

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
& Thurs. 9:30am-2pm

Office Hours: Tue. 8am-2pm &
Thur. 8am-10am



Check us out on Facebook,
www.gloriadeilutherankelso.com

or email us at
gloriadeikelso@gmail.com

December Newsletter
2022

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor: Pastor Denise Arnold

Pastor's hours: Tue. 10:30am-4pm &
Thurs. 9:30am-2pm

Office Hours: Tuesday's 8am-2pm
& Thursday's 8am-10am

Check us out on Facebook,
www.gloriadeilutherankelso.com
or email us at
gloriadeikelso@gmail.com



**NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2022**

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

Remember in Prayer:

Rex Carter

Those fighting Covid

Allan's brother Mike

Caroline Fittro

Bob & Darnell Ringbom

Debbie Bryan (Sandi, Randie &

LeAndra's cousin) Currently in hospice

Gladys Collins for safe travel to Dana's
family for Thanksgiving

It's that time again to nominate
new council members. Please
prayerfully consider serving.

THANKFUL THURSDAY Prayer meeting *NEW
TIME*** 9:00 am**

Topic: Prayer- Listening to God

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84815010406>

Mark your calendars: On Dec 18th

***We are celebrating "Home for the Holidays" or
"Home Coming"***

Let's see if we can all gather together
for church service at 9:30 am with
the whole church family.
What a joy to see all of us
in one service!



Next FISH Dates
Dec. 15 & 16

Happy Birthday

- 1 - DENISE ARNOLD
- 1 - WES LIBBY
- 5 - LINDSEY MASIAREK
- 8 - JEAN AMUNDSON
- 10 - JAN THOMPSON
- 10 - BARRY WALTHER
- 14 - MARY ROUNDY
- 15 - BENTLEE HEMBLING
- 19 - CHARLOTTE BROCK
- 25 - JESUS
- 27 - MARY LOU WELLMAN
- 29 - PHILLIP HEMBLING



December



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4 Second Sunday in Advent Holiday Bazaar	5	6	7 5:30- Advent potluck and Craft or Activity	8 Education planning at 11am	9	10
11 Third Sunday in Advent Council Meeting	12	13	14 5:30- Advent potluck and craft	15 	16 	17
18 Fourth Sunday in Advent 9:30 am HOME COMING Service 4pm Christmas dinner and short program Community House Newsletter Deadline	19	20	21 5:30- Advent potluck and Craft	22	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> Candle light service 7:30
25 	26	27	28	29	30	31 

Upcoming Events

Nov 30- 5:30 Advent potluck and Christmas Swags (bring an ornament or ribbon)

Dec. 4- GLORIA DEI HOLIDAY BAZAAR. We hope, by now, that you have come up with some great crafts, baked items and donations for our upcoming Holiday Bazaar. The event will be held immediately following our morning worship service on December 4th. We will have tables set up downstairs in the fellowship hall on Monday, November 28th, so items can be dropped off any time after that. Please write out a description of each item and possible prices on the provided papers, which will be available on each table. We look forward to seeing you all at this year's event and raising money for Cowlitz Chaplaincy. Please call Paula Zerby or Carl Winston with any questions.

Dec. 7 - 5:30 Advent potluck and Craft - Stars and snowflakes

Dec. 14 - 5:30 Advent potluck & Craft- Christmas card creations

Dec. 14 & 15- FISH

Dec. 18- 9:30 am HOMECOMING Service.... Home for the holidays. Let's see the whole church family together.

Dec. 18- 4pm Christmas dinner and short program (meet in the fellowship hall)

Dec. 21- 5:30 Advent potluck and Craft (Cookie decorating) & ("Oh Boy" Baby Shower). We will be having a baby shower for the coming of our new baby Jesus. We will be having a diaper drive as the gifts for the baby and these will be donated to the women's Emergency Support Shelter. We will have cake, games and much more.

Dec. 24- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:30 pm

Dec. 25- No Sunday School

Jan. 1 – No Sunday School

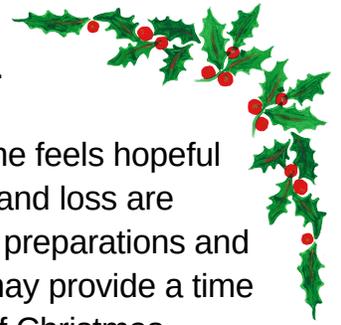
Jan. 14- Chili Cook-off Place to be announced. Winning church brings a plaque home!

Jan. 21 – "Nachos & Nerf" 11am – 1pm. FYI – We will be shooting the foam darts at targets not each other and there will be eye protection and equipment will be supplied. The lesson will be that we don't let our shields down and keep our "Armor of God" on all the time.

