

WEEKLY WORD

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

Jan. 15 and 16, 2011 | Second Sunday After the Epiphany

Where are you?

by Karen Kennedy, Director of Publicity and Promotion

Today we view Adam and Eve as they defiantly rejected God's commandment in the Garden of Eden. A complete antithesis of last week's Genesis 1 stop when we viewed God's incredible creation story. We fully embraced God's declaration of "it was very good" over his creation, including Adam and Eve.



Life was good, good, good. Well, until Adam and Eve decided to take themselves (and mankind) on a different pathway by listening to the serpent and yielding to his plea to eat the fruit from the forbidden tree. As sin entered into God's creation, everything drastically changed. We see sin's severe ramifications when Adam and Eve

acknowledged their nakedness, made appropriate clothing and hid in the garden. From an outsider looking in, they were doomed, in trouble and guilty.

Ever found yourself in a comparable situation? When you rejected someone's love by your words or actions? When they asked you to do something and you did the opposite? Life was good and then by your actions you purposely severed the relationship.

That is what happened to a good friend of mine when his father gave him cash to pay an insurance bill. His father not only trusted him, but saw great potential in his son. "He is an incredible young man," the father would say to his coworkers. However, as the hours unfolded, the son made a mockery of his father's words by completely depleting the designated cash by stopping at a few restaurants and bars.

A few days later, the father called his son to inquire why the insurance company canceled their insurance. My friend was doomed, in trouble and guilty. There was no way out of his self-induced mess. And yet, his father quietly stated that he was disappointed, but knew his son could and would do better. The father never mentioned the incident again, but the son will never forget his father's complete forgiveness and acceptance.

My friend's father had every reason to disown his son. Likewise, God had every reason to reject Adam and Eve. Yet the following incredible question jumps out in Genesis when God called out to the guilty, "Where are you?" God accepts, acknowledges, and never turns his back on his creation.

So, the question continues today—"Where are we?" Do we dwell in a home filled with rejection and pain? Or in a home that God has permanently created for us? I believe the answer lies in the nature of our God.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. 1 John 4:16b-18

Jan. 22-23 **Hint**

Next week's destination

Take a shot, be brave and publicly post your educated guess on next week's destination on facebook.com/GloriaDeionline.

Hint:

Does God's request seem unthinkable? He will never ask of us what only he can do.

Discuss message with your children

Did you realize that your children are learning the same message in Grace Place that you are learning during worship? Ask them what they are learning.

And if you want to be extra daring, take out this week's discussion guide that is inserted in the Weekly Word and discuss some of the questions.

Spring break VBS

Monday, March 14 - Thursday, March 17 9-11:30 a.m.

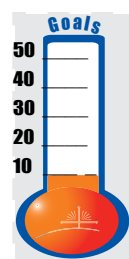
Consider being a leader and helper for spring break VBS. It's fun and rewarding!

For more details or to sign up, call DeAnn McCue at 278-5544, ext. 207.

Discovery 201

Sunday, Feb. 20 3-6:30 p.m.

Want to become a member of Gloria Dei? Check out page 4 for details.



Hospitality team sign ups

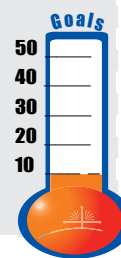
If you have not signed up to be on a hospitality team, it is not too late.

So far, we have the following sign ups.

Sanctuary: [7:45 a.m. - 17] [9 a.m. - 22] [10:30 a.m. - 15]

Family Life Center: [5:30 p.m. - 14] [9 a.m. - 35]

Sign up in the Family Life Center or in the narthex.



Town Hall Meetings

Wednesday, Feb. 2, 10 a.m. • Thursday, Feb. 3, 6:30 p.m. • Saturday, Feb. 5, 6:30 p.m.

Mark your calendar to attend one of our Town Hall meetings in February to discuss and ask questions concerning the findings of the two task force teams that have been formed to research possible solutions to the immediate need for space and our long-term ministry opportunities.

Multi-site ministry task force – A relatively new way congregations are expanding their ministries is through multi-site ministry. This is where one church meets in multiple locations. There is one Governing Board, one budget, one staff, etc. The church just meets at various locations in addition to the original site.

Current space issues task force– The second task force will discuss the various options for our current space needs. One option might be to move the youth ministry to a new location, which could be on our own property or a building that is geographically close to our existing campus. This option could also open up the original Sanctuary for medium-sized gatherings as well as a worship venue.

