



GLORIA DEI

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GATHERING IN CHRIST † SHARING HIS LOVE

THE GLORION
JULY / AUGUST
2026

www.gloriadeielca.com

IN CASE OF PASTORAL EMERGENCY

Contact the office during regular office hours:

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – Monday thru Friday

After office hours contact:

Rev. Tony VanCura, Pastor via phone:

407-765-2822

ADDRESS: 130 S. Lone Oak Drive, Leesburg, FL 34748

OFFICE PHONE: (352)787-3223

OFFICE EMAIL: gloriadeilutheranleesburg@gmail.com

WEB SITE: www.gloriadeielca.com

OFFICE HOURS: Monday – Friday from 9:00-2:00

PASTOR: REV. TONY VANCURA

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: LEONARD CREMISIO

AFTER WORSHIP SEC. : DEBBIE CASSEM (July)

HELGA LA CAVA (August) *(In order to assist the Pastor, if*

you need the Pastor to contact someone or address something.)

OFFICE MANAGER: EVELYN ROLLINS

SEXTON: TINA JANOSA

SUNDAY WORSHIP – 9:30 A.M



July/Aug. 2026

If you could live in paradise for a day, what images would come to mind? Would it be the scene of a garden with immaculate landscaping, perfect weather, everything in bloom, without a single element that could harm us? Would it be a tropical island, a rainforest, a mountain cabin, or a winter wonderland? The biblical image of paradise we tend to focus on is a few brief verses that describe the Garden of Eden in the Book of Genesis.

And still for some, the image of paradise might be a day without pain, without stress, or without conflict. For victims of neglect, abuse, or discrimination, paradise may have nothing to do with surroundings and everything to do with peace of mind, safety, and a place of acceptance.

Furthermore, for many the thought of paradise may be a day filled with companionship. For countless individuals of various ages who are living alone, the image of someone present to talk with, share, and reflect on life is a glimpse at what paradise could be.

A day in paradise would certainly be wonderful, but in the human context, the day would come to a close all too soon, leaving us with only a memory.

Our gracious God also knows what it is like to long for paradise; He had and lost it when we fell to sin. Sin is what broke a beautiful relationship between our Creator and us, and God simply could not accept a world without us. So God sent His Son to redeem us from the sin that separated us from Him. As our Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross, He told the thief next to him; “Today, you will be with me in paradise.” ...and this Paradise will not end.

Paradise has been restored for God, but in our human life it is difficult to comprehend ‘how’ the restoration of a paradise has changed our life or improved it. We want to be free of all cares, concerns, and conflicts by escaping

to a paradise without realizing that we only need to GIVE God our worries and live in inheritance we have been given. The struggles of human life eventually come to an end, but our paradise with God and a relationship of care and comfort will continue forever.

We have the gift of life and a relationship that promises a coming Paradise when all troubles and pain will cease. Until that day arrives, may we walk a little closer with all those who struggle so they too can feel, see, experience, and know the paradise of their relationship with God.

1 Luke 23:43

PRAYERS

We will pray for the joys, sorrows, and concerns of the following members in **July:**

- 7/5** Gail Madson, Dianne and Dennis Marcotte, Carol Marshall, James Menchaca, Taeko and Andy Mincer
- 7/12** Rita Moritz, Karen and Brian Mundy, Vaike O'Grady, Lillian Ostrander, Susan Stack and Bob Pierce.
- 7/19** June and Jim Rieb, Richard Ritter, Karen and Chris Russell, Elizabeth Sanguedolce, Lillian Skilbred.
- 7/26** Maureen Skurecki, Donna Smith, Linda Steege, Jeanne Talts, Marva and Jon Tetting.

