



The Trumpeter

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Anna Maria Island, Florida
"To God be the Glory"

July 2011

Dear Friends in Christ,
In a May 24th news release, The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, presiding bishop of the ELCA, looked ahead to the 10th anniversary of the attacks of September 11th...

"Although it is perhaps difficult to believe, we are just four months away from the ten-year anniversary of September 11, 2001. Even as we seek public healing from the violence and hatred of terrorism, the losses we experienced that day are deeply personal, especially to those in New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania. Our words of healing must speak to the grief that still remains...I encourage you to reach out to ecumenical partners in your communities to plan 9/11 commemorations. I invite you to focus on increased awareness, healing of relationships and our future.

On September 11, President Obama will dedicate a national memorial to those who died on that day ten years ago. This memorial is made possible by the Association of Victim's Families, a group founded, funded and supported by the ELCA through Lutheran Disaster Response of New York. Even as we dedicate this national memorial, we affirm that our real strength lies in our neighborliness and in relationships that have the power to shape the future of religious expression in this country.

My prayer is that we dedicate ourselves to a common mission of reconciliation and

restoration, focusing on the larger issues of peace, justice and interfaith encounter. Our local communities can be places of healing. Let us show the world that dialogue is possible and that there is room for voices that represent faith without rushing to judgment and closing off discussion. Thanks be to God that through our baptismal vocation we are freed in Christ to do God's work with our hands."

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in partnership with the West Manatee Fire Rescue, churches that are a part of our fire district and All Island Denominations will host a September 11th Remembrance.

We begin with a Community Concert at 4pm. Plans are still being finalized with the church choirs but the remembrance will include patriotic music and readings of reflection acknowledging the sacrifices and losses of the attacks of September 11th. The WMFR District will bring a fire truck or two and their portable grills and will grill outside for a community picnic following the concert.

Celebrating and remembering our community heroes has been part of Gloria Dei's tradition and we continue that commitment. Though it is still early in the summer please mark your calendars and make every effort to be a part of this community event.

In Christ who loved us first.
Pastor Rosemary Backer



In Action

This month we highlight Youth and Education Board, chaired by vice president Ellen Orr. We continue with our goal to make everything we do Simple, Straightforward, Written Down and Communicated. We want everyone to know what we are trying to accomplish for our church family and our community.
Susan Bonser

The Education Board

The Education Committee, under the guidance of Barbara Littell, has created an exciting year for our Gloria Dei Lutheran youth. Barbara was ably assisted by these talented volunteers: Jackie Demlow, Sally Jackson, Julie Miller, Shirley Mundell, and Hallie Mattick. Emergency volunteers were there to help if needed. They were Marie Calhoon and RuthAnn Jacobson.

The weekly Sunday lessons were well structured to provide activities, music, creative lessons, and prayer time. Story time was a big hit each week! Each week, our children were guided in loving, God-centered lessons that applied to their daily lives.

Youth activities throughout the year included the annual well-attended pool party at Kyleen Grandstaff's home, a Wii

party, youth participation in a four church Thanksgiving basket project, youth service at Our Daily Bread, and the coming Vacation Church School in July. Our young people were truly a blessing to us as they gave of themselves during the Thanksgiving Basket and Our Daily Bread activities. We are all proud of them.

VBS

Vacation Bible School will be held the week of July 11 through July 15. The theme is PANDAMANIA, Where God is Wild About You. The time will be 9 to noon daily, for pre K through 5th graders. Adult volunteers are welcome. Please call Kyleen at 778-4946 or the church office at 778-1813.

New church member, Josh Gyson, has offered to help with Sunday and Vacation Church School...thank you, Josh.

Barbara Littell has stepped down as director of the Sunday Church School, leaving in place a well trained staff and a well-organized structure for lessons. Sincere thanks are extended to Barbara for her excellent guidance in the development of a creative, interesting, and meaningful, God-centered program for the youth of our church.

