

WEEKLY NEWS ~~ MARCH 17, 2023

COVID 19 MASKING FOR WEEK BEGINNING

March 17, 2023

OPTIONAL



TOMORROW!

The Internship Committee has been working hard to plan the Spaghetti Feed & Silent Auction Fundraiser. The food will be delicious! The auction items are awesome! Invite your friends and come support Gloria Dei's Internship Program! \$10 per person or \$30 for family of 3 or more. Starts at noon in the Fellowship Hall.

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Humans of Gloria Dei,

Recently, the synod staff came to Pastor Katherine at Faith, and I, saying, "We have this Friendship Process we're trying out, would Gloria Dei and Faith like to give it a try?" We engaged the conversation and in February, both Councils discussed and voted to move forward with this process.

I want to name up front the questions and fears of "Is this the synod forcing us into merging?" The answer is NO, absolutely not. Of course, congregations can decide to move that direction but that is not the intention.

What is the Friendship Process?

A process of looking at the ministries and interests of two neighboring congregations to see where and how we might work together, share resources, time, and energy, **growing our ELCA Lutheran impact in the community. We are better together and can have more presence as Lutherans if we work together.**

This particular process model has a specific beginning and end, during which we spend time together in conversation, looking for commonalities and differences and respecting both. At the end of the time, we make decisions about if and how we want to continue the partnership.

We make the process our own, the synod has provided an example. The synod will help as we invite them in, but ultimately, this is our process of building intentional relationship between the congregations.

Long range *could* be sharing staff but maintaining identity of both congregations in a parish model, but this is not expected, assumed, or forced.

This is **NOT** the Oregon Synod saying we **MUST** do this.

This is **NOT** a process with the end result of merging or one congregation absorbing the other

Remember: A healthy partnership between two congregations comes from interest and commitment from within each congregation. A healthy partnership does not develop because a pastor or synod thinks it should happen.

What's next?

We are putting together a team representing each congregation that will lead us through this process. This Friendship Team will guide us through series of monthly gatherings of conversations and activities as we discern how we might want to move forward in partnership in ministry.

Feel free to reach out to me with any questions you might have. I am excited about the possibilities! Stay tuned for more information and a schedule of gatherings.

In Christ,
Pastor Alyssa

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Maundy Thursday, April 6	6:30 pm worship at Gloria Dei
Good Friday, April 7	12 noon Ecumenical worship at Gloria Dei
Ecumenical Easter Sunrise, April 9	6:30 am worship at Sunset Bay beach
Easter Sunday	10:00 am worship at Gloria Dei

LENTEN WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

We are excited to be sharing our Wednesday Lenten Midweek Soup Suppers and Services with the wonderful people at Faith Lutheran this year! We will alternate weeks at the two churches. Gloria Dei will offer the Taize Worship, and Faith will have Holden Evening Prayer. Gloria Dei will be asked to provide soup & bread (see note from Kitchen Team below) for our weeks, and people at Faith will provide soup & bread for their weeks. We hope you all enjoy this time of eating, fellowship, and worship together!

The remaining schedule is:

March 22: at Faith

March 29: at Gloria Dei

The time frame is Soup Supper from 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm, worship at 6:30 pm, and Gloria Dei choir after the service.

FROM THE KITCHEN TEAM

We had a wonderful Soup Supper on March the 1st and have one more as well on March 29th. In order to be more welcoming we have already invited Faith Lutheran to join us and we also plan to also invite the general public to join us as well.

In order to do that we need to have the Soups prepared in our commercial kitchen and the Bread either baked there or bought commercially. How can you help? An email has gone out where you can respond and Volunteer to prep the meal, to clean-up, or to bring loaves of commercially baked bread.

We also really encourage you to join us for a simple meal of Soup & Bread during this Lenten Season and invite Family, Friends, Neighbors and Co-workers to join us. The Soup Supper is from 5:30pm to 6:30pm and then it is followed by a meditative Taize worship until 7:00pm

Please plan on joining us :))

LENTEN RESOURCES

Lenten resources from ELCA World Hunger, including a devotional booklet and a calendar, are available on the table in the Narthex.

