

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 1020
402 Crawford St.
Kelso, WA 98626
360-577-1536



Pastor Denise Arnold

Pastor's hours: Tue. 10:30am-4pm

Office Hours: Tue. 8am-2pm &

Wed. 8am-10am



Check us out on Facebook,
www.gloriadeilutherankelso.com

or email us at

gloriadeikelso@gmail.com

March Newsletter

2022

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**NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2022**

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IT'S A PARTY!

The congregation is invited to Dan Carter's 80th birthday party on **Sunday, March 6th** after church. The family is asking everyone to wear masks and there will be cake and goodies to go. Please join us for a very special celebration. Seth Burns will provide some country music (Dan's favorite). If you are unable to attend, please consider sending a card.



SOUP SOUP SOUP

Thank you to the congregation for their unbelievable generosity as they brought soup for the 2 Sundays near the Super Bowl. We collected so much that we are sharing some with an organization called JANUS. Thank you to our caring congregation- our FISH room is looking good.
Mary Carter "FISH" chair



FISH Schedule for 2022

May 31 & June 1

July 14 & 15

Aug. 2 & 3

Sept. 1 & 2

Oct. 31 & Nov. 1

Dec. 15 & 16



The installation of Pastor Denise Arnold on January 16th



Can Lent be a happy time? It is hard to believe that it has been nearly two years since the pandemic closed us down. And, now here we are about to be “unmasked.”

The Lenten season is a time of reflection and a time of reorientation... getting our acts together and refocusing on what is important. It is a time of prayer and often a time when we choose something to “give up.” This year, lets not “give up,” but “add on.” I challenge each of us to “add on” five minutes of prayer each day - asking God how we can “drop our nets into deep water” and follow Jesus (Luke 5:11).

As I ponder our longing to return to some “normalcy” I am also reminded that normal isn't all that great either. Before covid, we heard of school shootings nearly weekly. We struggled with political factions. There was much about “normal” that wasn't good. Reflection on our “quarantine” era, I realize that some good has come out of it. Perhaps our awareness of our “need for God” grew? Perhaps we all spent more time contemplating our need for social connection and learned to value our loved ones more. And perhaps online church services reached more people than an in-building services might have. I know zoom meetings have allowed more contact with distant pastors and homebound clients. Ultimately, maybe we began to sort through what was truly needed versus habit or tradition.

I believe we can find Joy in our Lenten Journey to the Cross. But first our focus must be reoriented back to the path, the trail, the way, with Christ set as our true north. I invite you all to join us as we journey together to the cross... and prepare for that Glorious Day of Resurrection, Easter 2022.

Blessings on your journey,

Pastor Denise

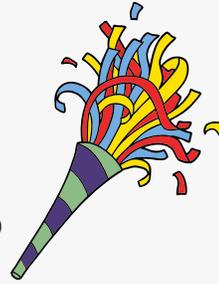
Happy Birthday

- 1st Jane Vaughn
- 1st Bob Wellman
- 2nd Jan Counts
- 2nd Diana Kamp
- 3rd Dan Carter
- 3rd George Shermer



March Birthdays

- 4th Mary Carter
- 4th Angie Montes
- 6th Tom Cooley
- 9th Jerry Fittro
- 10th Caroline Fittro
- 12th Ken Clark



Happy Birthday

- 14th Kim Clark
- 14th Jackson McDonald
- 18th Jackie Erickson
- 25th Whitney Libby
- 27th Janice Ward

Readers for March

- 6th -Boyd Burns
- 13th- Chuck Davison
- 20th- Amanda Little
- 27th- Allan Erickson