We encourage everyone to attend one of our Town Hall meetings. It is our desire to listen to the findings of the task force teams, ask questions to ensure that every facet has been researched and then discuss the information. Meanwhile, please keep the task force teams in your prayers as they research the possible avenues to fulfill our Strategic Plan that God has placed before us.

Remember Haiti

Last week marked the one-year anniversary of the devastating quake that killed an estimated 300,000 people and left millions homeless. It has been reported that many Haitians have lost hope that their country will recover from destruction, disease and political turmoil.

But we can help! Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) has organized an effort to slow the tide of cholera that has killed 1,034 people and hospitalized more than 16,000 by providing the needed medicines and water filters.

“The needs are extremely urgent and growing more critical by the minute,” said Rev. Glenn F. Merritt, director of Disaster Response with LCMS World Relief and Human Care (WR-HC). He stressed that cholera, which is spread through contaminated water and food, is a preventable and treatable disease. People can die after 6 to 7 hours if there is no serum and antibiotics.

Even though the Synod’s mercy arm has knowledgeable staff and capable partners on the ground in Haiti, they need continued support from caring donors in order to meet growing physical and spiritual needs in Haiti.

Please consider giving an online gift today for the Haiti Cholera Outbreak Relief Fund by going to our Web site at www.gloriadeionline.com and clicking on Relief Fund or call 888-843-5267.



Health care workers fear cholera will spread further in squalid camps where some 1 million Haitians still live 10 months after the earthquake.



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Governing Board
govboard@gloriadeionline.com

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

Lead Gloria Dei

A three-week Lead Gloria Dei course will run on Tuesday evenings, Jan. 18 to Feb. 1, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. It is designed to help future leaders of Gloria Dei understand how Gloria Dei functions as a church, as well as to understand the blessings, challenges and opportunities that exist in a church our size.

The topics include: the Vision of Gloria Dei, understanding church life and the Synod, the demographics of our community, policy-based governance and our Strategic Plan.

If you are interested in participating or if you would like more information, please contact Laura Rath, Assistant to the Senior Pastor, at 278-5544, ext. 200 or laura@gloriadeionline.com.

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism Sunday, Jan. 16 during the 9 a.m. worship service in the Sanctuary is for:



M Matthew Edward Prunty born on August 17, 2010 to Lawrence and Lauren (nee Watkins) Prunty. Matthew's spiritual sponsors are Rob and Colette Winget.

Worship Etiquette

We offer the following guidelines to these two often-asked questions:

When is it appropriate to leave and re-enter the Sanctuary during worship?

If you find it necessary to leave during a worship service, it is better not to return to your seat during the quieter times of the service, such as the confession and absolution, special choir music, the Scripture readings, the prayers and the benediction. Wait for a time for congregational singing to re-enter the service. If you must leave and re-enter during the sermon, please be considerate to those worshipping with you.

Is it okay to bring my small children into worship?

Absolutely yes! We encourage the entire family to worship together. However, if your children become a distraction to those worshipping around you, please excuse yourself and go to the cry room, located outside the Sanctuary. The cry room is equipped with comfortable seats and toys for you and your child to enjoy while still being able to listen and participate in worship.

Servers

Officiant/Liturgist:

5:30 p.m. (FLC):
Rev. Ron Burcham

7:45 a.m. (Sanctuary):
Rev. Phil Robarge

9 a.m. (Sanctuary):
Rev. Phil Robarge

9 a.m. (FLC):
Rev. Tim Phillips

10:30 a.m. (Sanctuary):
Rev. Ron Burcham

Preacher:

Rev. Ron Burcham

Organist:

Lynn Hays

Acolytes:

7:45 a.m. (Sanctuary):
Jared Jorgenson

9 a.m. (Sanctuary):
Jake Griffiths

10:30 a.m. (Sanctuary):
Harrison Kruse

Elders:

Tim Mueller
Steve Junge
Tim Radig

Ushers:

Northwind
Mike Mazza
Tim Mueller
Jim Riddle
Peg Riddle

7:45 a.m.

Bruce Amendt
Arlyn Hesse
Jim Johnson
Dick Mueller
Ken Wunsch

9 a.m.

Greg Haessler
Dan Johnson
Rich Johnson
Doug Kumm
Jim Miles
Jeff Monson
David Morrison
Chad Oehlert

10:30 a.m.

Dennis Appelhons
Doug Bass
Kevin Kelley

Scripture Readings:

Genesis 3:1-15; Psalm 51 (NIV)

Let's pray!

Blue prayer request cards are beneath 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.

