



---

# GLORIA DEI

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

---

GATHERING IN CHRIST † SHARING HIS LOVE

**THE GLORION**  
**JUNE 2026**

[www.gloriadeielca.com](http://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:**

**Pastor Lynn M. Fonfara via phone:**

**352-249-8533**

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

**OFFICE PHONE: (352)787-3223**

**OFFICE EMAIL: [gloriadeilutheranleesburg@gmail.com](mailto:gloriadeilutheranleesburg@gmail.com)**

**WEB SITE: [www.gloriadeielca.com](http://www.gloriadeielca.com)**

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

**PASTOR: LYNN M. FONFARA**

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: LEONARD CREMISIO**

**AFTER WORSHIP SEC. : JUDY EADS** *(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**



June, 2026



## Love

Some of you have heard of my current fascination with Dame Julian of Norwich. She was a mystic pray-er in the late 1300s, and the first woman to write a book in English, *Revelations of Divine Love*. She was an anchoress – which means she lived many years in a small room or two attached to the cathedral.

The book she wrote was a description of the visions she had during what we today would call a near-death experience. She saw Jesus on the cross and had 16 visions in which she had conversations with him.

When she described her visions and then later expanded on them, the constant theme was love; God's love for us. God is love. We are made from love, for love. Within that love, there is no room for anger, only love.

We humans may imagine God is angry with us, because that's a human way of thinking, but it is not God's way. When we sin, it breaks the loving bond we have with God – from our point of view. God continues to love us, no matter what.

The authors of the Old Testament, especially the Psalmists and the Prophets, Jesus, the Gospel writers, the Apostle Paul and the New Testament letter-writers all assure us of God's love and grace.

I have always explained grace this way: There is nothing we can do to make God love us more, and nothing we can do to make God love us less.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, know that you are loved, beloved, in God's eyes.

Pax et bonum  
Peace and all good  
Pr Lynn

## Recommendations from a Book-a-holic



This month, I want to highlight a series of books that has delighted me for decades. Tony Hillerman's books about murder mysteries set in Navaho territory in Arizona and New Mexico fascinated me for years. To my delight, Tony's daughter Anne has continued writing the stories, allowing the characters to grow and learn about love and trust.

In Tony's stories, Tribal Police Lieutenant Joe Leaphorn solves murder mysteries that frequently include some facets of ancient beliefs. Over time, he trains Officer Jim Chee to use his investigative methods. In Anne's stories, Joe Leaphorn is retired, but remains a consultant, and Jim Chee works with Bernie Manuelito, a Tribal Policewoman.

What I find fascinating about each of the books is the way Navaho culture is included. For example, the reader learns that introductions include a list of family connections going back perhaps centuries. And, out of respect for the deceased, their names are never spoken. Instead, the person is: "The man whose body was found in the cave."

I suggest starting at the beginning with Tony Hillerman's books, though each book is complete in itself. It's just more fun following the characters' lives from the beginning.

Pr Lynn

## WELCA - WOMEN OF THE ELCA

**Next WELCA meeting:** Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, at 10:30 a.m.  
The WELCA board will not meet in June, July or August.

### PRAYERS

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

- 6/7** Mary Grissom, Rose Gulbrandsen, Sylvia Hallberg, Gerry Haller, Debbye Halligan
- 6/14** Northilt Handwerck, Dick Healy, Linda Hide, Carla Hoback, Roger Hollands, Irvin and Susan Johnson
- 6/21** MaryJean Kancel, Nancy Kancel, Shirley Kelley, John and Arlene Kelly, Bess King
- 6/28** Byron and Crystal Kirkpatrick, Sandy Kolb, Helga La Cava, Barb Lias, Sylvia Mackey

### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- |                             |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>6/01</b> June Rieb       | <b>6/13</b> Claudia Fetter |
| <b>6/03</b> Marilyn Wahl    | <b>6/17</b> Ernest DeBarr  |
| <b>6/08</b> Barb Lias       | <b>6/25</b> Nancy Vogel    |
| <b>6/08</b> Julian Menchaca | <b>6/28</b> Leone Goding   |
| <b>6/09</b> Marva Tetting   |                            |

### JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- |             |                            |         |
|-------------|----------------------------|---------|
| <b>6/04</b> | Bob Pierce and Susan Stack | 26 yrs. |
| <b>6/07</b> | Brian and Karen Mundy      | 46 yrs. |
| <b>6/28</b> | Michael and C.J.           | 46 yrs. |

## **BIBLE STUDY/EDUCATION**

### **Zoom Bible Study**

In June, the Zoom Bible study will continue, with topics to be announced.

Still learning

Pr Lynn

### **THANK YOU**

On Rachel's Day we took up a special offering for our local Lake-Sumter Children's Advocacy, you offered \$309.00. Brenda and her staff are so grateful for your generosity.

### **A from our Music Director.....**

I'd like to thank the entire choir for the beauty and glory they have added to our worship services, not only on Sundays but also during Lent, Easter, Advent and Christmas as well.

Thank you all for showing up, singing beautifully and being devoted choir members..... Gloria Dei is blessed because you all share your talents in the service of Christ. Thank you for lovingly and faithfully doing so!

Before the choir returns in September, I would ask that you consider joining us on a journey of faith, worship and praise. Together we can experience comfort, encouragement and communicate the eternal truth of God's Word as we glorify our Lord through music.

Len Cremisio

## **RUTH CIRCLE**

Please see the following updates regarding the Ruth Circle:

### **Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief:**

We are continuing our year-round collection of items for Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits. Please place your donations in the marked box in the narthex. We are currently collecting:

- Dark-colored bath towels
- Nail clippers
- Sturdy combs
- Bars of soap (4 oz. size, 2 per kit)
- Individually wrapped single toothbrushes

Please take a tag from our kindness tree in the Narthex which notes needed items. Thank you for your continued support of this important project.

### **Nourish to Flourish:**

**DONATIONS FROM THE CONGREGATION ARE ON PAUSE UNTIL JULY 15.**

As a result of the generosity of our congregation members and Joining Hands in Food Ministry board, the food pantry at Leesburg Elementary has been filled. Florence Katzenberger, the family liaison at Leesburg Elementary, will notify us over the summer when she is at the school to assist families. Food which has already been purchased for the school from Joining Hands in Food Ministry budget will be delivered at those times. The children and families will have availability to obtain food over the summer when children are not in school. We thank God for the blessings which enable this program to help these families who are struggling.

## **2 Corinthians 8:12**

*For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.*

Please note that there are no meetings scheduled for June, July, or August. We will resume our regular schedule on September 3rd at 10:30 am at Gloria Dei. All women of the church are invited to attend.

Best regards,  
Dianne Marcotte

## **MARY MARTHA CIRCLE**

Mary Martha Circle will meet for quilting only on Tuesday, June 9 & Friday June 26. Please come and join us for fun & fellowship. We look forward to continuing Bible study in September. Please continue to sew tops as we will continue to need them.

Carol Marshall, Leader  
Phone 352-787-0435

Thank you *sew* much for all you do.  
Leone

## **STEWARDSHIP**

### **Stewardship Begins with Preparedness**

#### **HURRICANE SEASON- JUNE 1 TO NOVEMBER 30**

Living in Florida, we know hurricane season is not just something we watch on the news — it is something we prepare for together. Good stewardship means caring wisely for the gifts God has entrusted to us: our families, neighbors, homes, church, and community.

Preparing ahead of time can lessen fear and help us respond calmly when storms approach. Simple acts such as checking emergency supplies, reviewing evacuation plans, securing important documents, and helping neighbors who may need assistance are all ways we practice faithful stewardship.

A hurricane kit might include:

- Water and non-perishable food
- Flashlights and batteries
- Medications and first aid supplies
- Important phone numbers and documents
- Pet supplies if needed

As a church family, we are also called to look after one another. A phone call, shared supplies, or offering help before or after a storm can be a powerful witness of Christ's love in action.