Feb. 17 – Date Night for parents and Movie night for the kids!!!! 4pm – 7pm. More information to come.

Just a FYI – The TV downstairs to the back of the fellowship hall is working again and showing the worship service for those parents that need a time out. LOL We love having the kids in worship but understand if you want to go downstairs and sit while they can play in the toy room for a bit. I have moved some items from the nursery to the downstairs room since we are not using the nursery and will be adding some more items soon. Have a cup of coffee, sit, and enjoy if you wish but don't feel you have to do this.

December 2022 The most wonderful time of the year!!!! But not for everyone....



While Advent is a season of hope and Christmas is a season of joy, not everyone feels hopeful or like celebrating. Grief, illness, aging, depression, loneliness, unemployment, and loss are magnified. Even those who are not struggling with losses may feel the stress of preparations and expectations around Christmas time. A Longest Night/Blue Christmas service may provide a time and place of solace during the often-frenetic days surrounding the celebration of Christmas.

In the Northern Hemisphere, December 21 is the longest night, the winter solstice. It marks the shortest day of the year, the official start of winter. Tradition says that nature and all her creatures stop and hold their breath to see if the sun will turn back from its wanderings, if the days will lengthen and the earth will once again feel the sun's warmth. On this darkest day of the year, we come with our honest yearnings seeking the return of light and hope.

Prayer for the long dark winter nights:

Creator of the stars of night, bless the long hours of the night with the warmth of your presence. Come to all who suffer in any way. Grant rest to the weary, freedom to those who are burdened, and bright hope to those who despair. Strengthen us as we await your coming once again, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen. (From Sundays & Seasons)

Prayers for each week of Advent: I invite you to celebrate Advent in your home, lighting a candle each week in preparation for Christ.

First week HOPE: Come, Holy Savior, Jesus Christ, God with us. How we need you! If our night is dark, shine all the more with the radiance of your light. Amen.

Second week PEACE: Gracious God, we praise you for the gift of life, and for your grace and love. As we journey through this season of Advent, help us shift our focus from the many things that we want to the opportunities we have to praise you in our lives and in our communities. Amen.

Third week JOY: Majestic and sovereign God, you alone are worthy of praise and honor. Lord, we confess that there are times when we enter into your presence distracted by the cares of life and do not give you the honor and presence of mind you are worthy of. As we contemplate the coming Christ child, direct our thoughts and create in us clean hands and pure hearts, that we might be found worthy of your love and the sacrifice of Jesus, for you are the King of glory, majesty and honor. Amen.

Forth week LOVE: Eternal God, we know that you have always been faithful to us. We know that you will always be faithful to us. Your love is from everlasting to everlasting. You are the alpha and the omega. Help us to remember your faithfulness during this time of waiting. Help us to live into the hope and the joy of Mary and Elizabeth. Thanks be to God. Amen! (Prayers Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, 2016).

Happy Advent & Merry Christmas!, Pastor Denise

Change! Yikes!

Thankful Thursday Prayer- This time has been such a blessing we will plan to continue it through the new year. The ***NEW time is 9:00 am on Thursdays***. Join us for listening, praising, and then presenting our needs and burdens.

God who is faithful to all God's promises listens to our prayers and brings us what we need.

Perhaps you noticed the banners missing in church? We are doing a little cleaning, repatching, and repainting the walls. We plan to use the beautiful banners interchangeably on the altar and around the church. We will be keeping them in the sacristy for easier access.

Another big change has been the new candles upfront. They are no longer wax, but filled with oil. Even the acolyte's have new lighting sticks with oil. This will keep the wax from dripping on our new carpet.

We have a new piano and we have moved the organ in an effort to help the musicians see the congregation and know what is going on with the service.

We also have a new Christmas Tree, no more needles to clean- and we are more allergy friendly. Thank you Mary Lou and Bob for the beautiful donation.

Coming soon are the new pew cushions and our final stain glass window in the sanctuary.

God's mercies are new every morning, and now our church also feels clean and fresh.



GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES OCTOBER 9, 2022

Present: Boyd Burns, Peggy Winston, Greg Price, George Bixby, Jackie Erickson, Candi Engebo, Jocelyn (Jaws) Price, Seth Burns, Chuck Davison, and Pastor Denise.

Devotions by Peggy.

Treasurer's report presented – motion to approve by Jaws, second by Peggy. Motion passed. The treasurer reported receipts for September 2022 in the amount \$7,519.00, and expenses in the amount \$13,201.60.

Committee Reports

Christian Ed – Jackie is working to add crafts to Sunday School, reported all is going well.

