

# GLC NEWSLETTER

May Edition 2009



## Georgetown Lutheran Church

1556 Wisconsin Avenue NW

Washington, DC 20007

Office: 202-337-9070

Church Web Site:

[georgetownlutheran.com](http://georgetownlutheran.com)

Church Email:

[georgetownlutheranchurch@gmail.com](mailto:georgetownlutheranchurch@gmail.com)

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday-Friday, 10am-3pm.

If you cannot reach Pastor Gaines at the church office, please contact him by calling his cell phone number: 703-862-5336.

## WORSHIP SERVICE UPDATE

Beginning May 24, GLC will go to a one-service schedule until the fall. Between May 24 and September 13, please join us at 10:00am for the Service of Holy Communion. Thank you.

## Week of May 3 and beyond

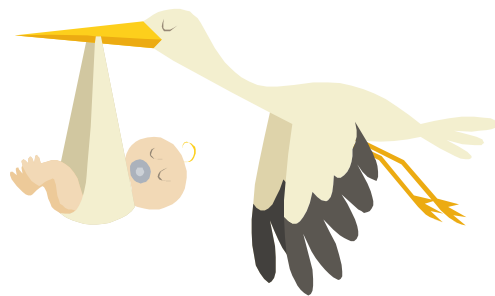
- ✚ May 8 & 9: Pastor G attends the Metro DC Synod Assembly on Friday and Saturday at the Kellogg Center, Gallaudet University.
- ✚ May 10: Sunday services at 8:30, 10:00am & 5pm. Special Sunday school activities to be held (weather permitting) at the Meditation Garden on Volta Place. During the 10:00 service, Diane Alexis DeGrood Morrison will be baptized.
- ✚ May 10: Final Sunday school until the fall.
- ✚ May 12: Church Council Meeting & Dinner – 7:15pm.

## GLC WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Sunday, April 29, the congregation received the following people into full church membership:

- **Eric Atlas**
- **Charles Bearden**
- **Sara Kaufman**
- **Emily Parkhurst**
- **Erika Romsos**
- **Bret & Lauryn Schothorst**
- **Jill Schwartz**
- **Joanna Ward**

**BABIES JUST KEEP ON COMING! (“IS THERE SOMETHING IN THE WATER?”)**



You could say that there is something in the water...BAPTISMAL WATER...that is.

The Second Sunday of Easter, Pastor G baptized Caleb Miller, son of Angela Armstrong and Scott Miller.

Two weeks later, he baptized Alexander Duggan, son of Jill Pederson and Brian Duggan.

Next Sunday, Mother's Day, he will baptize Alexis Morrison, daughter of Cindy DeGrood Morrison and Peter Morrison.

And, there are more baptisms to come. THANKS BE TO GOD!



LET US PRAY...  
FOR THESE AND ALL OTHERS NOT LISTED:

Victims of the Swine Flu  
Victims of all natural disasters  
Victims of the AIDS/HIV virus  
Our Military stateside and overseas  
Friends and family of GLC family living in other parts of  
the world:

- ❖ Lori Forman
- ❖ Mark Fry
- ❖ Ken & Teresa Holzman
- ❖ Bryan Hunt
- ❖ Rubye Kelley
- ❖ Peter & Jennifer Mitchell
- ❖ Mark Robbins
- ❖ Michael Solberg
- ❖ Wallace Whitworth

Those who are suffering from illness:

- ❖ Karin Burchard
  - ❖ Clara Diefenbach
  - ❖ Tom Schwartz
  - ❖ Juanita Ward
- ❖ May God protect and keep them in his loving and caring hands.

AMEN!





## **Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity**

**Are you ready to change lives and strengthen a family?**

**Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity helps individuals achieve greater economic independence through the building of decent, simple, affordable homes. You can help the Nations Capital Thrivent Chapter help a local family facing critical housing needs! GLC has adopted May 23 to go to the Habitat house and work with other members and friends of GLC and the Lutheran community to work on the house. You are always welcome to go to the site on other days to volunteer! The house is located at:  
307 54th Street NE Washington, DC 20019.**

**The Thrivent Builds Homes Program with Habitat for Humanity will help 314 families' open doors to new lives in 2009. Since 2005, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, through its alliance with habitat for Humanity, has given more than 1,000 families the opportunity to build and own their own decent, affordable home. If you are interested in joining the number of people that have already volunteered, please contact David Lippe at 202-365-3924 or email him at [lippedk@aol.com](mailto:lippedk@aol.com). We look forward to seeing you all there!**

