

# 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](http://www.gloriadeilutherankelso.com)

or email us at

[gloriadeikelso@gmail.com](mailto:gloriadeikelso@gmail.com)

February Newsletter

2022

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**NEWSLETTER  
FEBRUARY 2022**

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## Soup and Socks



You might have heard of a “flash mob?” Someone advertises on social media that there will be a gathering somewhere in two hours at some location... and a big event happens. Well, this is kind of like that, but it is a **FLASH CHALLENGE!**

Superbowl Sunday is in two weeks... I challenge our congregation to a slightly different bowl. A soup'er bowl. Let see if we can gather enough soup cans to reach from the church door, lined up, all the way to the altar! We have two weeks to get there. Bring your cans of soup (or vegetables) to the church.

**BUT WHATS NEXT?** Socks in March....Lets all March in the Light of God Socks... did you know socks are the most needed and least donated item in a homeless shelter?

As I begin to plan for our Lenten Season ahead, (sometimes I plan too much, it might be my demise), I started to think about the abundance God has given us. How can we give back? Not everyone can visit a homeless camp, or cook huge meals, but maybe what all of us can do is bring a pair of socks to church.

Our March challenge will be socks...helping us all to March in the Light of God!

## A letter from the Pastor

**Today** is the day of Salvation, and ...The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent [us] to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free... to proclaim the Lord's favor! (Jesus' Mission Statement as presented in Luke 4:18-19).

The first thing that comes to mind in February is Valentine's Day! The love month. As Christians we believe God loves all God's children and because God first loves us... we feel compelled to love others. One way to be Christ in our neighborhoods: to bring about justice, feed the poor, and give hospitality to the stranger, and to speak up for those who can't (also known as advocacy). We have an opportunity to become God's hands here in our own state. More on that a few paragraphs down.

I want to draw our attention to other important events in February. February is Black History Month and a great time to reflect upon some of our nation's heroes and heroines: Martin Luther King Jr who woke us up to dreaming of a just world, and Maya Angelou who wrote some of the most moving poetry and prose in the last 100 years. There are so many others: Ella Baker, James Baldwin, and Henrietta Lacks who's cells are responsible for creating the polio vaccine saving millions.

February is, also, an important month in our state government as our elected officials will be setting our state budget for the next two years. Every year about this time, our legislatures meet to vote on bills and agree upon new laws that will help us live peaceably with one another. Nearly every day during the month there will be a special "Lobby Day" for the issues that mean the most to you.

You might consider ways to change our world and get involved. How? First, know your district representatives by calling or using the internet: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/> or call 1-800-562-6000. Next, join a coalition you care about. Coalitions can be found here: [www.washingtonnonprofits.org](http://www.washingtonnonprofits.org) For example, the Faith Action Network <http://fanwa.org/> has advocacy days on Feb 10-11th. Click on their agenda list to learn about the bills being sponsored this year. The National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) has Advocacy Days from the 21st-25th. They are advocating for funding for greater services for the mentally ill. Now is the time to speak up and it is so easy because it is all virtual this year!

I know this isn't my normal newsletter. But, I also know that we are called to act, along with our prayers. Luther believed it was our responsibility to be active in our government, to be the hands and feet for God in our land. I wanted to give you a possible framework in which to do this.

The XOXO you may be signing on your Valentine Cards is rooted in the Cross "X" and an Oath or Obligation "O." The cross "X" for Jesus' sacrifice and love, the "O" for our Obligation to love our neighbor's as ourselves.

In God's Amazing Grace - XOXO,  
Pastor Denise

## February Birthdays

5th Ritchie Pederson  
 7th Jocelyn Price  
 9th Liv Jordan  
 14th Mike Tugaw  
 17th Candace Kolberg



18th Kaylee Cody  
 21st Vic Verhasselt  
 24th Deborah Burns  
 26th Kris Almstrum

## February Anniversary



### Readers for February

6th Deborah Burns  
 13th  
 20th Allan Erickson  
 27th Amanda Little

### Greeter for February

6th  
 13th  
 20th  
 27th

### Flowers for February

6th  
 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.

# February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 11am Council	14 Valentines Day	15	16	17	18	19
20 Community House Newsletter deadline	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	March 1st Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner 6pm	March 2nd 7pm Ash Wednesday service at Trinity			

Psalm 107:1  
"Give thanks to the LORD, for  
he is good; his love endures  
forever!"

## FISH Schedule for 2022

May 31 & June 1

July 14 & 15

Aug. 2 & 3

Sept. 1 & 2

Oct. 31 & Nov. 1

Dec. 15 & 16



A picture from the  
Christmas Eve candle  
lighting service

## 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.

**GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**DECEMBER 12, 2021**

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

**Devotions:** Greg presented multiple readings on friendship and kindness.

**Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer reported receipts for November of \$5,457.00, and expenses of \$7,261.96. Candi moved and Terri seconded the motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Candace started a discussion on the fundraising for the last stain glass window. Jocelyn will pursue getting more information to bring to a completion.

**Christian Education:** Jackie discussed the recent porch bags for the kids. Working on music for the Christmas program, RJ and Sabine will perform piano solos.

