

DEI TO DAY

VOLUME 26 | ISSUE 5

Volunteers Needed Many Opportunities

See the kiosk or speak with the office for how you can help!

Red Cross Blood Drive

May 18th, 2026 | Fellowship Hall

Mother's Day Brunch

May 9th, 2026 | 9:30 AM

Summer Worship Hours Begin

May 24th, 2026 | 9 AM

Baccalaureate Service

May 20th | 6:00 PM | Sanctuary

Youth Ministry
Updates
Page 2

The Living Last
Supper
see page 4

"COUNCIL CORNER"

Get inspired by the vision and direction of the Church Council and stay in the know about new opportunities
Page 5

2026



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Rooted & Rising

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity." -1 Timothy 4:12

SUMMER HOURS BEGIN

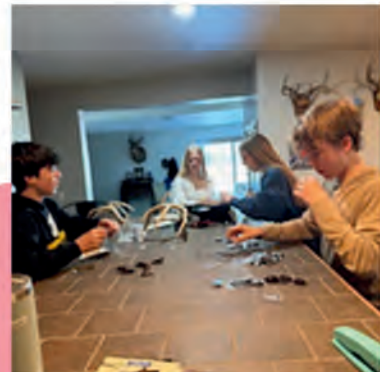
The final day of Sunday School is on May 10th, and the final day of confirmation is on May 13th. Worship at 9 am will begin on May 24th, 2026. We will resume classes in September.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Save the date! Vacation Bible School will be held on August 2nd - 5th from 5:30 - 7:15 pm with a meal served beforehand.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN MOBILE PACK

Feed My Starving Children's Mobile Food Pack is returning to Tomah on August 14th - 15th, 2026. See Jackie Kiel or Pastor Kay for more information.





*We are looking forward to the Mother's day Breakfast on May 9th at 9:30am. There is a sign up sheet on the kiosk in the Fellowship hall. But even if you don't sign up, please plan to join us for a beautiful morning of celebrating all the wonderful Moms in our lives.

*On June 21st we will have a special coffee hour to celebrate all the Dads in our lives.

*Thank you to Dorcas circle who served a light breakfast on Ash Wednesday.

*20 Personal care kits were assembled! Thank you to all who donated items towards these kits.

April through June we collect the specific items for the Baby kits, see list below.

*Our next General meeting will be September 8th with a noon potluck and business meeting. Dorcas circle will be Hostess.

LWR Baby Care Kits

- 2 Lightweight cotton t-shirts (No Onsies)
- 2 gowns or sleepers (without feet) or top/pants sets
- 2 Receiving Blankets, medium weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted/knitted, 36" - 52" square
- 4 cloth diapers and 2 diaper or lg safety pins
- 1 jacket, sweater, or sweatshirt with a hood (or include a baby cap)
- 2 pairs of socks
- 1 hand towel, dark color recommended
- 2 bath size bars of gentle soap, in original packaging (no mini or hotel-sized)

*Sizes 6 - 24 months may be used, and sizes can be mixed in each kit to allow for growth. Gently used, clean items are also ok. No patriotic or religious messages.

**AS A COMMUNITY OF WOMEN,
CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF
GOD, CALLED TO DISCIPLESHIP
IN JESUS CHRIST, AND
EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY
SPIRIT, WE COMMIT
OURSELVES TO GROWTH IN
FAITH, AFFIRM OUR GIFTS,
SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER IN
OUR CALLINGS, ENGAGE IN
MINISTRY AND ACTION, AND
PROMOTE HEALING AND
WHOLENESS IN THE CHURCH,
THE SOCIETY, AND THE
WORLD.**



