

# Observer

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

Pastor Brahm Semmler Smith  
E-mail: [pastor@gdlch.org](mailto:pastor@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  
MAY 28~SEPTEMBER 3  
Sunday~ 9:00 am

JACOBSTOWN CHAPEL SERVICES  
JUNE 18~AUGUST 27  
7:00 pm

## Happy Birthday!

**June:** 2: Justin Weber

4: Paul Slinde

6: Alex Halkola

10: Maija Stadius

11: Wesley Mattila

15: Liira Klein, Suzanne Sanregret

17: Alan Karkkainen

18: Zach Halkola, Dave Quayle

19: Claire Weekley

20: Jeanne Karkkainen

21: Mary Ellen Campo

23: Brita Odegard

24: John Vaara

25: Dominic Pizzi, Shirley Pyhtila

27: Diane Alatalo, Liz Siivola

28: Audrie Wakeham

29: Betty Hiltunen, Louis Mattila, Finn Rousseau

30: Brennan Baril

**July:** 6: Ed Longenecker, Jeff Naber

7: Bruce Ragusett

8: Ann Anderton

9: Robert Peltier

11: Kiira Baril, Scott Destrampe, Rick Hauswirth, Phil Quenzi

16: Glen Archer Gina Hill

17: Ron Arvo, Ryan Johnson, Bill Kotila

23: Arlene Kempainen

24: Lily Halkola, Ted Johnson

25: Jack Kilpela, Nathan Wakeham

26: Ellen Jarvis

27: Ronda Bogan, Robin Lieburn

29: Joyce Barna



## Happy Anniversary!

**June:** 1: Steve & Jane Zutter

4: Jim & Ronda Bogan

12: George & Shari Stockero

14: Don & Carol Carli

17: Neil & Tammy Ahola

28: Andy & Christina Lahti

30: John & Juli Haischer

**July:** 3: John & Renee Butkonen

9: Jeff & Kiira Baril

11: Roger & Sandra Rintala

12: Mike & Connie Cischke

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## 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.*

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## 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.



# Congratulations Graduates

*Luc Destrampe, Lake Linden High School*

*Ava Lahti, Calumet High School*

*Mikko Salmi, Houghton High School*

*Kathrine Jarvis, BA Materials Science & Engineering from MTU*

*Allyson Fenton, MA Environmental Engineering from MTU*

*Elizabeth Seaton Boyd, BA Graphic Design,  
Chicago Art Institute*

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## Vacation Bible School

**Mark your calendars:** VBS will be held July 30-August 3, 2023 at Holy Trinity, Chassell 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.

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## Observer Deadline

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

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**In Person Worship** Sundays at 9 am. With Live Stream and later online.

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## Recent Pastoral Acts

### Funerals:

Charlie Streicher, May 26, 2023

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## Memorials:

**Charlie Streicher:** Martha Dickson, Gloria Pihlaja, Houghton Hancock Lions Club,

**Al Gebeau:** Barb & Diego Fernandez, Mark Olson Family, Dawn Wilman.

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## Congratulations Confirmands

Chloe Hohnholt, Aili Melvig, Lily Ross,  
Birk Seagren & Stella Soumis!

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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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## Bus Drivers needed:

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

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## Let's Eat Community Meals:

Third Sundays, June 18 at Church of the Resurrection, Hancock and July 16 at Gloria Dei from 4-5 pm. All are welcome to the meal and there is no charge. Drive thru!

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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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<b>Faithful Giving</b>	2022	2022	2023	2023	2023	2023
2022/2023	November	December	January	February	March	April
Attendance	376	373	440	420	582	582
Target Offerings	18,567	18,567	19,583	19,583	19,583	19,583
Actual Offerings	16,022	26,032	22,990	18,844	18,227	14,766
Target Offer. 2021-22	18,567	18,567	18,567	18,567	18,567	18,567
Actual Offer. 2021-22	22,438	19,864	19,134	26,272	21,598	21,118

## 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!

## Gloria Dei Congregation Council

Glenn Anderson, Kathy Goulette, Zach Halkola, Shannon Handler, Courtney Hohnholt, Brian Jarvis, Dolores Kilpela, Jen Mattila and Tom Oldfield.

## Grief Support Group:

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of each month (except holidays) 7 pm EST. at St. Ignatius Church, Education Center or on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday from 5:30-6:30 pm  
Dial in to 1-337-366-8263 when prompted enter Attendee number 949016501# when prompted. For more information contact Julie Beck, Bereavement Coordinator at 906-483-1160 option 2.

## Ladies Luncheon:

Ladies Luncheon on Thursday, June 8 at noon at Loading Zone II in Lake Linden. Bus leaves at 11:30. Call Gladys Brownlee or Karen in the office at 906-482-2381 to RSVP. All are welcome to attend!

