

Observer

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

Pastor Brahm Semmler Smith
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Church e-mail: secretary@gdlch.org
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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

JACOBSVILLE CHAPEL SERVICES

JUNE 9~AUGUST 25
7:00 pm

January 2024. Pastor Brahm's Annual Report.

May God's grace surround us, Christ's love lift us, and the Spirit's inspiration sustain us in our journey's of faith and life.

This past year has been unique in the life of our congregation and community, and my life personally. Through it all God continues to be faithful, in the midst of the challenges and the opportunities.

1. **Worship:** Worship continues to be the central thing we do together as the people of God. I am grateful for the opportunities to worship with this community, for the musicians and volunteers who help make worship happen, and to consider how God is present and active in our lives. As we gather together, God's Word brings us words of comfort and challenge. My hope is that our worship and our proclamation of the Word together gets us to think, to ask questions, and to wonder together what God is up to. Sometimes this means challenging our own preconceived ideas about God and this world. My hope is that all might feel welcome in our worship, but also know our style of worship might be unfamiliar to those who might be new. How might we better invite and welcome those who are new to our space and community in the ways that we worship?
2. **Education:** We have a nice group of kids who come on Sunday mornings to learn and play together. Our largest group is in the K-2 age range. Our middle and high school kids gather twice a month, and we have moved to scheduling it month by month because schedules are changing for our families. We did a few different adult ed gatherings, using books, devotions during Lent and Advent, as well as the weekly text study that happens on Sunday mornings in between services. In these ways we continue to study and look for God's Word.
3. **Finlandia's Closing:** This event certainly had an impact on our community and congregation, as our connections over Finlandia's history have been many. This congregation helped support this community in processing, grieving, and giving thanks for the legacy of this institution. I give thanks for the many years of dedication to this community and the students who learned at this institution. The spiritual aspect of vocation is important to our Lutheran identity, and Finlandia for years helped young and old alike learn about how God was calling them into the world.

Personally, my spouse's employment being tied to the university caused some uncertain moments in our lives, but am thankful that Good Shepherd was able to call Sarah as pastor, which has led to some partnerships and sharing with our friends in Houghton.

4. **Stewardship:** We had our first intentional stewardship emphasis this past fall in a number of years. This was to help talk about what we do together in our shared ministry, and how the congregations support financially and through volunteer hours makes our ministry happen. We finished the year strong, and I am grateful for the support we receive from so many to make this ministry work.

5. **Partnerships:** We are blessed with a number of partnerships, a highlight of which was our partnership with Temeke Lutheran Church in Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. I was able to visit these friends in October through the support of the congregation. We renewed our connections, and made new ones. One worry from our friends is the loss of the yearly Finlandia Servant Leader trip as a way to stay connected. We will have to find new ways of connection, and technology has made communication much easier. We also hope some young adults from Temeke might be able to work summers at Fortune Lake, as well as inviting a group from Temeke to visit us again in the near future.

Fortune Lake continues to be a valued partner in our faith formation endeavors. We had around 20 youth attend camp last summer, had almost 50 kids come to VBS amongst 4 congregations, with another 12 teens who helped volunteer that week. We see this partnership carrying over into 2024, as we will again work together for VBS and have 25 youth attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans amongst a number of congregations in the Copper Country. This includes 12 that are connected with Gloria Dei.

Our ecumenical connections also branch out into shared worship experiences with First United Methodist and Church of the Resurrection in Hancock, as well as Good Shepherd Lutheran and Portage Lake United Church in Houghton this past year. A church gathering called UP Wild also started up in 2023 as a joint effort between Lutherans and Episcopalians and anyone else who wanted to experience God in an intentional community in the wilderness.

What does that bring for 2024? We will continue to build on some of these partnerships, and continue to ask questions of God and what God is up to in our community. We have scheduled some long-awaited technology upgrades for our in person and online worshipping experience. We will continue to be open to the Spirit's moving in our midst, and new opportunities. How might God be calling is to worship, fellowship, and serve together?

I continue to lean on the promises of grace and God's presence in the midst of this journey of faith: the ups and downs, the questions and laughter, the times of certainty and the times of doubt. My hope comes most strongly in the promise of God's faithfulness to us and this world God created and continues to re-create.