Thanksgivings

- For our families

Prayers

For the health of:

- Addison Blythe
- Grace Phillips
- Janet Tysse
- Charlene Stewart
- Darcy Bowers
- Pastor David Johnson
- the people in Haiti

And for:

- Paul and Stacy Sams, who are in the process of adopting a child
- Sarah Bennum and family
- All of our military and workers serving around the world, specifically for Tom Kennedy, Nat Wunsch, Matt Price, Joe Phillips, Jeremy Strachan, Scott LeClair, Eric Lampe, Chad Stone, Craig Scott, Joshua Phillips and Trent Lumley

Prayer team

If you are interested in joining the prayer ministry team, please e-mail Pastor Phillips at: tphillips@gloriadeionline.com with your name, e-mail address and phone number.

Winter opportunities

We are excited to offer opportunities that will keep us growing and warm in the cold of winter. Here are a few:

CareNight

Thursday, Jan. 20 from 6-8 p.m. The evening provides support to those who going through a divorce. Register on our Web site.

Financial Peace University

Tuesday, Jan. 18 to Apr. 12, 2011 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. It's not too late to join. Financial Peace University (FPU) is a 13-week life-changing program that empowers and teaches how to make the right money decisions to achieve your financial goals and God's plan for your life. Register today on our Web site.

Pre-marriage Class

Tuesday, January 18 to February 22, 2011 from 6:30-8 p.m. Couples wishing to be married at Gloria Dei in the upcoming year must take a six-week pre-marriage class. For more information, please call 276-1700 during office hours Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Discovery 101

Thursday, Jan. 20 to Feb. 3, 2011 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Join us for the winter session of Discovery 101 on Thursdays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. This informal class is for all who are new to the Lutheran Faith. If you would like to use the childcare services we offer, please indicate this when you register.

Discovery 201

Sunday, February 20, 2011 from 3-6:30 p.m. If you are transferring from another Lutheran church or have taken the Discovery 101 class, please 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. Childcare is provided. If you would like to use our childcare services, please indicate this when you register.

**For more information about these events, or to register, visit:
www.gloriadeionline.com or call the church office at 276-1700.**

Thank You

Thank you for your gracious support of the Good Shepherd Hour, the Lutheran Service Society, the Lutheran Service Auxiliary and the Lamplighters. ~ Rev. Steven K. Benson, Institutional Chaplain, Iowa District West

Honduras news Vitamins

Please drop off children's and prenatal vitamins to the Honduras bin in the narthex. Thank you for your support, it helps to improve the health of the children and women in Honduras.

Consider the 2011 Team

June 25 - July 2.

Have you ever thought about helping the poor in a foreign country? Well, why not explore the possibilities?

For more information contact Bill Clark at 491-8543.

Christmas Cards

We are no longer collecting Christmas cards for Honduras. Thank you for your support.

A Day on the Hill

Join Concerned Women for America of Iowa in welcoming back legislators, Monday, Jan. 24 at the State Capitol from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. "A Day on the Hill" is a way to prayerfully encourage Iowa legislators and other state officials. Enjoy a light lunch and meet the legislators.

Plan to pick up your encourage-a-legislator prayer packet and send an encouraging scripture verse or quote each week of the session. For more information, pick up an informational sheet at the Welcome Center.



Gloria Dei Youth Ministry

All youth mark your calendars for the "30 Hour Famine" to be held Friday, April 8 and Saturday, April 9.

Dinner Theatre

"Family Camp" will be held on March 26-27 and April 1-2.

Dinner theater practices will be held Sundays in the month of January from 12-2 p.m.

Eighth Grade Students:

Your blue information card for the Confirmation program is due on Wednesday, Jan. 19.

Junior high (6-8)

Sunday: Castaway: Expect fun times during our Castaway hour from 9-10 a.m. on Sunday mornings. The discussion topic will follow the Destination - Resurrection message series.

Wednesday from 6-7:15 p.m. Students in grades 6-8 meet in small groups to discuss various topics relevant to their lives.

Apostles' Creed Confirmation Retreat:

Friday, Jan. 21 - Saturday, Jan. 22: Meet at Gloria Dei at 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 21. Parents are to meet the youth at 10 a.m. on Saturday at Elm Lodge at the 4-H Camp in Madrid.

Senior high (9-12)

The Point: Join us this Wednesday from 6-7:15 p.m. in the Youth Center for praise, large-group Bible study and small-group discussion.

Senior High Bible Study: Join us for Bible study on Sunday morning from 9-10 a.m. The discussion topic will follow the "Destination - Resurrection" message series.

Tiny Treasures 2011 updates

Tiny Treasures' registration for 2011/2012 school year has begun. Simply go to our Web site at: www.gloriadeionline.com and click on the Tiny Treasures' link.

