 434 Jesus Shall Reign

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

HYMN OF PRAISE: ELW pg. 139

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you; **And also with you. Let us pray:**

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: Zechariah 9:9-12

The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."

- ⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
- ¹⁰He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war-horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
- ¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.
- ¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

The Word of the Lord;
thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 145:8-14

Read responsively, the congregation speaks the bold lines.

- ⁸The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- ⁹**LORD, you are good to all,
and your compassion is over all your works.**
- ¹⁰All your works shall praise you, O LORD,
and your faithful ones shall bless you.
- ¹¹**They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your power,**
- ¹²that all people may know of your power
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
- ¹³**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion
endures through- out all ages.**
**You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your
works.**
- ¹⁴The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up those who are bowed down.

SECOND READING: Romans 7:15-25a

Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.

¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a}Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

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 11:16-19, 25-30

Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶"To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷"We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

²⁵At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father;

and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The gospel concludes:

The gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 608 “Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling”

MESSAGE: Rev. Tony VanCura, Pastor

The assembly is seated.

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

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.

BRIEF ORDER FOR HEALING

The congregation is seated

Introduction:

P: Our Lord Jesus healed many as a sign of the reign of God come near and sent the disciples to continue this work of healing—with prayer, the laying on of hands, and anointing. In the name of Christ, the great healer and reconciler of the world, we now entrust to God all who are in need of healing

Prayer:

Mighty God, your Son Jesus brought healing and wholeness to all. Bring your healing presence now to all who are sick or in pain. Grant hope to all who are discouraged or in despair. In your great mercy, hear us, O God. **Amen**

Laying on of Hands:

P: Sisters and brothers, I invite you to come and receive a sign of healing and wholeness in the name of the triune God.

You are invited to come forward if you wish to do so.

P: In the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, be strengthened and filled with God's grace, that you may know the healing power of the Spirit.

C AMEN.

When all have returned to their seats, the Assisting Minister continues

A: Let us Pray.

Living God, through the laying on of hands and anointing, grant comfort in suffering to all who are in need of healing. When they are afraid, give them courage; when afflicted, give them patience; when dejected, give them hope; and when alone, assure them of the support of your holy people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: AMEN.

Blessing:

P: Almighty God, who is a strong tower to all, to whom all things in Heaven and on Earth bow and obey, be now and evermore your sure defense, and help you to know that the name given to us for health and salvation is the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

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.

The assembly is seated.

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 839 "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 LORDS PRAYER** *(Spoken)*

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

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: ELW 715 Christ, Be Our Light

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE: ELW 839 "Now Thank We All Our God" *(vs. 2)*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Please remain seated:

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 697 "Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

DISMISSAL

We Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

Reprinted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, copyright 2024
Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license number #14240-ELW

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.:

Debbie Cassem *(In order to assist the*

Pastor, if you need the Pastor to contact someone or address something)

Counters:

Jeanne Talts

Greeters:

Fellowship:

Michael & C.J. Clarke, Craig Carlson

Communion Wine: Given to the Glory of God.

Altar Flowers: Given to the Glory of God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sun.	7/5	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Service
Mon.	7/6	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues.	7/7	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Fri.	7/10	8:30 a.m.	Joining Hands In Food Ministry
Sat.	7/11	3:00 p.m.	Installation of Pastor Tony

NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sun.	7/12	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Service/ Brief Order for Healing
Mon.	7/13	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues.	7/14	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer

Attendance for Sunday, June 28, 2026: 72

BIRTHDAYS

Lillian Skilbred	July 9th
Joan Davia	July 11th

Installation Service for Pastor Tony VanCura

The congregation of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church is joyfully invited to attend the Installation Service of **Rev. Tony P. VanCura as the 16th Pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church.**

The service will take place on **Saturday, July 11, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.** and will be officiated by **The Rt. Rev. Pedro M. Suárez, Bishop of Florida-Bahamas.**

This is a special occasion in the life of our congregation as we celebrate and officially welcome Pastor Tony into his ministry among us. Following the service, a reception with light refreshments will be held in the fellowship hall.

All members, family, and friends of Gloria Dei are encouraged to attend and share in this joyful celebration.

Please RSVP by **July 1, 2026** at **352-787-3223** or gloriadeilutheranleesburg@gmail.com.

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.

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.



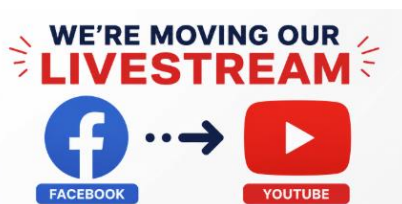
Help Host Our After-Worship Gatherings!

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!



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.



Gloria Dei is switching our livestream from Facebook to YouTube. You do not need an account to watch the videos. Please go to this URL on your computer or smart device... <https://www.youtube.com/@gloriadeilutheranchurchlee2268>

You should see the live video playing at that website, but you may have to click on the Live tab to find it. All church videos from now on will be on YouTube.

While watching your first video, please consider subscribing to the channel.