Check us out at facebook.com/gloriadeionline. Follow us at twitter/gloriadeionline.

Bringing Jesus Christ to people for

Jan. 28-29, 2012 | Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

the first time and for a lifetime!

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church | www.gloriadeionline.com | 515-276-1700

Call to Connect

by Pastor Phil Robarge, Associate Pastor and Director of Adult Ministry

Jesus said, "I am the vine you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5

God has called each one of us into a relationship. God is a relational God who has been in close contact with his people throughout the generations. When God broke into our world by sending his son Jesus, the message was the same. Jesus broke down the purpose of life in two short commandments—love God and love people. Life boiled down to two statements, it should be easy to follow, right?

Even though these commandments are wonderful, concise and simple, living out these commandments is not an easy task. It is difficult to love people at times, don't you think? How about that annoying relative who adamantly challenges your beliefs. And to make matters worse, he just bought a house a few blocks away from yours! Do I really need to love him like Christ loves the church?

I believe we cannot even fulfill these two simple commandments without major heart alterations from someone greater than ourselves—our relational Lord. In other words, I cannot really love until I see, hear, taste, touch, understand, a love greater than myself. That is why it is so important to remain in him, connected to him.

And it is also important to get connected to the body of Christ, a divinely-created environment pointing believers as well as unbelievers to God's love. It's a place where we can spur each other toward good works, encourage each other with kind words, and support each other when troubles come. Living life together is the way that God intended the body to live.

So this week, let's ponder these questions: How can we better connect to the body of Christ? How can the body of Christ at Gloria Dei be more intentional about living life together? What ways can you help those around you? What ways will you allow people to help you?

Small groups

Small groups are not a new concept. During the first two centuries of the Christian era, church buildings did not exist. Instead the believers met in house churches where close relationships flourished, helping them withstand the persecution. Even though most of us do not face persecution in the middle of the heartland, we do face discouragement, bewilderment and other challenges. Wouldn't it be awesome if we had a group of individuals who could pray, give an encouraging word, or advice when we hit those rough spots in life? We need each other. And in a large congregation, we need the safety net of a small group that will help us to fully learn how to deal with life's complex issues.

We are beginning a new wave of small groups starting Feb. 4-5 through Easter, April 7-8. Each group will meet weekly for approximately 60-90 minutes to build friendships and to discuss the message series, "The Life of Jesus According to Mark." Give a small group a try by contacting Pastor Robarge at probarge@gloriadeionline.com.

Take a few minutes for a survey

Saturday, Jan. 28-Monday, Feb. 6 - The Governing Board wants to hear from the members at Gloria Dei to help them understand each member's point of view. Understanding the congregation will aid them in mapping out a plan for the future. So, whether you voted yes, no or didn't vote at all on last month's comprehensive plan vote, please fill out the survey this week.

- Go to our Web site at www.gloriadeionline.com and click on the survey link.
- Visit the Welcome Centers to pick up a hard copy of the survey. Completed surveys can be placed in the "Survey" envelope at both Welcome Centers.



Family event Sunday, January 29 at 3 p.m. Come watch "Courageous" at the Family Life Center. It's free! So, bring your family, blankets, pillows or beanbag chairs (or sit on one of our chairs). Popcorn and soda will be served. Childcare will be available in the nursery.

Share the heat campaign

Provide warmth for the homeless by making a financial donation today at the display in the



Narthex or on our Web site. A donation of \$20 will supply heat for one week. A donation of \$80 will provide heat for a month.

Offering envelopes

If you have not already picked up your offering envelope, please do so in the church office during the following times:

Sunday (between services) M-F (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

Mid-year financial update

The following update conveys our financial standing for the first half of our fiscal year ending June 30, 2012. All data as of December 31, 2011 are listed below.

Giving offering compared to prior year:

Offering income shows an increase of \$31,229, or 3.76 percent compared to the first half of the prior year.

Jul '10 - Jun '11	Jul '11 - Jun '12	Difference +/-	% Incr/-Decr
831,090	862,319	31,229	3.76%

Budgeted giving offering:

Offering income shows a decrease of \$69,681, or 7.48 percent of our estimated budget.

Jul '11 - Jun '12	Budgeted	Over/Under	% Incr/-Decr
862,319	932,000	(69,681)	-7.48%

Total income compared to prior year:

Total income, which includes giving, preschool tuition, building usage fees and other small revenue items, shows an increase of \$34,969, or 3.79 percent compared to the first half of the prior year.

