

# WEEKLY WORD

December 12-13, 2009

Third Sunday of Advent

## Is it Christmas yet?

by Karen Kennedy, Director of Publicity and Promotion

My adorable 4-year-old nephew looked out the window during last week's snowfall and asked, "It's snowing, is it Christmas? Do I get to open my presents now?"

Understandably he was completely disappointed when his mother told him that Christmas occurs on a specific date and not based on the first snowfall. In his thought process, Christmas is all about snow and presents.

How about us? For most of us, the song "Silver Bells" aptly applies. We are busy because "in the air there is a feeling of Christmas." Since we have approximately 12 days left until Christmas (sounds like a good song title), perhaps we can imitate my nephew by looking out the window. But instead of looking straight on at our current surroundings, tilt your head a bit upward and gaze to the stars. Then imagine how the wise men were also looking at the stars more than 2,000 years ago and asking similar but more relevant questions: Is it Christmas, yet? Is the Messiah born?

So as the 12 days of Christmas unfold in your lives, remember to enjoy the view outside your window as you gaze upward!

## What's on your Christmas Playlist?

The message series, "What's on your Christmas Playlist," will continue through Christmas. We pray these messages will help you to spread the Christmas joy in your personal lives and to those around you.

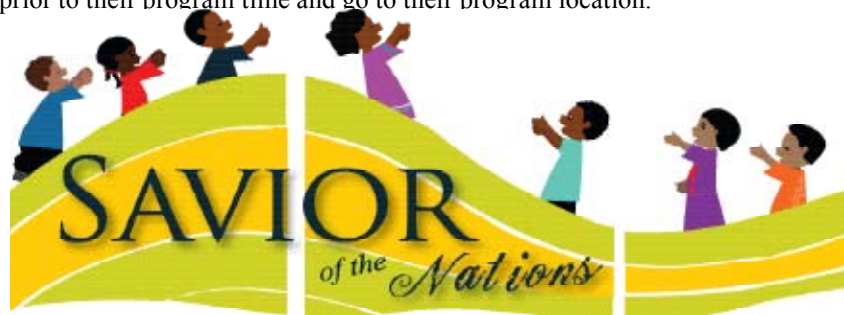
- Dec. 12-13: "Silver Bells" • Dec. 19-20: "I'll Be Home for Christmas"
- Christmas Eve: "Mary Did You Know?"

## Don't miss the Christmas Program

**This Sunday, Dec. 13 at 3 or 5 p.m.**

Journey with us as children and youth present the Christmas story from an international perspective. The journey begins in the Sanctuary before individual groups travel to Honduras, China and Uganda. Each country will have its own station with children eagerly awaiting to share their country's heritage through narrative, song and dance. As with all journeys, we will end where we began, in the Sanctuary. An International Taste of Christmas in rooms 131-137 will follow the program where you can get a sampling of food from each country.

Please note: All students in the Christmas program should arrive 30 minutes prior to their program time and go to their program location.



## UP & COMING EVENTS

### Advent service

#### The Voices of the Shepherds

Join us Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

### Baked goods

Stop by the table in the narthex Sunday to buy delicious holiday goods baked by members of the Honduras Mission team. All proceeds will be used for the 2010 trip.

### Cantata

Experience the wonder of Christmas at "Glorious Impossible," Sunday, Dec. 20 at 7 p.m.

### Grace Place and Castaway

Grace Place will not meet today; they will meet Dec. 19-20.

Castaway will not meet today; they will resume Jan. 9-10.

### Toolshoppe

Don't forget to stop by the Toolshoppe for your holiday shopping.

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# Stewardship Notes

## Giving statements mailed

Year-to-date giving statements were mailed Dec. 4 to those who made a 2009 giving pledge. This is a record of all giving through Dec. 4 and will give an accurate total of giving with one month left in the year. A final record of giving will be mailed after the first of the year for income tax purposes. If your year-to-date statement was not received or if you have questions, please call Shari Smith at 276-1700, ext. 202.

## Simply Giving

It is not too late to sign up for the Simply Giving program. Simply Giving is a program through Thrivent which allows you to have your offerings automatically deposited in the church's bank account on a schedule you choose. It is an efficient and accurate method that also saves the church time and money in counting, recording and depositing funds. For those already using the program: if you have changed your pledge amount for 2010, please remember to turn in an updated Simply Giving form.