Please feel free to call the church office if you would like to be involved in any way with our weekly Sunday School Program.

Ellen Orr

Youth and Education Chair

Baptism for Parents

By Carla Thompson Powell

Taken from "Seeds for the Parish" Summer 2011

Parents make numerous promises during their child's baptismal service:

- To live with *them* among God's faithful people,
- Bring *them* to the word of God and the holy supper,
- Teach *them* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments,
- Place in *their* hands the Holy Scriptures, and nurture *them* in faith and prayer.

Most parents have great intentions to live out those baptismal promises, until everyday life intervenes and those faith promises fade into the background. The reality of most churchgoing families today is that they spend no more than one to two hours in church weekly.

Even with mid-week education times or special youth groups, the average children don't spend more than one hour a week in the building. From statistical perspective, with only one hour out of the hundred or so waking hours in a child's week devoted to faith growth, the impact will be minimal.

We've moved well beyond what I call the "dry cleaning model" of children and youth education, where parents drop off the child for several hours of Christian education and at the end of those hours, expect that their children will be "done".

They don't so much care about the methods by which we get there, as long as the children gain added faith knowledge with their peers. Today's parents have busy, hectic lives, with tons of pressure for their children to succeed in school and also in extracurricular activities. The homework load increase, the activity level increases and parents ask, "How can I include faith education in my child's life too?"

Faith education in the home doesn't require a lot of extra time. Family devotions are great but they're not the only way to educate your children in the faith. Establishing prayer traditions (e.g., praying before meals and/or before bed), recalling biblical stories to teach real truths (the Old Testament story of Samuel was a favorite of our daughter's because it reminded her that children can have messages from God as well), and talking about God's blessing and goodness are all natural ways to encourage your child's growth in faith.

In the baptism service, the parental promises are made so that:

- *Your children* may learn to trust God,
- Proclaim Christ through word and deed,
- Care for others and the world God made, and
- Work for justice and peace.

Baptism can be an important entry point for pastors and congregations to connect with and support families in practical, emotional and spiritual ways.

How congregations can help:

- Provide a gift from the congregation that includes a listing of ministries available to parents, such as church nursery, "mom's morning out" programs, parent-child play or support groups.
- Prepare and promote a list of day-care providers in your congregation.
- Train youth to be Red Cross certified babysitters and promote them as potential support for parents with young children.
- Arrange for daytime or evening Bible study and conversation for parents and plan to provide child care.



Happy summer Gloria Dei!

First of all, I want to thank all of you who have supported me so far in my YAGM (Young Adults in Global Mission) journey! It really means a lot to me to know that my brothers and sisters in Christ are invested in this mission with me. We've had a great start fundraising for the program, and I am so excited to see what we can do to support not only my YAGM experience, but also the experiences of future YAGMs in years to come.

I am happy to announce that I have launched my blog for the coming year, where I'll post journal updates and pictures to share my experiences with you. You can find it at <http://michellesyagm.wordpress.com/>.

Getting ready to go abroad has been a slow process so far. The YAGM team is still working on obtaining visas from Israel for me and the five other YAGM volunteers leaving in August. Our country coordinators, Julie and Jeff, will be in the country with us, acting as the on-the-ground program directors. Unfortunately, they've faced several delays in getting their visas, which means our site placements for the upcoming year are still undetermined. Once they are in-country they can coordinate with the ELCJHL schools to figure out what exactly our volunteer work will be. I'll be sure to let you know as soon as I find out!

That's about it for news this time. I can't wait to see you all in person in July during Vacation Bible School! I am really looking forward to helping out and spending time getting to know you.