Tiny Treasures open house has been rescheduled for Monday, Jan. 24 from 6-7:30 p.m.

Tiny Treasures playgroup for 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 year olds will begin Feb. 1 and is offered on Tuesday or Thursday from 9 to 11:30 a.m.

Safety concerns: On school days from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. when preschoolers are present, please exercise great caution and care when entering or exiting the parking lot. The children must cross the parking lot to enter the playground. We need your help to assist us in protecting our little Tiny Treasures students.

Midweek Meal

Wednesday, Jan. 19 - Bacon Cheeseburger Roll-up

Winter Kindermusik

Winter Kindermusik classes begin on Jan. 18, 2011 and will be held on Tuesdays.

Young Child for ages 5-7 years meets Jan. 18 to Mar. 29 from 4:50-5:20 p.m.

Village for newborn to 18 months meets Jan. 18 to Mar. 8 from 5:30-6 p.m.

Our Time for ages 18 months to 3 years meets Jan. 18 to Mar. 29 from 6:05-6:35 p.m.

Imagine That for ages 3-4 years meets Jan. 18 to Mar. 29 from 6:40-7:10 p.m.

Luther Nordic Choir

The 64-member Luther College Nordic Choir will appear in concert Sunday, Jan. 16 at 4 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church, 10395 University Ave., Clive.

Week of Jan. 15-22, 2011

Saturday, January 15

- 8:30 a.m. Scrapbook Fellowship
- 8:30 a.m. Quilters Group
- 3:45 p.m. Northwind Worship Team Practice
- 5:30 p.m. Northwind Worship Service in Family Life Center
- 5:50 p.m. Grace Place

Sunday, January 16

- 7:45 a.m. Traditional Worship Service in Sanctuary with Communion
- 7:45 a.m. H3 Worship Practice
- 9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service in Sanctuary with Communion
- 9:00 a.m. Senior High Bible Study
- 9:00 a.m. Castaway
- 9:00 a.m. H3 Worship Service in Family Life Center
- 9:10 a.m. Adult Bible Study
- 9:20 a.m. Grace Place
- 9:20 a.m. Lifelight Adult Bible Study
- 10:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study
- 10:30 a.m. Infusion Contemporary Worship Service in Sanctuary with Communion
- 10:50 a.m. Grace Place
- 12:00 p.m. Dinner Theater Practice
- 2:00 p.m. Chapel at Emeritus

Monday, January 17

- 9:30 a.m. Moms' Bible Study
- 3:30 p.m. Next Step Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #806
- 6:30 p.m. Volleyball
- 6:30 p.m. Stephen Minister Training

Tuesday, January 18

- 1:00 p.m. Directors' Meeting
- 2:30 p.m. Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study
- 4:50 p.m. Kindermusik Young Child
- 5:00 p.m. Health and Fitness
- 5:30 p.m. Kindermusik Village
- 6:00 p.m. Beginning Dance
- 6:05 p.m. Kindermusik Our Time
- 6:30 p.m. Lead Gloria Dei
- 6:30 p.m. Premarriage Class

Tuesday, January 18 (continued)

- 6:30 p.m. Financial Peace University
- 6:40 p.m. Kindermusik Imagine That
- 6:45 p.m. Creative Dance
- 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, January 19

- 10:00 a.m. Pastor Robarge'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
- 6:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers
- 6:15 p.m. Adult Small Group Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Gloria Dei Chorale

Thursday, January 20

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study
- 10:00 a.m. Joyful Stitchers
- 2:00 p.m. Home School Choir
- 3:30 p.m. Mt. Olive Basketball Game
- 6:00 p.m. Infusion Practice
- 6:30 p.m. Care Night
- 6:30 p.m. Health and Fitness
- 6:30 p.m. Discovery 101
- 6:30 p.m. Men's Basketball

Friday, January 21

- 9:00 a.m. Lutheran School Principals' Meeting
- 5:00 p.m. Confirmation Apostles' Creed Retreat

Saturday, January 22

- 3:45 p.m. Northwind Worship Team Practice
- 5:30 p.m. Northwind Worship Service in Family Life Center with Communion
- 5:50 p.m. Grace Place

Worship (Jan. 1-2)	Attendance	Communion
Northwind	200	161
7:45 a.m.	171	
9 a.m. (Sanctuary)	346	
9 a.m. (FLC)	90	41
10:30 a.m.	354	
Total	1,161	202

