

WEEKLY WORD

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



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Dec. 4 and 5, 2010 | Second Sunday of Advent

Reflecting on Jesus' birth this week

Message Series: "What's not right about Christmas?"

Bringing Jesus Christ to people for the first time and for a lifetime.

Dec. 4-5 - "What's not right about Christmas - Unreliable Sources"

Dec. 11-12 - "What's not right about Christmas - Family"

Dec. 18-19 - "What's not right about Christmas - Timing"

This weekend we continue with our message series as we look at unreliable sources who witnessed the birth of the Savior of the world. We'll look at prophets' proclamations, the dreams of a carpenter, the shepherds' statements and the Magi affirmations. All of these sources seem to emanate from seemingly unreliable sources of the times. In fact, if you lived during the first Christmas, would you have considered their accounts or believed their messages in spite the messengers?



Midweek Advent - Wednesday, Dec. 8 and 15

Why not build new traditions in your life? We are offering two distinct Advent worship experiences this week:

Lunchtime Advent: New Traditions from 12:15-12:45 p.m.

For those working who have lunchtime free, we're opening up the Sanctuary doors from 12:15-12:45 p.m. for Advent worship. Of course, we don't want you to go away hungry, so you can pick up a sack lunch after the service.

Evening Advent: New Traditions from 6-7:15 p.m.

We will begin in the Sanctuary for worship; the children and youth will then be invited for their educational time while the adults will remain for additional worship and educational time in the Sanctuary. To add to the experience, we will have a home-made meal (pizza pockets) served from 5-5:45 p.m. in the Family Life Center for \$2 for children and youth, and \$4 for adults. (Children under the age of two eat free.)

Next Sunday: Christmas Throughout the Ages

Christmas Program: Sunday, Dec. 12 at 3 and 5 p.m. in the Family Life Center

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 13:8



Invite your neighbors, friends and family as we observe Christmas celebrations in different eras. Preschoolers will portray the first Christmas; children in grades K-2 will illustrate how pioneers celebrated Christmas while the older elementary children will have a "sock hop" for a '50s Christmas rendition. The youth will provide the transition to each era with music and narrative.

Christmas Eve Services - Friday, Dec. 24

Traditional Candlelight Worship: 3, 4:30, 6 and 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

H3 (Family) Worship: 4 p.m. in the Family Life Center

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

Coffee and Conversation

Join Pastor Burcham Saturday, Dec. 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center.

Bake Sale

Buy goodies at the Naomi Circle bake sale Sunday in the narthex. Proceeds to benefit missions.

Advent by Candlelight

Monday, Dec. 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center.

Giving Tree

There are a few more tags on the tree, so please pick one up today; return your gifts by Sunday, Dec. 5.

Christmas Caroling

Join us as we spread Christmas cheer to our neighbors. See page 4 for more details.

Cantata

This year's Cantata will be held Sunday, Dec. 19 at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary. See page 4 for more details.

Thank you

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas around here—thanks to Julie Kammeyer, Michelle Brusen, Nancy Junge, Lisa Gibson and Cathy Kramer for their beautiful holiday decorative touches!

Stewardship Notes

Giving statements mailed. Year-to-date giving statements were mailed Dec. 3 to those who made a 2010 giving pledge. This is a record of all giving through Dec. 3 and will give an accurate total of giving with less than 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 2011, 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. 15 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 office or postmarked by Friday, Dec. 31 will be processed with the 2010 giving statements. Offerings received after Friday, Dec. 31 in the offering plate or postmarked Jan. 1, 2011 will be processed with the 2011 giving, even if the check is written in 2010.

Debit and credit cards, pay-by-check and text options. Gloria Dei has the capability of collecting giving offerings by using debit cards, Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, online pay-by-check and text messaging. 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.

United Way Option. Please note that you can now direct your United Way contribution to Gloria Dei.

Giving envelopes to be picked up. Giving envelopes for next year can be picked up in the room adjacent to the Gathering Place. Please note: your envelope number changes each year, so please use the new envelopes starting Jan. 1, 2011.

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.

Greeters needed

Want to pass Christmas cheer to others? We are looking for individuals and families to greet during our Christmas Eve services. The commitment is to arrive 20 minutes before the service of your choice and welcome people as they enter into Christmas Eve worship. If you are interested, call Diane Schmidt, Front Desk Administrative Assistant at 276-1700 with the service time that you would like to greet.

