

The Epistle

October 2021

Vol. 48, No. 10

World Hunger Sunday– October 31

Gloria Dei has designated Sunday, October 31 as World Hunger Sunday. Please support this important ministry of the ELCA generously. On Sunday, October 24 and again on Sunday, October 31 an insert and offering envelope will be enclosed in the bulletin describing the work the ELCA does to combat world hunger. Please read the material for inspiration and respond by returning the offering envelope with a generous gift on Sunday, October 31. You can make your checks payable to Gloria Dei and enter World Hunger on the memo line.



The world provides enough food for all yet more than 800 million people – 1 in 9 people in our world today – face chronic hunger. We believe in a God of abundance, so as a church, we live out our baptismal call to strive for a just world where all are fed. ELCA World Hunger is our Church's ministry to end hunger and poverty. Working with our neighbors in the United States and in nearly 60 countries around the world, we start by listening and learning how we can accompany them to help break the cycle of hunger and poverty – for good. From water wells to animal husbandry, micro-loans to health clinics, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger support innovative solutions that get at the root causes of hunger. And they don't stop there. We engage Lutherans in advocacy and hunger education to act and speak in ways that can make a difference.

Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger help our church work toward a just world where all are fed.

Thank you for making this work possible through learning, action, prayer and giving.

Joseph's Storehouse—Food Pantry @ Gloria Dei

Joseph's Storehouse. God's work, our hands.

“God's work is not man working for God; it is God's own work, though often wrought through man's hands.” (Hudson Taylor) God graciously chooses to do His work through us, enabling us to do what He has called us to do (Phil. 2:13). His Spirit equips us to do His work for His glory. But what is God's work? The obvious answer is to feed the hungry, clothe those who are naked and give hope to the needy. And, of course, to preach the gospel to all the world!

“ Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?” Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.” -John 6:28,29

Jesus had a way of cutting right to the heart of a matter, and putting ‘first things first.’ To do the work of God, you have to start by believing in Jesus or you never get off the ground. When we invite Him in and allow our hearts to take root in the soil of His marvelous love, then we will be filled with the fullness of life and power that comes from God (Ephesians 3). From this will come “the fruit produced by the Holy Spirit...joy that overflows, peace that subdues, patience that endures, kindness in action, a life full of virtue, faith that prevails, gentleness of heart, and strength of spirit.” Galatians 5:22

“God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.” Hebrews 6:10

As Jesus' love grows in our hearts, we express our love for Him with service. God accepts our work as an expression of our love toward Him! When we serve Him, it is an expression of worship! There are many ways to serve Him. He always has something for you to do. And God will not forget your work. Nothing that you do for the Lord is in vain. (1 Cor. 15:58) We serve because we have been blessed. We are blessed because we serve.

“Meanwhile his disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat something.” But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.” Then his disciples said to each other, “Could someone have brought him food?” “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.” (John 4:31-34)

This exchange between Jesus and the Disciples came right after Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well. Jesus sat down by the well tired, hungry and thirsty. After preaching the good news of the gospel to the woman, He was refreshed and reinvigorated! His spirit was nourished. His food was to finish God's work!

Today, God gives us the gifts and abilities we need to do His work. Not everyone has the same gift. Not all gifts are glamorous but every one of us is gifted for God's purposes. Doing the work of God comes with the same benefits as reading His Word. It feeds us. It strengthens us. It builds up our faith. Doing God's work is good for us! That's why it feels good when you do it. So let's get our hands busy, but don't forget to put first things first.

Dennis Hood, Director of Joseph's Storehouse

Church Council News



1. Gloria Dei is extremely happy to welcome Pastor Amanda Nesvold to our church as Interim Pastor beginning October 1. She will serve both Gloria Dei and King of Kings. Pastor Amanda comes to Gloria Dei and King of Kings with experience ministering to multiple congregations. She is energetic and in tune with the needs of today's ever-changing church.

Thank you to all the volunteers who came out to freshen up the parsonage and make it ready for her.

Please pray for Pastor Amanda and for Gloria Dei and King of Kings as she begins her ministry with us.

