



GLORIA DEI

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GATHERING IN CHRIST ✝ SHARING HIS LOVE

THE GLORION
November 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. : JUNE REIB

(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



November 2026

Hope: The Promise of Things to Come

“Hope,” in the context of Scripture, is the confident expectation of something God has promised—something that will come to pass according to His will and in His time. This is very different from how we use the word hope in our everyday lives, when we wish for things that may never happen. Some people hope to win the lottery, others hope to live a carefree life, and still others hold out hope that the “good old days” will return.

Christian hope, however, rests not on our wishes or circumstances, but on the promises God has given us through His Word. We have the assurance that we are never alone, that our prayers are heard and answered according to His will, that eternal life is ours through Christ, and that our Lord will return as He has promised.

Paul reminds the Romans that the struggles we endure in this present life cannot compare with the glory that will one day be revealed to us. He writes, “For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience” (Romans 8:24–25).

As Christians, we live in hope because we have faith in the One who has promised us a future beyond what we can see or fully understand. Called by Christ, we are entrusted with sharing the Good News and making God’s love known to others, so that they, too, may come to know the hope we have in Christ and the promise of the world to come.

As we gather with family and friends this Thanksgiving, may we give thanks not only for the blessings we enjoy today, but also for the hope we have in God’s promises for tomorrow. Even in times of struggle or uncertainty, we can give

thanks for His steadfast love, trust in His abiding presence, and rest in the assurance of eternal life through Jesus Christ. May the hope we have in Christ fill your hearts with gratitude, strengthen your faith, and remind you that, no matter what tomorrow brings, we are held securely in God's promises.

Until that day, we are called to live with love and compassion for all of God's creation, offering encouragement to the weary, comfort to those who suffer, and the promise of God's presence to those who feel alone. We wait patiently, not in fear or uncertainty, but in faith, trusting that God's promises will be fulfilled. And we look forward with hope to the day when Christ's glory is revealed and God's peace embraces all nations.

May the hope we have in Christ sustain us through the struggles of today, strengthen our faith for tomorrow, and inspire us to share His love with all whom we encounter.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your loved ones! – Pr. Tony and family.

PRAYERS

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

- 11/1** Jim and June Rieb, Dick Ritter, Chris and Karen Russell, Elizabeth Sanguedolce, Lillian Skilbred.
- 11/8** Maureen Skurecki, Donna Smith, Linda Steege, Jeanne Talts, Jon and Marva Tetting.
- 11/15** Edward Thompson, Loraine and Bill Van Haecke, Mary Vanderplas, Nancy Vogel, Joel and Sharon Weinhardt.
- 11/22** Kenn and Marti Yance, Charles and Joy Yonko, Arthur Zerbel, Helen Ames, Forrest Berg.
- 11/29** Bill and Kathleen Birdsall, Gayle Bloom, John and Janet Braun, Patricia Bressler, Kathy Bush

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| 11/1 | Len Cremisio | 11/10 | Craig Carlson |
| 11/1 | Jim Rieb | 11/11 | Andy Mincer |
| 11/4 | John Kelly | 11/24 | Lynn Crane |

COUNCIL CORNER
Minutes of Gloria Dei Church Council Meeting
of Sunday, August 23, 2026

1. Call to order and Invocation: at 11:08 am

2. Roll call:

Pastor Tony Van Cura	✓	Linda Hide, Treasurer	
Dick Healy, President	✓	James Menchaca	✓
Kathy Bush, Vice President	✓	Rich Cassem	✓
Vaike O'Grady, Secretary	✓	John Braun	✓
Chris Carlson	✓	Leone Goding	✓

3. Promise: We, elected in trust as leaders of this household of faith, are thankful for grace first given us through Jesus Christ. We agree to diligently pray for the Holy Spirit to empower us to use our gifts in mission with God to grow disciples for Christ. May all our words and deeds in this assembly and in our daily lives be examples of love, faith and peace that bear witness to God's love for this community, the larger Church, and the world.