“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” — Galatians 6:2

May we enter this hurricane season prepared, prayerful, and ready to serve one another with faith, compassion, and generosity.

### **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

## **JUNE CALENDAR**

<b>Mon.</b>	<b>6/1</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Zoom Bible Study</b>
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>6/2</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>6/7</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Worship/Brief Order For Healing.</b>
<b>Mon.</b>	<b>6/8</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Zoom Bible Study</b>
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>6/9</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Mary Martha Circle/Quilting</b>
		<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>
<b>Fri.</b>	<b>6/12</b>	<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Joining Hands In Food Ministry</b>
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>6/14</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Service</b>
<b>Mon.</b>	<b>6/15</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Zoom Bible Study</b>
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>6/16</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>6/21</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Service/Hunger Offering</b>
<b>Mon.</b>	<b>6/22</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Zoom Bible Study</b>
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>6/23</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>
<b>Fri.</b>	<b>6/26</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Quilting</b>
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>6/28</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Service</b>
<b>Mon.</b>	<b>6/29</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Zoom Bible Study</b>
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>6/30</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>

## FINANCIAL CORNER

	April, 2026	Year to date 2026
Contributions	\$26,816.62	\$78,757.05
Expenditures	\$17,202.42	\$71,421.39

### RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Beg. Bal. 1/1/2026	Donations	Withdrawals	Ending Bal 4/30/2026
Altar Wine/Bread	377.90	25.00	67.89	335.01
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	662.50	980.80	17.97
1 <sup>st</sup> Impressions Ph 3	7,938.58	0	0	7,938.58
1 <sup>st</sup> Impressions Ph 4	4,463.86	25.00	0	4,488.86
Flowers	1,271.42	494.06	916.02	849.46
JHIF	0	5,490.00	5,490.00	0
Leesburg Elementary	14.69	0	0	14.69
Oak Park Middle	0	0	0	0
Quilting	300.00	0	300.00	0
Thrivent Choice \$\$	665.64	451.00	88.96	1,027.68
Trees & Landscaping	1,850.00	0	0	1,850.00
World Hunger	0	318.13	318.13	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>18,861.69</b>	<b>7,530.69</b>	<b>8,161.80</b>	<b>18,230.58</b>

## **JUNE WORSHIP LEADERS**

### **Assistant Ministers**

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

#### **9:30 a.m.**

<b>6/7</b>	R= Dianne Marcotte += Kathy Bush A=Vaike O'Grady	<b>6/14</b>	R= Patricia Bressler += Leone Godding A= Kathy Bush
<b>6/21</b>	R= MaryJean Kancel += Kathy Bush A= Patricia Bressler	<b>6/28</b>	R= Loraine Van Haecke += A= Vaike O'Grady

### **Ushers**

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

#### **9:30 a.m.**

<b>6/7</b>	Byron Kirkpatrick Ritch Cassem John Kelly Craig Carlson	<b>6/14</b>	Byron Kirkpatrick Ritch Cassem John Kelly Craig Carlson
<b>6/21</b>	Byron Kirkpatrick Ritch Cassem John Kelly Craig Carlson	<b>6/28</b>	Byron Kirkpatrick Ritch Cassem John Kelly Craig Carlson

**Altar Guild for June:** Crystal & Byron Kirkpatrick

**Post Worship Secretary for June:** Judy Eads

## **Fellowship**

**6/7** Diane Marcotte

**6/14** Patricia Bressler, Taeko Mincer

**6/21** Marie Davids, Helen Ames

**6/28** Dick Healy

## **Counters – Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.**

**6/7** Jeanne Talts

**6/14** Linda Steege & Patricia Bressler

**6/21** Arlene Kelly & Lillian Ostrander

**6/28** Arlene Kelly & Lillian Ostrander

## 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	Lynn M. Fonfara	352-249-8533
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	Pastor Lynn M. Fonfara	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