August:

- 8/2** Loraine Van Haecke, Rev. Tony VanCura, Mary Vanderplas, Nancy Vogel, Marilyn Wahl.
- 8/9** Sharon and Joel Weinhardt, Marti and Kenn Yance, Joy and Charles Yonko, Arthur Zerbel, Helen Ames
- 8/16** Kathleen and Bill Birdsall, Gayle Bloom, Janet and John Braun, Patricia Bressler, Kathy Bush.
- 8/23** Christine and Craig Carlson, Debbie and Richard Cassem, C.J. and Michael Clarke, JoAn Cleary, Ellen Clement.
- 8/30** Lynn Crane, Marilyn Czuprynski, Marie Davids, Joan Davis, MaryJane and Ernest DeBarr.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

7/09	Lillian Skilbred	7/21	Milton DeLong
7/11	Joan Davis	7/21	Debbye Halligan
7/15	Christine Carlson	7/25	Sylvia Hallberg
7/16	Rose Gulbrandsen	7/26	Helen Ames
7/18	Dianne Marcotte	7/27	Julie Eld
7/20	Charles Yonko	7/30	Northilt Handwerk

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8/07	Jon Tetting	8/23	Jackie Goding
8/16	Janet Braun	8/24	Brian Mundy
8/22	Karen Russell	8/28	MaryJane DeBarr

JULY/AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

7/26	Jon and Marva Tetting	51 yrs.
8/13	Freddy and Marlene Farris	21 yrs.
8/30	Charles and Joy Yonko	56 yrs.

BIBLE STUDY/EDUCATION

Zoom Bible Study

During July/August, Pastor Tony will lead the Zoom Bible study each Monday at 7:00 p.m. with a different “scripture based” topic each week.

NOURISH TO FLOURISH

On June 15th, six families from Leesburg Elementary School received much needed food from JHIFM pantry. Food items such as mac and cheese cups, toasted oat cereal, tropical fruit cups, and apple juice which are perfect for summertime eating. Thank you for your generous support of this project.

Best regards,
Dianne Marcotte

MARY MARTHA CIRCLE

JULY

Mary Martha Circle will meet for quilting only on the 2nd Tuesday, July 14. We will start our Mission Quilting at 9AM and have a break at 10:30 for coffee, tea and snacks. We will also be Mission Quilting on the 4th Friday which is JULY 24 at 9am. Please come and join us for fun & fellowship. Please continue to sew tops as we will continue to need them.

Blessings

Carol Marshall, Leader Phone 352-787-0435

August

Mary Martha Circle will meet for quilting on the 2nd Tuesday, August 11. We will start our Mission Quilting at 9AM and have a break at 10:30 for coffee, tea and snacks. We will also be Mission Quilting on the 4th Friday which is August 28 at 9am. Please come and join us for fun & fellowship. Please continue to sew tops as we will continue to need them.

Blessings

Carol Marshall, Leader Phone 352-787-0435

STEWARDSHIP

Summer brings a change of pace for many of us. Family visits, vacations, travel, and outdoor activities fill our calendars and provide opportunities for rest and renewal. As we enjoy these blessings, it is also important to remember that the ministry and mission of our church continues throughout the summer months.

The church remains active year-round, providing worship, pastoral care, outreach, fellowship, and support to our community. While attendance may fluctuate during the summer, the expenses of ministry remain constant.

Stewardship is more than financial giving—it is our faithful response to God's abundant gifts. We are called to be good stewards of our time, talents, and treasures in every season of life. Summer offers opportunities to serve, volunteer,

invite a friend to worship, and continue supporting the work God is doing through our congregation.

If you will be traveling this summer, please remember to keep up with your estimated giving. Consistent financial support helps the church meet its ongoing commitments and plan effectively for ministry. Many members find it helpful to make their offering before traveling, mail it to the church, or use electronic giving options if available.

As we enjoy the warmth and beauty of summer, let us give thanks for God's many blessings and remain faithful stewards of all that has been entrusted to us.

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." — 2 Corinthians 9:7

Wishing you a safe, joyful, and blessed summer season.

A LITTLE SOMETHING TO ENJOY

Looking for a new puzzle? A selection is available on the shelf in the narthex—please feel free to take one and enjoy.

MEDIA PRODUCTION

We are transitioning our Sunday morning livestream from Facebook to YouTube.

Facebook recently limited live video storage to the most recent 30 days, which prevents us from maintaining a library of our services. Additionally, viewing Facebook live content without an account has become unreliable for many users.