## Gifts of stocks and other securities

There is still time to make donations of stocks and other securities before the end of the year. This can be an effective method of making your donation from a tax perspective. Because of processing times required, we encourage members to have these transactions initiated by Dec. 18 in order to make sure they get processed for year-end. There is also time to take advantage of special IRS rules allowing gifts from IRA accounts for certain individuals.

## Year-end giving

All offerings received in the church by Thursday, Dec. 31 will be processed with the 2009 giving statements. Offerings received after Thursday, Dec. 31 will be processed with the 2010 giving.

## Debit and Credit Cards and Pay-by-Check Options

In a response to inquiries about payments online, Gloria Dei now has the capability of collecting giving offerings by using debit cards, Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express and online pay-by-check.

The process is easy and secure. All you need to do is to go to our Web site and click on the online giving link. This takes you to Vanco's secure Web site, the same provider of our Simply Giving electronic funds transfer program.

## Questions

As always, we are willing to help in any way we can. We encourage you to visit with your tax advisor about specific issues related to your own situation. For other questions, feel free to contact Bill Jesse at 276-1700, ext. 217.

## Thank You

Thank you so much for all the generous donations of winter clothes for the immigrant families who have recently moved to Iowa. Your donations will not only help them stay warm this winter, but will help them to see that our God deeply loves and cares for them. ~ Norma Rohn, member of Gloria Dei and English as a Second Language teacher.

### Full-time staff:

#### Rev. Ronald Burcham

Senior Pastor  
rburcham@gloriadeionline.com

#### Rev. Tim Phillips

Director of Congregational Care  
tphillips@gloriadeionline.com

#### Rev. Philip Robarge

Director of Adult Ministry  
probarge@gloriadeionline.com

#### Mr. Bill Jesse

Executive Director  
bjesse@gloriadeionline.com

#### Mrs. Karen Kennedy

Director of Publicity & Promotion  
karen@gloriadeionline.com

#### Mr. Tim Kightlinger

Director of Youth Ministry  
tim@gloriadeionline.com

#### Mrs. DeAnn Haas McCue

Director of Family Ministry  
deann@gloriadeionline.com

#### Mr. Chris Onsrud

Director of Media Ministry  
chris@gloriadeionline.com

#### Mr. Brandon Simpson

Facility Manager  
brandon@gloriadeionline.com

#### Mrs. Diane Schmidt

Front Desk Administrative Assistant  
diane@gloriadeionline.com

#### Mrs. Jo Lynn Yeutsy

Director of Tiny Treasures Preschool  
jolynn@gloriadeionline.com

### Part-time staff:

#### Mrs. Lisa Gibson

Adm. Assistant to the Youth Director  
lisa@gloriadeionline.com

#### Mrs. Elaine Klinefelter

Kitchen Manager  
elaine@gloriadeionline.com

#### Mr. Steve Kowbel

Interim Worship Leader  
skowbel@gloriadeionline.com

#### Mrs. Barb Kramer

Administrative Assistant  
barb@gloriadeionline.com

#### Mrs. Martha Raecker

Admin. Assistant to Tiny Treasures  
martha@gloriadeionline.com

#### Mrs. Laura Rath

Assistant to the Senior Pastor  
laura@gloriadeionline.com

#### Mrs. Penny Schramm

Assoc. Director of Children's Ministry  
penny@gloriadeionline.com

#### Mrs. Jill Schultz

Administrative Assistant  
jill@gloriadeionline.com

#### Mrs. Shari Smith

Accounting Manager  
shari@gloriadeionline.com

#### Mrs. Gale Webb

Assoc. Director of Worship Ministry  
gale@gloriadeionline.com

### Governing Board:

govboard@gloriadeionline.com

## Sacrament of Holy Baptism

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism Sunday, Dec.13 during the 9 a.m. worship service in the Sanctuary is for:



**M** Maya Mae Harshberger born on July 8, 2009 to Ben and Ashley (nee Allison) Harshberger. Maya's spiritual sponsors are Austin Allison, Aryn Allison, and Jared and Ann Harshberger.

## Altar flowers



The poinsettias on the altar during the Advent season were donated by members of the congregation and by the church. The plants will be displayed at the church for the entire Christmas season. For those who purchased a plant, they can be picked up after the Christmas Eve service that you attend.

## Important dates

**Grace Place** will not be held Dec. 12-13. Grace Place will be held Dec. 19-20. Christmas break will be Dec. 27 through Jan. 3. Classes resume Jan. 9-10.