4. Adoption of today's agenda—moved and approved

5. Approval of August 2026 minutes—moved and approved

6. Correspondence—none

7. Pastor's report—distributed and reviewed. Note that Pastor has contacted Mid-Florida Sign to update the Gloria Dei electronic sign.

8. Treasurer's report—financial reports and draft budget for 2027 was distributed; Pastor asked Council to provide input to Linda on the 2027 budget this week if possible.

9. Any Committee reports

10. Old Business

- a. Disaster Planning-. Safety and Security Team developing a disaster plan. In progress.
- b. Pet blessing confirmed for 10/2/2026 from 4-6 P.M. Proposed budget \$1000. Will likely come in less. In progress.
- c. Trust & Estates atty presentation at GDLC in late Fall. In progress.

- d.** Reminder that Pastor will attend a Synod Gathering at Mission Inn on 10/5-7.
- e.** Calendar Committee—Kathy will get with Marie Davids and Evelyn, incorporating Pastor’s sample document to help us draft a 2027 calendar.
- f.** Other old business

11. New business

- a.** Strategic Planning Team Update: Name Change to Strategic Implementation Team— moved and approved.
- b.** A SIT Team member to give a Temple Talk re: who they are. (Pre-TT#1) The date of 10.4.26 was selected.
- c.** The President provided the following documents to support the policies and direction of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. A motion was made and seconded and Council unanimously approved the following documents :
 - 1. Adoption of the Role of the President doc.
 - 2. Adoption of the Role of Meaning, Purpose and Belonging doc
 - 3. Adoption of SPT and the Role of the President doc
 - 4. Attachment of Congregational comments re TT#1.
 - 5. Adoption of Temple Talk #1- What we will retain in time of adaptation. Suggest 10.11.26.
 - 6. Adoption of The Missional Church Visual
 - 7. Adoption of Christian Communication and Reconciliation Policy
 - 8. Adoption of Social Media Policy (with change to ensure Len’s role is considered)
- d.** Columbarium funds change of investment location on books. In progress.
- e.** Review of GDLC insurance policies. In progress.
- f.** JHIFM insurance review and conformance of JH insurance to GDLC carrier’s requirements. In progress.
- g.** Safety & Disaster Committee—Dianne, Pastor, Dick activating Call Multiplier service— needs to be communicated to the Congregation. Dick will identify who is on the Security call list and perhaps call for volunteers.
- h.** Church financial audit status: Brian Mundy is a potential person to contact. Dick to contact him.

- i. Cost of All Saints Lawn Crosses- request set aside \$650 for 200 crosses. May need more than this amount. Donations will be solicited for names for the crosses and for the artificial flowers. Glue and brew party to assemble. Moved and approved.
- j. Strategic Planning (Implementation) Team- Request for initial funding for \$2000.00. This amount allows for flexibility in considering initiatives. Dick will be responsible for reviewing the spend, and he will bring significant expenditures to Council to review. The SIT team will communicate their plans to the Council and Congregation beginning with the Temple Talk on October 4. Moved and approved.
- k. Other new business

12. Next Executive Committee meeting-Thursday, 10/22/2026 at 11:00 on Zoom

13. Next Council meeting- Sunday, 10/25/2026 at 11:00 in downstairs meeting room.

14. Who does what?

15. Benediction

16. Motion to adjourn: Moved and approved. Meeting adjourned at 11:48 am

Respectfully submitted,

Vaike O'Grady

BIBLE STUDY/EDUCATION

Zoom Bible Study

Please join us on Monday Evenings at 7pm for a Bible Study that focuses on the Lectionary Texts in a structured format provided by the ELCA (Daily Discipleship). The meeting is hosted on Zoom and can be joined with **Meeting ID:8732742912 and the Password: 12345** We look forward to gathering in Word and Spirit with you!

WELCA

WELCA Christmas Party

Thursday December 3, 2026 11:30am
Chesapeake Bay Grille - Arlington Ridge
Tickets on Sale November 1st \$25.00

Thankofferings

Gratitude. Gratitude cultivated, recognized, expressed and acted on. The ways we show gratitude and act on it are the ways we actually do make a difference in the world.