YouTube offers a more stable platform and allows anyone to search for our channel by the church name. I will be testing the new setup over the next few weeks. Once the volunteer procedures are finalized, Evelyn will send a notification to the congregation including a link to our YouTube homepage. Len will also update the church website with a link to the new channel.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Best regards,
Irvin Johnson

JULY/AUGUST CALENDAR

Fri.	7/3	Office Closed	Independence Day
Sun.	7/5	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship/Brief Order For Healing.
Mon.	7/6	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues.	7/7	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		9:00 a.m.	Quilting
Fri.	7/10	8:30 a.m.	Joining Hands In Food Ministry
Sat.	7/11	3:00 p.m.	Installation of Pastor Tony
Sun.	7/12	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Service
Mon.	7/13	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues.	7/14	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Sun.	7/19	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Service/Hunger Offering
Mon.	7/20	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues.	7/21	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Fri.	7/24	9:00 a.m.	Quilting
Sun.	7/26	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Service
Mon.	7/27	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues.	7/28	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Sun.	8/2	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship/Brief Order For Healing.
Mon.	8/3	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues.	8/4	9:00 a.m.	Quilting
		10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Sun.	8/9	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Service
Mon.	8/10	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues.	8/11	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Fri.	8/14	8:30 a.m.	Joining Hands In Food Ministry
Sun.	8/16	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Service/Hunger Offering

Mon.	8/17	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues.	8/18	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Sun.	8/23	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Service
Mon.	8/24	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues.	8/25	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Fri.	8/28	9:00 a.m.	Quilting
Sun	8/30	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Service
Mon.	8/31	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues.	9/1	10:30 a.m.	WELCA Board Meeting

FINANCIAL CORNER

GENERAL FUND

	May, 2026	Year to date 2026
Contributions	\$13,932.00	\$92,632.62
Expenditures	\$15,235.10	\$86,656.49

RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Beg. Bal. 1/1/2026	Donations	Withdrawals	Ending Bal 5/31/2026
Altar Wine/Bread	377.90	45.00	67.89	355.01
AV Equipment	138.33	0	0	138.33
Choir/music	0	65.00	0	65.00
ELCA	0	0	0	0
Eternal Light	785.00	0	0	785.00
Evangelism	720.00	0	0	720.00
Fellowship	336.27	743.50	980.80	98.97
1* Impressions Ph 3	7,938.58	0	0	7,938.58
1* Impressions Ph 4	4,463.86	25.00	0	4,488.86
Flowers	1,271.42	664.06	916.02	1,019.46
JHIF	0	5,490.00	5,490.00	0
Leesburg Elementary	14.69	0	0	14.69
Misc Ministries	0	329.00	0	329.00
Oak Park Middle	0	0	0	0
Quilting	300.00	0	300.00	0
Thrivent Choice \$\$	665.64	627.00	88.96	1,203.68
Trees & Landscaping	1,850.00	0	0	1,850.00
World Hunger	0	372.13	372.13	0
TOTALS	18,861.69	8,360.69	8,215.80	19,006.58

JULY/AUGUST WORSHIP LEADERS

July Assistant Ministers

Legend: R-Reader, +-Crucifer, C-Communion Assist., A-Liturgy Assist.

9:30 a.m.

7/5	R= Kathy Bush += Leone Goding A=Patricia Bressler	7/12	R= Dianne Marcotte += A= Kathy Bush
7/19	R= MaryJean Kancel += Leone Goding A= Patricia Bressler	7/26	R= Patricia Bressler += A= Vaike O'Grady

August Assistant Ministers

Legend: R-Reader, +-Crucifer, C-Communion Assist., A-Liturgy Assist.

9:30 a.m.

8/2	R= Linda Hide += Leone Goding A=Patricia Bressler	8/9	R= MaryJean Kancel += A= Patricia Bressler
8/16	R= Dianne Marcotte += Leone Goding A= Patricia Bressler	8/23	R= Vaike O'Grady += A= Kathy Bush
8/30	R= += Leone Goding A= Patricia Bressler		

Ushers

If you are able to serve or have any questions, please contact Crystal Kirkpatrick at 552-3983.

9:30 a.m.