**Faith Alive and midweek meal** will not be held Dec. 16, 23, 30 and Jan. 6; will resume Jan. 13.

**Confirmation** ( due to last week's cancellation) will be held Dec. 16 and will not be held Dec. 23, 30 and Jan. 6. Confirmation will resume Jan. 13.

**Castaway** will not meet Dec. 12-13, 19-20, 26-27 and Jan. 2- 3; will resume Jan. 9-10.

## Servers

### Officiant/Liturgist:

*Northwind (FLC):*  
Rev. Ron Burcham

*7:45 a.m. (Sanctuary):*  
Rev. Philip Robarge

*9 a.m. (Sanctuary):*  
Rev. Philip Robarge

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

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

### Preacher:

Rev. Ron Burcham

### Organist:

Kathy Stange

### Acolytes:

*7:45 a.m.*  
Jonas Dierenfield

*9 a.m.*  
Jordan Nicolet

*10:30 a.m.*  
Ryan Lillard

### Elders:

Terry Woolman  
Jim Miles  
Vic Kesse

### Ushers:

**Northwind**  
Randy Bosworth  
Dennis Dean  
Brad Gerke  
Mike Mahler

### Scripture Readings:

**Hosea 6:1-6 and Matthew 9:9-13**

### 7:45 a.m.

Mike Collins  
Joe Gilg  
Kory Meyeraan  
Dan Timmons

### 9 a.m.

Stan Bonta  
Dick Larimer  
Don Pevestorf  
Chris Uglum  
Don Zimmerman  
Sandy Zimmerman

### 10:30 a.m.

Jeff Johnston  
Kory Schramm

## God's People in Prayer

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 blessings received
- For our families

## Prayers

- For the grieving family of Richard Fastenau
- For Fred Sturdevant and family as they transition to Fred living at Fountain West Care Center
- For Terry and Mary Rowley, as they prepare to go on a mission trip
- For the comfort of Sharolyn Thenhaus' mother, who is facing the last stage of life
- For peace in the world
- For Zac Duncalf and his caregivers
- For missionary Steve Lutz in Papua, New Guinea
- For our country
- For our military men and women who are serving in foreign countries during Christmas

## Prayer ministry team

If you are interested in joining the prayer ministry team, please e-mail [tphillips@gloriadeionline.com](mailto:tphillips@gloriadeionline.com) with your name, e-mail address and phone number.

## Christmas Eve Worship Services

We are excited to celebrate the birth of Jesus Thursday, Dec. 24. We have a variety of types and times of worship services. And remember, Christmas is a great time to invite your neighbors, friends and families to church.

### H3 Family Service

**In the Family Life Center at 3:30 p.m.**

This family-oriented worship service, H3 (head, heart and hands), will feature the sights, sounds and exploration of the first Christmas with an emphasis on helping children understand the importance of Jesus' birth.

### Traditional Candlelight

**In the Sanctuary at 4, 6 and 7:30 p.m.**

This traditional candlelight worship service in the Sanctuary offers a rich legacy of the traditional hymns and liturgy.

### Blended Candlelight

**In the Family Life Center at 5:30 p.m.**

This blended candlelight worship service in the Family Life Center will help direct our hearts to the real reason for Christmas—Jesus.



### “Christmas Playlist:

#### Mary Did You Know?”

Christmas Eve’s message will feature the song, “Mary, Did You Know?”

What were the thoughts of Mary? Could she really envision what God was going to do through her son? Could she have known all that he would suffer? Like all parents she may have had other ideas for her son, but God had his own plans.

Join us as we explore together the magnificent birth that changed our entire world.



## Help needed on Christmas Eve

We are anticipating a substantial number of worshippers for our Christmas Eve services; therefore, we need your help in the following areas:

- **Ushers:** Usher at one of the five services.
- **Greeters:** Do you like to smile? This is a great opportunity to show off your pearly whites and to warmly greet our members and guests.
- **Cleanup Crew:** We need 4-5 people for 30 minutes after 8:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve to help clean up for the Christmas morning service.
- **Touch Up Crew:** Since we have so many guests, we need help tidying up the church between each service.
- **Snow Crew:** In case of snow, we need 3-4 people to help clear the pathways to church.
- **Prayer Individuals:** This job involves praying during the week that the meaning of Christmas, Jesus, touches the hearts of all.