Greeter for March

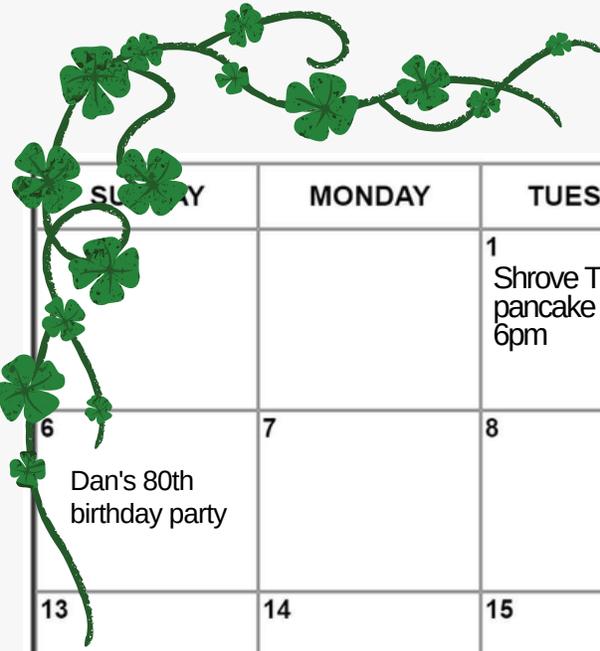
- 6th Jane Vaughn
- 13th
- 20th
- 27th

Flowers for March

- 6th Carter Family
- 13th
- 20th
- 27th

If you would like to be a reader contact Jackie at 360-430-7778 with the date you are interested in.

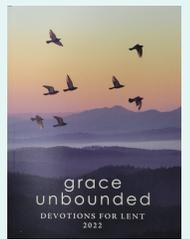
Sign up on the clipboard in the Narthex to be a greeter or bring flowers.



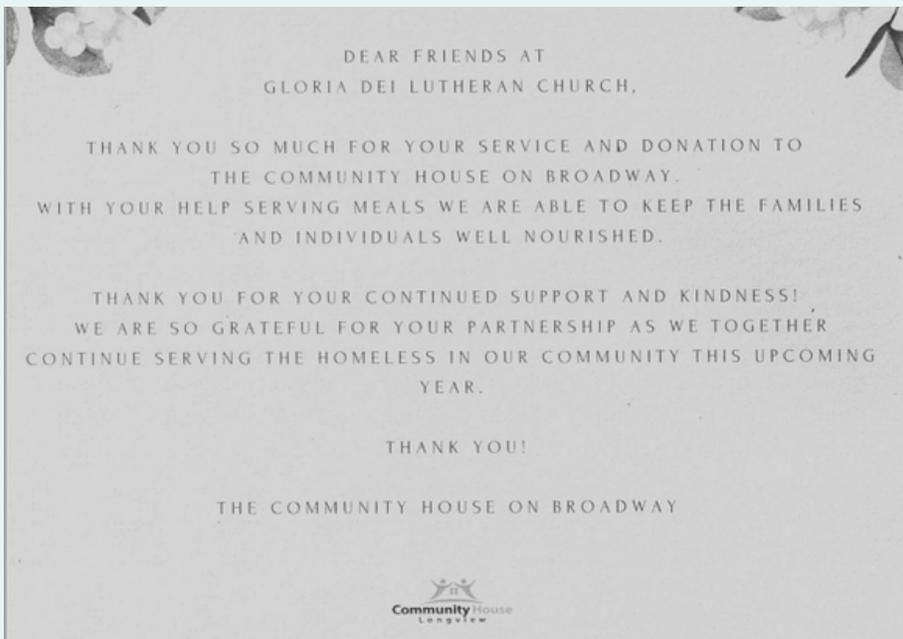
March

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner 6pm	2 + 7pm Ash Wednesday service at Trinity	3	4	5
6 Dan's 80th birthday party	7	8	9 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:30 Holden Evening Prayer GD 	10 10am Care & Cookies	11	12
13 Day light savings 11am Council	14	15	16 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:30 Holden Evening Prayer TL 	17  St. Patrick's Day	18	19
20 Community House Newsletter deadline	21	22	23 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:30 Holden Evening Prayer GD 	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:30 Holden Evening Prayer TL 	31		

Pick up your **Lent devotionals** in the narthex. There are a few large print for those who need them.



Soup suppers are starting Wednesday's March 9th - at 5:30 dinner and service at 6:30. Gloria Dei will bring soups & bread on March 9, 23, 6. Please note we are starting at 5:30 for dinner and then the service at 6:30 so we can get done a bit earlier than in the past.