Jul '10 - Jun '11	Jul '11 - Jun '12	Difference +/-	% Incr/-Decr
922,903	957,872	34,969	3.79%

Budgeted total income:

Total income shows a decrease of \$65,313, or 6.38 percent of our estimated budget.

Jul '11 - Jun '12	Budgeted	Over/Under	% Incr/-Decr
957,872	1,023,185	(65,313)	-6.38%

Expenses compared to prior year:

Expenses show a decrease of \$3,585, or 0.42 percent compared to the first half of the prior year.

Jul '10 - Jun '11	Jul '11 - Jun '12	Difference +/-	% Incr/-Decr
853,269	849,684	(3,585)	-0.42%

Budgeted expenses:

Expenses show a decrease of \$87,131, or 9.30 percent of our estimated budget.

Jul '11 - Jun '12	Budgeted	Over/Under	% Incr/-Decr
849,684	936,816	(87,131)	-9.30%

Additional information:

The budgeted numbers above are estimations based on several factors including but not limited to: prior year historical data, pledge commitments, recurring electronic fund transfers (EFT's) and online transactions, as well as current and future economic data. When income is less than budgeted, expenses are decreased throughout all ministry departments due to cash flow constraints. If you have any questions, please contact Bill Jesse, Executive Director, at 278-5544, ext. 217.

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Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

8301 Aurora Ave.

Urbandale, Iowa 50322

515-276-1700

Church office hours:

Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Rev. Ronald Burcham Senior Pastor rburcham@gloriadeionline.com

Rev. Timothy Phillips Director of Congregational Care tphillips@gloriadeionline.com

Rev. Philip Robarge Director of Adult Ministry probarge@gloriadeionline.com

Governing Board govboard@gloriadeionline.com

For a complete staff listing: go to our Web site at: www.gloriadeionline.com

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Gloria Dei's Book Club

Please plan to join us Wednesday, Feb. 1 at 6:15 p.m. in the Cry Room to discuss Karen Kingsbury's book, "Even Now."

Summary: With hallmark tenderness and power, Karen Kingsbury weaves a tapestry of lives, losses, love, and faith and the miracle of resurrection. Sometimes hope for the future is found in the ashes of yesterday.

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism on Sunday, Jan. 29, at the 9 a.m. worship service in the Sanctuary is for:



Caylie Marie Martinson born on June 23, 2011 to Lance and Suzanne (nee Brittain) Martinson. Caylie's spiritual sponsors are Keith and Beverly Brittain, and Gary and Debra Martinson.

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism on Sunday, Jan. 29 at the 10:30 a.m. worship service in the Sanctuary is for:



Skylar Erin Sturgill born on Jan. 30, 2011 to Doug and Marissa (nee Magden) Sturgill. Skylar's spiritual sponsors are Shawn and Shannan Magden.

Discovery 201

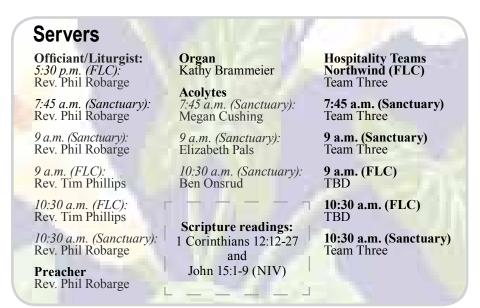
Sunday, Feb. 12, from 3-6:30 p.m. If you are transferring from another Lutheran church or have taken the Discovery 101 class, join us for an interactive event. You'll meet the staff, get an overview of our ministry, meet and talk to each other and enjoy a delicious meal. Register by going to the adult page on our Web site at www.gloriade-ionline.com. If childcare is needed, please indicate this when you register.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

The deadline for designating Thrivent Choice Dollars for 2011 is March 31, 2012. If a member misses the deadline, the dollars do not roll over into the new year. To designate your Choice Dollars, call 1-800-847-4836. When the automated message requests how you can be helped, respond, "Thrivent Choice." For the second request, respond "Choice Dollars." Then you will speak directly to an individual to designate the recipient of your "Choice Dollars."

Thank you

We wish to thank the Gloria Dei family for their prayers and concerns for our granddaughter, Katie Wollslager. She had a major neurosurgical procedure performed in December. Thankfully she has had a remarkable recovery and now has returned to a rather normal activity pattern with her high school senior class. Your prayers and best wishes are truly appreciated. ~ Jim and Betty Wollslager



Let's pray!