Can't wait to help? Sign up now at the Information Center, call the church office at 276-1700, text Dan Snyder at 967-4190, or e-mail Dan at drs301@msn.com.

## Christmas Day Service

**Friday, Dec. 25 at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary**

**“Joy for All People.”** No matter who you are, the birth of Christ gives you access to the greatest joy of heaven. This message will compare the experience of temporary joy on this earth to the eternal joy that comes from knowing Jesus. The child born of Mary came to set all people free from everything that takes away their joy on earth.

Come, let us adore him!

Gloria Dei worship ministry presents:

SIMPLY WORD'S

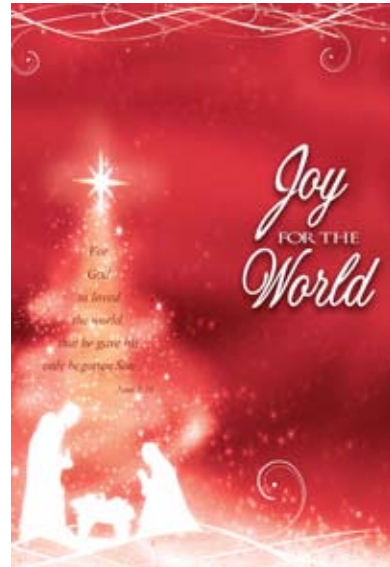
# Glorious IMPOSSIBLE

Sunday, Dec. 20 at 7 p.m.

No admission charge!

Join us as we celebrate the wonder of Christmas through music.

Invite a friend to join you for this year's Cantata, "Glorious Impossible." This musical presentation will feature the beautiful sounds that represent the complete delight of the glorious birth of Jesus, the Messiah.



## Tiny Treasures Program

Monday, Dec. 21 at 6:30 p.m.

**Joy for the World.** Our seven preschool classes will join together in the Sanctuary to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas joy. The entire congregation is invited to this program offered by our little ones.

## LEAD Gloria Dei

LEAD Gloria Dei is a six-week course, beginning Wednesday, Jan. 13 to Feb. 17 from 6:15 to 7:15 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.

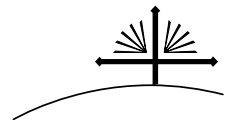
## Care Night Winter Session

Care Night's winter session starts Thursday, Jan. 7 from 6-8 p.m. The evening begins with a fellowship meal before heading to the following groups: GriefShare, Stepping Stones, DivorceCare, DivorceCare4Kids and Cancer Support.

For more information call Pastor Phillips at 276-1700.

## Membership classes

If you are visiting and would like to join the Gloria Dei family, please check out the following classes:



### New to the Lutheran Faith?

**Join us on Thursday, Jan. 7, 14, 21 and 28 from 6:30-8 p.m.** We will cover the basics of our beliefs and be encouraged to develop our faith in God. If childcare is needed, please indicate this when registering. Register online at [www.gloriadeionline.com](http://www.gloriadeionline.com).

### Want to become a member?

**Sunday, Feb. 28, 2010 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 each other and enjoy a delicious meal. Register online at [www.gloriadeionline.com](http://www.gloriadeionline.com).

## Professional directory up and running

**Looking for an interior designer? How about a seamstress?** Look no further, simply click on the Professional Directory Link on our Web site at [www.gloriadeionline.com](http://www.gloriadeionline.com). A database of professionals, their specific services and contact information are listed, which will be updated monthly.

If you have a business or a service that you would like to publish on our Web site, go to the Professional Directory Link and sign up today!

## Bottles from China

The Toolshope has received more of the hand-painted bottles from China. They can be purchased Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings.

## Mission news

Terry Rowley and her daughter Mary, 18, will travel to Pasadena from Dec. 28 to Jan. 4 to be involved with the Petal Pushers—volunteers to decorate the Lutheran Hour and other floats. They will share the love of Jesus with youth and adults. There are 27 people on the mission team this year. They will also spend one day on Skid Row in the inner city of Los Angeles where there are 7,000 to 8,000 homeless people. They will take Bibles, food, health items, and clothes to share with the homeless. They ask that you pray for the mission team as they travel and witness Jesus' love in California.

## Book Club

### The details of the Club:

Take time during this Christmas season and enjoy a thrilling book, "Blink of an Eye" by Ted Dekker; then join the discussion Wednesday, Jan. 13 from 6:15-7:15 p.m. in the cry room.

### An overview of the book:

Miriam is a Saudi princess promised to another, a pawn in a political struggle that could shift the balance of power in the Middle East.