In Christ,

Pastor Brahm

Observer Deadline

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

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

Recent Pastoral Acts

Funeral: Al Kempainen, January 6, 2024.
Sharon Rocchi, January 20, 2024

Memorials:

Al Kempainen: Ken Seaton, Bill Lohela, Bruce & Carol Ragusett, Roger Hewlet, Lauren Morrison, Our Saviors Lutheran Church, Wayne & Eileen Stordahl, Martha Dickson, Dave & Arlene Kempainen, Dave & Jacalyn Strong, George & Shari Stockero, Terry & Lori Saladin, Gary & Julie Beck, Dan & Janet O'Brien, Sharon Ryden, John & Renee Butkonen
Wayne Goulette: Doug & Shelby Hamar

Bus Drivers needed:

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

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!

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.

Let's Eat Community Meals:

Third Sundays, February 18 at Gloria Dei and March 17 at Holy Trinity, Chassell from 4-5 pm. All are welcome to the meal and there is no charge. Dine in preferred, take-out available!

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.

Gloria Dei Congregation Council

Glenn Anderson, Kathy Goulette, Shannon Handler, Courtney Hohnholt, Brian Jarvis.

Ladies Luncheon:

Ladies Luncheon on Thursday, February 1 at Bosio Biscuits, Tapiola. Bus leaves at 11:15. Call Gladys Brownlee or Karen in the office at 906-482-2381. All are welcome to attend!

Food Pantry News

The number of visitors using the pantry is slowly growing.

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.

Mitten Alert!

The Jeanne Kotila Memorial Mitten Tree
Gathered 104 Mittens, gloves, hats, scarves & sox.
Thank you one and all for the generous donations.



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. This form will be replacing the Friendship Cards that used to be located at the end of the pews. Please take time either prior or after service to sign in. Thank you!

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!

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.

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.

Happy Birthday!

February:

- 1: Debbie Vaara
- 6: Kathy Goulette
- 7: Charles Rocchi
- 10: Juli Haischer
- 11: Jimalee Jones
- 13: Debra Maki
- 14: Logan Barker
- 16: Mary Hauswirth
- 17: Helmi Beck, Ron Halmesmaki, Doug Hamar, Mary Mikkola
- 20: Mary Brunet, Paulette Gedda, Courtney Hohnholt
- 22: Carol Carli
- 24: Jackie Strong
- 25: Novelle Klein
- 27: Charlene Ahola, Matthew Weekley
- 28: Hailey Mendivil

March:

- 7: Greg Markkanen
- 9: Alfred Campo
- 10: Todd Bessner, Alexa Destrampe, Eli Garnell, Olive Schmidt, Drew Stockero
- 11: Roy Wakeham
- 14: Estella Soumis
- 15: Brad Johnson
- 16: Karen Trusock
- 18: Ellie Hander, Kalle Markkanen
- 19: Bonnie Longenecker
- 20: Jari Stoll-Pietila
- 21: Mabel Swanson
- 22: Sue Slinde
- 23: Renee Anderton
- 26: Janice Alatalo
- 28: Luc Destrampe, Janice Gebeau, Jude Schmidt
- 31: Don Hill



Happy Anniversary!

February: 16: Diane & Ernie Alatalo

29: Jane & Greg Markkanen, Sharon & Charlies Rocchi

March: 5: Christine & Zach Halkola

26: Lisa & Jeff Naber

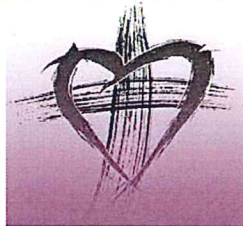
Offering Envelopes:

Will be available for pick up in the Narthex in December.

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 14: Worship at 6:30 pm.

Drive Thru Ashes available from 12 to 12:30 pm



Lenten Services

Wednesdays: February 21, 28, March 6, 13 & 20.

5:30 pm Bread & Broth

6:15 pm Worship.

We are looking for groups to host Soup suppers. Contact the office to sign up. Council will host Feb. 21. All others are available.

Faster Garden:

If you have a loved one you would like to remember, or honor, with an Easter plant, please remember to call the Church office by Tuesday, March 26 with the necessary information for the Easter Bulletin. Foil colors are: Gold, White or Yellow.

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday, March 24--8:00 & 10:30 am Worship

Maundy Thursday, March 28 – 6:30 pm Worship

Good Friday, Arch 29– 6:30 pm Worship

Easter Sunday, March 31 – 7 am & 10:30 am Worship

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!

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. March 11 from 10-1 pm CST

Annual Meeting TBA

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.*



Time Change: Sunday, March 10. Turn your clocks ahead 1 hour before bed!