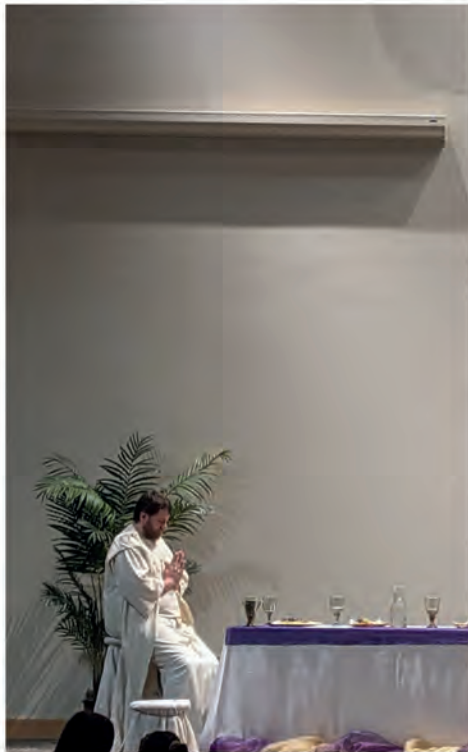
THE LIVING LAST SUPPER

April 2nd, 2026



On a quiet evening long ago, Jesus gathered with His disciples for what would become one of the most significant moments in Christian history—the Last Supper.

This sacred event happens bi-annually at Gloria Dei, and this year's performance was simply wonderful! It comes to life in a powerful and moving presentation known as "The Living Last Supper," a dramatic retelling that invites audiences to witness the emotion, tension, and faith surrounding the final meal Jesus shared with His disciples.



Unlike a traditional stage play, The Living Last Supper unfolds as a tableau-style performance in which each disciple reflects on Jesus' shocking announcement: "One of you will betray me." One by one, the disciples rise from the table to share their thoughts, fears, doubts, and devotion. Through these individual monologues, the audience gains a deeper understanding of each disciple's personality and relationship with Christ.

Costumes, lighting, and music work together to create an atmosphere of reverence and reflection, helping the audience step back in time to the Upper Room. We wish to thank every person who helped make this moving and memorable evening happen! Jen Conzemius has taken the lead on this production again this year, and as always, made it something worth seeing again and again! Thank you to the cast, crew, director, and all who attended. Your contribution to this event is appreciated.

HE IS RISEN, HE IS RISEN INDEED! I don't think words can describe the experience we all enjoyed during the Lenten Services, the Living Last Supper and Easter Sunday Services. I have not heard anything but good comments about all of them. Every one of the messages were outstanding! I would especially like to thank all the individuals who provided the messages for the six Lenten services:

Pastor Dave, Pastor Kay, Cindy Hall, David Hall, Shannon Boettcher, Brian Knight, Greta Rice, Greg Rice, Pastor Bill, Jason Reiman and Kate Mathison.

A special thanks also goes out to the team who put on the Living Last Supper, Jen Conzemius, Jane Tessmann, Deb Johnson, Shannon Boettcher, Olivia Conzemius, the 13 men at the table, and the youth who helped serve. It was very nice to see some new faces on the 12 disciples.

A new Audit Committee for 2026 has been appointed. They are: Joyce Thurow, Kate Mathison and Bill Pieper. A special thank-you to the past Audit Committee: Gloria Aaress, Linda Niebuhr, and John Tessmann for their years of service.

By the time you read this the Church Pew committee will have given a couple of temple talks, but we would like to give an update here so the ones who couldn't attend know what the schedule looks like for the project to be completed.

Tentative Schedule:

- 05/26-05/30 – remove old pews**
- 06/01-06/12 – flooring removed and installed**
- 06/15-06/20 – new pews installed**

-Bill Reneau, Council President

The Care Ministry Team had their annual meeting on March 12th and was so glad to have 12 members attend. In February, our team had 138 contacts and gave 17 communions, and in March we had 152 contacts and 13 communions. We welcomed a new member, Suellen Kress. The team remains active and welcomes all who want to be a member. Feel free to contact Linda Frye at 608-343-4162 for more information.

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**CONNECT.
GROW.
SERVE.**

Treasurer's *Report*

<u>March 2026 Income & Expenses</u>	
Income.....	\$29,923.93
YTD Income.....	\$126,114.27
Expenses	\$36,596.77
YTD Expenses.....	\$119,069.03

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

We will serve a community meal
on May 4th.

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

We are looking forward to
celebrating with our 4 High
School Grads in May, watch for
more information!