Property - Greg is working on identifying circuit breakers, then electrician will be contacted to look at electrical panels and see where changes need to occur.

Replaced light switch upstairs. Also is working on plumbing in upstairs women's restroom.

Making a plan to put TV back downstairs (is a three person job), ideally to have it done by November 6.

Plans to work on outside faucet.

Worship/Music – Currently in Setting 5. Jan is playing piano 1st and 3rd Sundays, with Linda Monohan playing 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays.

Upcoming plans are November 6th All Saints Sunday, November 20 Confirmation Sunday for RJ, and November 27 baptism is planned.

Seth resigned from his position as music director, and plans to maintain his position on council.

Pastor's Report presented. Backup plan for leading services has been discussed and is being put in place.

Thank you Thank you Thank YOU! What a surprise! Pastor's appreciation celebration. I have received flowers in my office, a visit from Odin, Donuts and more! You all are truly the real blessing. I was able to take a vacation and not have to worry about the church falling apart.

Thankful Thursdays Prayer 9:30-10 am: zoom or join us around the conference room....we sit in silence for 10 minutes and share praises and prayers. This has been a blessing with 3-4 people each week.

Conference Wide Men's Bible Study on Zoom at 7 am Wed: Lectio Divina the book of Philippians began Sept 28 and will continue...join anytime.

Worship: We are back in the Blue book setting 5. Animal Blessing Oct 2, upcoming is Trinity on Oct 30 at 10:30 am,

All Saints Nov 6 we will each light a candle remembering those who have past and set it on the altar, after church we will have a Good Bye Celebration For Ruth Raymen as she is off to Colorado,

Nov 20th Christ the King Sunday and RJ's Confirmation,

Nov 27th is the beginning of Advent and Norah's Baptism (we hope).

FALL DINNERS FOR 8: I have a sign up for murder mystery dinners this fall... sent it around one last time.

Fellowship: Thanks to Alan and Jackie for the BBQ pot luck on Sept 14. We painted rocks and enjoyed our fellowship

OKTOBERFEST Oct 15 5-8:30 St Paul. We are doing the children's games (still looking for a little help), Powder donut bites, duck dabbing, and cookie walk. They are closing the road and they will have brats and beer in the garden.

Oct 26th... A potluck dress-up from the year 1517 (King Henry VIII & Luther's Protest). We will also try to escape from our room! Bring a friend.

Old Business

Organ/Piano – discussion regarding the plan for these two items.

Security Cameras – Seth recommended a system that would be approximately \$3,000.00. This system will not require additional wiring and will utilize solar power. It will require an upgrade to the internet infrastructure within the building. Seth recommended switching to CenturyLink for internet service, which will also save money. Boyd and Seth will take next steps to upgrading the internet before deciding camera purchase. Everyone agreed it is an important safety measure to get in place, just need to determine what suits our needs.

Time and Talent – survey will be going out with next financial statements.

Building use agreements – Jaws will work on this once volleyball is done.

New business

Legal streaming of music – discussion regarding how best to stream our service, along with keeping in mind if we use music videos from paid professionals we may not be legal. Denise is going to reach out to Nathaniel at Longview Community to find out how they are handling it.

Budget committee formed. It will consist of Jackie, Boyd, and Bob Cruz is going to be contacted.

The sponsoring of Janus kids for Christmas was discussed. Boyd motioned that we sponsor Janus kids, and that Dana Libby will coordinate the effort. Chuck seconded the motion, motion passed.

Calendar Items – as noted in the agenda, with the addition of an auction being held December 4th after service which is going to be coordinated by Carl Winston and Paula Zerby.

FAMILY PROMISE:

A big THANK YOU to all of the volunteers that helped make 2022 hosting such a success. Family Promise has a new director and I have requested that the 2023 host dates coincide the same weeks as FISH to ensure that I am home and can continue as coordinator. Our support churches, Rose Valley Friends, and Renewal City have been tremendous in their support this year, and I look forward to continuing on with them in 2023.

CHRISTMAS ADOPTION:

I (Dana) received approval from Council to proceed with adopting children from Kelso's Janus Youth Program, which serves homeless youth up to the age of 20. I have requested 15 kids of various ages and genders. I will have a sign up sheet created for passing around as soon as I receive the names and gift ideas from Janus House. I will be doing this from afar as I will not be back into town until the 13th of December, but will be able to answer any questions or concerns at 360.430.7950. Please leave any purchased gifts in the church office by December 11th as I will deliver shortly after I get back into town. If you want to provide a cash donation, please let me know directly and I will do shopping either here in Arizona or when I get home. I so appreciate your help with making these kids' Christmas a bit more special for them.