

The Gloria Dei-ly News

November 2020

1333 Beltline Road, Garland, Texas 75040

(972) 530-8555

Pastor Tom Schwolert

A Word from our Minister:

LOOKING FORWARD

It's hard to look forward when so much around us seems so off kilter. I've found myself lately so consumed with the week's tasks, the election, the pandemic and worrying about the well-being of family and friends that I forget about the future.

However, as a congregation we must think about the future. It is important that we make plans for growth both in our own spiritual journey as well as welcoming new people into this faith community. We have a message of hope that people need to hear. There are LGBTQIA+ persons who need to know there is a congregation that accepts them. There are people in our community that want to be a part of a church that cares about racial reconciliation. There are people who deeply care about works of justice who may want to join us in those efforts. As we care for creation, people will witness these efforts and want to jump in with us. The list goes on.

In this coming time of thankfulness and as Advent begins, may we be people of hope and asking God "where do you want us to go in 2021?" It's time to make plans for the future. It's time to dream God-sized dreams about what God might be up to in and through us. Are you in?

Will you join me in taking some focused time to pray and ask God for inspiration through the Holy Spirit? How might you have a renewed sense of your role in the future of Gloria Dei? How might we better connect with our community in spite of being in the middle of this pandemic? How might we use our creativity that God has given us to reach young people in our community? Who needs to be invited into the Gloria Dei community?

You can count on me to always be hopeful. You can count on me to always look for the potential that we have. You can count on me to be committed to sharing the gospel no matter what. You can count on me to lead with the best of my ability.

Can I count on you? If you sense God is inspiring you somehow, please reach out to me. 2021 will be a year of trying new things. We might even fail. But we will fail forward because we have hope in Jesus Christ. I look forward to 2021.

Grace and Peace to You! —Pastor Tom

Birthdays to Celebrate in November

Lisa Harris	11/18	Joyce Decker	11/23
Sean Hastings	11/19	Laura Koerper	11/24
Charlotte Smith	11/20	Stacy Hanson	11/24
Susan Streng	11/22		

Please let Karen Johnson know if your birthday is missing from the list or incorrect so that the church records can be updated.

ABOUT THE ELECTION

In a few days, a president will be elected. I think we can all agree that this has been quite an election ride. And the fact of the matter is, your candidate may not win. There is going to be grief and disappointment. There is also going to be celebration for those whose candidate wins. Regardless of the outcome, I'm convinced we will be okay. **Regardless of who is in charge of the country it is important that we always realize who is in charge of our lives, Jesus Christ.**

We must protect and maintain the unity we have in Jesus Christ. One way we can maintain that unity is to respect the differences we have politically. We must remain civil with one another both publicly and privately. The apostle Paul spoke out quite frequently about division in the church. He warned that in can be a big roadblock to the health and future of the church. Moving forward, may we continue to heed Paul's words in Ephesians 4:1-6:

"I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all." —Pastor Tom



Don't forget to set your clocks back 1 hour TONIGHT (October 31) before you go to bed or you'll be early to watch the Sunday Worship Service at 10 a.m.

SPECIAL DATES IN NOVEMBER!

- ◆ All Saints' Day, November 1, 2020
- ◆ Daylight-Saving Time ends, November 1, 2020
- ◆ Election Day, November 3, 2020
- ◆ Veterans Day, November 11, 2020
- ◆ Christ the King Sunday, November 22, 2020
- ◆ Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 2020
- ◆ First Sunday of Advent, November 29, 2020



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The Gloria Dei-ly News is a monthly newsletter distributed to members and friends of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 1333 Beltline Road, Garland, Texas 75040 (972) 530-8555. Worship begins at 10:15 a.m. The staff currently consists of Karen Johnson, Editor and Mr. Steve Maziarz, Acting President of the Congregation. Articles may be submitted to the next month's edition of the newsletter by the third Sunday of the month and may be e-mailed to newsletter@gloriadeigarland.org.

Glory to God

www.gloriadeigarland.org

A Word from the Council:

It's said, by some, that seven is a lucky number. Well, after seven months of isolation due to this pandemic, I don't feel any luckier. How about you?

But those opening sentences are looking at things from an Earthly perspective. As Christians, we need to be looking at things from a different perspective. From that angle, we are not only lucky, but BLESSED! We have a God and Savior who loves us unconditionally and always. I don't know how I would have endured these last seven months, let alone the last seven years, without having Jesus in my life. There is always hope when we have God at the center of our lives.