Seth is a certified genius with a head full of numbers, a life full of baggage and an attitude born on the waves of the Pacific.

Cultures collide when they find themselves thrown together as fugitives in a high-stakes chase across Southern California. A growing attraction and a search for answers fuel their fight to survive . . . but with no sleep and a massive manhunt steadily closing in, their chances of surviving any future are razor thin.

### Contact Information:

Contact Heather Schmitz at 371-5875.

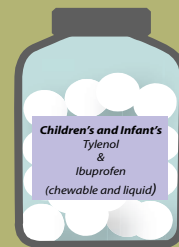
## Honduras news

### Bake sale:

The Honduras mission team will have a bake sale Dec. 13 in the narthex. Proceeds will be used for the 2010 trip.



### December's collection



The Honduras mission team is collecting adult Tylenol and Ibuprofen. Please drop them off in the Honduras mission trip box in the narthex.

## LWML Circles

**Ruth Circle** will meet Monday, Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. in the home of Elaine Mueller, 3205 Mary Lynn Dr., Urbandale.

## Start a giving tradition

Here are some simple Christmas ideas for your family to start new holiday traditions of sharing the joy of giving.

### Donating to a Shelter

Make a trip to a local shelter to donate gently-used clothes or toys.

### Homemade Keepsakes

If you cannot visit a relative that lives far away this year, consider creating a family video "visit" from your family to send to them. You could put anything on the video that you want. Some ideas would be to act out a family play of the Nativity scene.

### Volunteer Appreciation

Bake cookies for your local firehouse or police station. Prepare baked goods for the nurses and doctors at a local hospital. People like to feel appreciated for the hard work they do, and Christmas is a perfect opportunity to let them know your family thanks them.

Source: Denise Oliveri on Suite 101.com.

## Congregational Health Ministry Action Team

On November 19, the Congregational Health MAT met to discuss the preparations and progress made by staff in response to current health issues, specifically the containment of the H1N1 flu virus.

The MAT is made up of medical health professionals, a member of the Center for Disease Control and the Executive Director. Each brought areas of expertise to the MAT.

The MAT was charged with three main tasks.

1. Review current steps taken by the directors and staff of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church to contain the spread of communicable diseases.
2. Provide recommendations for practices to be followed to contain the spread of communicable diseases.
3. Establish a plan/checklist to monitor preparedness for a pandemic outbreak based on the most current and up-to-date information.

### Task Item #1

With input from directors and staff, Executive Director, Bill Jesse prepared a current procedures list already adopted or emphasized. The MAT expressed most common sense procedures and practices are already being done. It was recommended someone be appointed to be responsible for common areas such as the office, Gathering Place, etc.

### Recommendation:

Using the Weekly Word, the Gloria Dei Web site and the Tiny Treasures' e-mail list, communicate with the membership the current procedures and practices already adopted or emphasized. Include practices from the kitchen ministry concerning food preparation and serving.

### Task Item #2

Discussion was held around the current practices during service in regard to Greeters at the doorways to Gloria Dei, our practice of greeting during the services, the passing of the pew registers, and the passing of the offering plates.

### Recommendation:

During the flu season, (roughly through March) continue the non-contact greeting at the entrances. Smiles and verbal greetings are recommended. The greeting during the service should follow the same guidelines as the greeting at the door. Current greetings, including fist bumps, verbal greetings etc. should continue through the flu season. Greeting the pastor after services should follow the same guidelines. The pew registers will continue to be used but congregational members may want to use their own pens rather than share the pen in the register. Elders and ushers may wipe down offering plates after or between services with a disinfectant wipe. A suggestion to put hand sanitizers in the pews was rejected as this was overkill in the opinion of the MAT as congregation members already may carry their own sanitizers.

### Task Item #3

Discussion was held concerning the preparedness for a pandemic outbreak. Bill Jesse supplied a Faith Based and Community Organizations Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Checklist obtained from the Center for Disease Control (CDC). The MAT reviewed the checklist to determine Gloria Dei's preparedness. Creating an Infection/Disease control policy to sit on a shelf and not be maintained was viewed as a waste of time and resources.

### Recommendation:

Maintain an up-to-date checklist to reflect current practices and procedures. Routinely use this document to determine the preparedness and to keep abreast with new information and to keep best practices in the forefront.

