

Gloria Dei

Congregation Meeting
January 17, 2009

*Prayerfully
Consider*

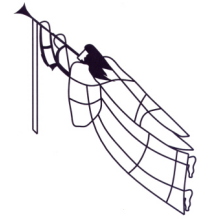
Annual Reports
To The Congregation

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Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
3711 Ridge Road
Highland Indiana



Annual Meeting Agenda

January 17, 2009

- I Welcome and opening prayer — President Doug Riddell
- II Determination of a Quorum
- III Call Annual Meeting to Order
- IV Call for a motion to accept the Agenda as given.
- VI Pastor's Report, Minister of Music Report, Council President's Report, and Committee or Organization Reports (See pages 5 thru 15)
 - a) Open floor to any possible questions specific to Annual Reports as presented.
 - b) Call for motion and second to: Close floor to further discussion on Annual Reports and to accept all reports as presented or amended.
 - c) Record and report result of vote.
- VII Slate of new Council Members (See page 14 thru 15)
 - a) Floor opened to further nominations.
 - b) Call for motion and second to: Close floor to further nominations and proceed with vote.
 - c) Record and report result of vote on nominees.
- VII Slate of new nominating committee. (See page 15)
 - a) Call for motion and second to: approve nomination committee appointments.
 - b) Record and report result of vote.
- VIII Presentation and Approval of Budget
 - a) Open floor to discussion specific to budget as presented. (See pages 2 thru 4)
 - b) Call for motion and second to: approve the budget as presented or amended.
- IX Approval of Constitution Mark-up with model amendments. (See page 16)
 - a) Open floor to questions on model amendments
 - b) Call for motion and second to vote on resolution:
Be it resolved by the Congregation; ELCA model amendments in ELCA document titled "2007 amendments to the Model Constitution For Congregations" be approved for incorporation in the Constitution and Bylaws of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church.
NOTE: Effect of model amendments are immediate upon congregation approval
 - c) Record and report result of vote.
- X Adjournment
 - a) Call for motion and second to adjourn the Congregation Meeting with a closing prayer.
 - b) Record and report result of vote.
 - c) Closing Prayer

Giving for 2008

General Fund Contributions	\$ 183,818
Restricted Fund Contributions	<u>21,444</u>
Total Giving for 2009	\$ 205,263

Expenses for 2008

Budgeted Expenses	\$ 187,947
Restricted Fund Expenses	<u>14,469</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 202,416

Stewardship Results

107 Individuals/Families who gave to God's Mission at
Gloria Dei in 2008!

72 of these Individuals/Families pledged \$165,833 in 2009
Leaving 35 Individuals/Families to contribute a minimum of
\$33,000 to make or exceed the 2009 budget

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2008

Assets

First Financial Bank	\$	30,316
Main Structure and Front Lot	\$	1,413,419
Garage and Back Lot	\$	144,281
Office Equipment	\$	2,330
Total Assets	\$	<u>1,590,346</u>

Liabilities

Organ Repair - Notes Payables	\$	19,500
Mortgage Payables	\$	80,655
Total Liabilities	\$	<u>100,155</u>

Fund Balances

General Fund	\$	12,841
Total General Fund	\$	<u>12,841</u>

Restricted Funds	\$	17,474
Anniversary Fund	\$	890
Christian Aid Fund	\$	465
Building Fund	\$	3,463
Bereavement Fund	\$	302
Designated Benevolence Fund	\$	1,010
Memorial Fund	\$	2,225
Organ Fund	\$	6,129
Pastor Relocation Fund	\$	275
Seminary Fund	\$	244
World Hunger Fund	\$	25
Youth Fund	\$	2,445
Total Restricted Fund Balance	\$	<u>17,474</u>