This is the month of Thanksgiving. I encourage you to spend time in prayer and with the Word each day. Include a prayer of thanks for all the blessings you have. Look for opportunities to share your faith and blessings with others. We'll be offering opportunities to share your abundance with those less fortunate.

In closing, I would like to say thank you to our musicians, who have carried on throughout this time to make our virtual services enjoyable and meaningful. I've also enjoyed the guests who have come to share their talents with us.

As I mentioned last month, we will need new people to step up and join the leadership team. There will be two openings on the Council this December. If you have an interest in serving your congregation in a leadership capacity, or have questions about what's involved, please contact myself or Pastor Tom.

—Steve Maziarz, Acting Council President

4 FACTS TO KNOW ABOUT VETERANS DAY

Veterans Day is a well-known American holiday, but there are also a few misconceptions about it — like how it's spelled or whom exactly it celebrates. To clear some of that up, here are the important facts you should know.

1. Veterans Day does NOT have an apostrophe.

A lot of people think it's "Veteran's Day" or "Veterans' Day," but they're wrong. The holiday is not a day that "belongs" to one veteran or multiple veterans, which is what an apostrophe implies. It's a day for honoring all veterans — so no apostrophe needed.

2. Veterans Day is NOT the Same as Memorial Day.

A lot of Americans get this confused, and we'll be honest — it can be a little annoying to all of the living veterans out there. Memorial Day is a time to remember those who gave their lives for our country, particularly in battle or from wounds they suffered in battle. Veterans Day honors all of those who have served the country in war or peace — dead or alive — although it's largely intended to thank living veterans for their sacrifices.

3. It was originally called Armistice Day, commemorating the end of World War I.

World War I officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919. However, the fighting ended

about seven months before that when the Allies and Germany put into effect an armistice on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.

For that reason, Nov. 11, 1918, was largely considered the end of "the war to end all wars" and dubbed Armistice Day.

But then World War II and the Korean War happened, so on June 1, 1954, at the urging of veterans service organizations, Congress amended the commemoration yet again by changing the word "armistice" to "veterans" so the day would honor American veterans of all wars.

4. For some inexplicable reason, Congress set Veterans Day commemorations for the fourth Monday of every October.

Congress signed the Uniform Holiday Bill in 1968 to ensure that a few federal holidays — Veterans Day included — would be celebrated on a Monday. Officials hoped it would spur travel and other family activities over a long weekend, which would stimulate the economy.

On Oct. 25, 1971, the first Veterans Day under this new bill was held. We're not sure why it took three years to implement, but not surprisingly, there was a lot of confusion about the change, and many states were unhappy, choosing to continue to recognize the day as they previously had — in November.

Within a few years, it became pretty apparent that most U.S. citizens wanted to celebrate Veterans Day on Nov. 11, since it was a matter of historic and patriotic significance. So on Sept. 20, 1975, President Gerald Ford signed another law (Public Law 94-97), which returned the annual observance to its original date starting in 1978.

(adapted from a feature by Katie Lange on defense.gov)



NOVEMBER BIBLE READINGS				
Nov	First Lesson	Psalm	Second Lesson	Gospel
1	Revelation 7:9-17	34:1-10, 22	1 John 3:1-3	Matthew 5:1-12
8	Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25	70	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	Matthew 25:1-13
15	Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18	90:1-12	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Matthew 25:14-30
22	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24	95:1-7a	Ephesians 1:15-23	Matthew 25:31-46
29	Isaiah 64:1-9	80:1-7, 17-19	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 13:24-37

AN IRISH FRIENDSHIP WISH

May there always be work for your hands to do;
 May your purse always hold a coin or two;
 May the sun always shine on your windowpane;
 May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain;
 May the hand of a friend always be near you;
 May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.
 —*Newsletter Newsletter*

GROWING THROUGH GRATITUDE

Thankfulness, studies show, has multiple physical, mental and emotional benefits. Psychologist Robert Emmons calls gratitude “fertilizer for the mind” because of its powerful effects.

He admits gratitude isn’t always easy — especially when life throws us curveballs (see the year 2020) — but says it can be most helpful during and after difficulties. Emmons suggests reframing challenges using thankfulness-based language. Ask, for example: Though I wasn’t grateful for the experience at the time, how can I be now? What lessons did I learn, and how did I grow as a person?