**We will host a Baccalaureate
Service on May 20th, 2026 at 6 pm.
Congratulations to our graduates:**

- **Brennen Worden**
- **Marshall Reiman**
- **Isabelle Guthmiller**
- **Karli Hall**

HOMEBOUND

Care Center: Susan Kammerer &
Velma Lutz

Close to Home: Sharon Jensen &
Wanda Baker

Sunset Ridge: Laurie Olson

Liberty Village: P.T. Melby

Morrow Home: Cherlyn Moseley

LaCrosse, WI: TJ Waege

West Salem, WI: Flo Lloyd

Cranberry Court: Patricia Olson

At Home: Victor Burnstad

**The March Giving Jar
donated \$804 to Chosen
People Ministries thanks
to your generosity.**

The Creative Arts Team wishes to thank
you for the awesome creations
contributed to the sale. All ages were
involved so it was a uniting of the
congregation as well as a fundraiser for
the Fix It Fund. Next month, we will
report the total amount raised. I believe
God is with us! From the idea in the
beginning, to the volunteers for it to
succeed, to the generosity of those
making so many wonderful things and
the purchases that will be enjoyed by
many: Thank you from the team!
- Cyndy Hall, Ruth Stoner, Linda Frye,
Gloria Aarness, Kari Curran, and Sharon
Anderson.

Thank You to Our Volunteer Leaders:

- **Ruth Stoner (Hospitality)**
- **Jim Grilley (Safety)**
- **Bill Reneau (Readers)**
- **Jane Tessmann (Communion)**
- **Linda Frye (Care Ministry)**
- **Jackie Kiel (Acolytes)**
- **Sue Waege (Coffee Hour)**



MISSIONS

Our May 2026 Giving Jar recipient will be Freedom Honor Flight. The goal of this local non-profit organization is to fly our veterans to Washington D.C. to visit the memorials that stand in their honor. Veterans are chosen for the trip on a first-come, first-served basis with priority given to WWII veterans and veterans with a terminal illness. The trip is all in one day, spending several hours at the World War II Memorial, and visiting other Washington D.C. landmarks such as the Korean War Memorial, Vietnam Wall, Lincoln Memorial, the Marine Corps War Memorial and others as time permits. All veterans on a flight are accompanied by trained volunteer guardians, who assist veterans for the day. Freedom Honor Flight is supported solely through donations and run by volunteers.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church sponsors a child through Compassion International. Our sponsored child is Jerome, age 6, of Uganda. He lives in a 3-room house made of blocks, with a grass roof. Jerome writes "Thank you for paying my school fees" and his father says "may God bless you for always praying for Jerome". Nadine from our congregation has volunteered to correspond with Jerome, but if anyone else would like to write him a letter, please let me know. I am sure he would be thrilled to receive more letters.

In May, we will have special guests on two Sundays. Pastor Black, from Food for the Poor, will be sharing on May 3rd, and Utpal and Stacy Saha of World Mission Prayer League will be sharing with us on May 31st. The Saha family is serving in Bangladesh. Utpal teaches the Bible, provides pastoral care, and equips congregations & leaders to reach out to their neighbors with the Good News. Stacy serves at Lutheran Aid to Medicine In Bangladesh and is dedicated to improving the health of mothers and children.

Update on Family Promise meals: Instead of delivering and serving meals in a community setting, volunteers are now asked to bring meals in individually packaged containers, which are then refrigerated or frozen for use as the families need them. The intention is to reduce food waste and accommodate the differing schedules of the families. Community bonding will be by shared interests such as gardening or hiking. Gloria Dei has purchased containers and the box is in the kitchen, for anyone to use for the meal purpose. Please contact Colleen Bolchen with questions. Family Promise is requesting towels, pillow cases, toilet paper and paper towels; please place them in the designated box by the LWR donation shelf in the gathering area.

THANK YOU to our congregation: from Faith Comes By Hearing. Representative Angie Gonzales shared a video from the Philippines, showing the heartfelt gratitude of those whose lives have been transformed by the audio Word of God. "Thank you for walking alongside us in this mission - your faithfulness is bearing fruit across the world.", From Chosen People Ministries." Thank you for the generous offering, and we appreciate your having a presentation. It is encouraging for us to know that you share the burden of reaching Jewish people for the Messiah along with us."

