

Participants in Video Devotions for May, 2020

Date	Worship Assistant (Psalm)	Reader (reading)	Prayer leader (prayers)
May 3	Jett	Pam	Monica
May 10	Tim	Marilyn	Mark
May 17	Monica	Pam	Jett
May 24	Tom	Kim	Monica
May 31	Craig	Marilyn	Mark

You are responsible to find your own replacement. Please to be sure to advise the church office if you switch with someone else.

Email: gdeiwp@gmail.com

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church is located on original lands of Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation. We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories, we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

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The Gloria Daily

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*Mothering God, you gave me birth
in the bright morning of this world.
Creator, source of ev'ry breath,
you are my rain, my wind, my sun.*

EvLW #735

It's finally starting to feel like Spring... *I think!*

We honour our mothers in May; the image of God as mother brings out the nurturing side of Creator-God. Seeds are going into the ground for late-Summer and Fall vegetable harvests – a promising time! Normally, May is the month where all the patio furniture comes out, and perhaps you have a cottage where you would go to open it up on the long weekend.

Whether we were planning it or not, we're probably all looking towards "stay-cation" Summer holidays, this year!

What does that mean for my family? Well, we usually go on a road trip, but this year we'll be around for the beautiful Winnipeg Summer! It really is a gorgeous place to be in Summer, and that's also reflected in all the outdoor festivals that are usually planned in our city in July and August (which, sadly, are cancelled this year). And, when we've gone away in previous years, any plants we've put in the ground have usually withered by the time we're back due to lack of attention and water! So, this year, we can give more attention to the vegetables growing in our little garden!

It's been hard not having face-to-face gatherings at our church. But there have been some other ways in which this time has been a welcomed one: finding ways to connect 'virtually' with our church family, and having moments with my kids that I wouldn't have had if we weren't all home together like we are.

The image of God as a mothering figure in the hymn strikes me as an intimate one – being there right at the start, surrounding us with love, making sure our needs are met so we can grow and be well. Perhaps this is an image to carry us forward, these days: *times are different, but these may be growing times and God is with us!* Peace and health to you!

-Pastor Tyler

Message to the Congregation from the Chairperson by Jett Isleifson

“For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man.” (Matthew 24:38-39).

Perhaps this scripture is excessively dramatic for our situation but it certainly indicates to us how rapidly our normal routines and priorities can be turned upside down in an instant, “swept away” as it were, and we find ourselves in a new reality.

At our March 9, 2020 Council meeting we met in person as usual and discussed the potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. We reviewed our usual worship practices such as how Communion is served and sharing of the peace, after worship fellowship time, use of the building by groups, etc. We expected to carry on but with changed methods with personal protection in mind.

By March 12 the situation began to move rapidly with the proclamation of pandemic by the WHO, the suspension of all activities by the National Hockey League among other professional sports organizations, the cancellation of large public events, the first COVID-19 patients in Manitoba, even self isolation by the Prime Minister of Canada.

It was decided that that our Sunday, March 15 worship service would proceed, and it did, but with extreme personal protection methods in place- the chalice was not used for Communion, special spacing of individual cups in the Communion trays, nonphysical contact during sharing of the peace, no passing of offering plates, availability of hand cleanser in numerous locations, and so on. We believed these methods would become the norm and even stricter as time went on.

By late afternoon Monday, March 16 we were hearing of gatherings in excess of 250 people being prohibited in some jurisdictions, and governmental recommendations being made that gatherings should not exceed 50 people. Schools, libraries, community centres, etc. were being closed and many people were not reporting in to work favouring working from home by Internet if possible. Along with our sister congregations in the ELCIC and with other Christian neighbours, Pastor Tyler Gingrich and I agreed that worship services and all public events at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church were to be suspended until further notice. Our ELCIC bishops sent a letter that same evening recommending this action to all congregations.

The congregation was notified of the decision to suspend worship services by a mass email sent to all members we have email addresses for. Those not on email were contacted by a quickly organized “telephone tree” who made calls. Thank you to those...