\$ 12,841
\$ 17,474
\$ 30,116

Total Fund Balance **\$** **30,116**

Proposed 2009 Budget Gloria Dei

Finance Committee

BUDGET ITEMS	2008 EXPESSES	2008 BUDGET	VARIANCE	2009 PROPOSED BUDGET
Synod Benevolence	\$ 5,340	\$ 5,000	\$ (340)	\$ 6,000
Total Benevolence	\$ 5,340	\$ 5,000	\$ (340)	\$ 6,000
Pastor Base Salary	\$ 32,233	\$ 37,000	\$ 4,767	\$ 37,000
Supply Pastor	-	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600
Housing	\$ 30,142	\$ 25,800	\$ (4,342)	\$ 25,800
Pension/Insurance	\$ 27,859	\$ 28,550	\$ 691	\$ 28,500
Professional Expenses	\$ 493	\$ 1,000	\$ 507	\$ 1,000
Mileage	\$ 4,663	\$ 4,800	\$ 137	\$ 4,000
Social Security (Pastor)	\$ 4,585	\$ 4,600	\$ 15	\$ 4,600
Total Pastoral Expense	\$ 99,976	\$ 102,350	\$ 2,374	\$ 101,500
Administrative	\$ 1,715	-	\$ (1,715)	\$ 1,900
Secretary Salary	\$ 735	\$ 10,000	\$ 9,265	-
Bookkeeper Salary	\$ 2,088	\$ 2,080	-	\$ 2,200
Office Supplies	\$ 2,800	\$ 2,500	\$ (300)	\$ 2,500
Postage	\$ 754	\$ 1,500	\$ 746	\$ 1,000
Telephone	\$ 2,385	\$ 2,500	\$ 115	\$ 2,500
Equipment rental/maintenance	\$ 2,083	\$ 3,000	\$ 917	\$ 2,400
Social Security (Staff)	\$ 2,106	\$ 1,501	\$ (606)	\$ 1,500
Total Office Expense	\$ 14,666	\$ 23,080	\$ 8,422	\$ 14,000
Minister of Music Salary	\$ 12,844	\$ 12,500	\$ (344)	\$ 13,275
Organ/Piano Expense	\$ 1,210	\$ 1,120	\$ (90)	\$ 1,210
Organ Note Expense	\$ 840	\$ 1,000	\$ 160	\$ 800
Worship Supplies	\$ 1,857	\$ 2,500	\$ 643	\$ 1,750
Copyright License	\$ 475	\$ 800	\$ 325	\$ 800
Music	\$ 675	\$ 400	\$ (275)	\$ 500
Publications	\$ 250	\$ 450	\$ 200	\$ 300
Total Worship Expense	\$ 18,151	\$ 18,770	\$ 619	\$ 18,635
Youth	\$ 671	\$ 1,000	\$ 329	\$ 1,000
VBS/Traveling Road Camp	\$ 1,551	\$ 2,000	\$ 449	\$ 2,000
Education	\$ 61	\$ 500	\$ 439	\$ 500
Total Learning Expense	\$ 2,284	\$ 3,500	\$ 1,216	\$ 3,500
Stewardship	\$ 545	\$ 500	\$ (45)	\$ 500
Total Stewardship Expense	\$ 545	\$ 500	\$ (45)	\$ 500
Community Life	\$ 722	\$ 750	\$ 28	\$ 1,500
Total Evangelism Expense	\$ 722	\$ 750	\$ 28	\$ 1,500
Synod Delegate	\$ 1,087	\$ 750	\$ (337)	\$ 1,000
Total Synod Expense	\$ 1,087	\$ 750	\$ (337)	\$ 1,000
Property Supplies/Contracts/Maintenance	\$ 3,206	\$ 3,816	\$ 610	\$ 3,500
Custodial Salary	\$ 6,810	\$ 6,820	\$ 10	\$ 3,500
Utilities	\$ 15,519	\$ 16,105	\$ 586	\$ 15,000
Grounds Maintenance	\$ 3,501	\$ 3,138	\$ (363)	\$ 3,100
Insurance	\$ 5,176	\$ 5,633	\$ 457	\$ 5,400
Building Mortgage	\$ 10,815	\$ 10,600	\$ (215)	\$ 10,800
Tuck Point Estimate	-	\$ 2,700	\$ 2,700	-
Rental Expense	\$ 150	-	\$ (150)	-
Total Property Expense	\$ 45,177	\$ 48,812	\$ 3,635	\$ 41,300
Total Expenses vs Budget	\$ 187,974	\$ 203,520	\$ 15,573	\$ 188,935

2008 W/ELCA Financial Annual Report

W/ELCA General Fund			
	CREDIT		DEBIT
2008 Starting Balance	\$ 521.37	W/ELCA National	\$ 25.00
Dorcas Collection	\$ 111.50	W/ELCA State	\$ 25.00
Fiesta Tickets	\$ 462.75	CWU	\$ 25.00
W/ELCA Sunday	\$ <u>74.00</u>	College Students	\$ 36.00
		Fiesta Ent.	\$ 75.00
		Fiesta Exp.	\$ 264.12
		Case of Coffee	\$ 34.93
		Cake	\$ 28.97
		Altar Guild	\$ 10.00
		W/ELCA National	\$ 37.00
		W/ELCA State	\$ <u>37.00</u>
<u>Total</u>	\$ 1,169.62	<u>Total</u>	\$ 598.02
\$ 1,169.62		W/ELCA Fund Balance	\$ 571.60
- \$ <u>598.02</u>			
\$ 571.60			

2008 Garage Sale			
	CREDIT		DEBIT
Garage Sale	\$ 1,741.38	Coffee Pot	\$ 234.04
Thrivent	\$ <u>1,300.00</u>		
<u>Total</u>	\$ 3,041.38	<u>Total</u>	\$ <u>234.04</u>
\$ 3,041.38		Garage Sale Balance	\$ 2,807.34
- \$ <u>234.04</u>			
\$ 2,807.34			