We are Marching in the Light of God!
Every good march needs good socks, so let's gather socks for the homeless. And, BTW we have told St Paul Lutheran that we could collect more socks than they can. Don't let us lose, because Pastor Norm will never let me hear the end of it! Bring your socks to church this month!



Church Safety

About two years ago, Terri Reichert, Chuck Davison and Boyd Burns attended a local workshop discussing church security. It was held at the site of the now closed, Electric Bean coffee shop. The building was packed with standing room only. Two local law enforcement personnel led the discussion and it was very informative. The intent at the time was to possibly incorporate some of the education of that night into our church facility, church services and events we host. Unfortunately, Covid happened and we lost traction. Recently, your church Council has decided to revisit this subject. As a result, a meeting was held on January 6, with Terri, Chuck, Boyd and Greg Price in attendance. After some brainstorming, we have come up with some suggestions for possible procedures we may implement. There has also been discussion with the person in charge of the safety team at Calvary Chapel who is trained and has volunteered to help us with the endeavor. This education can address issues such as what do we do in the event of a weather issue, fire, gas leak, homeless or mental health concern, swat event in the area etc. We need many people to be educated into our church safety and pray you will volunteer to be a part of this emphasis. Please contact one of the people listed above if you can help.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SEDER MEAL, Thursday April 14, 2022 at 6:00pm

Gloria Dei will once again be hosting a Seder meal on Maundy Thursday, April 14th at 6:00pm. We hope you will put this date on your calendar and plan to attend. There will be sign-up sheets circulating in the near future for:



NUMBER ATTENDING - Invite your family, friends and neighbors. This is a meaningful, family friendly event that we would like to share with others.

FOOD DONATIONS – For instance, cans of green beans, butter, etc. Watch for the sign-up sheets.

FOOD PREPARATION – We hope those who have prepared food items in the past will consider preparing those same items for this year's Seder Meal.

TABLE SET UPS with WINE– We are again asking GDLC members to bring table settings and decorations from home and host a table. Each host will be asked to provide wine for their table.

CLEAN UP – A necessary close to every meal and much appreciated.

It is exciting to be able to resume gathering for these memorable events that have been put on hold these past years due to Covid. Hope to see you there. (If you have any suggestions or questions, please call Paula at 360-949-9684.)

CARE & COOKIE CREW - March 10, 2022 at 10:00am



What is the CARE & COOKIE CREW and what is it exactly? Would you like to learn more about and become a part of this fun and helpful group that will explore the many ways we can maintain and care for our beautiful little church? On Thursday, March 3rd at 10:00am, cookies and coffee will be served in the basement and anyone interested in joining this crew is welcome. We will brainstorm together about how often

the group might meet and what the CARE & COOKIE CREW might look like going forward.

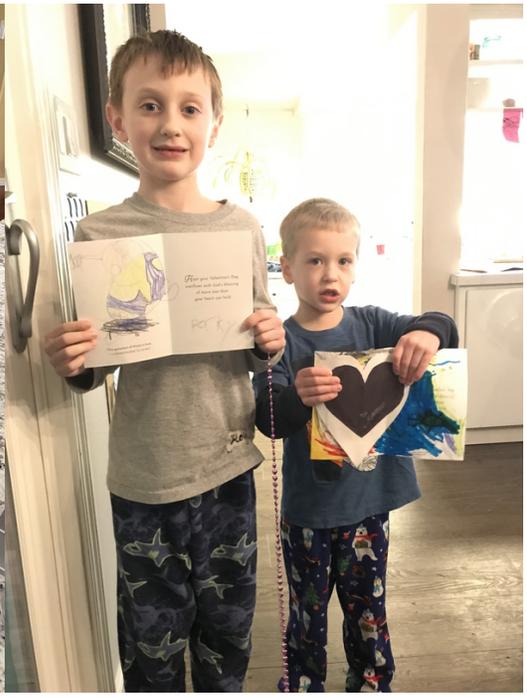
Bring your best ideas and willingness to work and I think we can accomplish great things. See you March 3rd. (Any questions, please call Paula at 360-949-9684.)



