



## From the Pastor:

**O**y! What a year we've had! Didn't see it coming, glad to see it going, still not knowing what 2021 will bring.... Perhaps the phrase "it came to pass" carries new meaning and urgency for us now – the year came and now would it please pass!

It is a transitory time. The political season has passed, not without its attending and seemingly unending drama, as we await some final outcomes with speculation and pondering even yet. Most of the leaves have fallen, signaling the passing of autumn to winter. We have hope and anticipation that soon a vaccine to battle Covid-19 will be finalized and rushed into production and then distribution. We move from the day-to-day existence of the calendar year into the season of holidays, with a proclamation of "Happy Holidays!" Decorations stored away come out and, splashed with greenery and color, lights and candles announce the season of lights in the midst of the deepening darkness of the calendar year.

One of the phrases that stands out from scripture for me this time of year, and maybe more particularly *this* year, is "It came to

pass..." (Luke 2:1 "In those days..." the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible uses just this phrase as it simply skips over the Greek "it came to pass..."). The New King James Version includes the thought, saying, "And it came to pass in those days..."). The phrase often indicates that what is happening is the result of a course of events. The first chapter of Luke's gospel tells the story of preparations for the coming of the Child: Zacharias hears of the impending birth to his barren wife of their son, John, who will be the Baptist; the angel Gabriel appears to Mary to announce her rather awkward pregnancy; Mary visits Elizabeth and sings her wonderful Magnificat; John the Baptist is born and Zacharias sings his praises of God. And then, "it came to pass..." another way of saying, "...and so it happened!" The stage is set. Preparations have been made.

May I remind you that the coming of the Messiah, the Advent of the Savior, when it finally "...came to pass," was a five century course of events from the time of the last prophecies

of the Old Testament until its fulfillment? We, on the other hand, rush through Advent, this year in 26 days. Often we miss it entirely, busy with our own preparations for the season. You see, Advent is really a time of waiting, even longing for the fulfillment of the promise of the Coming One. We might hearken back to the final weeks of the season of Pentecost, when all the texts point to the as-yet-unfulfilled Second Coming of Christ for a comparison. Is that coming something we anticipate, wait for, even long for? Maybe this year more than ever before? Wouldn't this be a good time for the Lord to return?

Advent is about remembering promises kept and promises yet to be fulfilled. So I would beseech you not to rush through it. Slow the train down! Along with all the decorating, planning, shopping, baking, and whatever else the season beckons you to do, hasten to step on the

*~Pastor's Message cont' on page 7*



# Our Prayers are With You

## We pray for:

- ◆ Healing for: Mike DeHart (hospitalized); Rosemary Livesay, Cathy Duncan (radiation for breast cancer), Kim Markie for healing from breast cancer surgery, Pastor & Ann's great niece Sloan with Behcet's syndrome, Barb's sister for surgery and good outcomes, GA with lung cancer, Rama Naik with ovarian cancer, Richard waiting for kidney transplant (Grace's son), continued healing for Bobby after heart attack (Grace's son), Betty for knee replacement and carpal tunnel surgery, Ruben Myers with fractured clavicle, Don Rinerson for cancer diagnosis, Ron for stroke and bladder issues, Linda (Pastor Pat's sister-in-law) after intestinal surgery.
- Covid-19: pray for those who are infected with or exposed to Covid-19.
- ◆ Transition to a new chapter in life for Don and Greta Rinerson
- ◆ Our shut-ins: Ron Nuessle, Joan Rositano, Claudette Rezos, Rosemary Livesay (not to mention all of us sheltering-in-place).
- ◆ Pray for those grieving the loss of loved ones: Ernie Moore and family, Gabi Garcia and Susan Olsen for loss of Gabi's Dad, Lozinski/Fife family in the loss of Virginia and Andy's mother.
- ◆ Struggling families for: Job & business stability, for those out of work and wondering what comes next
- ◆ Teachers and students enduring difficulties in education processes.
- ◆ Strength and rest to the caregivers who assist in the care of others.
- ◆ The ELC as they continue to provide class for students. May they continue to grow and be a blessing for parents and students
- ◆ The ministries we support with our benevolence dollars.
- ◆ World Vision, medical personnel, and frontline first responders in the battle against Covid-19, for their safety and protection.
- ◆ Provision & safety for the homeless.
- ◆ Gloria Dei for direction and motivation in our "Healthy Churches Thrive" spiritual adventure and our upcoming congregational meeting regarding budget. Come Holy Spirit!
- ◆ Wisdom for leaders & provision for refugees from Central & South America
- ◆ Our nation, to heal our division with truth, justice & honesty, & for the world. Help heal us, Lord. Bring comfort to those who suffer, compassion to those who've lost loved ones, and help world leaders make smart & timely decisions.
- ◆ Continued care and support for: Gilda & Julien Carlsen, Mike DeHart, Neita and Glenn, Lou and Aase Serra, Jill Korin, Ken and Marlene Swanson, Lisa Lomeli, and Terry Sullivan
- ◆ For wise leadership and positive outcomes regarding issues of racism & policing.

