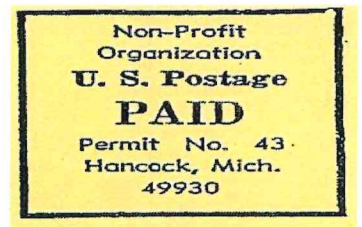
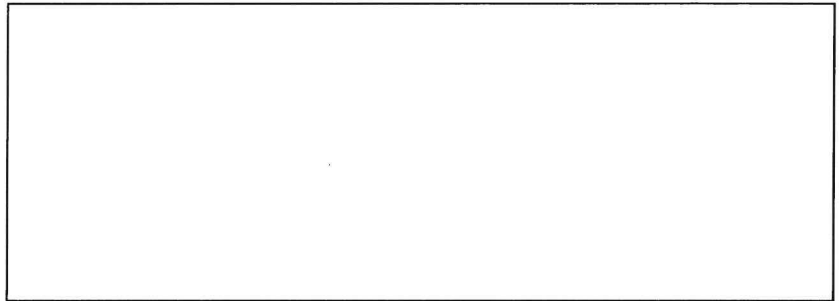


**“OBSERVER”**

**August September 2026**  
Newsletter of  
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, ELCA  
1000 W. Quincy St.  
Hancock, MI 49930-1494  
906-482-2381



**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



*Together in Christ,*  
*We worship, We grow, We serve.*



## **WORSHIP SERVICES**

**Fall/Winter/Spring**  
**Sunday~ TBD**  
**SpiritEd / Sunday School—TBD am**

**SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS**  
**Memorial Day to Labor day**  
**Sunday~ 9:00 am**

**JACOBSVILLE CHAPEL SERVICES**  
**JUNE 14~AUGUST 30**  
**7:00 pm**

**Gloria Dei Lutheran Church:**  
**906-482-2381**

**Pastor Brahm Semmler Smith**  
**715-827-1220**  
**E-mail: [pastor@gdlch.org](mailto:pastor@gdlch.org)**

**Karen Harris, Church Secretary**  
**Church e-mail: [secretary@gdlch.org](mailto:secretary@gdlch.org)**

**Website: [www.gdlch.org](http://www.gdlch.org)**

## **A Thank You**

Gloria Dei faith community,

I wanted to take this chance to say thank you. For the ministry we have shared together these almost 7 years, the laughter and grief we have experienced together, the challenges we have faced, and the Gospel of Christ we have strived to follow.

This place was foreign to us when we arrived, but like all places that feel foreign, once you open yourself to learn about the joys and concerns, challenges and fears, successes and failures, we learn that foreign places have many familiar aspects to them. That we are all people, loved by God.

Much of my preaching and teaching has centered around God's grace and mercy. When much of the words out of the mouths of our politicians, neighbors, and ourselves can be cynical and judgmental, we need to be reminding of the gracious and merciful nature of God. I pray that of all things, that is what you take from our ministry together. Be gracious and merciful to each other and your neighbors, as God is gracious and merciful to us through Christ.

As I leave, my main feeling is one of gratitude. For conversations had, laughter shared, summer trips experienced. For generosity towards the ministry of this congregation, and towards the community. Gratitude.

But what is next? That is the question I am wrestling with, and Gloria Dei is as well. I have to trust that God is faithful, even if the future is not clear at the moment. God is faithful.

I am thankful for Pastor Peter Vorhes who will step in as the administrative interim. He will make sure the pastoral care needs will be cared for the congregation.

I am grateful for the leadership of the church council who will help guide the congregation in this next phase. There may be some challenges ahead that may need some flexibility in the congregation. Grace and mercy will help you through it all! Lean into that in this season of Gloria Dei's life.

So thank you. And may God bless and keep us always!

Pastor Brahm

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Brahm". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Pastor" written in a slightly larger, more prominent hand than the last name "Brahm".

# Farewell Pastor Brahm

## BBQ & Pie Social

**Following 9 am worship**

**Sunday, August 9.**

**Church will provide hot dogs, brats, condiments and beverages**

**asking folks to bring a dish to pass,**

**There is a sign-up sheet emailed and  
available on Sunday on the welcome center.**

### From Pastor Vorhes

Many of you may already know that Bishop Katherine Finegan asked me to serve as the interim pastor at Gloria Dei following the conclusion of Pr. Brahm's ministry with you, and I agreed to do so. I will officially begin on August 24, but I will be providing pastoral ministry and pulpit supply for most of the month prior to that. Pr. Brahm will be using vacation and continuing education time until then, except for the weekend of Sunday, August 9, which will be his last Sunday at Gloria Dei.