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism on Sunday, Dec. 5 at 11:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary is for:

C Charles David Morton born on Nov. 11, 2010 to Dan and Tina Morton (nee Kuester). Charles' spiritual sponsors are Dean and Angela Hall and Jay Kuester.

The parents of Charles extend a warm invitation to the entire congregation to witness the baptism of their fourth child.

Text tithing

In order to keep up with technology, Gloria Dei now accepts tithing by text! The same provider for our Simply Giving and Online Giving programs, Vanco, added a new service to the mix. Before texting a donation for the first time, login to our Web site at www.gloriadeionline.com. Click on the online payment tab and complete (or update) an online profile and check the "Opt In" box. After opting in, texting a donation to the church is quick and easy. Once you are set up, click on the text tab for further instructions. You will be typing the keyword "Give," along with the dollar amount and your four-digit PIN. Vanco will then process your contribution from the account you have set up, just the same as if you processed an online contribution. For more information, go to our Web site, or call Shari Smith at 515-278-5544, ext. 202.

Strategic Plan

As we near the end of 2010 and look forward to a new year, we are faithful that God will continue to guide us in the implementation of our Strategic Plan to carry out our vision of G.R.A.C.E. God is at work indeed and can be praised for the following local and global accomplishments this year:

- Leadership development training for staff members.
- The Wave, our new preteen ministry, and additional midweek Advent services.
- Steady growth in the Stephen Ministry and support groups including DivorceCare and GriefShare and running Financial Peace University classes three times this year.
- New small groups and message series shaped by the Reveal Spiritual Life Survey and a revamping of the Welcome Center ministry that includes more member participation.
- Youth Confirmation retreats enhances the youth ministry and the Wednesday evening attendance spiked upward.
- Tiny Treasures offers quality education and provides an entrance point to many new families joining Gloria Dei.
- Increased participation in community-focused events, including the Patriotic Concert, Meals from the Heartland, and the Giving Tree.

Since the Strategic Plan was approved in March 2008, the Facilities Ministry Action Team has been working hard to research and evaluate land and building options. Since then, much has changed, including the economy, technology and how churches approach ministry—while our facilities issues continue.

With a desire to remain proactive, new MATs have formed to explore other alternatives and “reboot” the Strategic Plan to address these issues and minister ever more effectively within our doors, our city and our world. The MATs will hold town-hall meetings in February to share their findings and gather feedback from the congregation—look for an invitation soon!

Servers

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

7:45 a.m. (Sanctuary):
Rev. Ron Burcham

9 a.m. (Sanctuary):
Rev. Ron Burcham

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

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

Preacher:
Rev. Ron Burcham

Organist:
Sue Jesse

Acolytes:
7:45 a.m. (Sanctuary):
Ross Kromminga

9 a.m. (Sanctuary):
Dylan Elder

10:30 a.m. (Sanctuary):
Hannah Brunsen

Elders:
Devin Wren
Gary Wasko
Ken Meythaler

Ushers:
Northwind
Dennis Dean
Brad Gerke
Mike Mahler

7:45 a.m.
Mike Collins
Joe Gilg
Kory Meyeraan
Dan Timmons

9 a.m.
Stan Bonta
John Brown
Jeff Johnston
Dick Larimer
Chris Uglum
Don Zimmerman
Sandy Zimmerman

10:30 a.m.
Dean Miller

Scripture Readings:
Isaiah 7:10-14 and Matthew 1:18-25 (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 Don and Charlotte Rasmussen celebrating their 50th anniversary on Dec. 4

Prayers

For the health of:

- David Goeplinger
- Addison Blythe
- Gene Osby
- Lucas Eubanks
- Carola Spreker

And for:

- For the health and peace of Diana Cook's mother, Elsa, who is terminally ill
- For Sally Dehnert and family grieving the loss of her mother
- For Danny Beyer and family grieving the loss of his grandfather
- Paul and Stacy Sams, who are in the process of adopting a child
- 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 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.



Christmas Caroling

Saturday, Dec. 18

Caroling: 2-4 p.m.
Meal: 4:30 p.m.

For questions, contact Pastor Phillips at 278-5544, ext. 204.

Wrap your children in warm clothes and travel with us to homes where we will spread our Christmas joy by singing. After we carol our way in the Urbandale vicinity, we will meet at church for chili and hot chocolate.