## Praise the Lord:

- ◆ Kim Markie has new housing.
- ◆ Mel Fadness and his grandson Jake are home.
- ◆ Rebuilding of Christopherson's home.
- ◆ Rich (Joyce's nephew) for 3 years cancer free
- ◆ Lord's Pantry is back in operation

*Lord in your mercy! Hear our prayers!*



**MESSENGER** article  
Submissions for  
**JANUARY 2021** are **DU**  
E in the church office by  
**DECEMBER 15** due to  
the Holidays.

Email to:  
**gdlcjsj.office@gmail.com**  
or drop it by the office.  
We are always looking for  
your short original **Poem**,  
favorite **Recipe**, or a **Photo**  
of an event in your life  
you'd like to  
**Celebrate with us!**

We are Community and we  
like to Share who you are.

*Gloria Dei Staff*

Please contact either  
**Joyce Boddie, Gail Castle,**  
**Pastor Pat, or email the**  
**church office to add**  
**persons to our prayer list.**  
**We pray for many people**  
**whose names are not**  
**published.**





## Leadership Team Corner

Leadership Team Meeting was held late in November. Here are some highlights of the current activities around the Church:

**Healthy Churches Thrive**— Our Action Plan is being reviewed. Wendy Kromrey is working hard coordinating with the Church Doctors Team. We are still trying to plan for the January 7-9<sup>th</sup> Outreach Workshop.

**Solar Project**— K-12 Energy, the company that does the installation of the solar panels has submitted plans to the City of San Jose for approval for permits. More news as it's received.

**ELC**— School continues. Students and parents are delighted with the safety and security provided by the new fencing.

**Lord's Pantry**— The Pantry was closed for 2 weeks due to a Covid outbreak, and reopened after a thorough cleaning on November 9th. The Thanksgiving Giveaway was scaled back. Clients will receive a turkey or chicken, based on family size the week before Thanksgiving. We are planning a special Christmas Toy Giveaway in December and will be looking for support with gifts for the children. We'll send out details on what we need as the dates get closer. Watch your email for announcements.

**Parish Nurse**— Donna continues to serve our community through home visits, and hundreds of phone calls. Health Ministry Corner articles are sent out by Constant Contact each week.

**GDLC Finances/Budget**— We're preparing our 2021 Budget, you'll hear details at our Annual Meeting in December. As always, members are encouraged to use the "digital" platforms to make their tithes and offerings. If you need help with any of the plans, feel free to contact Dan Rinerson, who can help!

**Worship Activities**— Group Studies continue through Zoom. We continue to do "drive through" communion the first Sunday of each month.



We continue to worship online, either by live-streaming the service at 9:30 am Sunday, or later on Facebook or You Tube from the Church's website.

# Are you Looking for a Place in the Ministry of GDLC Where you can Make an Impact in this Community?

**Prayer is the most important** part of any work done for the Kingdom of God. E.M. Bounds said, “*The story of every great Christian achievement is the history of answered prayer.*” This is a true and worthy statement for this time and in this place. If your heart is in the growth of God’s work at Gloria Dei come be part of the prayer team.

## Discover the ‘Prayer-Pod’ that Touches your Passions

### Formation of prayer pods at GDLC

**A prayer pod is a group of 2** or more people with a common passion, for a particular ministry at Gloria Dei, to pray that God would be glorified through the work of this ministry. Prayer support includes physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs for facilities and every person involved in this ministry.

**The purpose of our prayers** are to develop a closer relationship with God in our own lives, and to support the mission of GDLC in becoming more effective in the task given to us by Jesus to “Go... make disciples... baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.”

*Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”  
Matthew 28:18-20*

**The formation of prayer pods** was a seed planted 5 years ago and now has opened up to fulfill the need of an intensive prayer life at GDLC. The idea is that every Christian has a particular area of ministry at GDLC; including the more obvious ministries such as Food pantry, Early Learning Center, and worship, but also those less obvious ministries amongst homeless, hungry, wandering people that hang out around our property, or those who have wandered away from faith. There are groups that have been growing for some time, that are now being formed into pods, and other prayer needs that await formation of an active pod.

**Following is an explanation of prayer pods** followed by some descriptions of pods in action. All are open and awaiting people seeking a place for prayer ministry.