**Evangelism:** Pastor Denise discussed Paul Googan who delivers meals to the homeless camp. Pastor Norm and Denise are going to join him and see how it works as it may be something that we can join in on. Discussed Janus House, which is a group in Kelso that provides for homeless children up to young adult (24). They collect food items, toiletries, paper products, cleaning supplies and clothing for year-round distribution. When they began in 2017, they provided Christmas to 10 children, and in 2020 that was up to 238.

**Property Team:** Need to look at invoices from repairs due to the break in and determine if Council wants to turn over to insurance. Greg and Boyd discovered more corroded pipes that need to be taken care of. Still pursuing flooring replacements. Dana bought more lights to replace in bathrooms, Wes will get installed in bathrooms this Spring. Doug Engebo will get Pastor Denise's name up on the sign outside.

**Worship & Music:** Will meet on Wednesday to pick songs for next months. The bellows in the organs are blown. Seth is looking into cost to fix, and is open to suggestions as to fix or not. Jackie and Joel recalled that the last repair they were told that it would be an expensive fix and we may want to look at replacing. Seth will check into options for the next meeting. Seth asked that we share the love with our accompanists. Jan Thompson will play two Sundays a month and Linda Monahan two Sundays a month. Months with that contain five Sundays music will be provided by other musicians.

**Family Promise Outreach:** Thank you to everyone that helped with meals for the week. They are currently remodeling the Day Center to house families in a static shelter We have our weeks for 2022, Dana will post in newsletter as she is working on swapping a week with another congregation.

## **Pastor's Report:**

Message of hope: While praying what felt like all night with worry about the shrinking church, I felt God tell me ... Don't worry about growth and size! Just do God's will and God will take care of the rest.

I cannot tell you how blessed I feel right now to be in the midst of this council and congregation. The joy and laughter and acceptance you all have shared with me is overwhelming. I often tell my clients to hold on to these moments, take pictures, write in your journal, whatever it takes, because when doubt or difficult times come, you need to hold on to what is true.

First, I love my office, I feel like it is home. I hope others can join me there. Boyd asked me how can some one have pastries? I haven't figured that out... I guess phone, email, text, leave a note on the door. I am here from 10:30 – 4 pm on Thursdays (9:30 is text study online with local pastors). I am open to ideas.

**January 16th installation?** Pastor Norm is the Conference Dean and can perform the rites.

**Sundays and Seasons:** I believe we should take down as many barriers as possible when it comes to worship. I would like us to try the bulletins working with Sunday's and Season's for one year and then revisit it. We will not need the celebration insert if we use Sundays and Seasons. I ran it by Seth Briefly and it will make doing the overheads easier too because the words are available.

## **Bigger picture planning-**

At present, I plan to meet with as many people as I can- getting to know everyone. I want to know the Interests and energy capacity of our congregation? Brainstorming? monthly bike rides, monthly dinners with activities, bible studies in creation, ecumenical and interfaith connections?

**Beginning in February...** working on vision, mission, logo, branding, not for the sake of marketing but for the sake of internal growth, our identity in Christ, and team building.

Breathing out, breathing in - Project panning once every three months or so a reaching out project... like a visiting veterinarian, concert in the parking lot, paper shredding, master gardener education meetings.

## **Old Business:**

**Budget Committee:** Jackie, Alan, Bob Cruz, and Dana met and went through the budget line by line.

Next year, Seth is budgeting \$120/week for musicians. We have received a \$12,000 restricted Worship and Music donation. Peggy questioned Seth's salary in the budget and it was determined that we were paying him too much. It should \$6,600 annually and Seth will track his hours and we will discuss next quarter to ensure that we are paying him correctly for his services. Much discussion ensued on the shortfall from budget to giving. It is possible to utilize the investment and savings funds that we have accumulated.

Boyd moved that we present the 2022 budget to the congregation at the annual meeting in January with the adjustment for Seth's salary. Candi seconded. The motion passed without dissent.

### **New Business**

**Advent Events:** 21-23 people attending the advent gatherings.

**Credit Card:** Jackie would like to get Pastor Denise a credit card instead of utilizing cash. The credit limit per month would be \$2,500. Jocelyn motioned that we provide Pastor Denise with a credit card with a \$2,500 limit per month. Candi seconded the motion and the motioned passed without dissent. Seth mentioned utilizing Safeway gift cards when money is requested by phone or people who stop by and request. Pastor Denise mentioned \$25. Jackie will pick up 10 \$25, gift cards.

**Sunday & Season's:** \$349 for Sundays in Season and Pastor Denise would like us to purchase to try for 1 year. It will make the bulletin and children bulletins. Seth motioned that we purchase the Sundays in Season for \$349 for 2022, and Peggy seconded the motion. The motion passed without dissent.

**Annual Meeting Date:** January 30th, 11:00 a.m.

**Annual Meeting Council Nominations:** Dana Libby is the only volunteer at this time.

Greg mentioned getting new knobs for the doors by the furnace room so that they remain locked, when the knob is twisted.

### **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 5 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 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**

A big thank you to everyone who provided gifts or money for the Robert Chapman family. The kids were so excited when Wes and I delivered and I am sure they had a very special Christmas thanks to you!

The 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.