### **GLC MEMBERS & FRIENDS RAISE WALLS!**

**May 2nd we enjoyed the wall rising of the Thrivent Builds house. We had a great turn out of volunteers working on the house as well as people enjoying the dedication. We will need 20 volunteers that day! We begin at 9:00 am and we end at 4 pm. If you cannot stay the entire day, you are more then welcome to stay as long as you can. The address and directions will be emailed to you, or they are on the sideboard in the hall leading to the fellowship hall.**

**During the month of June, we will be taking a collection for the remaining amount that needs to be raised by all the congregations in DC and Northern Virginia. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the builds site.**

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### **BULLETIN BLOOPER (not GLC)**

*The Pastor will preach his farewell message after which the choir will sing: "Break Forth Into Joy."*

# CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY

## RESULTS COMING SOON!

Last fall the congregation participated in a church survey. Since October, we've been waiting for the results of that survey. Last week, GLC survey coordinator Robert Luke received the following letter pertaining to the findings.



Dear U.S. Congregational Life Survey Coordinator:

We will soon be ready to send you results from your congregation's surveys. We apologize for the unexpected delay. Our programmers ran into a few problems designing a system to handle data from hundreds of thousands of surveys and produce customized reports for the thousands of congregations participating in the U.S. Congregational Life Survey. But they are wrapping up their work now, and we will be producing reports and shipping them to you soon. Please bear with us. Your congregation will receive online access to your results and the following resources by mail:

- Three reports that summarize the responses of your worshipers and compare their responses to those of worshipers across the U.S.
- Two DVDs, two books, and leader guides that will help you and others in the congregation understand your summary reports and use them for the good of the congregation.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at 1-888-728-7228 ext. 2040, or [research@pcusa.org](mailto:research@pcusa.org).

Sincerely,  
Deborah Bruce  
Joelle Anderson  
Hilary Harris  
U.S. Congregational Life Survey

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### ANOTHER NOT-FROM-GLC BULLETIN BLOOPER

*Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10IS.  
ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall  
after the B. S. is done.*

*All*



## **DC AIDS RIDE – SEPTEMBER 10-13**

Dear friends and family,

On September 10 through the 13th, 2009, I will once again be riding in the New York City to Washington, DC Aids Ride, which is approximately 330 miles. Last year was my first year, and it was such a great experience that I can't wait to do it again! Many of us have lost friends and loved ones to AIDS over the years, and currently know many people infected with HIV and AIDS.

With the economy as it is makes this an even more important year to raise funds through this ride since there have been cuts in federal and local government budgets for HIV / AIDS research. This epidemic is far from over: there is still a dire need for HIV and AIDS research dollars. This ride was developed last year and continues again this year to raise money for the next phase of laboratory research by noted virologist Dr. Yuntao Wu and his team at George Mason University in Virginia. Please go to <http://gazette.gmu.edu/articles/12369> for more information about Dr. Wu and his research. He has made some crucial breakthroughs this last year and one of the five papers he wrote has been published world wide in distinguished publications like Cell Magazine. In this paper, he addresses new understandings of how the HIV / AIDS virus attacks the human immune system.

The goal of this ride is to raise \$200,000 to sponsor Dr. Wu's ongoing research; it is believed that he is on the path to finding a cure.

I have pledged to raise a minimum of \$2,500.00, but I cannot meet this exciting goal without your generosity. If you are able to donate financially, make your check out to: **Day 2 Inc.** Mail you check to: Valentine Garcia, 53 Seaton Place NW, Washington, DC 20001.

Please be sure to make your check out to Day 2 Inc and clearly write Valentine Garcia on the lower left hand side of your check. You may also donate online by going to the website [www.nycdc.org](http://www.nycdc.org) click on the donate tab at the top of the page and enter Valentine Garcia under Participant's Name. All donations are tax deductible. Please be assured that your personal information when making donations will not be sold or given to any other organization.

If you are unable to give financially, your thoughts and prayers will be greatly appreciated also!

I have been riding as much as I can during the winter to prepare for this event, and I appreciate any support you can give to help me raise awareness and funds in the fight against HIV / AIDS.

Gratefully,

Valentine Garcia

## **ELCA NEWS**

### **❖ AIDS/HIV LETTER WRITING CAMPAIGN**

The ELCA is a member of Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA), an international network of churches and church-related organizations committed to campaigning together on common concerns. The EAA has launched a resource guide, "*Prescription for Life*" that encourages active engagement to help children living with HIV. The guide provides information and resources for schools, families, faith groups and communities to empower young people to write letters to pharmaceutical companies, governments to improve testing, and treatment for infants and children living with HIV.

Because people with AIDS / HIV know GLC for its outreach, we have been asked to participate in a children's letter writing campaign.

The EAA plans to display copies of the letters at the United Nations on the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child that will be celebrated on November 20, 2009 - Universal Children's Day. More details can be found in the attached English version of the guide.

