

# Observer

April/May  
Newsletter of  
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, ELCA  
1000 W. Quincy St.  
Hancock, MI 49930-1494

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

## WORSHIP SERVICES

Fall/Winter/Spring  
Sunday~ 8:00 am  
10:30 am  
SpiritEd / Sunday School—9:15 am

## SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS

Memorial Day –Labor Day  
Sunday~ 9:00 am

## JACOBSTOWN CHAPEL SERVICES

JUNE 9~AUGUST 25  
7:00 pm

# Endings and beginnings

Grace and peace to you all.

Our story of Christianity is one of death and life. Of endings and beginnings. Of a cycle of life that has at its center God. We know this most fully when we consider the Holy Week story of Jesus. Of his arrest, and death, and resurrection. Jesus rising to life after being laid in the tomb is the central aspect of our faith story. While we often understand this story in regards to our own stories, and that our own deaths will not our final word. Life eternal with God is the promise of resurrection. But the Church also proclaims that this promise of resurrection, of new life, is meant for the here and now.

Things in our ministries and world have beginnings and endings, endings and beginnings. Years ago Gloria Dei made a decision to host a food pantry in our building to help serve the needs of our neighbors and community. I am grateful that this happened, the people fed, and the donations to the pantry to support this ministry. It was an endeavor of faith. However, the past few years we have seen a marked shift to our number of guests who have come to the pantry, dropping drastically to where some days we have had no visitors when open. This has led to much of the food in our pantry to become outdated and cleared out.

Why the drop in visits? I doubt it is because there are less hungry people. As we wondered and discussed and

implemented different ideas to get the word out about our pantry, the numbers remained low. With having a number of other pantry options in our area, our volunteers who help organize and staff the pantry started wondering if maybe our time and resources might be more faithfully put towards other ways of supporting our community. The special needs drive for the Barbara Kettle Gundlach shelter we are doing in March is an example of this effort.

So after conversation and prayer amongst these volunteers and the church council, we have decided to wind down our pantry and close it. As was the decision to start the pantry, closing it is also an endeavor of faith.

We heard Jesus a few weeks ago in John's Gospel say: "unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it will not bear fruit." We take this action with hopes of bearing new fruit, with the time and resources that had been used towards the pantry finding new avenues to be impactful in our community and supporting our neighbors. Putting together more needs drives for local ministries. Supporting other local pantries. Or coming together with local partners to bring Feeding America mobile pantries into our community.

What fruit might God help us grow and share in this season?

In Christ,

Pastor Brahm

## Observer Deadline

The next Observer will be June/July issue! The deadline for inclusion will on May 18. Thanks!

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**In Person Worship** Sundays at 8 & 10:30 am. With Live Stream at 8 am and later online.

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## Recent Pastoral Acts

**Funeral:** Marilyn Gustafson, March 22, 2024

**Baptisms:** Illiana Kauss, James Kauss, Edith Lieburn, Jack Lieburn, February 11, 2024

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## Memorials:

**Sharon Rocchi:** Bertha Maki  
**Karen Halkola:** Mark Halkola

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## 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 Community Meals:

Third Sundays, April 21 at Holy Trinity, Chassell and May 19 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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## The Faith in Action Team

enrolled Gloria Dei in Tadych's MarketPlace Grocery Receipt program. A collection container is on the shelf in the coat room. We will be collecting Tadych's MarketPlace receipts and twice a year will submit them to the store. They will 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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## Gloria Dei Congregation Council

Glenn Anderson, Kathy Goulette, Doug Hamar, Shannon Handler, Courtney Hohnholt, Brian Jarvis, Jessica Klein, Susan O'Connell, George Stockero.

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## Ladies Luncheon:

Ladies Luncheon on Thursday, April 4 at Place. Bus leaves at 11:15. Call Gladys Brownlee or Karen in the office at 906-482-2381. All are welcome to attend!

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## Food Pantry News

The number of visitors using the pantry is slowly decreasing.

We remain very appreciative of the congregation's generosity. Please be mindful of expiration dates. We can not give out expired food.

*We are in need of:* Hamburger Helper (or similar), baking items (flour, sugar, cake mixes), condiments, salad dressings, easy mixes, (cookies, waffles) dish/laundry soap personal hygiene items, and toilet paper.

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## 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!**

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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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## 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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## Vanco Mobile App

This is an app driven giving opportunity powered by Vanco Faith (Simply Giving). You can use your smart phone or tablet. Download the app from the App Store or Google Play. Search for a church in Hancock, Michigan. (If you search Gloria Dei, the list is LONG), and you can donate using your credit card or your checking account. You can set it up to give one time or every week/month. There is also a link on our web site.