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS NEEDED

There are 2 coffee fellowship teams that need one more volunteer each. The commitment is generally serving 3 times a year. Please contact Kathy Whitwer if you would like to serve on a Coffee Fellowship team!

PRAYER BEADS

Check out the prayer bead basket as it is refilled yet again. This month's offerings include sets that are **Pride** themed and **Puzzles and Games** themed!

LENTEN CROSSES



Special thanks to Dave Jordan for expertly installing the Lenten crosses ...they're a stunning witness to our community! This year he went to the extra trouble to place sections of large PVC pipes to hold the crosses securely in place. Now, for years to come, there will be no need to dig out the holes, making installation easier. Great idea, Dave!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Our students are excited about promoting **40 Days of Giving** for ELCA World Hunger this Lenten season. We're decorating containers for families to take home and use to collect coins throughout the season. This year, we're raising money to purchase seeds, fruit tree saplings, garden tools, and agricultural training to support individual family gardens and larger community gardens in needy areas of the world. We hope everyone will participate in this small way. Adding a few coins in our container each day will help us remember how blessed we are: we have delicious fruits and veggies, we have the joy of gardening. Our small Lenten sacrifice will be a big blessing to others! Check out the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall, where our progress is being tracked!

LIBRARY NEWS

Thanks to Marilyn Halvor's library background, Gloria Dei has one of the best church libraries around. Our library is very well organized and up to date. There have been a number of helpers over the years; now Doris Smith is the primary person tending to our library. If you'd like to help with the library, please reach out to the church office and we'll get you going in the library.

Most importantly, we want to *use* our library! There are many books on a variety of topics and many genres – we are not limited to theological tomes. We have fiction, non-fiction, history... check out the shelves and see what we have to offer! The library will remain open as long as possible before the carpet installation, then will reopen as soon as possible after the new carpet is put into the Fellowship Hall. There will be new books added to the library after the carpet is installed! The goal is to keep the library available for congregation use as much as possible around the carpet transition.

POWERFUL TOOLS FOR CAREGIVERS

A FREE weekly 90 minute class designed to assist UNPAID caregivers take care of themselves while caring for their loved one. The course runs from April 5 – May 10, 2023 with a choice of times: 3 – 4:30 pm or 6 – 7:30 pm. Virtual only. Registration by 3/27/23 is required. Please contact Char Luther at charluther@gmail.com for more info or to register.

COOS FOOD CUPBOARD NEWS

Coos Food Cupboard (CFC) continues to provide nutritious food to needy families and individuals in our community. Throughout 2022 they served an average of 276 households each month, representing 807 individuals. The Cupboard, housed at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, is open three days/week (Monday, Wednesday, Friday, noon – 2:00 p.m.) and Thursday evenings, 5:00 p.m.– 7:00 p.m.

Last month, January 2023, the numbers served increased significantly: 360 households representing 1087 individuals. During this difficult economic time, clients are welcome to come once a week.

CFC is grateful for the ongoing support of Gloria Dei: the annual monetary donation in our budget, and donations of nonperishable food throughout the year. We encourage our members to continue supporting the ministry of Coos Food Cupboard with their prayers and donations. A special need in recent weeks is breakfast cereal. Please consider buying an extra box to bring in to the collection cart in the narthex. Thank you!

Lynn Danner, CFC Board Member

AED DEVICE

There is an AED device at Gloria Dei. The AED can be used to help someone experiencing cardiac arrest. The AED is located under the stairs in the Narthex (the wide hallway with triple glass door at either end, between the Sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall). The device provides verbal instructions; don't be afraid to use it if someone is in distress and needs help!

SAVE THE DATES!

Vacation Bible School will be July 17 – 21. Please arrange your vacation days around this week. We'll be needing lots of volunteers those mornings, 9:30 – noon. Our curriculum will be "*Operation Restoration: Mending God's World*".

THRIVENT CHOICE

If you are a benefit member of Thrivent, you may have Choice dollars to direct. This money can be directed to Gloria Dei, or many other charitable organizations. Please check your Thrivent account—Choice dollars must be directed by March 31.

FREE COVID-19 TEST KITS

The Federal Government is once again shipping free test kits to people upon request. Visit this webpage <https://www.covid.gov/tests> to order, or call [1-800-232-0233](tel:1-800-232-0233) (TTY [1-888-720-7489](tel:1-888-720-7489)). Gloria Dei has also been given two cases of Covid Test Kits. Kits will be available in the Narthex for those who would like to take some home to use.