## For more information

We have been proactive in our response to the current health concerns. For a complete listing of procedures that have either been adopted or emphasized in the past 6-8 weeks, please go to our Web site at [www.gloriadeionline.com](http://www.gloriadeionline.com).

## HUGS and sack lunches for the homeless in Des Moines

Our children in 4th and 5th grade are collecting HUGS for the homeless. They need hats, gloves and scarves to give to the homeless living in camps in Des Moines. They are also collecting blankets and clean five-gallon buckets with lids. This effort is in partnership with Joppa Ministries led by Joe Stevens to help provide 50 HUGS and buckets on Sunday, Dec. 20 for the men and women living in camps. Sack lunches are also being collected for the homeless to be included with the HUGS. Decorated sacks can be picked up at the Information Center. Lunches should include a sandwich, fruit, drink, snack and a granola bar or any other item. All items can be placed in the bin in the narthex by Sunday, Dec. 20. If you have any question, please contact DeAnn McCue at 278-5544, ext. 207.

## January's children's opportunities

To help brighten your days, we have some activities planned for you and your family.

**Kindermusik:** Starts the week of Jan. 10. With a bang, a jingle, and a smile, we will sing our way through the winter months. See our Web site for more details.

**Creative Dance:** Starts Monday, Jan. 11 at 6:45 p.m. Children ages 6 to 12 are invited to dance the cold away.

**Beginning Ballet and Creative Movement:** Starts Monday, Jan. 11. at 6 p.m. Want to take care of that extra energy? Come to a fast-moving class for children ages 3 to 5.

**Youth Basketball:** Children ages 3 years old through 5th grade are invited to a basketball camp Saturday, Jan. 9, 16, 23 and 30 from 9-10 a.m. The cost is \$10.

**Family Event:** Sunday, Jan. 24 from 1-2:30 p.m. Sled near Lakeview pond, enjoy potluck snacks and hot cocoa at the church.

**For more information, to register or to pay for any of these events, go to our children's page on our Web site at [www.gloriadeionline.com](http://www.gloriadeionline.com).**

## The Wave in December

The Wave (4th and 5th Graders) will meet on Sunday, Dec. 20 from 1-2:30 p.m. Please bring six snacks to share and HUGS (see page 7). We'll play games, eat great snacks and hear the Christmas story in a new way!

## Tiny Treasures updates

*As we prepare our children for Christmas, we have the privilege to share about its true meaning. We love to see the excitement in our preschoolers as we unfold the story about where Jesus was born and why he came to earth—to save us. We pray your Christmas is also filled with the knowledge of knowing the complete story behind Christmas. Merry Christmas. ~ The staff at Tiny Treasures Lutheran Preschool*



### Christmas Program

We have had a blast preparing for this year's Christmas program, "Joy for the World," on Monday, Dec. 21 at 6:30 p.m. We hope you can join us!

### Fall 2010 Registration

It's hard to believe that it's almost time to register for the 2010-2011 school year! Registration for our current preschool families will begin on Monday, Jan. 4 at 9 a.m. Registration will be open to Gloria Dei families on Saturday, Jan. 9, and to the public on Tuesday, Jan. 12. We will host an open house for prospective families on Monday, Jan. 11 from 5:30-7 p.m. Please spread the word! If you have questions, please contact Jo Lynn Yeutsy at 278-5544, ext. 305.

### Playgroup

Tiny Treasures will offer a playgroup for children who will be old enough for the regular preschool in the fall of 2010. This playgroup has proved to be a great feeder program for preschool classes because it allows children the opportunity to be comfortable in a school setting.

The two classes will meet on Tuesday or Thursday from 9:15-11:15 a.m. from February through May. Registration materials are available in the plastic racks. Children must be 3 years old by Sept. 15, 2010 and toilet trained. Tuition is \$40 each month; a registration fee of \$10 must accompany the form. Class size will be no more than eight children with two teachers.

### Questions

If you have questions, please contact Jo Lynn Yeutsy at 278-5544, ext. 305.



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## Change in Schedule!

### Snow cancellation changes schedule

#### 30 Hour Famine kickoff

Wednesday, Dec. 16 at 6 p.m.

The event will be held April 9-10, 2010.

Due to last Wednesday's cancellation, the Point and Confirmation will meet Wednesday, Dec. 16.

Join us for pizza at 5:30 p.m. At 6 p.m., we will have registration and an overview of the 30 Hour Famine. At 6:15 p.m. we will go to the Point or Confirmation classes.