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## The Gloria Dei Endowment Fund

The committee anticipates there will be funds to distribute this year. Applicants are encouraged to submit their requests by **April 5, 2024** for consideration. Request forms are available from the Church office.

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## Graduates:

*Do you have someone Graduating this year?*

Please call the church office to let us know! Or drop a note with the information in the offering plate. We need Name and school, so they can be recognized on Graduate Sunday on May 19, 2024!

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## Happy Birthday!

### April:

- 1: Zach Ahola, Eileen Stordahl
- 5: Derek Huotari, Levi Huotari
- 10: Tami Bessner
- 12: Megan Pelto, Barb Turuc
- 13: Tamy Ahola
- 14: Sandra Rintala
- 16: Aili Melvig, Gabs Sutcliffe
- 17: Shirley Sciacero
- 19: Noah Halkola
- 20: Don Dombrowski, Lennon Hughes
- 21: Ruth Kyllonen, Ari Lahti
- 22: Kade Huotari
- 24: Karl Snortland
- 25: Lu Hanke
- 26: Ellen Mattila, Rebekah Schmidt
- 28: Doug Sutcliffe
- 29: Arne Henderson
- 30: Connie Ahola, Hannah Soumis

### May:

- 1: Philip Johnson
- 2: Meta Semmler Smith
- 4: Shelby Hamar, Gavin Ross, Sybil Semmler Smith
- 6: Marilyn Hamar
- 10: Glenn Anderson, Jim Bogan
- 12: Landon Halkola, Joyce Lishinski, Dave Strong
- 13: Marlene Mink, Abby Ross
- 16: Matt Mattila
- 18: Betty Carlson
- 19: Martha Dickson
- 22: Lisa Marjamaa
- 23: Wayne Stordahl
- 25: Julie Beck, Naomi Hohnholt, Rene Johnson
- 27: Christine Lickman
- 28: Hazel Tepsa
- 29: Jeff Baril
- 31: Oliver Hilman



# Happy Anniversary!

**April:** 2: Paulette & John Gedda  
20: JoAnn & Dom Dombrowski  
**May:** 10: Don & Marie Juntunen  
15: Bruce & Carol Ragusett  
19: Bob & Marian Peltier  
25: Todd & Tami Bessner

## Painting Restoration

Gloria Dei Memorials Team has authorized the establishment of a new Memorial Fund titled "Restoration of the Transfiguration Painting". This creates a new gifting opportunity for a memorial in Memory or In Honor of someone or some event the gifter chooses. The painting was created for the Holy Trinity (Scandinavian Lutheran Church) of Quincy Hill by local painter Matti Fredd in 1895 and now needs to be restored before being displayed at Gloria Dei. Gifts should be sent to the secretary at Gloria Dei, designated for the Painting Restoration.



## Fortune Lake Happenings

**Summer Camp Registration is open! Weeks book fast! Camperships are available.**

**Senior Day. May 13 from 10-1 pm CST**  
**Annual Meeting April 28 at 2 pm CST**

## QUILTERS' CORNER:

Meet on Tuesdays from noon to 4 pm. All are welcome. Drop in for the time you have. We make simple straight line sewing quilts. No experience necessary. We offer a **Quilt-To-Go Program** for those who would like to sew at home. *If you would like to sew at home call the office to arrange pick up of quilt tops and simple directions. 482-2381.*



## Memorial Donor Tree

Is now on display in the narthex. The purpose of this tree is twofold: 1. To remember our loved ones who have passed away. 2. To generate funds for church projects as needed. This is a 100-leaf copper tree and is expandable with more leaves if the need arises. The cost of each leaf purchased is \$250 and will feature an engraved small cross followed by the loved one's name, (first name, middle initial and last name) year of birth, and year of death.



Anyone interested in purchasing a leaf in memory of their loved one can send a check to the church for \$250, payable to Gloria Dei, along with the above mentioned information. The Memorial Team has suggested that the proceeds from this donor tree is designated to the new bus fund unless otherwise stated by the donor. This memorial tree has been established by Ron and Mary Mikkola in memory of their sons, David and Jason Mikkola, and made possible by the generous donations given to Gloria Dei in their names.