WHO'S IN THE PEW NEXT TO YOU?

Have you ever wanted to get to know someone in our church family a little bit better but feel like there is not enough time to visit after worship? My goal is to chat with members of GDLC and learn a little bit more of their life story which I will chronicle in the monthly newsletter. Are you willing to share some of your stories with me? I hope you will. If anyone would like to volunteer to be the first interviewee, please call me (Paula at 360-949-9684), otherwise, I will seek you out.





Kids Corner

Our kids have been enjoying their porch drops for February as you can see by the photos. We have decided to start Sunday School back up after service on February 27th and the kids are so excited for this to happen. We are visiting with them about Lent and what it is all about. They have a poster to write down what they may give up or do more of for these 40 weekdays, like Pastor Denise said in her letter – “add on” pray more each day. It should be fun to see what they come up with.

We have a great “Easter Porch Drop” with a “Easter Adventures” booklet that has engaging experiences & projects for the family during Easter. After Easter Sunday service we will have a “Trunk & Egg Escape” happening in the Church parking lot. We have some treats all ready for the kids to go around to 6-8 members cars and collect eggs. I really need some volunteers to open up the back of their cars/trucks and hand these out to the kids. You don't have to buy a thing we have the eggs all ready to go. If you can help me with this fun time for our kid's please let me know at Church or call Jackie at 430-7778.

We have set the dates for our “Monumental” Vacation Bible School for July 25-28th. Mark your calendar and come have dinner with us and enjoy the activities with our kiddos. We always need help beforehand with decorating and during with teaching, crafts and snack time. If you would like to help, please contact Dana or Jackie.

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 9, 2022

Present: *Candi Engebo, Allan Erickson, Jackie Erickson, Chuck Davison, Jocelyn Price, Greg Price, Candace Kolberg, Joel Halverson, Terri Reichert, Boyd Burns, Pastor Denise, and Dana Libby*

Testimonial: Boyd offered background information as to how he came to Gloria Dei.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer reported receipts for December of \$9,454.00, and expenses of \$11,023.96. Boyd moved and Greg seconded the motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Jackie noted that Todd Swan of Ameriprise has been doing a good job of keeping Deborah Burns up-to-date on our invested finances. Pastor Denise mentioned that Memorial Funds in the future could be put one or two funds such as General Fund, so that Council can decide on where best to utilize funds.

Christian Education: Utilized Eli the stuffed donkey for the advent/Christmas season and Jackie received favorable reviews. Deborah Burns has volunteered to do the porch drops in January. The new Sunday school program is easy to use, and we hope to get back to meeting in February. Had a good turnout for the Advent Wednesdays, Paula and Cheryl volunteered and helped with crafts.

Worship & Music: Planned out music to Lent. Currently utilizing setting 10, during Lent we will use setting 4, Easter setting 8, during summer we will switch it up. Jan will play 1st and 2nd Sundays, Linda will play 3rd and 4th. The 5th Sunday, Pastor will utilize someone within the congregation to provide a testimonial or preach. Pastor discussed utilizing a program "This is the Feast". We may have to purchase, but Pastor feels it is beautiful.

Family Promise Outreach: First host week will be May 29th through June 4th.

Pastor's Report: NEW YEAR - New Beginnings. Although this day is no different from any other day, there is a feeling of a fresh start with a new year. I pray that each of you will know that in Christ, we are a new creation each day.... A fresh start a re-do, a do over, but this time even better.

NEW IDEAS - I have put a large parking lot on the wall of the library with cars and trucks. There is also a Church Year time line under the cars. Please feel free to add as many vehicles as you want. No idea is too big, too small, or ridiculous. We don't have to do all of them, but they may spur us on to more ideas. (Remembering to breathe... we want everything we do to be with a focus and we don't want to do so much that we become human's doing instead of human beings).

NEW MEMBERS - I have had a couple meetings each Tuesday and it is exciting getting to know our members. I am talking to Pattie and Dean about official joining on the 23rd so they can become voting members on the 30th. As a transfer member, I will have

them come to the front of the church and along with everyone in the congregation, restate our beliefs following the affirmation of Baptism (basically the apostle's creed – Do you believe in God the Father? "I believe in God the Father....). I will also be giving out dish towels to new members. It's a thing I stole from my old church for new members. You will see....