Golden Opportunity Books			
	CREDIT		DEBIT
60 books sold	\$ 1,500.00	Initial book cost	\$ 1,052.00
		60 x 7 (Organ Note Reduction)	\$ <u>420.00</u>
<u>Total</u>	\$ 1,500.00	<u>Total</u>	\$ 1,472.00
\$ 1,500.00		Golden Opportunity Book Sale Balance	\$ 28.00
- \$ <u>1,472.00</u>			
\$ 28.00			

W/ELCA Fall Bazaar/Bake Sale Fund			
	CREDIT		2008 DEBITS
2007 Bazaar Income			
Balance Carried Forward	\$ 2118.60	Vacation Bible School	\$ 500.00
2008 Bazaar Income	\$ 2995.98	Lutheran Outdoor Ministry	\$ 160.00
		Benevolent Dental Expense	\$ 164.38
		Vacation Bible School	\$ 40.00
		Organ Note Reduction	\$ 500.00
		Mortgage Reduction	\$ 500.00
		Peg Board Materials	\$ 91.00
		Hooks for Peg Board	\$ 6.34
		Food for 2008 Bazaar	\$ 122.02
		Youth	\$ 500.00
		Benevolence for Needy	\$ 50.00
		Salvation Army	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
<u>Total</u>	\$ 5114.58		\$ 2,683.74
\$ 5114.58		W/ELCA Bazaar Fund Bal-	\$ 2,430.84
ance			
- <u>\$ 2,683.74</u>			
\$ 2,430.84			

Account Balance Totals		
	CREDIT	
GENERAL	\$ 571.60	
GARAGE SALE	\$ 2,807.34	
FALL BAZAAR/BAKE SALE	\$ 2,430.84	
COUPON BOOK SALE	<u>\$ 28.00</u>	
<u>Total</u>	\$ 5,837.78	

Respectfully Submitted by
Elaine Van Proyen
W/ELCA Treasurer

Pastor's 2008 Annual Report to the Congregation

It has been an honor to serve Gloria Dei in what has been my first full year as your pastor. This year was filled with many joys and accomplishments, and at the same time moments of sorrow and struggle. The letter will attempt to give a brief summary of the life in God's Church we call Gloria Dei Lutheran.

Let's begin with so many of the positive signs that the Holy Spirit is alive and well!

- We brought into membership this year 18 new Saints and Sinners
- Our worship attendance has grown from 87 average (including Lent and Christmas Eve) in 2007—to worshipping 121 in 2008.
- Delighted in 4 Baptisms
- Celebrated with 5 weddings
- We now have 15 Saints and Sinners serving on Altar Guild
- We now have 16 still Saints and Sinners serving as Readers and Liturgists
- 14 Sinners and Saints willing to teach our Youth
- We have up to 14 young minds attending confirmation on Tuesdays
- 7 of our youth attended week-long summer camp
- Over 50 kids showed up for a wonderful VBS program this summer
- 19 searching souls attended the Genesis course taught in the spring
- 10-12 searching souls attended "The Book of Faith" course taught in the fall
- A monthly breakfast group where 12 men have fellowship and solve the world's problems
- The grounds of the church look absolutely beautiful
- We have new pew cushions for our soft behinds
- We have new tables for the fellowship hall
- Even council meetings for the most part are not only productive they can be rather fun
- We are becoming a family that seems not to sweat the small stuff
- We are becoming more financially stable

So as one hopefully notices, the Holy Spirit is active in many aspects in the life of the Lampstand we call Gloria Dei. However, we must also acknowledge there have been times of sorrow and struggle that go along with the joys and accomplishments.

It has been a difficult year for many of our dear members regarding the loss of a loved one. During 2008 I presided at 8 funerals. (Mariann Burns, Ed Ciesar (Son of Peg Paulson), Dorothe Gotch, Lillian Guzik, Chris Kapitan (former member), Maurice Hurlbert, Shirley Martin, and Cassandra Polster.

It is during these trying times we realize our only hope lies in the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. However, I'm not quite certain we realize this life-saving fact. I say this because one of the things I struggle with the most is how do I as a minister of the Church of God communicate more effectively the urgency and importance of our active faith in Jesus Christ.

I lie in bed awake pondering and praying that the Holy Spirit leads me in wisdom and compassion to find the ways to help people realize that with God, with Jesus, with the power of the Holy Spirit our lives become so much fuller with meaning and peace, knowing there is nothing in the world we cannot overcome through Christ. But without the Holy Trinity being a priority in our lives then our existence becomes basically meaningless.

That is why for the life of me I cannot figure out what to say or do to get our members to commit to making worship and praise of God the number one priority in their lives. If we did the results would be amazing! For example...Gloria Dei has 250 "members" who came to church on a regular or irregular basis in 2008. If only 75% of these 250 Saints and Sinners could find it in their hearts to make worship a focal point of their week, our attendance would automatically increase from 121 to 186. And to make matters more interesting if worshipping and praising the Lord actually became a part of the week one could not do without, then I promise the level of service and giving would automatically follow, making Gloria Dei a Lampstand that would shine so bright it would make people squint. How's that for "saying what a thing really is?"