Thank you...

-to Jett for his leadership on council, and to our council members for diving into this ‘online world’ as we met on April 14th!

-to Kim for her leadership with our Worship Committee, and the committee for input on how we are doing with online gatherings.

-to all who have contributed to online video devotions, already!

Hold in prayer...

In a time of loss:

Lee Fischer died on April 14th - God’s peace be with her daughters, Christina and Korina, and their families, these days.

Grace Nazar died on April 15th - God’s peace be with Eric and family. The province of Nova Scotia as they grieve, and are reeling from the mass shooting on April 19th in Portapique

DAYS IN MAY

Throughout the year, there are many days worth observing that hold up values that are about justice, peace, and compassion – values we hold closely as Christians. Look at our calendar, and consider the dates that are mentioned! Here are a couple more for thought and prayer, this month...

May 3 – World Press Freedom Day

Organized annually since 1993, the Global Conference provides an opportunity to journalists, civil society representatives, national authorities, academics and the broader public to discuss emerging challenges to press freedom and journalists’ safety, and to work together on identifying solutions.

(<https://www.un.org/en/observances/press-freedom-day>)

May 17 - International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia and Biphobia

This 17 May, IDAHOT is focusing on justice and protection for all – both of which are central to driving progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Enacting and enforcing non-discriminatory laws and policies, repealing punitive laws and ensuring access to justice for all are also critical to delivering on the United Nations’ (UN) core commitment to *leave no one behind*.

(<https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/news-centre/speeches/2019/international-day-against-homophobia--transphobia-and-biphobia.html>)



Sewing Surgical Caps for Nurses

ER nurses at Health Sciences Centre have put out a call to have hand-made surgical caps made for nurses to prevent transmission of germs.

Caps are often in short supply during this COVID-19 pandemic and are seriously needed. A pattern for making such caps is available – check our e-news for more information!

Muffins & Cookies for The Urban



Would you be willing to bake muffins or cookies to include in the bag lunches Gloria Dei will be providing to The Urban in early-May? They would have to be dropped off at the church on the morning of Wednesday, May 6th.



Please email Marlene at marbuffie@icloud.com to confirm that you can contribute some baking!

SOCIAL MEDIA!



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See you on Zoom on **Wednesdays and Sundays at 9:30am!**

(Message from chairperson - continued)

who helped with that – Kim Dorn, Sandra Fritz and Jean Hunter. These calls also gleaned members' email addresses we did not yet have.

Our Pastor Tyler Gingrich very swiftly set up the new Gloria Dei website at www.gloriadeiwinnipeg.org. He also established the use of the MailChimp service for mass emails publicizing our new online worship services. Zoom Video Conferencing is now used to stay in contact. We already had a Facebook page as well that is presently seeing more traffic. These were the means used to continue with Sunday morning Bible study, and the online worship service devotionals - a first for Gloria Dei! The worship services are not “live,” they are pre-recorded to be viewed on YouTube. For example, the Easter Sunday devotional had 97 views by Easter Monday.

Our members can continue to make offerings, whether by postal mail, personal drop-off at our office, preauthorized debits, eTransfers or by CanadaHelps.org.

We initially hoped to resume worship services by Easter Sunday but such was not to be. Our return to “normal,” whatever that may look like, is still indeterminate. We must continue to be aware of our situation and be mindful of the requirements of our Federal and provincial governments.

Thank you Pastor Tyler for all your work establishing an online presence for Gloria Dei during the COVID-19 pandemic. This has been a “wish list” item at Gloria Dei for some time and you have brought it to reality. We must continue using this new tool into the future, beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, and expanding its capabilities for Gloria Dei. Thank you to all our worship assistants, readers, musicians, the Gingrich family, and to all those who are making the online services possible.

Thanks be to you O Lord that, at the time of this writing, no one of us of our Gloria Dei family has been a victim of COVID-19.



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