See you soon!
Peace,
Michelle

Michelle Steiner is now part of Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM)

One-Year International Opportunity

The ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) is a program of the ELCA for developing servant-leaders. YAGM servants

have a relationship to the ELCA (either as an ELCA member or connection through an ELCA church college, campus ministry or church camp), are between the ages of 19-29, willing to receive the gifts of others as well as to share their gifts, participate in an intentional process of service and learning, and live at a subsistence level to help meet needs worldwide. They will gain new perspectives on life and work and to build relationships across culture, race, language and faith. Through her experiences, Michelle will witness to her faith by the demonstration of the love of Jesus Christ in all relationships, a faith active in love, learning and service.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Christmas in July!

Gloria Dei is once again celebrating Christmas in July 23rd—July 24th including Christmas music, decorations and lessons. You may even indulge in your favorite Christmas cookies in fellowship following Sunday worship.

We are reminded once again that God comes to us in human flesh—in Christ's body and blood—so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world. A Christmas tree will be set up in the Narthex with paper ornaments each with an item for one of our Christmas in July children.

We first celebrated Christmas in July supporting one family with two young boys. Last year we expanded our tree with gifts for one family with 3 children and this year we will assist 2 families with 8 children total. Sound ambitious? Well maybe a little bit...but outfitting students with supplies takes more money than many families can afford. Starting school with a new pair of shoes and new school supplies is important to parents and children. Perhaps you can recall that new box of crayons or a pair of Chuck Taylor "high tops."

Please take an ornament from the tree and bring back the item wrapped with the gift tag on top.



We combine our Christmas in July efforts with the collection of new tennis

shoes for **Project Heart.**

During VBS and the early summer we collect new tennis shoes to be distributed by Manatee Public Schools. Deb Bailey the coordinator for Project Heart explained that there are homeless children in every school in the county. Shoes can be of any size and for girls or boys. We will dedicate this in worship the weekend of August 6th and 7th.





July 2nd & 3rd -
 3rd Sunday after
 Pentecost

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with the lowly and outcast. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

Zechariah 9:9-12
 Psalm 145:8-14
 Romans 7:15-25a
 Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 9th & 10th -4th
 Sunday after Pentecost

God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed

indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

Isaiah 55:10-13
 Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13
 Romans 8:1-11
 Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 16th & 17th -
 5th Sunday after

Pentecost

It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

Isaiah 44:6-8
 Psalm 86:11-17
 Romans 8:12-25
 Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 23rd & 24th
 "Christmas in July"

In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the prince of peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh—in Christ's body and blood—so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.

Isaiah 9:2-7
 Psalm 96
 Titus 2:11-14
 Luke 2:1-20

July 30th & 31st -
 7th Sunday after
 Pentecost

Jesus feeds the hungry multitude and reveals the abundance of God. At the eucharistic table we remember all who are hungry or poor in our world today. As we share the bread of life, we are sent forth to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.
 Isaiah 55:1-5
 Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
 Romans 9:1-5
 Matthew 14:13-21

Dear Parents:

Ready for the adventure of a lifetime? At PandaMania, kids discover that God is wild about them – a fact that will change them forever! PandaMania is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, touch, and even taste! Bible Point crafts, team-building games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the PandaMania activities that help faith flow into real life. (Since everything is hands-on, kids might get a little messy. Be sure to send them in play clothes and safe shoes.) Plus, we'll help kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life – something we call God Sightings. Get ready to hear that phrase a lot! Your kids will also participate in a hands-on mission project, through a program called Project Heart, that will let the VBS kids show God's love to children in our community. Parents, grandparents, and friends are invited to join us in the VIP section each day at 11:30am, because that's when we'll be having Rowdy Wrap-Up – a daily celebration of God's love you won't want to miss.



So mark these dates on your calendar: July 11 – July 15.

The fun starts at 9am and will end at 12 Noon.

Call 778-1813 to register your children for this life-changing adventure!

July 17th VBS children will be performing at the Sunday service.