Prayer requests can be made on the back of the "Welcome" card located in the pews. Please indicate your prayer request and place the card in the offering plate. We have both e-mail and phone prayer chains available. Call Pastor Phillips in the church office, 276-1700, or Diane Young between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 993-3870 with your request.

Prayers

For the health of:

- Brenda Barron
- Addison Blythe
- Tom and Carol Beedle
- Roesella Kretzschmer
- Emma Anderson
- Katie Wollslager
- Sue Anderson
- Shirley Disney
- Rudy Petersen
- Bob McCleary
- Stan Knapp
- Valerie Cook
- Jennifer Ohrart

And for:

• For our military

Prayer ministry

To join the prayer ministry team, e-mail Pastor Phillips at: tphillips@gloriadeionline.com. with your name, e-mail address and phone number.

Playgroup

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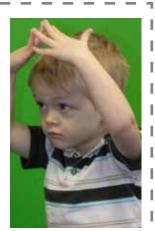
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Join us for Tiny Treasures' Playgroup! Playgroup is for children ages 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 and will meet Friday mornings from 9-11:30 a.m. beginning Feb. 3. The small class size and Christian, nurturing environment provide a smooth transition into preschool. Cost is \$50 per month.



Register online or contact Jo Lynn Yeutsy at 278-5544, ext. 305.

Micah Morton learns hand motions during a music session.

Register today at www.gloriadeionline.com

Ways to receive support

We all experience rough seasons in life. During those challenging times, it is imperative to be able to share your burden with people whom you trust. Our Congregational Care Ministry has several avenues to help individuals face those rough times —together and not alone.

Care Night - If you are hurting, grieving, or needing extra support, please consider Care Night. We'll eat together, and then meet in small groups to discuss, pray, learn and experience God's heart for our lives. For more information, call the church office at 276-1700.

Stephen Ministry - Stephen Ministers are trained individuals who can walk beside you during difficult times. So, whether

you are facing loneliness, loss of a spouse, retirement changes, unemployment, discouragement, childbirth, hospitalization, divorce, grief, terminal illness or family-related stress issues, please contact Pastor Phillips at tphillips@gloriadeionline.com or call 276-1700.



With your permission, he will assign you a caring Stephen Minister. All conversations are completely confidential.

Gloria Dei Quilters

Saturday, Feb. 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Whether you're making a quilt for someone special or donating it to a mission project, you'll be amazed at how much you can get done with friends. Contact: Karen Hoff at Karenrhoff@hotmail. com or at 278-6655.

Scrapbook fellowship

Friday, Feb. 10 from 8:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Take advantage of this month's Scrapbook Fellowship to finish those special valentines or make a gift of memories for a special person in your life. For more information, contact Deb Kesse at 251-8324. If you need childcare, contact Carol Wenndt by Wednesday, Feb. 8 at 306-4352 (phone or text) with the date, times (start and finish) as well as the number of children.

LWML

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Ruth Circle will meet Monday, Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. at the home of Elaine Mueller, 3205 Mary Lynn Dr., Urbandale.

Mary Esther Circle will meet Thursday, Feb. 9 at 9 a.m. at the home of Melva Wenndt, 3601 Western Hills Dr., West Des Moines.

Naomi Circle will not meet Thursday, Feb. 9, but instead will help feed the youth at Freedom for Youth on Monday, Feb. 6. If you would like to help, please contact Janet Strachan at 965-0708.

Ways to help

Urbandale Food Pantry - Please consider donating laundry detergent in February to the "Food Pantry" bin in the Narthex.

Honduras Mission - Additional items needed in February for the Honduras mission are hydrocortisone, antifungal, diaper-rash, vaginal and hemorrhoidal cream. Please place items in the "Honduras" bin in the Narthex.

Freedom for Youth - Freedom for Youth is in need of an under-the-cabinet microwave and a working refrigerator. If you have one to donate, contact Denise at 282-4822.

Honduras mission trip

Saturday, June 30 - Saturday, July 7, 2012: Gloria Dei is forming a team to help with evangelism, children's ministry, general medical, dentistry and pharmacy to the impoverished in Honduras. Work may also include optometry and chiropractic services. For more information, contact Bill Clark at 491-8543.

News



Senior high (9-12)

Bible Study Sunday at 9 a.m.