Another challenge we face falls along the same line, yet now it deals with Sunday school. Like I mentioned earlier, we have 14 adults who have offered their time and talent to teach our young people. Each week I tell our youth a story from the Bible and then the teachers, paired off in twos, are responsible for preparing a craft or game that coincides with the story. The format is wonderful, and the few children who attend not only have fun, they are learning the life-saving, life-changing stories of the Bible.

Once again, I struggle with how to convey the utmost importance of teaching our youth the foundations of our faith. As I have said before, when things turn sour where do our children turn? To their jobs, possessions, education? Or will they be able to turn to the Gospel of Christ Jesus where they may find hope and guidance? So please, if you have young people running around your home, make it a priority in 2009 to make certain they are taught how much God loves them through the stories of the Bible.

So there you have my annual report for 2008. I have worked about as hard as humanly possible in 2008, sometimes going months without a day of rest. I do this for the sake of the gospel, and in hope and prayer that every Saint and Sinner at Gloria Dei will come to understand not only what is at stake, but also the glorious benefits our Father promises to those who love and serve him. That is why I not only share with you the joys and accomplishments, but also the sorrows and disappointments. I love God's Church, especially this one right here, and would hope to hang around long enough to see this congregation become what it is truly meant to be—a beacon of life and hope in an uncertain, dark and sometimes frightening world. I pray that 2009 will be filled with the certainty of the Father's Love, the light of Christ Jesus and the peace of the Holy Spirit!

In Christian Love,

Pastor David Trexler

Council President's 2008 Annual Report to the Congregation

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Looking back at the year 2008 I stand in amazement as to what Great works the LORD has done with this (as Pastor Dave calls it) Lamp stand we call Gloria Dei. We started this year looking to the future with a new pastor, a budget that looked unreal and a trust that all things are possible if we put our Hope in the LORD.

It has been my pleasure to see how we as a Body of Christ have grown in so many ways only by the Grace of GOD. A few of the objectives that we as a council felt were very important was to reach out to the community with the Love of Christ, increase involvement with in the Body, and to dream of things that were only possible through faith. So how have we done?

I would say VERY WELL. This year we have increased attendance at worship almost by half, and our stewardship has shown much improvement which can only be done when put our trust in the LORD that he will provide. Pastor Dave has put forth much effort, hard work, and Love in pushing and challenging each of us as Christians to grow. He has been a true blessing to Gloria Dei and continues to do so with selfless dedication to our purpose and mission of spreading the Gospel.

Pastor Dave introduced a new worship format to increase participation by having readers from the congregation come forward during worship, as well as having young members take a more active role by brining the bread forward before communion. These small gestures of involvement have allowed many to participate and to be an important part of worshipping our LORD during the service. He has also introduced an exciting program for Sunday school called SONDAY Blast. This program involves multiple couples in teaching our youth lessons that they will use for the rest of their lives when all else fails.

VBS this year was a huge success due to Pastor Dave having suggested that we allow the Lutheran Outdoors Ministry come in and lead this program. This program was lead by a group of YOUNG people excided for the LORD whose only desire was to share the Good News in a very creative way with our children.

Our Growth as a body is attributed to a renewed spirit of HOPE and has been fueled by many oppotunities of fellowship and involvement in multiple activities throughout the year. Much Love, work, and effort has been put forward to make this happen. WELCA has shown a very active role in team work and has given much in blessings as well as offerings to help this body continue in its mission. We have continued to have our monthly luncheons without fail, and this year's hog roast was only made possible by those whose only desire was to share the LOVE of Christ with our neighbors in the community.

It is my Prayer, my hope that in the Year 2009 we continue to build upon all the hard work put forth in 2008. That we grow in our LOVE for God, we stay focused on our mission to preach the Gospel always, and to LOVE our neighbors unconditionally. If we focus on those three things, everything else WILL fall into place according to GOD'S Will.