### Tenants of each pod

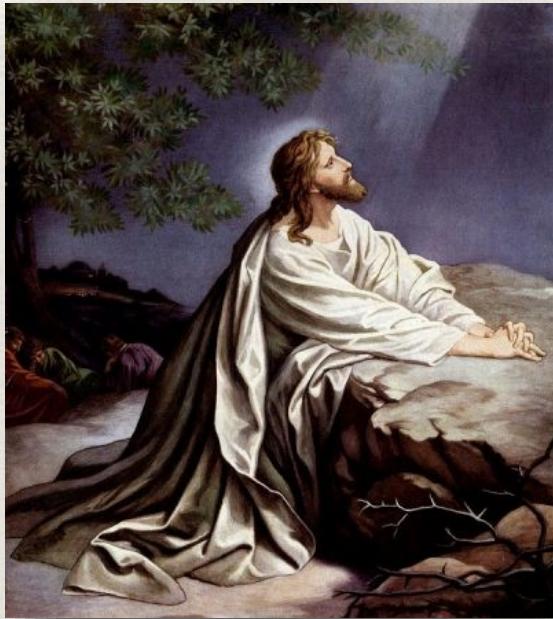
- ◊ All pods hold to the purpose of GDLC to “make disciples who make disciples right here, right now.”
- ◊ Each pod will consist of 2 or more people with a common passion for a particular ministry of the church.
- ◊ Each pod will meet on a regular basis to pray for one another, and to celebrate the work God has done, and prayers answered, for this ministry. Pray for wisdom to further prayer needs.
- ◊ Each pod will have a vision of the part this ministry has in the work of the fulfilling the Great Commission.

**Prayer pods are a new idea at GDLC and still have a long way to go to becoming a smoothly run part of prayer and discipline.**

*By Ann Fitzgerald*

~Continued on the next page....

# Description of Prayer Pods in Action



## Preschool Prayer Pod

**The focus of this Prayer Pod** is to pray for the Preschool, its success, and the dedicated staff, families and children who attend the preschool. We also brainstorm ways we can reach out to these families and staff to better know their prayer needs.

### Come be part of this important Prayer Pod

If you are interested in joining this Prayer Pod

**Contact: Wendy Kromrey**

via email: [wkromrey5@gmail.com](mailto:wkromrey5@gmail.com)

or call or text me at: (408) 425-1320

## Caring and Sharing Prayer Pod

**The focus of this Prayer Pod** is praying for those on the prayer list included in the Messenger Newsletter. We also pray for requests we receive via email and text messages daily. Also included is a *card ministry* in which we send out get well, thinking of you, praying for you and sympathy cards on a regular basis. We get together every week (currently by phone) to spend time in prayer.

### Come be part of this important Prayer Pod

If you are interested in joining this Prayer Pod

**Contact: Gail Castle**

at (408) 926-4441

## Prayer Pod for Young People

**The focus of this Prayer Pod** is to intercede for our adult children with thanksgiving, as we petition God: That each one may know the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live abundantly and become all that God has created him/her to be.

### Resources:

- ◊ The Bible
- ◊ *Power of Praying for Your Adult Children*, by Stormie Omartian
- ◊ *My Utmost for His Highest*, by Oswald Chambers

### Come be part of this important Prayer Pod

If you are interested in joining this Prayer Pod

**Contact: Rosanna Myers at (408) 710-1694**

or **Sylvia Smith at (408) 926-4056**

## Church Grounds Prayer Pod

**The focus of this Prayer Pod** is to pray for our church grounds, the Lord's Pantry, the Early Learning Center, and also the homeless folks we occasionally see huddled in the doorways. We (Ben and Kandra Tobin) typically visit the church grounds once a week to collect and dispose of litter, and report any illegal dumping. We are excited to see the new *Beautify San Jose* program initiated by the City to motivate the homeless to clean up their trash by paying them to turn in bags of trash. The areas identified directly affect our church location. For more info please visit: **#BeautifySJ**

### Come be part of this important Prayer Pod

If you are interested in joining this Prayer Pod

**Contact: Kandra Tobin**

via email: [kandratob@yahoo.com](mailto:kandratob@yahoo.com)

or call (408) 251-9234





by Donna Zimmerman  
Parish Nurse



**Matthew 27:24**

*When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands.*

## Health Ministry Corner

Pilate washed his hands for a symbolic reason rather than cleaning actual dirt. Handwashing is always important to avoid contamination. We need to be exceptionally diligent this year due to the pandemic. The following information is from the website:

### December 1-8 is National Handwashing Awareness Week

Personal hygiene begins and ends with our hands. And though we're taught as youngsters to wash our hands before dinner, it's important to remember that germs don't care what time of day it is. Clean hands prevent sickness. So it's especially important to learn the basics about hand hygiene so that you, too, can become a champion hand washer! Let's examine some handy (see what we did there?) tips and info in honor of National Handwashing Awareness Week, which takes place each year during the first week of December.