Jan. 29: Join us for discussion on "Call to Connect."

The Point - Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

Join us Wednesdays in January as we discuss the theme "Relate." This theme will focus on how to relate to the opposite sex and the Bible.

Training Ground - Sunday, Jan. 29, 2012

We start the evening with small groups (6-7:15 p.m.) and then enjoy games and hang-out time (7:15-8:30 p.m.).

30-Hour Famine

Join us June 8-9, 2012. Together we can save lives.

Midweek meal

Wednesdays from 5-5:45 p.m.

Enjoy a meal with the entire family of Gloria Dei. Cost is \$5 per adult, \$2.50 per child or youth (2 years and under eat free).

Feb. 1: Deli Night

Mount Olive Lutheran School

Mt. Olive offers a top-notch quality education in a Christ-centered learning environment that is accredited by the state of Iowa and the National Lutheran School Accreditation Commission and is currently enrolling students for the 2012/13 academic year. If you would like to receive more information, contact the office at 277-8349 or e-mail the principal Cory Emily at cory. emily@molcs.org.

Does God Really Hear Me (2nd Grade)

Contact: Tim Kightlinger

Junior high (6-8)

"Call to Connect."

various topics.

Castaway - Sunday 9 & 10:30 a.m.

Jan. 29: Join us for discussion on

Small Group - Wednesday from

meet in small groups to discuss

April 13-15 - Don't forget about

rehearsals Sunday from 12-2 p.m.

Dinner theater

6-7:15 p.m. Students in grades 6-8

tim@gloriadeionline.com

Sunday, Feb. 5, 2012 from 1-2 p.m.

All second graders and a parent are invited to attend this lively event focused on prayer! We'll play games and have a blast learning how to pray and be reminded that God always hears us! Space limited to 12 families.

The Wave

Sunday, Feb. 19, 2012 from 3-4:30 p.m.

We're going bowling! We'll meet at Merle Hay Lanes inside Merle Hay Mall from 3-4:30 p.m. to bowl a couple of games, eat pizza and have a blast together. Cost is \$10 per person to bowl and rent shoes.

DivorceCare for children

Begins Thursday, Feb. 23 from 6:30-8 p.m.

Children whose parents are going through a divorce are invited to DC4K (DivorceCare for kids) from Feb. 23-March 29. They are also invited to join the CareNight meal at 6 p.m. To register, call the church office at 276-1700 or e-mail Pastor Phillips at tphillips@gloriadeionline.com.

Spring break VBS

Monday, March 19 to Wednesday, March 21

Join us for three mornings of Vacation Bible School during spring break! We'll meet for non-stop fun and learning. Monday, March 19 to Wednesday, March 21 from 9-11:30 a.m. No cost for this fun time. Appropriate for ages 3-11.

Week of January 28-February 4, 2012

Saturday,	January 28
9:00 a.m.	Knead to Loaf Bread Making
5:30 p.m.	Northwind Worship Service in the
	Family Life Center
5:50 p.m.	Grace Place
Sunday, Ja	inuary 29
7:45 a.m.	Traditional Worship Service in
	Sanctuary
9:00 a.m.	Traditional Blend Worship Service in
	Sanctuary
9:00 a.m.	Casual Contemporary Worship Service
	in Family Life Center
9:00 a.m.	Senior High Bible Study
9:10 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
9:20 a.m.	Castaway
9:20 a.m.	Grace Place
9:20 a.m.	Lifelight Bible Study
10:15 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
10:30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship Service
	in Sanctuary
10:30 a.m.	H3 Worship Service in Family Life
	Center
10:50 a.m.	Castaway
10:50 a.m.	Grace Place
12:00 p.m.	Carilloneurs
12:00 p.m.	
3:00 p.m.	The Movie: Courageous
6:00 p.m.	Senior High Training Ground

Monday, January 30

9:30 a.m.	Mom's Bible Study
9:30 a.m.	Women's Bible Connections
6:30 p.m.	Women's Bible Connections
6:30 p.m.	Stephen Ministry Training

Tuesday, January 31

1:00 p.m.	Directors' Meeting
2:00 p.m.	Worship Planning Meeting
2:30 p.m.	Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study
3:00 p.m.	ICA Archery Training

Worship (Jan. 21-22)	Attendance	Communion
Northwind	219	134
7:45 a.m.	83	
9 a.m. (Sanctuary)	283	
9 a.m. (FLC)	20	9
10:30 a.m (Sanctuary)	258	
10:30 a.m. (FLC)	64	22
Total	927	165