Hark
THE HERALD
SONGS AND CAROLS TO CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

**Sunday, Dec. 19 at 4 p.m.
in the Sanctuary**

Join us as we celebrate the wonder of Christmas through music in the Cantata, "Hark the Herald." You'll experience a spectrum of Christmas songs that exemplifies the joy of the birth of our Savior through beautiful customized popular choral and instrumental pieces, and a narrative concerning Jesus' birth.

Member of Gloria Dei honors Iowa's fallen soldiers

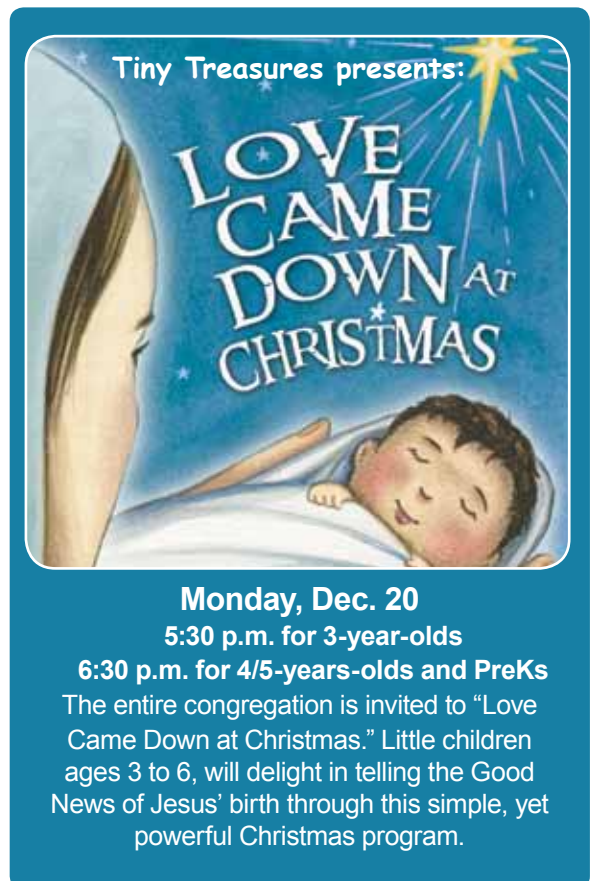
Last week, Blank Children's Hospital in Des Moines, sponsored Festival of Trees, an event to raise money for Blank Children's Hospital. Ann Zimmermann, a member of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, decorated a tree because she has good friends whose son was the recipient of personalized care from Blank Children's Hospital. The tree raised \$5,000.



Ann Zimmermann stands in front of the tree that she decorated in memory of Iowa fallen soldiers.

"The driver of the theme to my tree was my nephew joining the Marines and recently going to Afghanistan," says Ann. "I think it's easy to say what a selfless act it is to knowingly and willingly put your life in harms way for the sake of others and our country, but now I "understand" and their bravery amazes me.

"I dedicated my tree in honor of Iowa's fallen gold star heroes, because I wanted others to understand just what these soldiers and their families actually sacrificed. To illustrate this, I handmade a miniature camouflaged shirt for each fallen soldier and placed it on the tree to represent their sacrifice. My husband, Kurt made a fence and placed it around the tree that we wrapped in garland with small flag-like name tags of each fallen soldier tied to it. The tags indicated their name, rank, branch of service and the date they passed," says Ann.



Tiny Treasures presents:

LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS

Monday, Dec. 20
5:30 p.m. for 3-year-olds
6:30 p.m. for 4/5-years-olds and PreKs

The entire congregation is invited to "Love Came Down at Christmas." Little children ages 3 to 6, will delight in telling the Good News of Jesus' birth through this simple, yet powerful Christmas program.



Revolve Tour (8-12)

Revolve Tour: Feb. 4-5, 2011 in Kansas City:

Join the thousands of girls in celebration of their identity in Jesus. Sign up on the youth bulletin board by Dec. 5. Cost is \$50.

Christmas program (6-12)

All youth interested in helping with this year's Christmas program, please meet in the youth room Sunday, Dec. 5 and Saturday, Dec. 11 from 12:15-1:15 p.m. for rehearsal.

Lunch will be available from 11:25 a.m.– 12 p.m. for \$2 a person.

Junior high (6-8)

Sunday: Castaway: Expect fun times during our Castaway hour from 9-10 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

Wednesday from 6-7:15 p.m.: After Advent worship, youth will meet in small-groups.

Senior high (9-12)

Wednesday evening - The Point: Join us for Advent worship in the Sanctuary at 6 p.m. before heading to the Youth Center.