### National Handwashing Awareness Week Timeline

**Circa 400BC, Thucydides has a breakthrough moment** The ancient Greek historian Thucydides is the first to suggest that disease can spread from one person to another.

**1546 Germ theory begins** Italian scholar and poet Girolamo Fracastoro suggests that epidemics are caused by small particles or "spores" that can be transmitted from one person to another.

**1807 Microorganisms are found** Italian entomologist Agostino Bassi discovers that microorganisms can cause disease

**1818 Ignaz Philipp Semmelweis is born** Ignaz Philipp Semmelweis, a pioneer in and advocate for antiseptic procedures, is born in Hungary.



### 1860 A breakthrough safety process begins

Frenchman Louis Pasteur begins researching causes and prevention of disease, leading to his breakthroughs in vaccination and what came to be known as pasteurization.

**There are some Changes coming about Next Year.** We are already experiencing some change since the Covid-19 outbreak, and who knows how much longer, or how much worse, things might continue. It may be a year or more that we are in this state. Some of these changes will be in response to Church Doctor recommendations. Others are due to my decision not to renew my RN license when I turned 80. Our ministry will no longer be called Health Ministry but Care Ministry. I'll head up the Care Team.

**Watch for further Details as they Develop**

**December Observances** National Drunk & Drugged Driving Prevention Month, Safe Toys and Gifts Month, World AIDS Day: **December 1**, National Aplastic Anemia Awareness Week: **December 1-8**, National Hand Washing Awareness Week: **December 1-8**

brakes and prepare your hearts and minds for the One who longs to come into our lives ever more deeply, even right now.

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth thou art,  
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

*Power to you!*

*Pastor Pat*

## THE RECIPE BOX

### Persimmon Bread

#### Ingredients

2 C Persimmon, very ripe  
or pureed  
2 C Chopped Nuts  
2 C Raisins or Currants  
2 C Sugar or Splenda or 1C-each  
2 Tbsp Oil

3 C Flour  
2 tsp Baking Soda  
1/4 tsp Ground Cloves  
2 tsp Cinnamon  
1 tsp Salt  
1 C Milk



#### Mix together:

Persimmon, very ripe or pureed in blender or food processor  
Chopped nuts  
Raisins or Currants  
Sweetener  
Oil

#### Sift together:

Flour  
Baking soda  
Cloves  
Cinnamon  
Salt

*Add to Persimmon mixture, mixing well...  
gradually add Milk & mix together well*

#### Pour Mixture into greased or sprayed pans

Bake in 350 degree oven until toothpick comes out clean.

#### Baking Times

1 Tube or Bundt pan | 1-1/4 hr.  
3 Loaf pans | 1 hr.  
4 Small loaf pans | 40-45 min.  
8 Mini-loaf pans | 25-30 min.

*Recipe Provided by Donna Zimmerman*

### December Birthdays

- 10 Cathy Duncan
- 11 Kristina Bakken
- 13 Cam McCalment
- 14 Elizabeth Kromrey
- 18 Louise Meyer
- 24 Lisa Lomeli
- 27 Grace Mata
- 28 Karen Rainville



# December 2020

**GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**121 SOUTH WHITE ROAD**  
**SAN JOSE, CA 95127-2993**

## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**TIME SENSITIVE INFORMATION~FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY**

**CHURCH OFFICE PHONE: 408-729-7563**  
**OFFICE HOURS: Generally 11 am—4 pm**

**GDLC Web Site: [www.gdicsj.com](http://www.gdicsj.com)**  
**CHURCH EMAIL: [gdicsj.office@gmail.com](mailto:gdicsj.office@gmail.com)**

**CHURCH STAFF**  
**Pastor:** J. Patrick Fitzgerald  
**Music Director:** David Bakken  
**Office Admin:** Kimberley Stern  
**Parish Nurse:** Donna Zimmerman  
**Sunday School Director:** Wendy Kromrey

**PHONE #'S**  
Pastor's phone: 408-899-4343  
Music Director: 408-858-9610  
Office: 408-729-7563 Fax: 408-729-7578  
Parish Nurse office: 408-729-7563

**ELC Preschool Director:** Maria Nugent  
**Web:** [www.gloriadeipreschool.com](http://www.gloriadeipreschool.com)  
**Lord's Pantry Director:** Mary DeHart  
**Web:** [www.lordspantrygdicsj.com](http://www.lordspantrygdicsj.com)

Preschool: 408-272-0321  
**Email:** [gdelcdirector@yahoo.com](mailto:gdelcdirector@yahoo.com)  
Lord's Pantry: 408-258-7563  
**Email:** [LordsPantry@aol.com](mailto:LordsPantry@aol.com)

*Happy New Year*  
**2021**

**Due to the Christmas Holidays DEADLINE for JANUARY Publication will be DECEMBER 15th**  
**:: Get Ready for a New Design in 2021 ::**