Tuesday, January 31 (continued)

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5:00 p.m.	Kindermusik Young Child
6:00 p.m.	Beginning Dance
6:00 p.m.	Kindermusik Our Time
6:30 p.m.	Financial Peace University
6:45 p.m.	Kindermusik Imagine That
6:45 p.m.	Creative Dance
7:00 p.m.	Encourage Each Other Study
Wednesday	/, February 1
10:00 a.m.	Pastor's Bible Study
5:00 p.m.	Midweek Meal
6:00 p.m.	Faith Alive
6:00 p.m.	Junior High Small Groups
6:00 p.m.	Senior High - The Point
6:15 p.m.	Marriage Love and Respect Study
6:15 p.m.	Alleluia Ringers
6:15 p.m.	Book Club
6:30 p.m.	Gloria Dei Chorale
7:30 p.m.	Quest for Authentic Manhood
Thursday, I	February 2
6:30 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
10:00 a.m.	Joyful Stitchers
2:00 p.m.	Celebration Home School Choir
3:00 p.m.	ICA Archery Training
6:00 p.m.	Care Night Meal
6:00 p.m.	Girlz of Faith
6:30 p.m.	Divorce Care
6:30 p.m.	Stepping Stones
6:30 p.m.	Discovery 101
6:30 p.m.	Men's Basketball

Friday, February 3

9:30 a.m. MOM's Club of West Des Moines

Saturday, February 4

5:30 p.m.	Northwind Worship Service in the
	Family Life Center
5:50 p.m.	Grace Place

Outpouring of Love (Jan. 22-28)			
General Fund Offerings	\$18,360		
3rd QTD Offering	\$101,081		
3rd QTD Budget	\$121,000		

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.—2 Corinthians 9:7

Week of February 4-11, 2012

Saturday, February 4			
5:30 p.m.	Northwind Worship Service in the		
	Family Life Center		
5:50 p.m.	Grace Place		
Sunday, Fe	bruary 5		
7:45 a.m.	Traditional Worship Service in		
	Sanctuary with Communion		
9:00 a.m.	Traditional Blend Worship Service in		
	Sanctuary with Communion		
9:00 a.m.	Casual Contemporary Worship Service		
	in Family Life Center		
9:00 a.m.	Senior High Bible Study		
9:10 a.m.	Adult Bible Study		
9:20 a.m.	Castaway		
9:20 a.m.	Grace Place		
9:20 a.m.	Lifelight Bible Study		
10:15 a.m.	Adult Bible Study		
10:30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship Service		
	in Sanctuary with Communion		
10:30 a.m.	H3 Worship Service in Family Life		
	Center		
10:50 a.m.	Castaway		
10:50 a.m.	Grace Place		
12:00 p.m.	Carilloneurs		
12:00 p.m.	Dinner Theater Rehearsal		
1:00 p.m.	Does God Really Hear Me?		
	Second Grade Event		
6:00 p.m.	BoyZ of Faith		

Monday, February 6

8:00 a.m.	Iowa Dept. of Education
9:30 a.m.	Mom's Bible Study
9:30 a.m.	Women's Bible Connections
1:00 p.m.	Stephen Ministry Supervision
6:30 p.m.	Women's Bible Connections
6:30 p.m.	Stephen Ministry Supervision
6:30 p.m.	Stephen Ministry Training

Tuesday, February 7

- 9:00 a.m. XYZ (Extra Years of Zest) Meeting
- 1:00 p.m. Directors' Meeting
- 2:00 p.m. Worship Planning Meeting
- 2:30 p.m. Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study
- 3:00 p.m. ICA Archery Training

Tuesday, February 7 (continued)

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5:00 p.m. Kindermusik Young Child					
6:00 p.m.	Beginning Dance				
6:00 p.m.	Kindermusik Our Time				
6:30 p.m.	Financial Peace University				
6:45 p.m.	Kindermusik Imagine That				
6:45 p.m.	Creative Dance				
7:00 p.m.	Encourage Each Other Study				
7:00 p.m.	Central Iowa Knitters				
Wednesda	y, February 8				
10:00 a.m.	Pastor's Bible Study				
5:00 p.m.	Midweek Meal				
6:00 p.m.	Faith Alive				
6.00 mm	Junier Lligh Small Croups				