### Junior and Senior High Christmas Program

Our Christmas program will be Sunday, Dec. 13 at 3 and 5 p.m.

## Junior High Grades 6-8

### Sunday: Castaway

We offer a junior high educational time, Castaway, on Saturdays at 5:50 p.m. and Sundays at 9:20 and 10:50 a.m.

Classes will not meet Dec. 12-13, 19-20, 26-27 and Jan. 3-4, but will resume Jan. 9 and 10. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

### Mission opportunities

Saturday, Dec. 19 from 1-3 p.m. at Hope Bargain and Community Outreach Center in Pleasant Hill. Sign-up sheets are on the Youth Bulletin Board.

### Service opportunities

Sunday, Dec. 20 from 9-10 a.m. Join us in the Youth Center as we assemble the Christmas Eve candles and dry cookie dough bags.

## Senior High Grades 9-12

### Sunday mornings

Sundays from 9-10 a.m. Join us as we discuss and study relevant issues for high school youth. Meets Dec. 13. No Bible studies Dec. 20, 27 and Jan. 3.

### The Point

Wednesdays in the Youth Center at 6 p.m. Wednesday evenings will be a time when senior high students can gather with friends and study, discuss and experience some hot topics from the Bible that are relevant to teens today.

### Senior High Urban Plunge

January 8-10. Sign-up sheet on the youth bulletin board. Deadline to sign up is Dec. 13.



Last month's dinner theater raised more than \$6,000 to be used to help with outreaches, and youth events.

# Week of Dec. 12-19, 2009

## Saturday, Dec. 12

- 8:30 a.m. Scrapbook Fellowship
- 9:00 a.m. Giving Tree Pickup
- 11:15 a.m. Christmas Program Lunch
- 12:00 p.m. Christmas Program Practice
- 2:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling
- 2:00 p.m. Urbandale High School Choir
- 4:00 p.m. Northwind Worship Rehearsal
- 5:30 p.m. Northwind Worship Service in Family Life Center with Communion

## Sunday, Dec. 13

- 7:45 a.m. Traditional Worship Service in Sanctuary
- 8:00 a.m. Honduras Mission Bake Sale
- 9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service in Sanctuary
- 9:00 a.m. H3 Worship Service in Family Life Center with Communion
- 9:00 a.m. Senior High Bible Study
- 9:10 a.m. Adult Bible Study - God Heard Their Cry
- 9:20 a.m. Lifelight Bible Study
- 9:20 a.m. Worship Team Warm-up
- 10:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study - God Heard Their Cry
- 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service in Sanctuary
- 3:00 p.m. Christmas Program
- 5:00 p.m. Christmas Program
- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

## Monday, Dec. 14

- 10:00 a.m. The Funeral of Richard Fastenau
- 3:45 p.m. Mt. Olive Basketball Practice
- 6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Connection p.m.
- 6:30 p.m. Men's Basketball

## Tuesday, Dec. 15

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 2:30 p.m. Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study
- 3:30 p.m. Mt. Olive Basketball Practice
- 5:00 p.m. Boys Basketball Practice
- 6:00 p.m. Urbandale Community
- 6:30 p.m. Spiritual Life Survey MAT
- 6:30 p.m. Co-ed Volleyball
- 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study

Worship	Attendance	Communion
Northwind	179	
7:45 a.m.	175	135
9 a.m. (Sanctuary)	362	232
9 a.m. (FLC)	71	
10:30 a.m.	316	193
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,103</b>	<b>560</b>

## Wednesday, Dec. 16

- 10:00 a.m. Pastor Robarge's Bible Study
- 5:30 p.m. Junior and Senior High Pizza Party
- 6:00 p.m. Confirmation
- 6:00 p.m. The Point
- 6:15 p.m. Gloria Dei Alleluia Ringers
- 6:15 p.m. Worship Team Rehearsal
- 7:30 p.m. Advent Worship Service
- 8:30 p.m. Gloria Dei Chorale

## Thursday, Dec. 17

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study
- 9:00 a.m. Support Staff Meeting
- 10:00 a.m. Joyful Stitches
- 2:00 p.m. Children's Celebration Choir
- 6:00 p.m. Urbandale Community

## Friday, Dec. 18

**No Scheduled Events**

## Saturday, Dec. 19

- 8:00 a.m. Cantata Rehearsal
- 4:00 p.m. Northwind Worship Rehearsal
- 5:30 p.m. Northwind Worship Service in Family Life Center