*Let's remember our loved ones and fill our tree!*

## Vacation Bible School

**Mark your calendars:** VBS will be held July 28-August 1, 2024 at Gloria Dei with our friends from Holy Trinity in Chassell, Grace Lutheran in South Range and Good Shepherd in Houghton. We have a team from Fortune Lake coming to Lead the Event! Details to follow! Registration forms will be available on the bulletin board soon. Space is limited so register early.

## Summer Worship Schedule

Starting on Sunday, May 26, there will be one worship service at 9 am for the summer months.



# April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Office Hours:</b> <b>Monday-Friday</b> <b>8 am to 4 pm</b>	<b>1</b> Pr. Brahm's day off 4:30 pm Tops	<b>2</b> 12 Quilters 5:30 pm Habitat 7 pm Boy Scouts	<b>3</b> 5:45-7:30 pm Girl Scouts	<b>4</b> 12 Noon: Ladies Luncheon at Gino's 1 pm Mahjong 6 pm Noteworthy	<b>5</b> Endowment Request deadline.  <b>Karen out of the office</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 8:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion	<b>8</b> Pr. Brahm's day off 4:30 pm Tops	<b>9</b> 12 Quilters 2 pm PortagePointe 7 pm Boy Scouts	<b>10</b> 5:45-7:30 pm Girl Scouts	<b>11</b> 1-2 pm Food Pantry Open 1 pm Mahjong 5:30 pm Habitat 6 pm Noteworthy	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 8:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion 11:30 am Finance Team	<b>15</b> Pr. Brahm's day off 4:30 pm Tops	<b>16</b> 12 Quilters 6:30 pm Council 7 pm Boy Scouts	<b>17</b> 5:45-7:30 pm Girl Scouts 6 pm Endowment Team  <b>Karen Out of the office</b>	<b>18</b> 1 pm Mahjong 6 pm Noteworthy	<b>19</b> 3 pm Women's retreat set up	<b>20</b> 9 am Women's retreat
<b>21</b> 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Faith in Action 4-5:30 pm Let's Eat Community Meal at Holy Trinity, Chassell	<b>22</b> Pr. Brahm's day off 4:30 pm Tops  <b>Karen Out of the office</b>	<b>23</b> 12 noon Quilting 6:30 pm Council 7 pm Boy Scouts	<b>24</b> 5:45-7:30 pm Girl Scouts	<b>25</b> 1-2 pm Food Pantry Open 1 pm Mahjong 6 pm Noteworthy	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 8:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion 2 pm Fortune Lake Annual Meeting	<b>29</b> Pr. Brahm's day off 4:30 pm Tops	<b>30</b> 12 Quilters 2 pm TheBluffs 7 pm Boy Scouts  <b>Karen Out of the office</b>				

# April 2024 Serving Saints

	April 7	April 14	April 21	April 28	May 5
<b>8:00 am Lector</b>	Travis Hanson	Julie Beck	RuthAnn Smith	Dianne Johnson	Travis Hanson
<b>8:00 am Communion Assistant</b>	Travis Hanson	Julie Beck	Susan O'Connell	Dianne Johnson	Travis Hanson
<b>8:00 am Usher Team</b>	Bruce Ragusett Carol Ragusett	Tom Oldfield Pat Oldfield	Don Juntunen Bill Lohela	David Strong Dave Kumlin	Bruce Ragusett Carol Ragusett
<b>10:30 am Lector</b>	Mary Brunet	Angie Weber	Ken Seaton	Maija Stadius	Chris Hodges
<b>10:30 am Communion Assistant</b>	Mary Brunet Ann Anderton Shannon Handler	Jessica Klein Courtney Hohnholt Brian Jarvis	Shelby Hamar George Stockero Maija Stadius	Kathy Goulette Jen Mattila Glenn Anderson	Doug Hamar Chris Hodges Liz Siivola
<b>10:30 am Usher Team</b>	Mark Halkola Zach Halkola Seth Halkola Noah Halkola Laurel Roehm	George Stockero Shari Stockero Greg Markkanen Gladys Brownlee Doug/Shelby Hamar	Rich/Karen Brooks Steve/Jane Zutter Todd Bessner Eric Seagren	Neil Ahola Carole Ahola Chris Ahola	Wayne Stordahl Brian Jarvis David Hughes Lennon Hughes
<b>Bus Driver</b>	Chris Hohnholt	Doug Hamar	Scott Pietila	Dave & Lisa Ruhman	Stephen Smith