Outpouring of Love (Jan.8-17)	
General Fund Offerings	\$24,572
3rd QTD Offering	\$58,464
3rd QTD Budget	\$58,000

Week of Jan. 22-29, 2011

Saturday, January 22

- 3:45 p.m. Northwind Worship Team Practice
 5:30 p.m. Northwind Worship Service in
 Family Life Center with Communion
 5:50 p.m. Grace Place

Sunday, January 23

- 7:45 a.m. Traditional Worship Service in Sanctuary
 7:45 a.m. H3 Worship Practice
 9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service in Sanctuary
 9:00 a.m. Senior High Bible Study
 9:00 a.m. Castaway
 9:00 a.m. H3 Worship Service in Family Life Center
 with Communion
 9:10 a.m. Adult Bible Study
 9:20 a.m. Grace Place
 9:20 a.m. Lifelight Adult Bible Study
 10:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study
 10:30 a.m. Infusion Contemporary Worship Service
 in Sanctuary
 10:50 a.m. Grace Place
 11:45 a.m. Baptism Luncheon
 12:00 p.m. Dinner Theater Practice
 1:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #659

Monday, January 24

- 9:30 a.m. Moms' Bible Study
 1:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Supervision - afternoon
 3:30 p.m. Next Step Meeting
 3:30 p.m. Mt. Olive Basketball Game
 6:00 p.m. Tiny Treasures Open House
 6:30 p.m. Volleyball
 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry Supervision - evening
 6:30 p.m. Stephen Minister Training

Tuesday, January 25

- 9:00 a.m. Staff Quarterly Planning Meeting
 1:00 p.m. Directors' Meeting
 2:30 p.m. Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study
 4:50 p.m. Kindermusik Young Child
 5:00 p.m. Health and Fitness
 5:00 p.m. Restorative Justice
 5:30 p.m. Kindermusik Village
 6:00 p.m. Beginning Dance
 6:05 p.m. Kindermusik Our Time
 6:30 p.m. Lead Gloria Dei

Tuesday, January 25 (continued)

- 6:30 p.m. Premarriage Class
 6:30 p.m. Financial Peace University
 6:40 p.m. Kindermusik Imagine That
 6:45 p.m. Creative Dance
 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, January 26

- 10:00 a.m. Pastor Robarge'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
 6:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers
 6:15 p.m. Adult Small Group Meeting
 7:00 p.m. Gloria Dei Chorale

Thursday, January 27

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study
 10:00 a.m. Joyful Stitchers
 10:00 a.m. Teacher Conference Planning
 2:00 p.m. Home School Choir
 4:00 p.m. Mt. Olive Basketball Practice
 5:00 p.m. Restorative Justice
 6:00 p.m. Infusion Practice
 6:30 p.m. Care Night
 6:30 p.m. Health and Fitness
 6:30 p.m. Discovery 101
 6:30 p.m. Men's Basketball

Friday, January 28

No Scheduled Events

Saturday, January 29

- 3:45 p.m. Northwind Worship Team Practice
 5:30 p.m. Northwind Worship Service in
 Family Life Center
 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 9 a.m.	Wednesday 6:15 p.m.
Preschool	7	24	15	19	Junior High	25	94
Elementary	22	64	45	95	Senior High	11	32
Total Children	29	88	60	114	Total Youth	36	126

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

Welcome! Please take some time to get to know us. If you have any questions, ask any of our member or stop by the Welcome Center today!

Weekend Worship Services

Children are encouraged to worship with their parents at each service before being invited to Grace Place: Saturday at 5:50 and Sunday at 9:20 and 10:50 a.m. For youth in grades 6-8, an invitation to Castaway will be extended on Sunday at 9:20 a.m.

Northwind Contemporary Worship Service: Saturday at 5:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center: This come-as-you-are service offers high-energy worship.

Traditional Worship Service: Sunday at 7:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary: Join us in this classical Lutheran worship service that utilizes all the divine services and hymns from the new Lutheran Service Book.

Traditional Worship Service: Sunday at 9 a.m. in the Sanctuary: Our classical Lutheran worship makes use of written and free-flow liturgy with traditional hymns.

H-3 Family Worship Service: Sunday at 9 a.m. in the Family Life Center: Experience the wonder of a child in this casual and friendly-family atmosphere where families with young children worship together. Toe-tapping hymns, lively praise music and puppets will capture the heart of all family members.

Infusion-Contemporary Worship: Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary: This service offers high-energy worship using contemporary Christian songs and praise music.

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.

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, non-alcoholic 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.

Weekly Bible Reading

Genesis 3:1-15 (NIV)

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, 'Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.'"