## Food Pantry News

The number of visitors using the pantry has greatly decreased the past few years, with last year experiencing fewer than 3 persons per month.

We remain very appreciative of the congregation's generosity.

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

## 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!

## 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!

## 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.

## Jacobsville Chapel Clean-up:

Sunday, June 4 following 9 am worship. Bring your tools/supplies and gloves. Dress for weather (and bugs). A light meal and beverages will be supplied. All are welcome!

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## Lawn Mowing:

Sign-up sheet is in the fellowship hall. Please try to mow later in the week so it will be looking nice for Sunday Worship.

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## Wednesday in the Park

Will start up in July

Watch for details!

## Jacobsville Chapel

**Sunday Evening Services, Every Sunday from  
June 18, 2023 through August 27th, 2023  
– 7 p.m. –**

June 18: Rev. Kelly Ylitalo

June 25: Rev. Peter Vorhes

July 2: Rev. Brahm Semmler Smith

July 9: Rev. DJ Rasner

July 16: Rev. Jared Howard

July 23: Rev. Peter Norland

July 30: Rev. Soren Schmidt

August 6: Larry Malloy, LLM

August 13: to be announced

August 20: to be announced.

August 27: Rev. Sarah Semmler Smith

October 1: Rev. Brahm Semmler Smith

### 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*

# June 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Office Hours:</b> Monday-Thursday 7 am to 4 pm Friday from 7-11 am				1	2	3
4 9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion	5 Pr. Brahm's day off 4:30 pm Tops	6 12 Quilters 5:30 pm Habitat 7 pm Boy Scouts	7	8 11:30 Bus leaves for luncheon 12 Noon: Ladies Luncheon at The Loading Zone II, Lake Linden 1-2 pm Food Pantry Open 5:30 pm Habitat	9	10
11 9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion	12 Pr. Brahm's day off 4:30 pm Tops	13 12 noon Quilting 7 pm Boy Scouts	14 Karen out of the office.	15	16	17
				Pr. Brahm on Vacation June 14-28		
18 9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 4-5pm Let's Eat Community Meal at Church of the Resurrection, Houghton 7:00 pm Worship at Jacobsville Chapel	19 Pr. Brahm's day off 4:30 pm Tops	20 12 Quilters 6:30 pm Council 7 pm Boy Scouts	21	22 1-2 pm Food Pantry Open	23	24
				Pr. Brahm on Vacation June 14-28		
25 9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 7:00 pm Worship at Jacobsville Chapel	26 Pr. Brahm's day off 4:30 pm Tops	27 12 Quilters 7 pm Boy Scouts	28	29	30	
		Pr. Brahm on Vacation June 14-28				

**June 2023 Serving Saints**

	<b>June 4</b>	<b>June 11</b>	<b>June 18</b>	<b>June 25</b>	<b>July 2</b>
<b>9:00 am Lector</b>	John Vaara	Lennon Hughes	Maija Stadius	Doug Hamar	Nancy Kromer
<b>9:00 am Communion</b>	Shelby Hamar John Vaara Maija Stadius	Kathy Goulette Neil Ahola Jen Mattila	Glenn Anderson Chris Hodges Liz Siivola	Zach Halkola Mary Brunet Ann Anderton	Shannon Handler Shelby Hamar Julie Beck
<b>Usher team 9:00 am</b>	George Stockero Shari Stockero Greg Markkanen Gladys Brownlee Doug/Shelby Hamar	Rich/Karen Brooks Steve/Jane Zutter Todd Bessner Eric Seagren	Bruce Ragusett Carol Ragusett Tom Oldfield Pat Oldfield	Neil Ahola Carole Ahola Chris Ahola	Wayne Stordahl Brian Jarvis David Hughes Lennon Hughes
<b>Bus Driver</b>	Doug Hamar	Scott Pietila	Liisa Beck	Stephen Smith	Gary Kilpela