Soul Shop: Ministering to Faith Communities Affected by Suicide

May 12, 2023

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

It's estimated that one out of every two people in a given congregation has personally been affected by suicide. Soul Shop trains faith community leaders to offer support, hope and connection to those in their congregations.

Co-sponsored by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Soul Shop equips participants with the resources and guidance they need to foster hope and healing in their community.

Program Details

Who Should Attend?

Faith-based leaders

Location

North Bend Presbyterian Church
2238 Pony Creek Rd
North Bend, OR 97459

Cost

\$15 per person

*Financial assistance available.

Register

afsp.org/oregon

Questions?

AFSP Oregon Chapter
oregon@afsp.org

soulshopcoosbay.attendase.com

afsp.org

soulshop



American
Foundation
for Suicide
Prevention

FROM THE SYNOD

Spring Oregon Synod Lay Education Course: Engaging Conflict for Growth: In Ourselves, Relationships, and Communities

Conflict is normal in all relationships, including congregations, so why can it seem so hard or complicated? How can we do our part to facilitate healthy and constructive conflict, while mitigating unhealthy and destructive conflict? And how do we tell the difference?

Pastors John and Joan Beck will join us for this six-week, on-line course in which we'll approach conflict through three lenses: personal, biblical, and systemic. Participants will leave with a set of practical tools for use in their own setting and relationships, as well as frameworks for further exploration. We'll draw lessons from and for conflict in personal, family, and community life, while emphasizing conflict in congregations.

Beginning April 13, the class meets for six Thursday evenings in a row from 6:30-8 pm. The course is designed with a Lutheran lens and inclusive heart; all are welcome. Course participants and/or their congregations are encouraged to donate, as they are able, on a sliding scale between \$20-\$160, but donations are not required to participate. [Register here.](#)

GIVING ONLINE

If you prefer to give online, visit our website, where you can choose our secure giving site (green GIVE button):

<https://www.gloriadeifamily.org/>

NEWS FROM CAMP LUTHERWOOD



Best summer job EVER!

Know a young adult who would be a good fit for a summer at camp? Pay starts at \$3,440 for the summer, plus lodging and meals are provided. Summer staffers gain valuable leadership, communication, and organizational skills – all while making friendships that last a lifetime. Learn more at lutherwoodoregon.org/employment or email jobs@lutherwoodoregon.org.

Applications open now!

Camp Lutherwood Oregon Spring Work Days: May 6 & June 3

Mark your calendar for Spring Work Days on May 6 and June 3 at Camp Lutherwood Oregon. Spend a Saturday (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) volunteering with friends or family to get camp spruced up for summer. Work Days are also a great opportunity to introduce new campers to the site. Lunch is provided. The June 6th Work Day will include the dedication of the new property and the new buildings at camp. Call 541-998-6444 or email office@lutherwoodoregon.org to RSVP.

Camp Lutherwood Oregon 2023 Family & Friends Camp

What if the best family vacation was also the most affordable and the easiest to plan? Family & Friends Camp promises loads of fun and lifelong memories for all ages. Relax by the creek or cool off in the pool! Trained staff lead games and activities for toddlers, teens, and everyone in between. Adults-only time complements evenings all together around the campfire or gazing at the stars. *Book your spot now — there's only room for 14 families each session!*

Learn more and sign up at lutherwoodoregon.org/camp.

Before you head out for Spring Break, check your summer plans off your to-do list and get \$45 off! Use code SPRINGBREAK23 to save on all weeklong summer camps when you register from March 22-31.

Plus, discounts are stackable! Save even more when you register siblings or sign up for multiple weeks. [Tiered pricing and camperships](#) also ensure that every family can afford a fantastic summer.

[Contact the camp office with questions about how to cover the cost of camp.](#)

GLORIA DEI ALSO HAS MONEY DESIGNATED FOR CAMPERSHIPS! TALK TO PASTOR ABOUT CAMPERSHIPS FOR CAMP LUTHERWOOD!

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE: 47 in person, 13 online



STEWARDSHIP IS...helping prepare future pastors!