May the LORD Bless YOU ALWAYS. Doug Riddell

2009 Annual Report Minister of Music

-)= Prepared and played for 50 Sunday Worship
-)= Prepared and played for 44 Saturday Worship
-)= Prepared and played for 6 special worships during Lent
-)= Prepared and played for 2 Christmas Eve Worship and 1 Thanksgiving Eve Service
-)= Prepared recordings for 2 Sunday Worship, 8 Saturday Worship, 2 special worships, one Ministerium, and one funeral
-)= Prepared, played and sang for three funerals and three weddings
-)= Prepared and performed 18 weekly anthems for the Joyful Noise Choir and One Christmas Cantata
-)= Prepared and performed 10 solo anthems with various members of the congregation
-)= Performed 10 solo anthems
-)= Congregation performed With One Voice Liturgical Setting Five during Epiphany, Lutheran Book of Worship Liturgical Setting Two during Lent and the General Version on Easter Sunday, With One Voice Liturgical Setting Five during the Easter Season, Evangelical Lutheran Worship Liturgical Setting Ten during Pentecost (Summer Time), Now the Feast and Celebration Liturgical Setting during Pentecost (Autumn) and Pentecost (November), and With One Voice Liturgical Setting Five during Advent and Christmas
-)= Selected Service Music for all worship services
-)= Provided Hymn Suggestions for all worship services
-)= Participated in 3 Worship Committee Meetings
-)= Prepared paperwork as necessary
-)= Completed a five year history of our Church's hymnody noting what hymns were used and on what dates since June of 2003. The history included Sunday Worship, special Lenten, Advent and Christmas worship, and any special worships (Healing services, etc.). The history did NOT include Saturday worship as those songs were designed to be a different hymnody subset for the church. The history was on spreadsheet and can be adjusted to reflect ELW and LBW hymn numbers as well as hymns selected from other resources. This was done in an attempt to help Pastor Trexler identify which hymns the congregation knows well, has heard before, or has never used.
-)= Dealt with numerous problems with the Organ that were not repaired or not repaired properly during the restoration.
-)= We started using a hymn of the season in Advent of 2008 and hope to continue using hymns of the month or season as a means of adding new hymns to the church's hymnody.
-)= We also hope to add a new liturgy from the new Evangelical Lutheran Worship during 2009 to add to the liturgies the church can sing during worship services.
-)= During 2009, will look into more final resolution for the Skinner Organ. As continued repairs become burdensome to the congregation, more final solutions may be necessary. Will continue to review these circumstances including contacting other outside companies to review our organ's status and make recommendations.

Respectfully submitted
David Markley

2008 Property Committee Annual Report

The day-to-day maintenance-indoor and outdoor- kept the Committee consisting of Abatie, Boldt, Jahnke.Plusch, Popka, Polster, and Schwartz on the move.

The "TuckPoint" project is on hold until Spring '09 at which time a structural engineer will help determine how extensive and costly the repair will be.

Roof leaks in Glass Hall and adjoining office/classroom wing requirerrepair. Hopefully, this will add one more year before replacement with new roof.

Please continue to call our attention to problems by using the "pink slips" available at the office.

God Bless Gloria Dei.
Property Committee

2008 Report of the Service Committee

The Service Committee consisted of Carol Jeanne Biesen, Helen Little and Nancy Talabay. Our generous congregation made many things possible through their support. During the year we were able to:

- \= Prepare and deliver a meal for the needy on the third Monday of each month to the State Street Shelter in Hammond using funds collected on Souper Bowl Sunday (this shelter closed in July due to lack of funding and the meal is now served at the Warming Shelter)
- \= Conduct the Souper Bowl of Caring collection and took in \$440 to be used for various cooking ministries throughout the year
- \= Maintain a supply of food and gas vouchers for Pastor to give out as needed
- \= Collect the coin banks for the ELCA Hunger Appeal twice during the year (over \$400 was taken in)
- \= Participate in the Lake County CROP WALK-Gloria Dei walkers raised over \$1000!
- \= Staff a booth at the Parade of Home for Habitat for Humanity
- \= Cook/serve at the First Presbyterian Church, Hammond in January and July during the weeks when the St. Joseph Soup Kitchen was closed
- \= Collect money for the tornado victims (given to Salvation Army and Griffith Emergency Fund)
- \= Hold the "Pack-a-Sack" food collection and took in over 45 bags of groceries given to the Highland and Griffith Food Pantries for distribution
- \= Put up the Mitten Tree and collected numerous gloves, mittens, hats and scarves given to the Visiting Nurses to hand out
- \= Adopt two families for Christmas and provided them with gifts and gift cards (provided by Women of Gloria Dei)
- \= Continue collecting soup labels (Navajo Mission School), pull tabs (Camp Quality-for children with cancer), clothing and food (for Greater Hammond, Haven House and Bible for Missions)

Again, thank you for your support! With God's help we will continue to assist those whose needs are great.

Nancy Talabay, chairperson

2008 Report of the Women of Gloria Dei

The Women of Gloria Dei have come together this past year to accomplish a variety of tasks. We continue to encourage all women of the congregation to become active participants in our activities. Thanks goes to everyone who worked so hard to make our events successful.

In 2008 we:

- \= Held the annual Friendship Tea
- \= Sent out "Care Packages" to our students away at college
- \= Participated in the NW Cluster gatherings (Spring and Fall)
- \= Participated in activities of the area Church Women United organization
- \= Held a "Fiesta" for the congregation in May
- \= Conducted a successful rummage sale and a craft bazaar (see Treasurer's report on how proceeds were distributed)
- \= Packed and delivered 66 school kits, 41 health kits and 30# of soap for Lutheran World Relief
- \= Decorated a Christmas tree at the Indiana Visitor's Center
- \= Continued a card ministry to our shut-ins (also provided Christmas cookies)
- \= Held the annual WELCA Sunday service

We wish to give special thanks to Helen Little for her many years of service as the head of Dorcas Circle and as a Convenor. She will be greatly missed!