Anyone interested in organizing the letter writing campaign are encouraged to log on to <http://www.e-alliance.ch> for more information, or contact Patty Ruffner, Administrative Assistant, Program Unit for Church in Society  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
9625 Perry Hwy | Pittsburgh, PA 15237  
(O) 412/367-7575 | (F) 412/369-8840

### **❖ SEMINARY BECOMES *RECONCILING IN CHRIST***

After prayerful contemplation and deliberate consultation with the seminary community, including graduates, friends, students, faculty and staff, the Board of Directors of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary voted to affirm the following welcoming statement:

"Welcome to PLTS, a seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a faith and learning community dedicated to excellence in theological education for developing leaders for the church in the world. Our beautiful location, dynamic faculty, cutting-edge curriculum, closely-knit community and membership in the Graduate Theological Union, provide a unique setting for engaging issues of Christian faith, discipleship, and the communication of the gospel to a world in need of truly good news.

"PLTS is an inclusive community and offers hospitality to all who participate in our programs of study. As disciples of Christ committed to public leadership among God's people in diverse and challenging cultural contexts, we eagerly learn from and welcome one another's diversity, including, but not limited to, theological perspective, race,

ethnicity, nationality, gender identity, relationship status, age, physical ability, social and economic status and sexual orientation."

Along with the adoption of this statement, the PLTS Board has voted to seek designation as a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) seminary. In so doing, PLTS would join 23 synods, 360 congregations and 17 other organizations of the ELCA in affiliating with RIC. Reconciling in Christ, a program of Lutherans Concerned / North America (LC/NA), was started in 1984 to recognize Lutheran congregations that welcome gay and lesbian believers. The RIC program does not specifically address questions regarding the ordination or marriage of openly gay, lesbian, bisexual or trans-gendered persons.

PLTS President Phyllis Anderson said, "Joining this program is consistent with our vision statement: 'Led by the light of Christ, PLTS is called to embody the Church's bold and effective engagement with vital issues in an inter-faith and multi-cultural context with a strong Lutheran voice.'"

Gary Andeen, PLTS Board Chair, said, "The PLTS community has been quietly living and learning together faithfully in the midst of the church's disagreements about sexual orientation for a long time. With this decision, PLTS will now be living openly with that faithful disagreement. Please join the seminary in praying that this community's tolerance for one another's opinions will be as sincere and loving in the future as it has been in the past."

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### **IN CASE, YOU FORGOT...**

Just because Pastor G doesn't BEG people anymore to sign-up for Service Participation opportunities, don't get the impression that your services are not needed.

The 10:00 service can use your skills in reading, greeting, and serving. So sign-up, call the church office to volunteer, or let Pastor G know personally that you are willing to try.

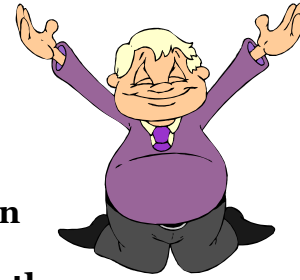
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### **THE FINAL NOT-FROM-GLC BULLETIN BLOOPER**

*The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: "I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours."*

## **A FINAL WORD...**

**Greetings to you in the name of our Risen Lord,  
Jesus Christ.**



**The word “money” appears in the Bible more than 100 times...over 30 in the Gospels alone. Yet, any reference to money from the pulpit, in a letter from the pastor, church treasurer or financial secretary, brings a chill to our senses and cause for us to hold our breath. Certainly, this is even truer during economic hardships. Nevertheless, the subject of my “A Final Word” is money!**

**First, a thousand THANK YOU’s to all who have lived up to your personal promises of financial giving. Whether you give weekly, monthly, bi-annually, or even once a year, your THANK OFFERINGS benefit this congregation and its mission to serving others. Since the Congregational meeting in March, here’s what your financial gifts have supported:**

- 1. Building improvements:
  - a. Church office air conditioner**
  - b. Rear sidewalk step repair**
  - c. Electrical repairs in fellowship hall & sanctuary**
  - d. Window repairs****
- 2. Loan payments on the organ and kitchen debts**
- 3. Children’s Sunday school supplies**
- 4. Worship supplies**
- 5. ELCA & Metro DC Synod benevolence**
- 6. Gas, Electric, Telephone, and Insurance payments**
- 7. Payroll for GLC staff**

**The list is much longer, but I hope from a short list you get the picture that your financial giving is not taken for granted and very much appreciated.**

**Truly, in these hard economic times, GLC has only to THANK GOD for the very generous donations you, the family of GLC, have provided this year already. With them, we can continue to work for our Lord’s mission in this community.**

**Yours in Christ:  
Pastor Phillip Gaines**