Bishop Finegan met with the Congregation Council on July 23 to guide an exit interview with Pr. Brahm and to provide information on the pastoral transition and call process. There is a plan for the formation of a Transition Team, which will, among other things, complete a Ministry Site Profile. The initial timing of that is still to be determined, but when that process is complete, a Call Committee will lead the next steps in calling a pastor. Due in part to a shortage of pastors in the ELCA, the entire process will likely take some time. So please be patient, and as always, keep Gloria Dei and its leadership in your prayers.

With you, I am thankful for Pr. Brahm's ministry as our pastor for these past seven years. I join you in prayer for God's blessings upon him, Pr. Sarah, Meta, and Sybil, as they move on to new adventures in life and ministry in Minnesota.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15.13, NRSVue).

Pastor Peter Vorhes  
Phone: (906) 369-2850 • [Email: pavorhes@gmail.com](mailto:pavorhes@gmail.com)



**In Person Worship** Sundays at 9:00 am. YouTube live at 9 am & later online.

---

## Recent Pastoral Acts



### Funerals:

*Bob Hauswirth*, May 30, 2026  
*Irene Edgar*, June 4, 2026  
*Edith Snortland*, June 12, 2026  
*Juliana Martilla*, June 13, 2026

## Memorials:

**Bob Backon:** Don & Carol Carli.  
**Bob Hauswirth:** Carol Striecher, Wayne & Eileen Stordahl, Jane Riutta.  
**Edith Snortland:** Wayne & Eileen Stordahl, Chris Ahola, Ken Seaton, Dave & Colleen Forte, Lisa Rutt, Friends & Family.

---

## Bus Drivers needed:

Please let the office know if you are willing and able to help. 482-2381.

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## Visitors Needed:

If you have time and like to visit, we have homebound members who would appreciate a visit/phone call. Call the office for details 482-2381.

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## Let's Eat Meals:

Every Third Sunday at Holy Trinity, Chassell from 4-5:30 pm. All are welcome to the meal and there is no charge. Dine in preferred, take-out available!

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## Food Pantry News

We remain very appreciative of the congregation's generosity. We are collecting non-perishable food for local food pantries. Please put donations in the box by the back entry doors.

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**Altar Guild:** We need volunteers to take over March Altar Guild. It could be a switch from summer or fall months or someone new who would like to help out. Contact the office for more details.

---

## The Faith in Action Team

enrolled Gloria Dei in Tadych's MarketPlace Grocery Receipt program. A collection container is on the welcome center. We will be collecting Tadych's MarketPlace receipts. They pay 1% of the total back to Gloria Dei. The proceeds of this program will be used to fund various projects of the church. Please consider supporting this program with your Tadych's MarketPlace receipts.

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## Please, Sign In:

Just a reminder: for those attending Sunday worship to please sign in. The sign-in sheet is located on the Welcome Center in the Narthex. Please take time either prior or after service to sign in. Thank you!

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## Observer Deadline:

The next Observer will be October/November issue! The deadline for inclusion will on September 18. Thanks!

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## Address Changes:



Please let the church office know if you have a change of address so you will get your Observer and other mail! Thanks!

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## Journey with Grief:

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday from 5:30-7 pm at St Ignatius Education Center, Houghton.

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## Looking for Greeters!

We are looking for friendly, outgoing people to be greeters on our usher teams. This person or persons will greet and welcome folks as they come in to worship. Contact any usher team you would like to join, or the office at 906-482-2381.

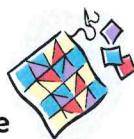
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## Congregation Council

Carole Ahola, Doug Hamar, Shannon Handler, Brian Jarvis, Jessica Klein, Jason Lieburn, Susan O'Connell, George Stockero & Trista Soumis.



## Sewers, pinners, cutters Needed:



We have "Quilt-To-Go" for those who would like to work at home. *If you would like to sew squares together or cut squares at home call the office to arrange pick up of quilt top or material. 482-2381 or email: [Secretary@gdlch.org](mailto:Secretary@gdlch.org).* We also need folks to help pin quilts together, we meet from 12-4 pm on Tuesday, drop-in when you can, for as long as you like. There's a job for everyone!

## Our Little Library:

Thank you to all who have made our little library a success. We are in the process of organizing it to make topics easier to find!

## Church office:

If the area schools have a snow day, please call the office before you just come in. Sometimes I am just not able to make it in. In those instances, I monitor emails from home and call in to check the voicemail.

## Rose Garden:

After several years of loving care in the rose garden, Pat Oldfield is stepping down. We need someone to cover this task. Contact Pat for more information about the rose garden.