THIS AND THAT - NO Coffee hour in January- I have asked that we not meet this month for coffee hour do to the holiday COVID surge. We can re-assess for February.

We are slowly transitioning to the new bulletins for ease of following worship. We will get it down soon. Our celebration inserts will stop in February and everything will be in the bulletin.

I sent an email out for interest in Portland Concert in May 12, For King and Country.

I was looking at possibly having a Sunday workshop after church: 02/20/2022 (depending on COVID). I would like to have a 1.5 workshop/lunch to build community, explore values, and have some fun... with the intention of dialogue about our vision and mission. I need volunteers to help organize???

Feedback... You are my eyes and ears on our community. Please, email, call, or leave a note under my door if there is a need, or a prayer request.

Blessings- Happy New Year!

Old Business:

Carpet/Flooring: Boyd asked Greg to see if he can make an appointment for the committee to go view the flooring in the new theater church.

Furnace: Heat is set at 71, but it is not coming on soon enough to warm up the church. Will re-set to come on earlier.

Basement Door by Furnace: Greg suggested that we replace the knob of the door so that it remains locked all the time. Will also need to install a door closer. Boyd motioned that a new knob and door closer be installed on the basement door. Candace seconded the motion and it passed without dissent. Greg also noted that breakers are being turned off that should not be and the breaker panel is too old to get guards.

Annual Meeting: Lunches will be served.

New Business:

Installation: Pastor will be installed and her husband Pastor Norm will do the installation. Jackie mentioned that Gloria Dei should pay for a supply Pastor if needed. Boyd noted that Synod should provide something as it is part of Pastor Norm's duties as a Synod representative. Pastor Denise will inquire on what will be required.

Lent: Pastor Denise has booklets she needs ordered. Pastor Denise will reach out to Trinity to see if they are interested in continuing to join together. Boyd mentioned asking Elten to step in for those Wednesdays that Pastor Denise is not available.

New Council Members: Dana Libby and George Bixby have volunteered to run again.

Church Security: Boyd reviewed a policy that Greg, Terri and Boyd put together to address security of the church during services and events. In brief, doors locked during service and other events. Need two ushers to ensure doors are locked and to greet any late comers. Establish a security team to monitor security during church and other events. Create a sign for the east door informing that it is an ADA door. Policy will be published in the newsletter. Security team will discuss with Pacific Islanders. Boyd also mentioned asking the Safety Leader from Calvary Chapel, an area person who is familiar with this type of protocol, to come tour the church and provide suggestions. Discussion ensued regarding adding a doorbell to the east door, and monitoring systems.

CHURCH CAMP OUT

Since 2022 is nearly upon us, it is time to get on your calendars the annual church camp out. The camp out will occur July 22-24. We have 4 Yurts available and 7 RV sites. Please let Dana know if you would like one by phone at 360.430.7950 or by email at libby_75@msn.com. Dana will return all unclaimed sites back to Skamakowa after the first of March. If you want to stay longer than the weekend, please call Skamakowa directly (360-795-8605). Dana and Wes usually arrive the Monday prior and stay through the following Monday. Please join us for fun, food and fellowship. Even if you do not stay, we potluck on the Saturday evening and you can come and spend the day with those in attendance.

FAMILY PROMISE

Phase 1 of the remodel of the Day Center to be able to house up to three families is complete. Gloria Dei's 2022 hosting dates are as follows: March 6-12; May 29-June 4; July 17-23; August 21-27; and November 13-19. We share hosting responsibilities with Renewal City and Rose Valley Friends and they have been great support churches to work with. The families are in a static housing situation at the Family Promise Day Center, so when we host we provide dinners for the week, with breakfast on Saturday. Family Promise has been doing a great job of getting families into housing within two to three months of arrival, so who we cook for varies each host week. If would like to "host" and have not done so before, please let Dana know so that she can add you to the email list within Sign Up Genius.