Scripture Based on Giving:

*Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first-fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. Proverbs 3:9-10*

Outpouring of Love	
General Fund Offerings	\$28,032
QTD Offering	\$305,374
QTD Budget	\$348,801

# Week of Dec. 19-26, 2009

## Saturday, Dec. 19

- 8:00 a.m. Cantata Rehearsal
- 4:00 p.m. Northwind Worship Rehearsal
- 5:30 p.m. Northwind Worship Service in Family Life Center

## Sunday, Dec. 20

- 7:45 a.m. Traditional Worship Service in Sanctuary with Communion
- 9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service in Sanctuary with Communion
- 9:00 a.m. H3 Worship Service in Family Life Center
- 9:00 a.m. Youth Servant Event
- 9:20 a.m. Worship Team Warm-up
- 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service in Sanctuary with Communion
- 1:00 p.m. Third Grade Girl Scouts
- 1:00 p.m. The Wave - Christmas Celebration
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Leadership Program
- 7:00 p.m. Cantata
- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

## Monday, Dec. 21

- 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Connection a.m.
- 3:45 p.m. Mt. Olive Basketball Practice
- 6:30 p.m. Tiny Treasures Preschool Program
- 6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Connection p.m.
- 6:30 p.m. Men's Basketball

## Tuesday, Dec. 22

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 3:45 p.m. Mt. Olive Basketball Practice
- 5:00 p.m. Boys Basketball Practice
- 6:30 p.m. Co-ed Volleyball
- 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study

## Wednesday, Dec. 23

- 10:00 a.m. Pastor Robarge's Bible Study
- 6:15 p.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

## Thursday, Dec. 24

- 2:00 p.m. Children's Celebration Choir
- 3:30 p.m. Christmas Eve H3 Service in Family Life Center
- 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Traditional Service in Sanctuary
- 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Blended Candlelight Service in Family Life Center
- 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Traditional Candlelight Service in Sanctuary
- 7:30 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary

## Friday, Dec. 25

### Office Closed

- 9:30 a.m. Christmas Service in Sanctuary with Communion

## Saturday, Dec. 26

- 4:00 p.m. Northwind Worship Rehearsal
- 5:30 p.m. Northwind Worship Service in Family Life Center with Communion

Educational Attendance for Dec. 5 and 6 and Wednesday, Dec. 9				
	Sat. 5:50 p.m.	Sun. 9:20 a.m.	Sun. 10:50 a.m.	Wednesday
Preschool	9	23	30	
Elementary	23	63	48	Cancelled
<b>Total Children</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>78</b>	due to
Junior High	3	21	12	snow.
Senior High		12		
<b>Total Youth</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>12</b>	

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

If you are new to Gloria Dei, welcome! Please take some time to get to know us. We have lots of programs and activities for you and your family. If you have any questions, please ask any of our members or stop by the Information Center.

## Weekend Worship Services

### Northwind Contemporary Worship Service

**Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center:** This come-as-you-are service offers high-energy worship, and an educational time for the children and youth at 5:50 p.m.

### Traditional Worship Service

**Sundays at 7:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary:** Join us in this classical Lutheran worship service that utilizes all three liturgies from the new Lutheran Service Book.

### Traditional Worship Service

**Sundays 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

**Sundays at 9 a.m. in the Family Life Center:** This casual atmosphere where families are encouraged to worship with lively hymns and praise music.

### Contemporary Worship

**Sundays 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.

### Activities throughout the Week

We have lots of activities for the entire family throughout the week and would love for you to join us. Please check our Web site for the activities and times.

## 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.

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## Weekly Bible Reading: Hosea 6:1-6

“Come, let us return to the LORD. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will restore us that we may live in his presence. Let us acknowledge the LORD; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth.”

“What can I do with you, Ephraim? What can I do with you, Judah? Your love is like the morning mist, like the early dew that disappears. Therefore I cut you in pieces with my prophets, I killed you with the words of my mouth; my judgments flashed like lightning upon you. For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.”

## Gloria Dei Weekend Worship Times

**Saturday Evening:** 5:30 Northwind Contemporary

**Sunday Morning:** 7:45 Traditional • 9:00 Traditional • 9:00 H3 Service • 10:30 Contemporary

**Grace Place:** Saturday at 5:50 p.m. and Sundays 9:20 and 10:50 a.m.

• Staffed nursery from 8 a.m.-noon