## Advent Calendar Class:

*We are asking to see if there would be any interest in having an Advent Calendar class to make one like this photo. There would be a cost involved. Just wondering if there would be interest for the fall? Email or call Karen in the office if you are interested. It will be hanging in the office if you would like to see it in person.*



## Jacobsville Chapel

*Sunday Evening Services*  
**Every Sunday from June 14th, 2026  
through August 30th, 2026 – 7 p.m.**

### SCHEDULE

|                                  |                                                        |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| August 2                         | Rev. Jared Howard,<br>Faith Lutheran, Calumet          |
| August 9                         | Rev. Jesse Aho<br>Zion Lutheran, Hancock               |
| August 16                        | Rev. Peter Norland<br>Portage Lake United,<br>Houghton |
| August 23                        | Rev. Peter Vorhes<br>Retired ELCA, Calumet             |
| August 30                        | Rev. Soren Schmidt<br>Holy Trinity, Chassell           |
| October 4<br>Harvest<br>Festival | Rev. DJ Rasner<br>United Lutheran,<br>Crystal Falls    |

**Directions:** Bootjack road to Dreamland,  
left to Jacobsville, follow signs –  
19 Miles from Lake Linden

*Come One – Come All  
Worship at the historic  
Jacobsville Chapel in the Woods*

## Stuff the Bus!

Copper Country Angel Mission & Salvation Army are working to collect socks & underwear (4T – Teens) & school supplies until August 10. A box is located in the coat room area. Items needed are: adult/large backpacks, composition books, pencil pouches, Ti-30x115 calculators, white-out, regular point scissors, spiral notebooks, pocket folders, cap erasers for pencils, erasable pens, colored pencil sets, fine tip dry erase markers, water bottles, hand sanitizer, ear buds, loose lined paper, fine tip & large tip markers, hand held erasers, school glue & glue sticks, geometry set, post it notes, highlighters.

# August 2026

| Sun                                                                                                                                                | Mon                                                                                 | Tue                                                                | Wed | Thu                                                 | Fri             | Sat                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                    |     |                                                     |                 | 1<br>1 pm Roger Rintala Funeral at Erickson Crowley in Calumet. |
| 2<br>9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion<br>7:00 pm Worship at Jacobsville Chapel                                                                  | 3<br>Pr. Brahm's day off<br>1:30 pm Asahi Class<br>4:30 pm Tops<br>6 pm Asahi Class | 4<br>12 Noon Quilters<br>7 pm Scouting America                     | 5   | 6<br>Karen Off<br>1 pm Mahjong<br>11 am PEO meeting | 7<br>Karen Off  | 8                                                               |
| 9<br>9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion<br>10:00 am Farewell BBQ & Pie Social for Pastor Brahm<br>7:00 pm Worship at Jacobsville Chapel           | 10<br>1:30 pm Asahi Class<br>4:30 pm Tops<br>6 pm Asahi Class                       | 11<br>12 noon Quilting<br>7 pm Scouting America                    | 12  | 13<br>1 pm Mahjong<br>5:30 pm Habitat Board         | 14<br>Karen Off | 15                                                              |
| 16<br>9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion<br>4-5:30 pm Let's Eat Community Meal at Holy Trinity, Chassell<br>7:00 pm Worship at Jacobsville Chapel | 17<br>1:30 pm Asahi Class<br>4:30 pm Tops<br>6 pm Asahi Class                       | 18<br>12 noon Quilting<br>6:30 pm Council<br>7 pm Scouting America | 19  | 20<br>1 pm Mahjong                                  | 21<br>Karen Off | 22                                                              |
| 23<br>9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion<br>7:00 pm Worship at Jacobsville Chapel                                                                 | 24<br>1:30 pm Asahi Class<br>4:30 pm Tops<br>6 pm Asahi Class                       | 25<br>12 noon Quilting<br>7 pm Scouting America                    | 26  | 27<br>1 pm Mahjong                                  | 28<br>Karen Off | 29                                                              |
| 30<br>9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion<br>7:00 pm Worship at Jacobsville Chapel                                                                 | 31<br>1:30 pm Asahi Class<br>4:30 pm Tops<br>6 pm Asahi Class                       |                                                                    |     |                                                     |                 |                                                                 |

**Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 7 am to 4 pm**



# August 2026 Serving Saints

|                                | August 2                                                                       | August 9                                                          | August 16                                                             | August 23                                                             | August 30                                                       |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>9:00 am Lector</b>          | John Vaara                                                                     | Don Juengprasentsak                                               | Steve Zutter                                                          | Rhonda Bogan                                                          | Angie Weber                                                     |
| <b>9:00 am Comm. Assistant</b> | Travis Hanson<br>Glenn Anderson<br>Doug Hamar                                  | Chris Hodges<br>Liz Siivola<br>Julie Beck                         | Ann Anderton<br>Shannon Handler<br>Trista Soumis                      | Jessica Klein<br>Brian Jarvis<br>George Stockero                      | Maija Stadius<br>Jason Lieburn<br>Neil Ahola                    |
| <b>9:00 am Usher Team</b>      | John Vaara<br>Bruce Ragusett<br>Carol Ragusett<br>Tom Oldfield<br>Pat Oldfield | Eric Seagren<br>Birk Seagren<br>Steve/Jane Zutter<br>Todd Bessner | Neil Ahola<br>Carole Ahola<br>Chris Ahola<br>Cole Klein<br>Corey King | Dave Kumlin<br>Don Juntunen<br>Sue O'Connell<br>Brien/Catherine Ricci | Wayne Stordahl<br>Brian Jarvis<br>David Hughes<br>Lennon Hughes |
| <b>Bus Driver</b>              | Doug Hamar<br>281-0894                                                         | Lisa Ruhman<br>816-872-6192                                       | Chris Hohnholt<br>370-4593                                            | Lisa Ruhman<br>816-872-6192                                           | Lisa Ruhman<br>816-872-6192                                     |

## Altar Guild

**August:** Carol Ragusett, Deb Vaara

**September:** Chris Ahola, Carole Ahola

**October:** Marie Laitanen, Karen Brooks

## Bread Bakers

**August:**

Volunteer needed

**September:**

Ann Anderton

**October:**

Chris Ahola



## **Happy Birthday!**

**August:** 1: Charlie Gustafson, Jenn Mattila, 2: Leslie Hamar, Anna Hanson, 3: Kim Puuri, Kim Salmi, 5: Mary Lou Anderson, Steve Zutter, 7: Diane Klemett, 8: Myrna Gondek, 9: Mary Jarvis, Marilyn Ollanketo, Nancy Per-rault, 11: Ruth Archer, Braelyn Huotari, Brahm Semmler Smith, 13: Dianne Johnson, 14: Lydia Salmi, 16: Gladys Brownlee, Katherine Jarvis, Shari Stockero, Angie Weber, 17: Geneva Archer, Kara Destrampe, Matt Hanson, George Stockero, 19: Dave Kempainen, 23: Jim Gondek, Ivy Heikka, 24: Mark Halkola, 27: Neil Ahola, Don Carli, 29: Jim Mattila, 30: Mark Kinnunen, 31: Amy Weekley, Jane Zutter.

**September:** 1: Trista Soumis, 2: Joe Evans, 3: Brian Jarvis, 4: Greg Odegard, 6: MaryAnn Quayle, Paul Waisanen, 7: Carol Streicher, Emma Johnson, Gordy Kokko, 14: Peter Gundersen, Dave Hughes. 15: Latham Salmi, 18: Carol Ragusett, 21: Kalle Hanson, Grace Henderson, Christina Lahti, Karin VanDyke, 22: James Lickman, 23: Brian Donnelly, 24: Andy Lahti, 25: Chris Hohnholt, 28: Liisa Beck, Peter Vorhes, 29: Don Juntunen, Jon Kauss, 30: Paula Zulinski.



**Please contact the office**

by phone or e-mail if you...

Have prayer requests, Are in the hospital and would like a visit, Or would like to schedule a visit with Pastor Brahm.