## Altar Guild

### April:

Shelby Hamar  
Ann Anderton

### May:

Mary Brunet  
Barb Turuc

### June:

Eileen Stordahl  
Mary Hauswirth  
Marie Juntunen

## Bread Bakers

### April:

Vi Norkol


### May:

Julie Ross

### June:

Pat Oldfield

# May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Office Hours:</b> Monday-Friday 8 am to 4 pm			1 5:45-7:30 pm Girl Scouts  Karen Out of the office	2 12 Noon Ladies Luncheon ?? 1 pm Mahjong 6:00 pm Noteworthy	3	4
5 8:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion	6 Pr. Brahm's day off 4:30 pm Tops	7 12-4:00 pm Quilting 5:30 pm Habitat Build Board 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	8 5:45-7:30 pm Girl Scouts	9 1 pm Mahjong 6:00 pm Noteworthy	10	11
12 <b>Confirmation</b> 8:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion 11:30 am Finance Team	13 Pr. Brahm's day off 4:30 pm Tops	14 12-4:00 pm Quilting 2 pm PortagePointe 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	15 5:45-7:30 pm Girl Scouts	16 1 pm Mahjong 5:30 pm Habitat board 6:00 pm Noteworthy	17	18 Synod Assembly  <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>
19 <b>Graduate Sunday</b> 8:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion 11:30 am Faith In Action 4-5:00 pm Let's Eat Community Meal at Holy Trinity, Chassell	20 Pr. Brahm's day off 4:30 pm Tops	21 12-4:00 pm Quilting 6:30 pm Council 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	22 5:45-7:30 pm Girl Scouts	23 1 pm Mahjong 6:00 pm Noteworthy 6:30 pm Aspirus Hospice Service	24	25
			Pr. Brahm out of the office			
26 9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion	27  memorial DAY	28 12-4:00 pm Quilting 2 pm The Bluffs 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	29 5:45-7:30 pm Girl Scouts	30 1 pm Mahjong 6:00 pm Noteworthy	31	
Pr. Brahm out of the office						



# May 2024 Serving Saints

	May 5	May 12	May 19	May 26	June 2
<b>8:00 am Lector</b>	Travis Hanson	Julie Beck	Stephen Smith		
<b>8:00 am Communion Assistant</b>	Travis Hanson	Julie Beck	RuthAnn Smith		
<b>8:00 am Usher Team</b>	Bruce Ragusett Carol Ragusett	Tom Oldfield Pat Oldfield	Don Juntunen Bill Lohela		
<b>10:30 am Lector</b>	Chris Hodges	Lennon Hughes	Glenn Anderson	<b>9:00 am</b> Lennon Hughes	<b>9:00 am</b> John Vaara
<b>10:30 am Communion Assistant</b>	Doug Hamar Chris Hodges Liz Siivola	Mary Brunet Ann Anderton Shannon Handler	Zach Halkola Jessica Klein Glenn Anderson	<b>9:00 am</b> Courtney Hohnholt Brian Jarvis Shelby Hamar	<b>9:00 am</b> John Vaara Maija Stadius Kathy Goulete
<b>10:30 am Usher Team</b>	Wayne Stordahl Brian Jarvis David Hughes Lennon Hughes	Arne Henderson Maija Stadius Jim Bogan Chris Hohnholt	Mark Halkola Zach Halkola Seth Halkola Noah Halkola Laurel Roehm	<b>9:00 am</b> David Strong Dave Kumlin John Vaara Phil Quenzi	<b>9:00 am</b> George Stockero Shari Stockero Greg Markkanen Gladys Brownlee Doug/Shelby Hamar
<b>Bus Driver</b>	Stephen Smith	Chris Hohnholt	Doug Hamar	Scott Pietila	Dave & Lisa Ruhman

## Altar Guild

### May:

Mary Brunet  
Barb Turuc

### June:

Eileen Stordahl  
Mary Hauswirth  
Marie Juntunen

### July:

7: Angie Weber  
14: Trista Soumis  
21-28: Maija Stadius

## Bread Bakers

### May:

Julie Ross

### June:

Pat Oldfield

### July:

Myrna Gondek

Faithful Giving	2023	2023	2023	2023	2024	2024
2023/2024	September	October	November	December	January	February
Attendance	400	654	455	718	425	559
Target Offerings	19,583	19,583	19,583	19,583	24,205	24,205
Actual Offerings	20,134	20,135	19,715	26,398	20,350	24,221
Target Offer. 2023	18,567	18,567	18,567	18,567	19,583	19,583
Actual Offer. 2023	18,238	24,045	15,972	24,031	22,990	18,844