Wednesday, December 22 at 6 p.m. Christmas Party

Bring a white elephant gift (something you already own that may be looking for a new home) wrapped and an hors d'oeuvre to the Christmas party.

Sundays from 9-10 a.m. - Join us in room 138.

Mission trip (8-12)

We will join hands with hundreds of teens to help those in need. There are openings available for our mission trip to Ripley, Tenn. from July 10-17. Cost: \$650. Sign-up with Tim Kightlinger by giving a \$50 deposit.

LWML

Naomi Circle will meet Thursday, Dec. 9 at 9:30 a.m. for their Christmas meeting in rooms 131-133. Please remember to bring your wrapped adopt-a-family gifts.

Rebekah Circle will meet Thursday, Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. at the home of Lois Appelhons, 4519 96th St., Urbandale.

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

Midweek Meal

Dec. 8 - Pizza Pockets

The Wave - Christmas

Sunday, Dec. 19 from 1-2:30 p.m.

Preteens in grades 3-5 are invited for a hands-on Christmas celebration. Bring 6 cookies or snacks to share.

Faith Alive in December

Families are encouraged to worship together during Advent on Wednesdays. We will begin our evenings together in the Sanctuary at 6 p.m. We'll watch a drama and hear the Scripture reading for the evening before attending an education time. Parents stay in the Sanctuary for the continuation of worship/Bible study. Students will return to their parents in the Sanctuary near the end of worship.

Parents' day out

Parents can drop off their children at the Youth Center Saturday, Dec. 11 from 9 a.m. to noon. The youth will provide childcare and fun activities for children ages infant to 12 years old. The suggested donation is \$15 per family; money collected will go toward youth trips. Registration required by e-mailing Lisa Gibson at lisa@gloriadeionline.com by Wednesday, Dec. 8.

Week of Dec. 4-11, 2010

Saturday, December 4

- 8:30 a.m. Scrapbook Fellowship
- 9:30 a.m. Small Group: "God Heard Their Cry"
- 10:00 a.m. Gingerbread Tea
- 4:00 p.m. Northwind Worship Rehearsal
- 5:30 p.m. Northwind Worship Service in Family Life Center
- 5:50 p.m. Grace Place
- 6:30 p.m. Coffee and Conversation with Pastor Burcham

Sunday, December 5

- 7:45 a.m. Traditional Worship Service in Sanctuary with Communion
- 8:00 a.m. Naomi Circle Bake Sale
- 9:00 a.m. Senior High Bible Study
- 9:00 a.m. Junior High Castaway
- 9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service in Sanctuary with Communion
- 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. Worship Team Warm-up
- 9:20 a.m. Lighthouse 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
- 11:25 a.m. Christmas Program Practice Lunch
- 12:15 p.m. Youth Christmas Program Rehearsal
- 12:15 p.m. Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal
- 1:15 p.m. Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal

Monday, December 6

- 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Connections a.m.
- 6:30 p.m. Advent by Candlelight
- 6:30 p.m. Stephen Minister Training

Tuesday, December 7

- 9:00 a.m. XYZ (Extra Years of Zest)
- 11:45 a.m. All Staff Meeting
- 1:00 p.m. Directors' Meeting
- 2:30 p.m. Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study
- 5:00 p.m. Health and Fitness
- 6:00 p.m. Urbandale Community
- 6:30 p.m. Financial Peace University
- 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, December 8

- 10:00 a.m. Pastor Robarge's Bible Study
- 12:15 p.m. Advent Traditional Worship
- 5:00 p.m. Mid Week Meal
- 6:00 p.m. Advent Blended Traditional Worship
- 6:00 p.m. Junior High Small Groups
- 6:00 p.m. Faith Alive
- 6:00 p.m. The Point - Senior High
- 7:15 p.m. Alleluia Ringers
- 7:15 p.m. Gloria Dei Chorale
- 8:00 p.m. Carrilloneurs

Thursday, December 9

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study
- 9:30 a.m. Naomi Circle Christmas Party
- 10:00 a.m. Joyful Stitchers
- 2:00 p.m. Home School Choir
- 4:00 p.m. Mt. Olive Basketball Practice
- 6:00 p.m. Infusion Rehearsal
- 6:00 p.m. Urbandale Community
- 6:30 p.m. Health and Fitness
- 6:30 p.m. Men's Basketball