2. The Chapel/Nursery building has been rented to a Latino church. We look forward to sharing our beautiful campus with them.

3. Please read the enclosed letter from Pastor Rebecca Pollicino for an update on the Huntington/Melville Collaboration.

PLEASE NOTE—The price of altar bouquets from Main Street Nursery has increased to \$40. Please continue to fill out the altar flower card in the narthex or call the office if you are interested in placing flowers on the altar.

Scriptures for October 2021

Sunday Oct. 3—Pentecost 19

Genesis 2:18-24 Psalm 8 Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12 Mark 10:2-16

Sunday Oct. 10—Pentecost 20

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 Psalm 90:12-17 Hebrews 4:12-16 Mark 10:17-31

Sunday Oct. 17—Pentecost 21

Isaiah 53:4-12 Psalm 91:9-16 Hebrews 5:1-10 Mark 10:35-45

Sunday Oct. 24—Pentecost 22

Jeremiah 31:7-9 Psalm 126 Hebrews 7:23-28 Mark 10:46-52

Sunday Oct. 31—Reformation

Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 46 Romans 3:19-28 John 8:31-36

Collaboration Team Update—Pastor Pollicino

Greetings to the communities of Gloria Dei, King of Kings and St. Peter's.

Since the end of April, I have been caring for all three congregations and have had the opportunity to get to know you better. I am grateful for this opportunity to serve you in this way. October 1st an interim pastor will begin to serve Gloria Dei and King of Kings. I will maintain my original call to St. Peter's. I wanted to take this opportunity to reach out to all three congregations and provide an update on the collaboration process. It has been an exciting year and we are making progress, some of it out of necessity and some because of our collaboration. Some highlights of our progress to date:

- +Gloria Dei and King of Kings both adjusted their worship times by half an hour to share a pastor enabling an intentional interim pastor to serve them both.
- +The parish administrator at St Peter's, Gerry Bove, has had recent medical procedures and is home recuperating. We were able to work out a job share with Karen DeMotta, the parish administrator for Gloria Dei. She is now working Mondays and Wednesdays for St. Peter's and Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays for Gloria Dei. We are so appreciative that this cooperative arrangement has been worked out until the end of the year.
- +The collaboration team has been working hard getting to know one another and learning more about each other's churches. Team members are discovering how much we have in common, while acknowledging our differences.

We now enter the stage of asking questions and listening intently to you! This will be done in several steps:

- +A short survey will be compiled for completion online or in-person, in October. Be sure to complete one when you come to church. Surveys will also be sent by mail and email, as well as posted on our websites and on Facebook. We need to hear from as many people as possible!
- +Focus groups (small groups) will begin an in-depth review of the survey results. We will be asking follow-up questions and finding trends. Everyone's participation is vital: if you are asked to join one of these groups, please accept the invitation to have a voice in our future.
- +Next, we will move into the community to survey leaders, schools, and neighbors to find ways to better serve the communities in which we are located.

This work will take time and proceed over several months. Since we have just begun, I ask you to be patient and stay engaged in the process. The only way we will be able to hear where God is calling us next is if we listen and learn from each other.

We are excited to be welcoming Pastor Amanda Nesvold to our communities soon. She will step in and be involved in the process with us. Please keep in mind that getting an interim pastor is not a long-term solution; we need to complete our work with the consultant to discover where God is leading us for our combined futures.

For those who want to know where this will lead, my answer is "I have no idea." The answers lie in our work together. Please do not lose energy! Support the team and offer input when asked. Please reach out to me with any questions or concerns on this process.

Lutheran Counseling Center—Update for October

Empowered

By Rev. Dr. David Elseroad, LMFT, LCC Pastoral Psychotherapist

This fall, students of all ages are headed back to either virtual or in-person school, preschool on up to graduate school, as well as night classes and self-improvement courses. Many will also begin or continue their “schooling” in mental health therapy. Talk therapy (or counseling) can perhaps best be understood as education, a learning about one’s self. Given that education is a quest for knowledge and skills so central to life today, the quest to know one’s self in a much more focused and intentional way must be a priority. Therapy gives us this unique opportunity!