What do Thankofferings support?

The founders of Women of the ELCA decided back in 1988 that Thankofferings are to support the ongoing ministries of the churchwide women's organization. Your gifts to Women of the ELCA through Thankofferings make our advocacy work, our support of WELCA groups in congregations and synods, resources, grants, scholarships, publications and the triennial convention possible!

Next Sunday we will have an extra offering for "Thank Offerings"
Thank you for giving generously!

The WELCA Board will meet on Wednesday, November 4 at 10:30am.
All ladies from Gloria Dei are welcome.

RUTH CIRCLE

The next Ruth circle meeting will meet on Thursday Nov 5th at 10:30 am.
All women of the church are invited to attend for a time of Bible Study and year end planning. Bring a lunch or snack for a time of Fellowship after the meeting.

MARY MARTHA CIRCLE

November

Mary Martha Circle will meet on the 2nd Tuesday, November 10. We will start our Mission Quilting at 9AM and have a break at 10:30. Bible Study at 11 will be out of the Gather Magazine. Session Three. We will have copies of the lesson for anyone who needs one. We will also be Mission Quilting on the 3rd Friday, November 20th at 9am. Please come and join us for fun & fellowship. Please continue to sew tops as we will continue to need them.

Leone Goding for Carol Marshall, Leader Phone [352-787-0435](tel:352-787-0435)

STEWARDSHIP

Thankful, Grateful, and Blessed

As Thanksgiving Day approaches, I find three familiar words everywhere I look—on potholders, towels, napkins, and paper plates: Thankful, Grateful, and Blessed.

But are these words we remember only at Thanksgiving, or have we made them a part of our daily prayers throughout the year?

Grateful means appreciating who we are, what we have, and the people God has placed in our lives. It means appreciating our homes, our daily bread, and the blessings of health and fellowship. Do we also use the word grateful when we reflect on God’s amazing grace and the gift of His most precious Son, Jesus Christ?

Thankful expresses our appreciation for something specific we have received. Do we take time to thank God for the gifts of faith, family, His Holy Word, and His constant presence in our lives? Even in difficult times, there is always room in our prayers to give thanks for God’s love and faithfulness.

Blessed reminds us that we are recipients of God’s grace and favor. The Greek word *makarioi*, often translated as “blessed” in the New Testament, describes a deep sense of joy and well-being rooted in God. Being blessed does not mean that life is always easy; it means that God is with us through every circumstance.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, may we remember that thankfulness is more than a seasonal tradition, gratitude is more than a passing feeling, and being blessed is more than having an abundance of material things.

The next time you see the words “Thankful, Grateful, and Blessed,” let them be more than decorations. Let them be a reminder to live each day with a grateful heart, to give thanks in our prayers, and to recognize God’s blessings in both the ordinary moments and the extraordinary gifts of life.

May Thankful, Grateful, and Blessed be not just words we display at Thanksgiving, but words we live by every day.

NOURISH TO FLOURISH

Sharing God's Love, One Donation at a Time

“For I was hungry and you gave me food.” — Matthew 25:35

The spirit of giving continues to shine through our Nourish to Flourish ministry! During October, two carloads of food were delivered to Leesburg Elementary School, thanks to the generosity and caring hearts of our Gloria Dei congregation and our partners at Joining Hands in Food Ministry.

The deliveries included pop-top cans of lasagna, macaroni and cheese, Beefaroni, juice boxes, and a variety of fruit cups purchased by Joining Hands in Food Ministry. Our congregation members also contributed an assortment of healthy snacks to help nourish the children. Every donation, large or small, is a wonderful reminder that even the simplest act of kindness can make a meaningful difference in a child's life.

Leesburg Elementary is currently searching for a new Family School Liaison and contact person. In the meantime, Mrs. Ruby and other school employees are graciously stepping in to help fill this important role. Members of Ruth Circle and Joining Hands in Food Ministry continue to work together to make food deliveries as needed, ensuring that support reaches the school when it is needed most.