# September 2026

| Sun                                                                                                                                   | Mon                                                                                                               | Tue                                                                         | Wed                       | Thu                                                               | Fri                                                    | Sat                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                   | 1<br>12-4:00 pm Quilting<br>7:00 pm Scouting<br>America                     | 2                         | 3<br>1 pm Mahjong                                                 | 4                                                      | 5                                                          |
| 6<br>TBD Worship with Holy<br>Communion                                                                                               | 7<br><br><b>HAPPY LABOUR DAY</b> | 8<br>12-4:00 pm Quilting<br>7:00 pm Scouting<br>America                     | 9<br>5:45 pm Girl Scouts  | 10<br>1 pm Mahjong<br>5:30 pm Habitat Board<br>6:30 pm Noteworthy | 11                                                     | 12                                                         |
| 13<br>TBD Worship with Holy<br>Communion<br>Christian Ed<br>TBD Finance Team                                                          | 14<br>4:30 pm Tops<br>6 pm Asahi Class                                                                            | 15<br>12-4:00 pm Quilting<br>6:30 pm Council<br>7:00 pm Scouting<br>America | 16<br>5:45 pm Girl Scouts | 17<br>1 pm Mahjong<br>6:30 pm Noteworthy                          | 18<br><br><i>Newsletter<br/>Deadline</i>               | 19<br>10 am-4 pm<br>All Conference<br>Gathering at<br>MUCL |
| 20<br>TBD Worship with Holy<br>Communion<br>Christian Education<br>4-5:30 pm Let's Eat<br>Community Meal at Holy<br>Trinity, Chassell | 21<br>1:30 pm Asahi Class<br>4:30 pm Tops<br>6 pm Asahi Class                                                     | 22<br>12-4:00 pm Quilting<br>7:00 pm Scouting<br>America                    | 23<br>5:45 pm Girl Scouts | 24<br>1 pm Mahjong<br>6:30 pm Noteworthy                          | 25<br>Karen off<br><br>9 am Life<br>Touch<br>Screening | 26                                                         |
| 27<br>TBD Worship with Holy<br>Communion<br>Chrisian Education                                                                        | 28<br>1:30 pm Asahi Class<br>4:30 pm Tops<br>6 pm Asahi Class                                                     | 29<br>12-4:00 pm Quilting<br>7:00 pm Scouting<br>America                    | 30<br>5:45 pm Girl Scouts |                                                                   |                                                        |                                                            |

**Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8 am to 4 pm**

# September 2026 Serving Saints

|                            | September 6                                                                     | September 13                                                                   | September 20                                                                   | September 27                                                       | October 4                                                                      |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>TBD Lector</b>          | Mary Brunet                                                                     | John Vaara                                                                     | Laurel Roehm                                                                   | Julie Beck                                                         |                                                                                |
| <b>TBD Comm. Assistant</b> | Jen Mattila<br>Glenn Anderson<br>Doug Hamar                                     | Chris Hodges<br>Travis Hanson<br>Liz Siivola                                   | Zach Halkola<br>Mary Brunet<br>Ann Anderton                                    | Shannon Handler<br>Trista Soumis<br>Jessica Klein                  | Carole Ahola<br>Dianne Johnson<br>Brian Jarvis                                 |
| <b>TBD Usher Team</b>      | Arne Henderson<br>Maija Stadius<br>Jim Bogan<br>Chris Hohnholt<br>Jason Lieburn | John Vaara<br>Bruce Ragusett<br>Carol Ragusett<br>Tom Oldfield<br>Pat Oldfield | Mark Halkola<br>Zach Halkola<br>Noah Halkola<br>Landon Halkola<br>Laurel Roehm | George Stockero<br>Shari Stockero<br>Greg Markkanen<br>Doug/Shelby | John Vaara<br>Bruce Ragusett<br>Carol Ragusett<br>Tom Oldfield<br>Pat Oldfield |
| <b>Bus Driver</b>          | Doug Hamar<br>281-0894                                                          | Lisa Ruhman<br>816-872-6192                                                    | Chris Hohnholt<br>370-4593                                                     | Doug Hamar<br>281-0894                                             | Lisa Ruhman<br>816-872-6192                                                    |

## Altar Guild

### September:

Chris Ahola  
Carole Ahola

### October:

Karen Brooks  
Marie Laitanen

### November:

Angie Weber  
Ann Anderton

## Bread Bakers

**September:** Ann Anderton; **October:** Chris Ahola; **November:** Myrna Gondek

| Faithful Giving    | 2026    | 2026     | 2026   | 2026    | 2026   | 2026   |
|--------------------|---------|----------|--------|---------|--------|--------|
| 2026               | January | February | March  | April-E | May    | June   |
| Attendance         | 312     | 367      | 502    | 481     | 446    | 386    |
| Target Offerings   | 21,450  | 21,450   | 21,450 | 21,450  | 21,450 | 21,450 |
| Actual Offerings   | 16,486  | 24,095   | 33,397 | 21,871  | 22,871 | 25,027 |
| Target Offer. 2025 | 20,170  | 20,170   | 20,170 | 20,170  | 20,170 | 20,170 |
| Actual Offer. 2025 | 22,990  | 18,844   | 17,009 | 23,061  | 16,205 | 27,776 |

## Happy Anniversary!

**August:** 6: Doug & Shelby Hamar (32), 13: Arne & Grace Henderson (66), 19: Peter Gundersen & Jimalee Jones (48), Gerry & Nancy Perreault (59), 20: Ralph & Ivy Heikka (49), 23: Wayne & Eileen Stordahl (68), 24: Bob & Chris Hodges (58), Philip & Rene Johnson (41), 27: Dave & Arlene Kempainen (60), Jim & Chris Lickman (49).

**September:** 2: Al & Becky Wakeham (20).