Our next meeting is Wednesday June 3rd at 1:00 PM

More than Just Service



The Hospitality Team is getting so close to having a full schedule of volunteers for 2026. Months and service times still open are:

May - 10:30am Service
August - 9:00am Service
October - 10:30am Service

Other months could use additional help to partner with those volunteers currently signed up. Get to know fellow worshipers by teaming up to split duties or switch off covering Sundays. Please check the list on the kiosk for these opportunities.

Duties of Hospitality are: Greet and hand out worship bulletins, count the number of worshipers in attendance, usher for Communion (1st and 3rd Sundays of the month) and collect the attendance sheets from each pew (10:30am service only).

There is also a spot to sign up for special services throughout the year. Please sign up and I will be in contact with you as the dates and responsibilities are set.

Please contact me with any questions you may have. I am happy to answer questions, to meet with you to run through the responsibilities and/or to team up with you to show you how easy it is to serve on the Hospitality Team.

To those of you already signed up throughout the year on the Hospitality Team, your service is greatly appreciated. God's Blessings.

-Submitted by Ruth Stoner



UPCOMING

May 3rd

The Fifth Sunday of Easter - Serving in Jesus' Name
Guest Speaker Pr. George Black from Food for the Poor

May 10th

The sixth Sunday of Easter - Engaging the World
Happy Mother's Day!

"It's easy to feel like faith belongs inside these walls—but the early Christians didn't see it that way. They stepped into complex, confusing, even hostile environments—and spoke about Jesus in ways people could actually hear. We explore what it looks like to live a faith that doesn't withdraw from the world... but engages it with truth, love, and courage."

May 17th

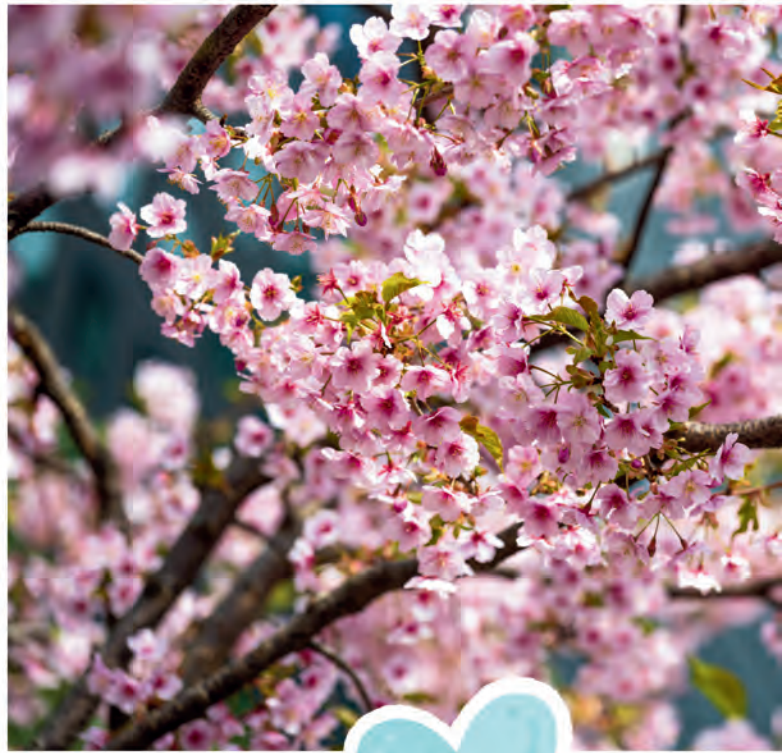
The seventh Sunday of Easter -
Living Between Promise and Power

There are moments in life where you know something is coming—but it hasn't arrived yet. You're waiting. Wondering what's next. That's where the disciples find themselves after the resurrection. Jesus is alive—but the full picture is still unfolding. But God meets us at every step.

May 24th - 9 AM Worship begins

May 31st: 9 AM Worship

Guest Speaker, Stacy & Uptal Saha from World Mission Prayer League



8:00 AM

Usher/Greeter
(Hospitality)

Jane Tessmann
John Tessmann

10:30 AM

No volunteers -
Help Needed
Urgently

Acolytes

8:00 AM

May 3rd - Andrew Hart
May 10th - Fletcher Reiman
May 17th - Sam Grilley
May 24th - 9 am only
May 31st - 9 am only

10:30 AM

May 3rd - Hadley Steel
May 10th - Kimberley Jenkins
May 17th - Blair Bailey
May 24th - Maya Eirschele
(9am)
May 31st - Haylee Hart (9am)

Tech Booth

Sign Up to help in
the tech booth
today!