Barnelopet Children's Races: Sunday, Feb. 11 at Maasto Hiihto trails. Register at 1 pm. Parents are welcome to ski with their children. See bulletin board for more information. To register on line form is available at: hancocktrails.org/event/barnelopet/

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!

The Lutheran magazine: is no longer published on paper. It is available only on line. Please disregard the Envelope in your offering box that is Labeled for The Lutheran. Thank you.

Copper Country Conference

Winter Youth Event

Saturday, February 10 from 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Conference Youth - Sledding & Service event.

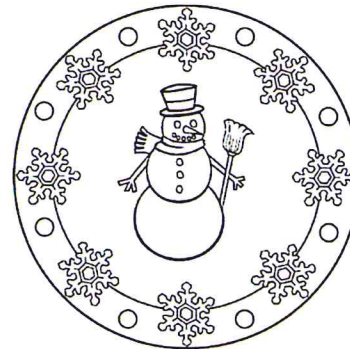
@ Nara Nature Area hill & Interpretive Center

Come for an afternoon with youth of all ages for sledding, hot chocolate, and a meaningful service event.

Parents are invited to stay for the event if their youth is younger than 2nd grade. Parents may drop off/pick up for kids 3rd - 12th grade.

Gloria Dei Youth Project:

Just before Christmas the Youth Group along with Pastor Brahm, went on a shopping spree for 10 angels chosen from Salvation Army's Angel Tree! With a grant from Thrivent and some extra funds, they were able to provide Christmas gifts to needy children in our area. It was a fun service project!



February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8 am to 4 pm				1 11:15 Bus leaves for luncheon 12 Noon: Ladies Luncheon at Bosio Biscuits in Tapiola 1 pm Mahjong 6 pm Noteworthy	2	3
4 8:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion 2 pm LSMTA Practice	5 Pr. Brahm's day off 4:30 pm Tops	6 12 Quilters 5:30 pm Habitat 7 pm Boy Scouts	7 5:45-7:30 pm Girl Scouts	8 1-2 pm Food Pantry Open 1 pm Mahjong 5:30 pm Habitat 6 pm Noteworthy	9	10 9-5 LBFE Valentines Day Party
11 8:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion 11:30 am Finance Team	12 Pr. Brahm's day off 4:30 pm Tops	13 12 Quilters 2 pm PortagePointe 7 pm Boy Scouts	14 12-12:30 pm Drive-up Ashes 5:45-7:30 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service	15 1 pm Mahjong 6 pm Noteworthy	16	17
18 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Faith in Action 4-5 pm Let's Eat Community Meal at Gloria Dei	19 Pr. Brahm's day off 3:30-5 pm Kiviat Dancers 4:30 pm Tops	20 12 noon Quilting 6:30 pm Council 7 pm Boy Scouts	21 5:30 Bread & Broth 6:15 Holden Evening Prayer 5:45-7:30 pm Girl Scouts	22 1-2 pm Food Pantry Open 1 pm Mahjong 6 pm Noteworthy	23	24
25 8:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion	26 Pr. Brahm's day off 4:30 pm Tops	27 12 Quilters 2 pm The Bluffs 7 pm Boy Scouts	28 10 an LBFE & 4th Graders 5:30 Bread & Broth 6:15 Holden Evening Prayer 5:45-7:30 pm Girl Scouts	29 1 pm Mahjong 6 pm Noteworthy		

February 2024 Serving Saints

	February 4	February 11	February 18	February 25	March 3
8:00 am Lector	Dianne Johnson	Julie Beck	Stephen Smith	Travis Hanson	Dianne Johnson
8:00 am Communion Assistant	Dianne Johnson	Julie Beck	Stephen Smith	Travis Hanson	Dianne Johnson
8:00 am Usher Team	David Strong Dave Kumlin	Bruce Ragusett Carol Ragusett	Tom Oldfield Pat Oldfield	Don Juntunen Bill Lohela	David Strong Dave Kumlin
10:30 am Lector	Doug Hamar	Mary Brunet	Shari Stockero	Jane Berner	Glen Archer
10:30 am Communion Assistant	Ann Anderton Shannon Handler Courtney Hohnholt	Brian Jarvis Shelby Hamar Maija Stadius	Kathy Goulette Neil Ahola Jen Mattila	Glenn Anderson Chris Hodges Liz Siivola	Zach Halkola Mary Brunet Ann Anderton
10:30 am Usher Team	Neil Ahola Carole Ahola Chris Ahola	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	George Stockero Shari Stockero Greg Markkanen Gladys Brownlee Doug/Shelby Hamar
Bus Driver	Doug Hamar	Scott Pietila	Stephen Smith	Dave & Lisa Ruhman	Chris Hohnholt