**Altar Guild**

**June:**

Eileen Stordahl  
Mary Hauswirth  
Marie Juntunen

**July:**

2 Volunteer needed  
9 Trista Soumis  
16 Maija Stadius  
23 Volunteer needed  
30 Deb Vaara

**August:**

Carol Ragusett  
Marlene Mink

**Bread Bakers**

**June:**

Pat Oldfield

**July:**

Myrna Gondek

**August:**

Marie Juntunen

# July 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 7:00 pm Worship at Jacobsville Chapel	3 Pr. Brahm's day off 4:30 pm Tops	4 	5	6 12 Noon Ladies Luncheon ???	7	8
Karen on Vacation July 3-7						
9 9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 7:00 pm Worship at Jacobsville Chapel	10 Pr. Brahm's day off 4:30 pm Tops	11 12-4:00 pm Quilting 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	12	13 1-2 pm Food Pantry Open 5:30 pm Habitat board	14	15
16 9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 4-5:00 pm Let's Eat Community Meal at Gloria Dei 7:00 pm Worship at Jacobsville Chapel	17 Pr. Brahm's day off 4:30 pm Tops	18 12-4:00 pm Quilting 6:30 pm Council 7:00 pm Boy Scouts  <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	19	20	21	22
23 9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 7:00 pm Worship at Jacobsville Chapel	24 Pr. Brahm's day off 4:30 pm Tops	25 12-4:00 pm Quilting 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	26	27 1-2 pm Food Pantry Open	28 Rehearsal	29 Wedding
30 9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 7:00 pm Worship at Jacobsville Chapel	31 Pr. Brahm's day off 4:30 pm Tops				<b>Office Hours:</b>	Monday- Thursday 7 am to 4 pm Friday from 7-11 am
VBS at Holy Trinity, Chassell July 30-August 3						



**July 2023 Serving Saints**

	<b>July 2</b>	<b>July 9</b>	<b>July 16</b>	<b>July 23</b>	<b>July 30</b>
<b>9:00 am Lector</b>	Nancy Kromer	Sue Slinde	Bonnie Longenecker	Mark Halkola	Dave Ruhman
<b>9:00 am Communion Assistant</b>	Shannon Handler Brian Jarvis Shelby Hamar	Dolores Kilpela Maija Stadius Kathy Goulette	Julie Beck Neil Ahola Jen Mattila	Glenn Anderson Chris Hodges Stephen Smith	Liz Siivola Zach Halkola Ann Anderton
<b>9:00 am Usher Team</b>	Wayne Stordahl Brian Jarvis David Hughes Lennon Hughes	Don Juntunen Bill Lohela Dave Strong Al Kempainen Dave Kumlin	Arne Henderson Maija Stadius Jim Bogan Chris Hohnholt	Mark Halkola Zach Halkola Seth Halkola Noah Halkola Laurel Roehm	Rick Hauswirth John Vaara Phil Quenzi
<b>Bus Driver</b>	Gary Kilpela	Chris Hohnholt	Doug Hamar	Liisa Beck	Stephen Smith

**Altar Guild**

**July:**

- 2 Volunteer needed
- 9 Trista Soumis
- 16 Maija Stadius
- 23 Volunteer needed
- 30 Deb Vaara

**August:**

- Carol Ragusett
- Marlene Mink

**September:**

- Chris Ahola
- Carol Ahola

**Bread Bakers**

**July:**

- Myrna Gondek

**August:**

- Marie Juntunen

**September:**

- Ann Anderton

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8*

We are blessed to have a God whose mercy and compassion knows no ends. **God is faithful and good to us.** We are Christians, freely given God's grace. Not earned. Not deserved. But given. And this gift of grace frees us to serve, to love, to give of ourselves. One of my favorite images of Christianity is that we have been blessed to be a blessing, and this is certainly true for us as the people of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church.

The above words from Micah are a call to mission. I have wondered with adults and youth what that mission looks like in the world. What does it look like: **to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God?** I think too often we make faith into a game of certainty. Certainly God is on my side. Certainly I read and understand the scriptures better than my neighbors down the street. But in reality, we are all people who need justice, kindness, and humility in our lives. We are all sinners who need these things from our God. And with this in mind, in reminding ourselves that maybe it is good not to be so certain all the time and open to God's surprises and possibilities for our ministry in the world, we can better together serve God in our calling to do justice, love kindness, and to walk humbly with God.

One of the ways this manifests itself in our congregational context, and one of the things that has been an important part of our Lutheran tradition and Gloria Dei's history, is our **recognition that we are connected with others.** Lutherans have a strong history of hearing the call to be a blessing to others, and to boldly proclaim this through social service, community involvement, and helping our neighbors in need.

With the words of Micah in mind, I am reminded of the different organizations that our congregation supports through our generosity. This past year we have received thank you cards from Fortune Lake, Lutheran Disaster Response, Omega House, Finlandia, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, Little Brothers and more. Why do we support and partner with these ministries? **Because we as a church are stronger in partnership.** These partnerships remind us of our connection with the communities and world around us. And these partnerships are made possible by your commitment to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

**Thank you for your faithful service to the Gospel and to the mission God calls us to!** Thank you for serving in Christ's love and sharing the good news! Where else is God calling us to use our humble faith to boldly act in our world?

In Christ, Pastor Brahm

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