Co-Convenors in 2008,
Helen Little, Elaine
VanProyen,
Nancy Talabay

2008 Audit Committee Report

The audit committee has examined selected financial records of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church for the calendar year ending December 31 2007

Cash receipts flow was verified from the "weekly counters' tally sheets" to their respective bank deposit slips, monthly bank statements and the church treasurer's "monthly financial reports".

Individual cash disbursements were reviewed for proper authorization, recording and reflection in the church's records and in the church treasurer's "monthly financial reports".

It is our opinion that all cash transactions were properly authorized, recorded and reflected in the treasurer's records and reports.

The Audit Committee:
Richard Schwartz,
John Popka

2008 Witness Committee Annual Report

The Ladies Luncheon Group meets once each month to celebrate birthdays. In December they gathered and enjoyed a fine lunch and the wonderful Christmas atmosphere at Teible's Restaurant. The group is open to all women of Gloria Dei. Peg Paulson does a fine job of contacting the women of the church and making the reservations for a different restaurant each month.

The Men's Bible Study/Breakfast meets on the first Saturday of each month at 8:00 a.m. at the church. There's always good conversation and a great breakfast. The men that cook take turns cooking .. the men that don't cook applaud the men that do. All men of Gloria Dei are welcome.

Gloria Dei Adult Fellowship Club meets as announced . A Christmas party was held at the church in December, a good time was had by all in attendance. For information or ideas, contact Deanna Jahnke, Elaine VanProyen, or Nancy Walter.

Eucharistic Ministry .. trained Eucharistic Ministers of Gloria Dei take communion to our shut-ins or hospitalized members on a monthly basis.

The 2nd. annual Pig Roast in Oct. was a huge success. This is a community outreach event and about 175 people attended. Great food, music, fun and games were in abundance. Thanks to all who helped make it a wonderful day of fellowship. Thanks to Jeff Danner who is our resident 'roaster'.

WELCA (the ladies of Gloria Dei) held the annual Fall Bazaar in Nov. Thanks to their hard work and the donations and purchases from the members of the church, it was again very successful.

DON'T FORGET the church luncheon on the last Sunday of each month immediately following Worship Service. The 'free-will' offerings will be used for Gloria Dei's 50th anniversary celebration in 2010.

submitted by
Russ McLeod .. Jan. 6, 2009

2008 Eucharistic Ministry Annual Report

What a privilege to be a part of the Gloria Dei Family! We have the opportunity of worship, Bible study, and fellowship. Our church family supports us through our ups and downs. Weekly worship encourages us in our daily walk of faith. However, there are family and friends of Gloria Dei who are unable to attend weekly worship services. They are home bound and isolated from their church family. They miss worshipping with their church family.

The Eucharistic ministers of Gloria Dei provide that link between the home bound and their church family. Thank you to those who served faithfully as Eucharistic ministers in 2008 Robin Carlascio, Fran Danner, Diane Heintzman, Helen Little, Charlene Partyka, Nancy Talabay, Sandy Trexler, Elaine VanProyen, Blanche Verdel, and Elaine Von Almen.

If you would like to be part of the Eucharistic ministry or if you know of someone who is home bound, please contact Pastor Trexler or myself.

This prayer is often said after communion at our worship services.

O God of tender compassion,
As you healed the sick and welcomed the stranger,
bless those who leave this assembly to share the gifts of this table
with our absent sisters and brothers.
May they be sustained by the love and prayers of this community,
And the Bread of life that satisfies all hunger,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Elaine Von Almen

2008 Prayer Ministry Annual Report

To promote, encourage and coordinate prayer life within the congregation by providing appropriate resources including, but not limited; leadership, education and multimedia material.

We continue to pray for members of the congregation, including family and friends. The Prayer Ministry meets the third Thursday of every month at church. Everyone is welcome!

“Seeds for the Parish”, a resource paper for leaders of ELCA congregations, shared a ministry of churches using a prayer shawl. Participants knit or crochet a shawl, praying as the shawl is being made. The three stitches represent the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The prayer shawls are given to those who are going through difficult times. When they wrap themselves with the shawl, they can know that they have been covered in prayer and will continue to be covered in prayer. The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to grow. We have delivered over thirty prayer shawls to family and friends of Gloria Dei since the Prayer Shawl ministry began. God has truly blessed this ministry. If you know of someone, (family, friend, or neighbor), who is in need of a prayer shawl, please let us know. Our prayer is that God will bless this ministry as we continue to reach out to those who need God’s love and care. Thank you, to all those who have knitted and crocheted or donated yarn for the Prayer Shawls. You are loved and appreciated!