Friday, December 10

- 9:00 a.m. Giving Tree Setup

Saturday, December 11

- 8:00 a.m. Giving Tree Pickup
- 8:00 a.m. Parents' Day Out
- 9:30 a.m. Small Group: "God Heard Their Cry"
- 12:15 p.m. Youth Christmas Program Rehearsal
- 12:15 p.m. Children's Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal
- 1:15 p.m. Children's Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal
- 4:00 p.m. Northwind Worship Rehearsal
- 5:30 p.m. Northwind Worship Service in Family Life Center with Communion

| Thanksgiving | Attendance | Communion |
|-------------------|------------|------------|
| Tuesday, Nov. 23 | 177 | 147 |
| Thursday, Nov. 25 | 89 | 76 |
| Total | 266 | 133 |

| Advent (Dec. 1) | Attendance | Communion |
|-----------------|------------|------------|
| 12:15 p.m. | 70 | n/a |
| 6 p.m. | 385 | n/a |
| Total | 455 | n/a |

| Worship (Nov. 27/28) | Attendance | Communion |
|----------------------|------------|------------|
| Northwind | 115 | 75 |
| 7:45 a.m. | 105 | |
| 9 a.m. (Sanctuary) | 310 | |
| 9 a.m. (FLC) | 70 | 31 |
| 10:30 a.m. | 216 | |
| Total | 816 | 106 |

| Outpouring of Love | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| General Fund Offerings | \$33,706 |
| Second QTD Offering | \$254,948 |
| Second QTD Budget | \$283,000 |

Week of Dec. 11-18, 2010

Saturday, December 11

- 8:00 a.m. Giving Tree Pickup
- 8:00 a.m. Parents' Day Out
- 9:30 a.m. Small Group: "God Heard Their Cry"
- 12:15 p.m. Youth Christmas Program Rehearsal
- 12:15 p.m. Children's Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal
- 1:15 p.m. Children's Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal
- 4:00 p.m. Northwind Worship Rehearsal
- 5:30 p.m. Northwind Worship Service in Family Life Center with Communion

Sunday, December 12

- 7:45 a.m. Traditional Worship Service in Sanctuary
- 9:00 a.m. Senior High Bible Study
- 9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service in Sanctuary
- 9:00 a.m. H3 Worship Service in Family Life Center with Communion
- 9:10 a.m. Adult Bible Study
- 9:20 a.m. Worship Team Warm-up
- 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
- 3:00 p.m. Children and Youth Christmas Program
- 5:00 p.m. Children and Youth Christmas Program

Monday, December 13

- 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Connections a.m.
- 4:00 p.m. Mt. Olive Basketball Practice
- 6:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #806
- 6:30 p.m. Volleyball
- 6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Connections p.m.
- 6:30 p.m. Stephen Minister Training

Tuesday, December 14

- 1:00 p.m. Directors' Meeting
- 2:30 p.m. Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study
- 5:00 p.m. Health and Fitness
- 6:00 p.m. Governing Board Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, December 15

- 10:00 a.m. Pastor Robarge's Bible Study
- 12:15 p.m. Advent Traditional Worship
- 5:00 p.m. Mid Week Meal
- 6:00 p.m. Advent Blended Traditional Worship
- 6:00 p.m. Junior High Small Groups
- 6:00 p.m. Faith Alive
- 6:00 p.m. The Point - Senior High
- 7:15 p.m. Alleluia Ringers
- 7:15 p.m. Gloria Dei Chorale
- 8:00 p.m. Carrilloneurs

Thursday, December 16

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study
- 10:00 a.m. Joyful Stitchers
- 2:00 p.m. Home School Choir
- 4:00 p.m. Mt. Olive Basketball Practice
- 6:00 p.m. Infusion Rehearsal
- 6:30 p.m. Health and Fitness
- 6:30 p.m. Men's Basketball

Friday, December 17

No scheduled events

Saturday, December 18

- 8:00 a.m. Cantata Rehearsal
- 9:30 a.m. Small Group: "God Heard Their Cry"
- 2:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling
- 4:00 p.m. Northwind Worship Rehearsal
- 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 10:30 a.m. | Wednesday 6:15 p.m. |
|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Preschool | no | class | break | 19 |
| Elementary | no | class | break | 105 |
| Total Children | n/a | n/a | n/a | 124 |

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

Matthew 1:18-25 (NIV)

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about. His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

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

Children's Educational Times: Saturday at 5:50 p.m. and Sunday at 9:20 and 10:50 a.m.

Staffed nursery from 8 a.m.-noon