Sincerely,

Kyleen Grandstaff

PandaMania Director



Registration Form (One Per Child)

Child's name: _____

Child's age: _____ Date of birth: _____ Last school grade completed: _____

Name of parent(s): _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home telephone: (____) _____

Parent/caregiver's cell phone: (____) _____

Home e-mail address: _____

Home church: _____

Crew number or name (for church use only): _____

Allergies or other medical conditions: _____



In case of emergency, contact: _____

Phone: _____

Relationship to child: _____



Thrivent Night at the Rays

TAMPA BAY RAYS VS SEATTLE MARINERS

You are cordially invited to attend the 8th Annual Thrivent Night at the Rays hosted: by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Event Details

Saturday, August 20, 2011 4:10PM

Tropicana Field, St. Petersburg

Tickets are \$20. Located in the left field.

\$5.00 of every ticket will be used towards a fundraiser to benefit Luther Springs Camp.

Order your tickets today! Come as a group or a family!

Tickets are limited! To get your order form, or more information, go to www.lutheransonline.com/rfo190

First 500 Thrivent Members will receive noisemaker!

Let's show our Thrivent spirit as we cheer on the Rays!

Appleton, Wisconsin • Minneapolis, Minnesota • Thrivent.com • 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836)
25725FP N10-09 Thrivent.com

Remembering Our Shut-In Members...

At Freedom Village:

Ethel Adams

Bob & Miriam Peck

Gerald & Alice Doeden

Richard Ross

At Other locations:

Louise Johnston (Water's Edge Bradenton)

Vera North (Riviera Palms, Palmetto)

Grace Kennedy (Lakeland)

Mary Sicking (Surry Place)

Congratulations to the Sporn family for the Baptism of Landon John.

In the sure and certain hope of the resurrection we give thanks for the life of Ruth Kramer, mother of Walter and Bill Kramer. Memorial to be scheduled at a date in the future.



JULY BIRTHDAYS

10 th	Jackie Demlow	18 th	Don Hilgeman
11 th	Joe Villa	20 th	Sally Wareham
11 th	MacKenzie Gyson	23 rd	Richard Baker
13 th	John Macsisak	24 th	Amanda Andreas
14 th	Chris Mundell	25 th	Bobbie Dever
17 th	Mary Sicking	27 th	Hailey Andreas

Anniversaries

8 th	Brian & Ellen Orr
8 th	Jeanne & Jim Finn
9 th	Mike & Stacey Brebaugh
9 th	Chris & Patti Anderson

My name is Stacey Brebaugh and I am your new office Administrator *pro-tem*. I will just be here for the summer. I am learning quite a bit this summer. The first thing I learned is that being a "church secretary" is not as easy as I thought it would be. This is a very busy church.

I am a 7th grade math teacher. I teach at Sarasota School of Arts and Sciences. I have lived in Florida since the fall of 2005. I moved from Grand Rapids, Michigan, with my two daughters, Sara and Stephanie. I met Michael Brebaugh, here on Anna Maria Island and we were married in 2007 by Pastor Rosemary. We became members that same year. We live in Village Green. Mike and I are grandparents to Dylan Dagadillo, who is 18 months and lives in California with Mike's daughter, Melanie. Sara is pregnant and due in September. Stephanie starts at University of Tampa in August. Thank you so much for this opportunity to work for the church, this summer. I hope I can fill Kim's big shoes.

Picture: Sara, Stephanie, Stacey, Mike and Melanie



July 2011

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH
A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
"God's Work, Our Hands"



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CCLI #144652

Rev. Rosemary W. Backer, Pastor
David Stasney, Organist & Choir Director
Stacey Brebaugh, Office Administrator
Dolores Dunn, Domestic Engineer

Susan Bonser '12	President
	Outreach & Admin.
Ellen Orr '12	Vice-President
	Youth & Education
Gail Patsios '11	Secretary
Bill Stemm '11	Treasurer
Rhonda Harder '11	Fellowship
Vera Kersell '12	Caring Board
Greg Mundell '13	Stewardship
David Littell '13	Property
Rein Mueller '11	Property