Communion Assistants

8:00 AM

10:30 AM

May 3rd

Gloria Aarness
Shannon Boettcher

Kelly Gordon
Shelly Griffin

May 17th

Kari Curran
Deb Johnson

Kristin Gerke
Paula Laugen

Altar Guild

Deb Johnson
Shannon Boettcher

Readers

8:00 AM

May 3rd - Sharon Anderson
May 10th - John Tessmann
May 17th - Brian Knight
May 24th - (9am) Bill Reneau
May 31st - (9am) Colleen
Bolchen

10:30 AM

May 3rd - Colleen Bolchen
May 10th - Kate Mathison
May 17th - Ethan Habeck
May 24th - (see above - 9am)
May 31st - (see above - 9 am)

Safety Team

8:00 AM

10:30 AM

May 3rd - Jason Reiman

Jay Gerke

May 10th - Bill Reneau

Jim Grilley

May 17th - Marshall Reiman

Lenny Bakken

May 24th - (9 am) Dave Olson

May 31st - (9am) Dave Lawrence



MESSAGE *for all* CONGREGANTS

"He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior . . ." (Titus 3:5b-6)

Have you ever thought someone was hopeless?

That was the question the Apostle Paul faced as he sent one of his students, a man named Titus, to the island of Crete. Crete is the fourth largest island of the Mediterranean. It's directly south of the Aegean Sea. For as exotic as that sounds, it did not make the NY Times list of "The Best Places to Raise Your Children." In fact, the corruption and laziness of the place became the stuff of popular sayings. Paul states it plainly for Titus. "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons. This testimony is true." (Titus 1:12b-13a). To look at Crete, most would write it off as a lost cause. But Paul and Titus saw something different. They saw potential. They saw people for whom Christ died, people who were worthy of God's rescue.

Paul encouraged Titus to get right to work. Show them God's purpose to save the human race. Teach people to see one another as made in God's image. Sternly discipline those who need it. Deal straightforwardly with those wrestling with addiction. Work with those whom you have access to - namely the women, the young men and the slaves. This is a big job. After all, how do you eat an elephant? Answer: One bite at a time.

Facing this huge task, Paul reminds Titus not to write anyone off. Paul tells him to be honest with himself. We all begin this life from the same place - as sinners. "At one time, we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures . . ." (Titus 3:3). Because of His mercy, "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior . . ." (Titus 3:5b-6).

The church at Crete started, as people began to experience the grace of God. We all need to be scrubbed clean. God washes us through the work of the Holy Spirit, loving us so much as to say, "You're a mess, but you are worth saving. See, I give myself for you."

Person by person, they became "church", this mysterious community that cares about and for each other - a community full of joy.

I have experienced God's amazing grace and the joy it brings from your hands. Your life experiences, your God-given wisdom, your talent, your willingness to spend time around a table, your hard work, your care and thoughtfulness have brought so much joy to so many.


This summer, let's sharpen our skills in bringing God's blessing and joy to our neighbors that they will know that God is good - all the time!

May we all Keep and Live the Faith!

Pastor Dave Dahl



Seasons, Surprises, and God's Steady Hand



Psalm 74:17 - "It was you who set all the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter."

Happy May! Spring is in full swing - flowers are popping up, birds are singing their hearts out, and suddenly, the world seems brighter... and messier (thank you, pollen!). Psalm 74:17 reminds us that God is the ultimate organizer of this beautiful chaos. He set the boundaries of the earth and carefully orchestrated the seasons - summer and winter, growth and rest, sun and rain.

Isn't it comforting to know that the same God who manages the vast universe also holds your life in His hands? Just as we don't get to skip winter, we don't always get to rush through the hard times, but just as winter gives way to spring, God's timing brings growth, renewal, and unexpected joys. Even in moments of uncertainty, He is quietly at work, preparing something beautiful just beneath the surface, where we cannot yet see.