Elaine Von Almen

Nomination Committee Election Slate

Candidate Profiles

Nominated for Church Council — Tom Schiller

First of all, it's an honor to be a candidate for Gloria Dei's Church Council. A lot of you already know me and my history at Gloria Dei. For those of you who don't know me – here goes. I attended Sunday school and Youth group events through high school. I was married at Gloria Dei and both of my kids were baptized at Gloria Dei. I have served on the church council along with having served as the Stewardship committee chairperson and committee Chairperson for a Pastor Call in the past. My wife and I were middle school Sunday school teachers and Youth group leaders.

That's a little of my history, but what about the future of Gloria Dei? I hope the experience I've gained in life lessons as well as church lessons will allow me to assist church leadership at this time. Gloria Dei has a chance to be a shining light in our community. I think Gloria Dei can teach or at least bring the words of the Bible to those who are looking for meaning and understanding in God's message. I don't know if we have all the answers or any answers, but let's open the doors and give the people in the community a church home. This means we need to evangelize – market ourselves – let people in the community know we're here. Let's greet them and make them feel comfortable at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church.

Of all the things I've witnessed or been a part of at Gloria Dei, two things are for sure: we work well with the youth and man can we fellowship! We need to use our time, talent and treasure to continue building a strong Sunday school and Youth Group program. There are a lot of youth: either members of Gloria Dei, friends of the youth at Gloria Dei, or youth in our community who are looking for faith based activities. As far as fellowship is concerned, there is nothing better than good food and fun to make a visitor feel welcome. Let's go with our strengths!

Nominated for Church Council — David Adams

I was born and spent the first half of my life in Northwestern Pennsylvania – Erie, PA. My mother and father are still living and have been very instrumental in developing my persona and spiritual life in the church.

I am married to Diane and between us (this being our second marriage) we have five children. Jennifer (Dave's daughter) is 30 and is a Registered Nurse in Erie, PA. Justin (Diane's son) is 29 – married to Danielle – and they live in Redondo Beach, CA. Both are Engineers for Boeing. Ryan age 28 (Diane's son) lives in Brookfield, IL and is a Journeyman Electrician. Christopher (Dave's son) is 25 and works as a Building Contractor in Denver, CO. Bryan (Dave's son) is 23 and is the Head Baker for a store in a supermarket chain in Denver.

I currently work as a Regional Sales Manager for Renold, Inc. traveling throughout the Midwest – between Indiana and the Dakotas – marketing mechanical power transmission products for use in the steel, mining, petrochemical and marine industries. I've worked for Renold since March 2000.

After living in LaGrange Park, IL and Butler, PA, Diane and I have settled in Crown Point, IN and have made Gloria Dei our Church home. We were members of Grace Lutheran Church in La Grange and St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Butler, PA. While at St. Mark's, I served on two Call Committees and as President of our Church Council for one year. This work led me to some of the most rewarding work in my life.

From May, 2001 through July, 2007 – I was blessed and honored to serve as a Synodically Authorized Minister at Springdale Lutheran Church in West Sunbury, PA and Zion Lutheran Church in Chicora, PA. As the S.A.M. for these Parishes, I led worship every Sunday, Preached God's Good News, consecrated Holy Communion for our members, and, directed the church life of these parishes in virtually all areas of ministry with the help of our Parish Council. Because of the laws of the Commonwealth of PA, I could not officiate at Weddings, but did perform Baptisms and Funerals for the members – and family members of the churches. Although the work was difficult at times – my ministry at these churches was the most rewarding work I have ever undertaken in my life.

Nomination Committee Election Slate

Candidate Profiles

Nominated for Church Council — Barry Fry

My name is Barry Fry. I'm originally from Reading, Pa. My wife, Sally, and I presently live in Griffith. We have been married for almost 29 years. We have two children, Sarah and Stephen. Both are graduates of Purdue University. Sarah was married in June of 2008 and along with her husband, Chris, will be expecting their first baby in July of this year. We will become proud grandparents for the first time. I enjoy sports, outdoor work, love to travel, and go for walks whenever I can,

Nominated for Church Council — Deborah Lee Thinnes

Debby has been a member of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church since 1973. She is an Academic Advisor in the School of Management at Purdue University Calumet since 1981. She has a Bachelor of Business Administration from Valparaiso University (1981), Associate in Computer Science from Purdue University Calumet (1986) and Master in Management from Purdue University Calumet (1993). She has been involved in church activities such as adult bible study, Sunday school teacher, choir, altar guild as well as the Church Council, holding various positions such as secretary, vice-president and president. In her spare time, she likes to do calligraphy and travel.

Nominated for the new Nominating Committee are:

- 1) Sandy Burgess
- 2) Randy Vates
- 3) Doug Riddell
- 4) Clea McLeod

Worship & Music Committee Annual Report

The committee spent 2008 supporting our worship leaders in planning the different worship services.

Saturday services continue to be held at 5:00 p.m. and attendance is growing.

Special services were planned, including an outdoor tent service with a pig roast following, and a healing service. These were in addition to the special holiday services.

Our small, but mighty, choir continues to add to the worship service under the direction of David Markley. In addition to regular Sunday services, they also presented Easter and Christmas cantatas.