People come to therapy with all sorts of concerns—anxiety, depression, anger, relational and family issues, mood swings, addictive behaviors and many others. But as these concerns are discussed, the individual’s sense of self that underlies them emerges—a self that is invariably barely known, or denigrated or dismissed, or kept hidden away. You may discover that you don’t really know yourself, or that you don’t really like yourself, or that you don’t have much confidence in yourself. Many a client complains of being “stuck,” going around in circles and getting nowhere, of not being heard or heeded, of not accomplishing anything, of not living the life that they want.

Personal empowerment begins with the self. At its most basic, empowerment means “becoming powerful.” Everyone has strengths and weaknesses (aka “growing edges”) and a range of skills used in everyday situations, but often people remain unaware of, or undervalue, their true self and personal abilities. Empowerment is about looking at who you are and becoming more aware of yourself as a unique individual. It involves developing the confidence and strength to set realistic goals and pursue them with determination. As we discover and reflect on our values, skills and goals in our counseling conversations, and as we adjust our behaviors in order to achieve our goals, we grow in self-awareness, self-esteem and self-confidence. We get “unstuck” and are free to “get somewhere”!

Being “enabled” involves outside control; it is the antithesis of “empowered.” It is true that a newborn baby must be enabled to survive. But the wise parent brings a child from a place of enablement into maturity as an empowered human being. Empowered people are able to care for themselves in relational community; are aware of self and others; create their own goals; want to change and believe they can; and act on choices freely made with all the consequences, risks and rewards that follow. “You will receive power...” (Acts 1:8) is a promise from God that we can embrace. Knowing ourselves free and valued before God, and through the special “education” that therapy avails, we can say with St. Paul, “I can do all things through Christ who empowers (strengthens) me” (Philippians 4:13). On that empowerment ladder, whatever our goal, we’ll own it, initiate it, build it, maintain it and grow it!

The Rev. Dr. David Elseroad LMFT, is pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Hawthorne, NY. Dr. Elseroad, a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, is fluent in French and Spanish. His professional background includes work in multicultural ministries and experiences as pastor, hospital chaplain, missionary and teacher.

Please visit our website at: www.lccny.org for more information. For a counseling appointment, call LCC at 1-800-317-1173. All sessions are virtual at this time.



<i>Elyse Franko-Filipasic</i>	10/1
<i>Brit Hanson</i>	10/5
<i>Ann Marie Serling</i>	10/6
<i>Thomas Flanagan</i>	10/10
<i>Charles Powers</i>	10/10
<i>Stephanie LaRosa</i>	10/13
<i>Marion Harris</i>	10/16
<i>Sky Lemke</i>	10/16
<i>Kathi Galotti</i>	10/17
<i>Richard Schneider</i>	10/17
<i>Arthur Piervincenti</i>	10/24
<i>Gay Frangella</i>	10/25
<i>Tiana Lemke</i>	10/25
<i>Gayle Ruege</i>	10/25
<i>John Dowling</i>	10/30
<i>Beverly Flanagan</i>	10/30

Blood Drive...

*Now is the time to save your
blood for Gloria Dei's*

OCTOBER BLOOD DRIVE...

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12

*Please contact Pat Draser for
more information or to make an
appointment.*

631-549-7469



STAYING CONNECTED

**Church Office 631-271-2466
FAX 631-271-0237**

Karen DeMotta, Parish Administrator
office@gloriadeihuntington.

Kurt Sobina, Sexton
(631) 241-9641
Email: kurtsobina@gmail.com

Kevin Smuss, Church Council President (as of 2/1/21)
Cell: (631) 484-5534
Email: kevinsmuss@gmail.com

Stephen Goldstein, Organist & Adult Choir Director
Email: inspanctus@gmail.com

Joseph's Storehouse Food Pantry, Olson Hall
Dennis Hood, Director
(631) 974-2918



**Gloria Dei Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

22 East 18th Street
Huntington Station, NY 11746
631-271-2466
www.gloriadeihuntington.org

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