Throughout his letters, the apostle Paul reframes his extensive sufferings and urges us to do the same. “Give thanks in all circumstances,” he writes, “for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:18, NIV).
 —*The Newsletter Newsletter*

GOOD SAMARITAN DONATIONS

According to Stacy Hanson, our Council Chair of the Social Ministry Committee, due to the pandemic Good Samaritans of Garland will not be collecting the fixings for Thanksgiving dinners as they have in the past. Instead they are asking for \$25 gift cards from local grocery chains and cards or letters of encouragement to go out to the families in need.

If you want to help, you can make a \$25 donation to Gloria Dei via tithe.ly from our Facebook page or website OR send a check to the church and we will buy the cards from Aldi, Winco, Albertsons, Tom Thumb or Walmart and get them to Good Sams. Please designate the donation or check for Good Sams.

Also send cards with words of encouragement to the church and we’ll pass those along to Good Sams for them to distribute with the gift cards. Sign them with your name and church, or just the church name if you don’t feel comfortable

NOVEMBER FINANCIAL FOCUS*

Month Income (September)	\$9,539
Month Expenditures (September)	\$15,683
Monthly Net	(\$7,094)
Year-to-date Income through September 2020	\$76,360
Year-to-date Expenditures through September 2020	\$91,053
Net Year-to-date Income (Loss)	(\$14,693)
Mortgage Balance as of 8/7/2020	\$118,093.08

*Presented at the October Council meeting.

November Anniversary Celebrations

Linda and Julian Gonzalez 11/1

Please let Karen Johnson know if your anniversary is missing from the list so that the church records can be updated.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pastor Tom is making a change on how we communicate the prayers of the church. It seems that many prayer requests come up later in the week so he will now be sending out the prayer list on Mondays so that we have the week to pray and also gather other prayers that you have. He can then send prayers that he has collected to those putting together the worship service to list during the service. We will still continue to use the prayer form. Use this link to send your prayer request: <https://gdlc.churchtrac.com/card/4> —*Pastor Tom*

Prayer is not about changing God, but being willing to let God change us. ~ Richard Rohr

[Thanksgiving] I’m grateful to you for so many things: family and friends, shelter and food, life on this earth and life in you. Thank you, Lord!

THE SIMPLEST PRAYER

An eccentric blind man nicknamed Joybubbles reportedly loved Mr. Rogers so much he listened to 10 hours of the TV show daily until he’d heard them all. One night, when Joybubbles was in a kind of awake dream state, he said Mr. Rogers visited him and offered to teach him how to pray.

Joybubbles protested that he couldn’t pray because he always forgot the words. To which Mr. Rogers said not to worry; the prayer he’d teach had only three words. “What kind of prayer has only three words?” Joybubbles asked.

“Thank you, God,” Mr. Rogers replied.
 —adapted from *The Wired Word*

(Good Sams continued)

including your own. We will be collecting money and cards through m-December. If you have questions, contact Stacy Hanson or Karen Johnson.

WOMEN’S DINNER CANCELLED IN NOVEMBER



The Women of Gloria Dei **WILL NOT MEET** for dinner the fourth Thursday of November.

FIRST MONDAY BREAKFAST CANCELLED IN NOVEMBER



The Men of Gloria Dei **WILL NOT MEET** for breakfast the first Monday of November.

ALL ARE WELCOME AT GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH!

As Lutherans, we believe that God's grace is given to all, regardless of color, age, marital status, gender identity, sexual orientation, economic status, mental or physical health status, culture, or faith tradition. We strive to live up to the example of unconditional love and acceptance that Jesus has taught, and welcome all to join us.

We are a congregation that is active in care of God's creation, taking part in various ministries, including serving the differently abled, pet therapy providers, animal rescue, social justice, and music.



In the Book of Romans, Paul writes that we "are one body," and that "we all have gifts that differ, according to the grace given to us." We invite ALL to share with us the gifts and grace that we are given, as we are:

“Called and sent to share Christ 's love.”

WORDS TO PONDER

“Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.”

—William Arthur Ward

* * *

“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.”

—John F. Kennedy

* * *

“An optimist is a person who starts a new diet on Thanksgiving Day.”

—Irv Kupcinet

* * *

“Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our thanksgiving.”

—W.T. Purkiser

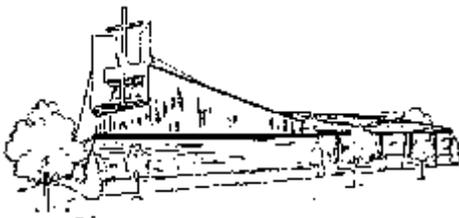
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It is not happiness that makes us grateful. It's gratefulness that makes us happy.

—David Steindl-Rast

—*The Newsletter Newsletter*

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Return Service Requested