Beginning November 1, the Nourish to Flourish donation bin will be temporarily removed from the Narthex to make room for our Christmas projects benefiting the community. Although the bin will be taking a holiday, our commitment to caring for our neighbors continues!

Thank you to everyone who has contributed food, helped with deliveries, or supported this ministry in any way. Through your generosity, we put our faith into action and share God's love with children and families in our community. As Jesus reminds us in Matthew 25:35, feeding the hungry is one of the many ways we serve Him.

Thank you for helping Nourish to Flourish!

Best regards,
Dianne Marcotte

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 as many as you want and enjoy.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

First Impressions Task Force Meeting Minutes

October 13, 2026

In attendance: Pat Bressler, Kathleen Birdsall, Arlene Kelly, Linda Steege

Arlene opened our meeting with prayer at 9 AM

2. John Kelly is on top of the damaged door and column issues that we had from our 2025 exterior projects. The damaged door will be reinforced, and the exterior columns will be marked that need reinforcement and/or repair. We have paint at church to use when those issues are complete.

Kathleen wrote a report to the congregation about the work of our task force in the October Glorion.

Arlene brought up the idea of adding new members to our task force, and it was agreed that new people with decorating or related skills should be asked to join us.

3. Kathleen passed out a document that she wrote about which committee in our church is responsible for a variety of duties regarding maintenance, appearance, repair and safety and security concerns. This document should make clearer which committee handles which responsibility for our church and the coordination between the groups as needed.

4. Security and safety needs: Kathleen passed out a document entitled: “Lights, Doors, and Sightlines: A Practical Step Toward Safer Spaces.” Kathleen mentioned that we as a committee needed to make a more comprehensive list of our church’s appearance and safety and security issues throughout our building. Therefore, it was decided that at our next meeting, we should do a “walk through” of each room in our building and make a list of all the things we notice that should be repaired, changed or remodeled.

Kathleen said she had contacted Church Interiors about renovations we would be interested in talking with them about and she is waiting for a response from this company.

Linda advised she had called Hope Lutheran Church in the Villages to get a recommendation for a contractor who did church repair/remodel work for them. They recommended Josh Atkinson of Kingdom Builders (352-298-2309), who they have used and has done work for other churches.

The contacts are needed for possible future projects.

Our meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 9:50 AM.
Next Meeting scheduled for November 18 at 9:00 AM

Peace,
Linda Steege

First Impressions Task Force

The First Impressions Task Force helps ensure that the church is welcoming, attractive, and well organized. Its responsibilities include refreshing décor and common areas, monitoring and reducing clutter, and identifying appearance-related improvements so that the building consistently makes a positive first impression.

Building and Grounds Committee

The Building and Grounds Committee is responsible for the safety, structural integrity, and proper operation of the church's buildings and property. Its responsibilities include inspecting and maintaining the buildings, grounds, utilities, and major systems, as well as coordinating necessary repairs in a timely manner.

Coordination Between the Groups

The First Impressions Task Force should report maintenance, safety, or repair concerns to the Building and Grounds Committee. The Building and Grounds Committee should address structural and operational needs while considering how its work affects the appearance and welcoming atmosphere of the church.

Process for Reporting Concerns

1. Anyone who notices appearance, maintenance, repair, or safety concern should report it to the designated contact for the appropriate group.