We continue to be blessed by the musicians in our congregation. In addition to the beautiful worship accompaniment they provide, we also heard two new compositions offered to God's glory by members of our congregation.

Three ways to get involved in 2009:

- join the Music and Worship Committee
- become part of the church choir
- become part of the Altar Guild

Submitted by
Carol Lynn Brechner

GDLC Constitution Changes Subject to Approval

(as the Congregation was notified along with the Congregation Meeting date)

Be it resolved by the Congregation Council;
ELCA model amendments in ELCA document titled
“2007 amendments to the Model Constitution For Congregations”
is approved and recommended to the congregation for incorporation in the
Constitution and Bylaws of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church.

EFFECTIVE REVISION DATE JANUARY 18, 2009
with approval by congregation vote at the Annual Congregation Meeting.

2007 AMENDMENTS TO THE MODEL CONSTITUTION FOR CONGREGATIONS

To amend provision *C8.02.c. in the Model Constitution for Congregations to ensure the protection of the voting rights of members of congregations:

*C8.02.c. Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of the congregation.

To amend provisions *C17.01. and *C17.04. in the Model Constitution for Congregations regarding incorporation of amendments adopted by the Churchwide Assembly:

*C17.01. Unless provision *C17.04. is applicable, those Those sections of this constitution that are not required, in accord with the Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, may be amended in the following manner. Amendments may be proposed by at least voting members or by the Congregation Council... (with the remainder of the provision unchanged).

*C17.04. Whenever the Model Constitution for Congregations is amended by the Churchwide Assembly, this This constitution may be amended to incorporate such amendment bring any section into conformity with a section or sections, either required or not required, of the Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—as most recently amended by the Churchwide Assembly—by a simple majority vote of those voting members present and voting at any subsequent legally called meeting of the congregation without presentation at a prior meeting of the congregation, provided that the Congregation Council has submitted by mail notice to the congregation of such an amendment or amendments, together with the council’s recommendations, at least 30 days prior to the meeting. Upon the request of 10% of voting members of the congregation, the Congregation Council shall submit such notice. Following the adoption of an amendment, the secretary of the congregation shall submit a copy thereof to the synod. Such provisions shall become effective immediately following a vote of approval.

To amend provisions *C18.01. and *C18.02. in the Model Constitution for Congregations regarding adoption of continuing resolutions:

*C18.01. The congregation in a legally called meeting or the Congregation Council may enact continuing resolutions. Such continuing resolutions may not conflict with the constitution or bylaws of this congregation.

*C18.02. Continuing resolutions shall be enacted or amended by a majority vote of a meeting of the congregation or a two-thirds vote of all voting members of the Congregation Council.

February Glad Tidings

Communications and the Congregation

'gloriadeiluth.com'

Copies of our Constitution can be printed on request and are available through the church office. Our Constitution can also be opened on your home computer and there is a "bookmarked" version available through our Web site. This MS Word document has a table of contents for chapters, bylaws, and committees. The bookmarks on the table of contents can take you to the specific page of the document germane to the table of contents without scrolling through the document. Other documents including this Annual Report are also available for view. To find these documents on our Web site click on the "History" scroll icon and use the drop down menu to select the "Document Gallery". The Web site has been redesigned in the last couple months with a new look also.

Also note the new mail system using hanging file folders in the Narthex. This took a little time on my part to make life easier in distributing future mail. A work around to save the expense of mail address stickers was also undertaken which also controls getting all the names in alphabetical order when printed. I hope it is also convenient for the congregation to find their copies of future Glad Tidings.

December was a very busy month and so has been January in preparation of the Annual Report. For this reason there was no January Glad Tidings. This Annual Report will have to suffice also for the February issue. Getting a Congregation Directory put together will be my next distribution of "mail". There may soon be a display in the "Glass Hallway" of gathered directory information. Possible corrections and information to include in the directory could be written directly on this information display. I will be asking for your help to see that your personal family information is correct including all the names of your family members. A lot of progress has been made by Carol Fozkos with data entry on the new Church Windows program. At present it will be relatively easy to gather most information for a directory with a report print out. It is hoped some committee contact names and information can be included as well.

I am looking forward to getting back into the swing of doing the Glad Tidings for March. For anyone wishing to have an article or submission published, I am setting Sunday February 21 as a deadline. As a new rule, I feel one week before the last Sunday of the month is a reasonable deadline.

For those with on line access, future editions of the Glad Tidings will also be available and archived in the Document Gallery on our Web site.

If anyone has any other ideas for Web page postings I can also accommodate them using this media for communication as well.

Web links can also be sent to those in our church email address book when the Glad Tidings is posted or new Web pages and/or slide shows are available for view. This "encouragement" to use of our Web site I feel is better than attaching PDF files.

Respectfully submitted,
Your servant in Christ,
Eric Socin

January 17, 2009

Annual Reports

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To everyone in the family of

MAIL LABEL