This month, as we celebrate Mother's Day, graduations, and longer days of sunlight, let's remember to pause and notice the little miracles around us:

the first bees on the blossoms,
the green buds on trees, the
laughter of family and friends.

Staying in touch with God through prayer, worship, or simply noticing His handiwork helps us stay grounded in His love, even in the busiest or messiest of days. When we slow down, we often discover that His presence has been there all along, gently guiding and sustaining us.

So, whether you're planting flowers, dusting off your sandals, or enjoying a cup of coffee in the sunshine, take a moment to smile and say, "Thanks, God - for the seasons, the surprises, and the steady hand guiding us through it all."

May you all each day, spot one small blessing - a flower, a smile, a song - and thank God for it! And may your heart be continually lifted by the quiet assurance that you are deeply known, faithfully loved, and never walking alone.

Have a blessed spring!



MAY

2026

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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<p>3 - COMMUNION & Guest Speaker</p> <p>8 am Worship</p> <p>9:15 am Coffee & Education Hour</p> <p>10:30 am Worship</p> <p>12:30 pm Liberty Village</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9 am Small Group with Pr. Dave</p> <p>6 pm Small Group with Bill & Deb Rice</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8 am Quilting Group</p> <p>9 am EBS & Prayer Meeting (taking new members)</p> <p>6:30 pm Small Group with Dave & Cyndy Hall</p>	<p>6 - COMMUNION</p> <p>1 pm Book Club & Missions</p> <p>4:30 pm Praise Team</p> <p>6 pm Worship</p> <p>6:45 pm Confirmation Class</p>	<p>7</p> <p>1:30 pm Miriam Circle</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:30 am Mother's Day Brunch</p>
<p>10</p> <p>8 am Worship</p> <p>9:15 am Coffee & Final Education Hour</p> <p>10:30 am Worship</p> <p>12:30 pm Liberty Village</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9 am Small Group with Pr. Dave</p> <p>9 am Rebekah-Ruth Circle</p> <p>6 pm Small Group w/ Bill & Deb Rice</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8 am Quilting Group</p> <p>9 am EBS & Prayer Meeting (taking new members)</p> <p>6:30 pm Small Group (Hall family)</p> <p>7 pm Council Meeting</p>	<p>13</p> <p>4:30 pm Praise Team</p> <p>6 pm Worship</p> <p>6:45 pm Final Confirmation Class</p> <p>7 pm Dorcas Circle</p>	<p>14</p> <p>1 pm Esther-Rachel and Sarah Circles</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 - COMMUNION</p> <p>8 am Worship</p> <p>9:15 am Coffee Hour</p> <p>10:30 am Worship</p> <p>12:30 pm Liberty Village</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9 am Small Group with Pr. Dave</p> <p>6 pm Small Group with Bill & Deb Rice</p> <p>RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8 am Quilting Group</p> <p>9 am EBS & Prayer Meeting (taking new members)</p> <p>6:30 pm Small group with Dave & Cyndy Hall</p>	<p>20 - COMMUNION</p> <p>4:30 pm Praise Team</p> <p>6 pm Baccalaureate Service for Graduates</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <p>9 AM Worship Resumes until September</p> <p>10:45 am Liberty Village Worship</p>	<p>25</p> <p>MEMORIAL DAY</p> <p>THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED TODAY</p>	<p>26</p> <p>8 am Quilting Group</p> <p>9 am EBS & Prayer Meeting (taking new members)</p> <p>6:30 pm Small Group with Dave & Cyndy Hall</p>	<p>27</p> <p>4:30 pm Praise Team</p> <p>6 pm Worship</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31</p> <p>9 am Worship & Guest Speakers Stacy and Uptal Saha</p> <p>10:45 am Liberty Village Worship</p>						

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Deb Rice, Worship Leader		

GLORIA DEI COUNCIL

- *Bill Reneau (President)*
- *Jim Grilley (Vice-President)*
- *Jane Tessmann (Secretary)*
- *David O. Hall*
- *Ethan Habeck*
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- *Greta Rice*
- *Shelly Griffin*
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- *Jody Kiel (Treasurer)*



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