2. The report should include the location, a brief description of the concern, the date observed, and a photo if possible.
3. Appearance, decor, organization, and clutter concerns should be directed to the First Impressions Task Force. Structural, utility, grounds, repair, and safety concerns should be directed to the Building and Grounds Committee. If responsibility is unclear, either group may receive the report and forward it to the appropriate group.
4. The receiving group should acknowledge the report, review it, assign responsibility, and communicate the planned action and expected timeline when available. All work by either group must be approved by council.
5. Urgent safety concerns or active utility problems should be reported immediately to the church office or designated emergency contact. If there is an immediate threat to life or property, emergency services should be contacted first.
6. The two groups should review shared or resolved concerns together and provide status updates until the matter is completed.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Sun.	11/1	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Service/ Brief Order for Healing/ All Saints Day
Mon.	11/2	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues.	11/3	9:30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		4:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Wed.	11/4	10:30 a.m.	WELCA Board Meeting
Thurs.	11/5	10:30 a.m.	WELCA Board Meeting
		4:00 p.m.	Ruth Circle
Sun.	11/8	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Service
Mon.	11/9	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues.	11/10	9:00 a.m.	Mary Martha Circle /
			Mission Quilting
		10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		4:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Fri.	11/13	8:30 a.m.	Joining Hands in
			Food Ministry
Sun.	11/15	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Service/ Hunger Offering
		11:00 a.m.	Temple Talk 2
Mon.	11/16	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues.	11/17	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		4:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Wed.	11/18	9:00 a.m.	First Impressions Task Force
Fri.	11/20	9:00 a.m.	Mission Quilting
Sun.	11/22	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Service
Mon.	11/23	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues.	11/24	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		4:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sun.	11/29	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Service
Mon.	11/30	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study

FINANCIAL CORNER

FINANCIAL CORNER

GENERAL FUND				
		September, 2026		Year to date 2026
Donations		25,954.44		168,328.53
Expenditures		17,322.70		169,189.02

2026 Restricted Funds

	Beg 1/1/26	Donations	Expenditures	Ending 9/30/26
Altar wine/bread	377.90	45.00	109.56	313.34
AV Equipment	138.33	-	-	138.33
Choir/Music	-	140.00	-	140.00
Eternal Light	785.00	-	-	785.00
Evangelism	720.00	-	-	720.00
Fellowship	336.27	1,120.28	1,261.75	194.80
First Impressions Phase 3	7,938.58	-	-	7,938.58
First Impressions Phase 4	4,463.86	25.00	-	4,488.86
Flowers	1,271.42	769.06	1,228.86	811.62
JHIF	-	5,510.00	5,510.00	-
Leesburg Elementary School	14.69	-	-	14.69
Misc Ministries	-	553.52	553.52	-
Quilting	300.00	-	300.00	-
Thrivent Choice \$	665.64	873.00	88.96	1,449.68
Trees & Landscaping	1,850.00		-	1,850.00
World Hunger	-	562.13	562.13	-
	18,861.69	9,597.99	9,614.78	18,844.90

NOVEMBER WORSHIP LEADERS

Assistant Ministers

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

9:30 a.m.

11/1	R= Christine Carlson += James Menchaca A= Patricia Bressler	11/8	R= Jon Tetting += James Menchaca A= Ellen Clement
11/15	R= Marva Tetting += Leone Goding A= Patricia Bressler	11/22	R= Dianne Marcotte += Leone Goding A= Vaike O'Grady
11/29	R= Kathy Bush += 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.

11/1 Byron Kirkpatrick
Ritch Cassem
John Kelly
Craig Carlson

11/8 Byron Kirkpatrick
Ritch Cassem
John Kelly
Craig Carlson

11/15 Byron Kirkpatrick
Ritch Cassem
John Kelly
Craig Carlson

11/22 Byron Kirkpatrick
Ritch Cassem
John Kelly
Craig Carlson

11/29 Byron Kirkpatrick
Ritch Cassem
John Kelly
Craig Carlson

Altar Guild for November: Crystal & Byron Kirkpatrick

Post Worship Secretary for November: June Reib

Fellowship

11/1

11/8 Joan Davis, Helen & Don Jr. Ames

11/15

11/22

11/29

Counters – Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.

11/1	Jeanne Talts
11/8	Linda Steege & Patricia Bressler
11/15	Arlene Kelly & Lillian Ostrander
11/22	Arlene Kelly & Lillian Ostrander
11/29	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
Leone Goding	352-223-1925

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	Kathy Bush	610-657-1168
Strategic Planning Team	Rev. Nancy Vogel	352-682-6838
Stewardship	Dianne Marcotte	352-933-5517
WELCA		
	Patricia Bressler	352-406-4896
Christian Education	Christine Carlson	516-458-7355
Finance	John Braun	412-926-3381
	Joel Weinhardt	330-936-8451