0.00 p.m.	Failli Alive
6:00 p.m.	Junior High Small Groups
6:00 p.m.	Senior High - The Point
6:15 p.m.	Marriage Love and Respect Study
6:15 p.m.	Alleluia Ringers
6:30 p.m.	Gloria Dei Chorale
7:30 p.m.	Quest for Authentic Manhood

Thursday, February 9

6:30 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
10:00 a.m.	Joyful Stitchers
2:00 p.m.	Celebration Home School Choir
3:00 p.m.	ICA Archery Training
6:00 p.m.	Care Night Meal
6:30 p.m.	Divorce Care
6:30 p.m.	Stepping Stones
6:30 p.m.	Men's Basketball

Friday, February 10

8:30 a.m. Scrapbook Fellowship

Saturday, February 11

- 8:30 a.m.Gloria Dei Quilters8:30 a.m.Scrapbook Fellowship
- 5:30 p.m. Northwind Worship Service in the Family Life Center with Communion
- 5:50 p.m. Grace Place

Children's Attendance	Saturday 5:50 p.m.	Sunday 9:20 a.m.	Sunday 10:50 a.m.	Wednesday 6:15 p.m.	Youth Attendance	Sunday	Wednesday
Preschool	16	13	19	26	Junior High	15	71
Elementary	36	38	43	97	Senior High	13	25
Total Children	52	51	62	123	Total Youth	28	96

Welcome to Gloria Dei! We are glad you are here!

Educational time. We value families, so we encourage families to worship together. We will then invite the children to educational time on Saturdays at 5:50 p.m.; and Sundays at 9:20 and 10:50 a.m.

5:30 p.m. Saturday Northwind Contemporary in the Family Life Center

Discover reflection and celebration at this casual Saturday evening worship service. Communion will be offered the second and fourth Saturdays of every month.

7:45 a.m. Sunday Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

This worship service uses organ and piano-led hymns as well as responsive liturgy. Our special music groups also perform on a regular basis. Communion will be offered the first and third Sundays of the month.

9 a.m. Sunday Traditional Blend Worship in the Sanctuary

This worship service uses organ and piano-led hymns and songs as well as responsive liturgy. Our special music groups also perform on a regular basis. Communion will be offered the first and third Sundays of the month.

9 a.m. Sunday Casual Contemporary Worship in the Family Life Center

Geared for those who are casual by nature, this service will offer a balance of highenergy and reflective worship. A pastor will lead the service, and the message will be a simulcast from Saturday night's service. Communion will be offered the second and fourth Sundays of every month

10:30 a.m. H3 Young Family Contemporary Worship in the Family Life Center

Our H3 (Worship with your Head, Heart and Hands) casual service offers an atmosphere in which families are encouraged to worship together. Expect lively praise music, puppets and themed family activities. A pastor will lead the service, and the message will be a simulcast from Saturday night's service. Communion is offered the second and fourth Sundays of every month.

10:30 a.m. Sunday Contemporary Worship in the Sanctuary

Join us in the Sanctuary for high-energy and reflective worship that is awe-inspiring. Communion will be offered the first and third Sundays of every month.

Other important items

Nursery: Infants to age 3. Located on the lower level with access through the doors in the Narthex. The nursery is staffed during all worship services for children ages 3 and under at no cost to the parent.

Cry room: Located in the southwest corner of the Narthex is a room with a full view of the Sanctuary for parents to take their small children when they are upset or crying.

Weekly Bible reading - John 15:1-9 (NIV)

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.

Education times

Children (ages 2- grade 5)

Grace Place Saturdays at 5:50 p.m. Sundays at 9:20 & 10:50 a.m.

> Faith Alive Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

Youth (grades 6-12) Times vary, check page 5.

Adults Times vary, check pages 6-7.

Communion

Communion is offered on the first and third Sundays of each month during the services in the Sanctuary and the second and fourth Saturdays and Sundays during the services in the Family Life Center.

A note to our guests and visitors: The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Gloria Dei in the belief and with the confession that this Sacrament is the very body and blood of Christ (The Doctrine of the Real Presence) which is received with the bread and the wine for us to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our faith. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and seek to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us. If you agree with our beliefs regarding the nature and meaning of this Sacrament and desire to commune with us, you are welcome! For the medical and/or physical needs of members or visitors, nonalcoholic wine will be in the inner circle of each communion tray and will be lighter in color than the regular wine. In addition, gluten-free wafers are available, please alert the elders before the service if possible.