7/5 Byron Kirkpatrick
Ritch Cassem
John Kelly
Craig Carlson

7/12 Byron Kirkpatrick
Ritch Cassem
John Kelly
Craig Carlson

7/19 Byron Kirkpatrick
Ritch Cassem
John Kelly
Craig Carlson

7/26 Byron Kirkpatrick
Ritch Cassem
John Kelly
Craig Carlson

9:30 a.m.

8/2 Byron Kirkpatrick
Ritch Cassem
John Kelly
Craig Carlson

8/9 Byron Kirkpatrick
Ritch Cassem
John Kelly
Craig Carlson

8/16 Byron Kirkpatrick
Ritch Cassem
John Kelly
Craig Carlson

8/23 Byron Kirkpatrick
Ritch Cassem
John Kelly
Craig Carlson

8/30 Byron Kirkpatrick
Ritch Cassem
John Kelly
Craig Carlson

Altar Guild for July/August: Crystal & Byron Kirkpatrick

Post Worship Secretary for July/August:

Debbie Cassem (July)

Helga LaCava (August)

Fellowship

7/5 Michael and C.J. Clarke, Craig Carlson

7/12 Vaike O'Grady

7/19 Dick Healy

7/26

8/2

8/9 Debbie Cassem, Arlene Kelly

8/16 Dennis and Dianne Marcotte

8/23

8/30

Counters – Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.

7/5 Jeanne Talts

7/12 Linda Steege & Patricia Bressler

7/19 Arlene Kelly & Lillian Ostrander

7/26 Arlene Kelly & Lillian Ostrander

8/2 Jeanne Talts

8/9 Linda Steege & Patricia Bressler

8/16 Arlene Kelly & Lillian Ostrander

8/23 Arlene Kelly & Lillian Ostrander

8/30 Jeanne Talts

THE BELIEVE THE BEST PRINCIPLES

The Basics:

Every relationship has spoken and unspoken expectations. And then there are the actual experiences within the relationship. Sometimes the expectations and experiences match up, and sometimes they don't. When they don't it creates a gap:



EXPECTATION

EXPERIENCE

gap

When a gap occurs between what we expect and what we experience, we can choose to fill the gap with one of two things:

BELIEVING THE BEST or **ASSUMING THE WORST**

Believing the Best is based on trust and goodwill

Assuming the Worst is based on distrust and suspicion.

Five Principles for being a “Believe the Best” community:

1. When there is a gap that forms between what I expect and what I experience, I will BELIEVE the best. *(We will start with trust and goodwill).*
2. When other people assume the worst about you, I will come to your DEFENSE.
(Gossip is not permitted; we will put the best construction on what our neighbor does- the Eighth Commandment).
3. If what I experience begins to erode my TRUST, I will come directly to you about it.
(We won't let issues fester or be shared with others, nor will we ignore them).
4. When I'm convinced I will not be able to deliver on a promise, I will inform you AHEAD of time.
(We will keep our commitments to one another).
5. When you confront me about the gaps I've created, I will tell you the TRUTH.
(We will be open to hearing others' concerns, and respond to them with integrity).

Adapted from Celebration Lutheran Church- Cypress, Texas.

2026 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pastor	Rev. Tony VanCura	407-765-2822
President	Richard Healy	352-223-4800
Vice President	Kathy Bush	610-657-1168
Secretary	Vaike O'Grady	512-827-6344
Treasurer	Linda Hide	253-740-3063
Financial Secretary	Jeanne Talts	352-530-6865

Members:

John Braun	412-926-3381
Christine Carlson	516-458-7355
James Menchaca	210-913-6224
Ritch Cassem	352-406-3339

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Worship & Music	Rev. Tony VanCura, Pastor	352-249-8533
Evangelism/Technology/ Communications	Bill Birdsall	732-773-2680
Property	John Kelly	352-399-6253
Fellowship	Loraine Van Haecke	407-252-4692
Stewardship	Dianne Marcotte	352-933-5517
WELCA	Dianne Marcotte (contact only)	352-933-5517
Christian Education	Christine Carlson	516-458-7355
Finance	John Braun	412-926-3381
	Joel Weinhardt	330-936-8451