Altar Guild

February:

Vi Norkol
Myrna Gondek

March:

Lennon Hughes
Volunteer needed

April:

Shelby Hamar
Ann Anderton

Bread Bakers

February:

Chris Ahola

March:

Shannon Handler

April:

Vi Norkol

March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8 am to 4 pm					1	2
3 8:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion	4 Pr. Brahm's day off 4:30 pm Tops	5 12-4:00 pm Quilting 5:30 pm Habitat Build Board 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	6 5:45-7:30 pm Girl Scouts 5:30 Bread & Broth 6:15 Holden Evening Prayer	7 12 Noon Ladies Luncheon ??? 1 pm Mahjong 6:00 pm Noteworthy	8 3-8 pm LSMTA Testing	9 9-4 LSMTA Testing
10 Time Change 8:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion 11:30 am Finance Team	11 Pr. Brahm's day off 4:30 pm Tops	12 12-4:00 pm Quilting 2 pm PortagePointe 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	13 5:45-7:30 pm Girl Scouts 5:30 Bread & Broth 6:15 Holden Evening Prayer	14 1-2 pm Food Pantry Open 1 pm Mahjong 5:30 pm Habitat board 6:00 pm Noteworthy	15	16
				<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> Karen Off — March 14 & 15 </div>		
17 8:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 9:15 am Christian Education 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	18 Pr. Brahm's day off 4:30 pm Tops <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	19 12-4:00 pm Quilting 6:30 pm Council 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	20 5:45-7:30 pm Girl Scouts 5:30 Bread & Broth 6:15 Holden Evening Prayer	21 1 pm Mahjong 6:00 pm Noteworthy 6:30 pm Aspirus Hospice Service	22	23
24 Palm Sunday 8:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion 2-3:30 pm Girl Scouts	25 Pr. Brahm's day off 4:30 pm Tops	26 12-4:00 pm Quilting 2 pm The Bluffs 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	27 5:45-7:30 pm Girl Scouts	28 1-2 pm Food Pantry Open 1 pm Mahjong 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Worship	29 6:30 pm Good Friday Worship	30
31 Easter 7:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion						

March 2024 Serving Saints

	March 3	March 10	March 17	March 24	March 31
8:00 am Lector	Dianne Johnson	Travis Hanson	Julie Beck	RuthAnn Smith	Dianne Johnson
8:00 am Communion Assistant	Dianne Johnson	Travis Hanson	Julie Beck	RuthAnn Smith	Dianne Johnson
8:00 am Usher Team	David Strong Dave Kumlin	Bruce Ragusett Carol Ragusett	Tom Oldfield Pat Oldfield	Don Juntunen Bill Lohela	David Strong Dave Kumlin
10:30 am Lector	Glen Archer	Angie Weber	Maija Stadius		
10:30 am Communion Assistant	Zach Halkola Mary Brunet Ann Anderton	Shannon Handler Courtney Hohnholt Brian Jarvis	Shelby Hamar Maija Stadius Kathy Goulette	Neil Ahola Jen Mattila Glenn Anderson	Chris Hodges Liz Siivola Zach Halkola
10:30 am Usher Team	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	Arne Henderson Maija Stadius Jim Bogan Chris Hohnholt
Bus Driver	Chris Hohnholt	Doug Hamar	Scott Pietila	Dave & Lisa Ruhman	Stephen Smith

Altar Guild

March:

Lennon Hughes
Volunteer needed

April:

Shelby Hamar
Ann Anderton

May:

Mary Brunet
Barb Turuc

Bread Bakers

March:

Shannon Handler

April:

Vi Norkol

May:

Julie Ross

Faithful Giving	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023
2023	July	August	September	October	November	December
Attendance	592	460	400	654	455	718
Target Offerings	19,583	19,583	19,583	19,583	19,583	19,583
Actual Offerings	17,894	16,929	20,134	20,135	19,715	26,398
Target Offer. 2022	18,567	18,567	18,567	18,567	18,567	18,567
Actual Offer. 2022	12,579	19,351	18,238	24,045	15,972	24,031