

WEEKLY WORD



A Publication of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Urbandale, Iowa

December 16, 2007

Third Sunday in Advent



Advent Service

Wednesday, Dec. 19 at 7:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Join us as we prepare our hearts for Christmas.

Advent Service with Preschool Program

Wednesday, Dec. 19 at 7:15 p.m. in the Family Life Center

Our Faith Alive preschool children will be offering "The Best Gift" Christmas program this Wednesday.

Family-focused Christmas Eve Service

Monday, Dec. 24 at 4 p.m. in the Family Life Center.

This family-focused service will feature the sights, sounds and exploration of the very first Christmas with an emphasis on helping young children understand the importance of our Savior's birth.

Contemporary Christmas Eve Service

Monday, Dec. 24 at 6 p.m. in the Family Life Center.

Join us for our contemporary candlelight service in the Family Life Center at 6 p.m. with a sermon simulcast from the sanctuary.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Services

Monday, Dec. 24 at 4:30, 6 and 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Invite your friends and neighbors to one of our traditional candlelight services in the sanctuary.

Christmas Day Service

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

Take time to celebrate the birth of our Lord on Christmas day.

New Year's Eve Service

Monday, Dec. 31 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Get ready for the new year by joining us as we worship our Lord.

Grace Place & Faith Alive dates

Dec. 19

Advent service

Faith Alive will dismiss at 6:55 p.m.

Youth will dismiss at 7:05 p.m.

Wednesday,

Dec. 26 and Jan. 2

No children or youth activities.

Weekend of

Dec. 22-23 and 29-30

No children or youth activities.

Christmas caroling

Please join us Wednesday, Dec. 19 at 5 p.m. for a Faith Alive meal (\$2.50 per person) before heading out for a Christmas caroling

extravaganza.

After singing our hearts out to the homebound of our congregation, we will come back for the

Advent serv-

ices at 7:15 p.m. If you have any questions, please call Julie DenHerder at 240-1626.



Index

Calendar10-11

Children8

Last Week10-11

News1-7

Offering10

Welcome12

Youth9

Our community



The Strategic Planning Ministry Action Team has been researching studies on our community to understand the past and future trends. According to all indicators, the section of Urbandale inside the interstate loop is projected to grow 10.5 percent in the next five years and the section west of the interstate is slated for a 39.4 percent growth rate. Urbandale's growth is on a similar upward trend with neighboring cities, such as Waukee at 30.2 percent, Grimes at 12.8 percent and Johnston at 23.3 percent.

Other studies of the Urbandale vicinity have reported that the average age is mid-to-late 30s, with a median income from \$65,000 to \$100,000 and has 2 1/2 -3 children per family.

Research also showed that 25,000 people in the Urbandale, Grimes, Clive, Waukee area do not have a church home. When questioned about the qualities they wanted in a church, 39 percent stated that connections with members were paramount, 30 percent wanted a clear belief statement, 29 percent looked for worship style with relevant sermons, and 25 percent wanted convenience.

Even more interesting is why they returned to a church: 45 percent returned due to worship style, 35 percent returned because of a clear belief statement, 25 percent

returned because of the connections and another 25 percent returned because of convenience.

When asked about the most desirable characteristic of a church, 44 percent of the survey reported family focus was vital and 43 percent indicated the importance of sermons on current and practical issues.

(Please note that respondents could choose up to three factors in each of the above questions; thus, the total percent amount equals more than 100.)

As we plan for the future, it is imperative to evaluate the current and future trends of the community that we live in. In doing so, we will reach more people with the good news of Jesus Christ.

Children's Christmas programs

Last Wednesday, children in grades K-2 offered a wonderful Christmas program during the Advent service in the Family Life Center. If you missed this one, the preschool Christmas program will be offered Wednesday, Dec. 19 at 7:15 p.m. in the Family Life Center.

Gloria Dei
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Governing Board:

Governing Board
govboard@gloriadeionline.com

A thank you note for special people

We have a group of individuals who weekly pour out their hearts for our children. With their love and support, we are able to offer our children an education that not only teaches about Jesus, but also demonstrates his great love.

Grace Place Preschool: Anne Sheeley, Tenley Haack, Julie Jordan, Jill Hosch, Jen James, Ron Wheeler, Shani Fjelsted, Roxi Guilloz, Kari Doyle, Angie Meyer, Joy Linqvist, Kayla Kightlinger, Alana DeVries, Lori Martin, Becky DeVries, Lynn Meyer, Renee Tooman, Renee Luinstra, James Brunz, Michelle Brunz, Susan Straka, Amanda Christiansen and Kevin Wenndt.

Elementary Grace Place: Rochelle Haas, Sharolyn Thenhaus, Michelle Ingersoll, DeAnn McCue, Chris Fleming, Audra Meyeraan (helper), Jaime Fageroos, Craig Fjelsted (helper), Rachel Onsrud, Monica Duncalf, Sandy Zimmermann, Becky Fluegge, Casey Fluegge, Dan McDowell, Lori McDowell, Lora Wunsch, Aaron Tooman (helper), Vicki Larimer, Zach Larimer, Randy Fleming (superintendent) and Jeff Olson (superintendent).

Midweek Meal: Elaine Klinefelter

Music Alive: Penny Schramm, Sarah Petrak, Tina Kientz, Rochelle Haas (helper), Marsha Fries, Julie Den Herder and Rachel Corell (helper).

Faith Alive Preschool: Jody Bass, Monica Duncalf, Amanda Christiansen, Lori Beeler, Jodie Weeks, Sheryl Woolman, Julie Jordan and Cathy Kramer.

Faith Alive Elementary: Janet Brock, Ann Betten, Sarah Petrak, Cheryl Gilg, Michelle Rice, Mandie Hamaker, Penny Schramm (helper), Tamie Uding, Brian Peter, Jen Peter and Michelle Ingersoll.

Faith Alive Helpers: Becky Thomas, Andrea Morrison, Julie Andrews, Craig McCue, Darla Griffiths, Kim Marsh, Mark Rath, Laura Rath, Derrick Johnson, Robyn Johnson, Shane Love, Stacy Love, Jodi Rusch, Nancy Wiggins and Ann Readinger.

Servers

Officiant/Liturgist:

7:45 a.m. (Sanctuary)

Rev. Ron Burcham

9 a.m. (FLC)

Rev. Tim Phillips

9 a.m. (Sanctuary)

Rev. Ron Burcham

10:30 a.m. (Sanctuary)

Rev. Ron Burcham

Preacher:

Rev. Ron Burcham

Scripture Reading:

II Corinthians 7:8-11

Matthew 3:1-12

Organist:

Kathy Stange

Acolytes:

Andy Dorn

Emily Brush

Devin Elbert

Elders:

Terry Woolman

David Graaf

Vic Kesse

Ushers:

Northwind

Randy Bosworth

Brad Gerke

Mike Mahler

7:45 a.m.

Dennis Dean

Mike Collins

Joe Gilg

Kory Meyeraan

Dan Timmons

9 a.m.

(Sanctuary)

Steve Brush

Jeff Monson

Don Pevestorf

10:30 a.m.

Derrick Johnson

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 or Joan Kickbush after 5 p.m. at 987-4864 with your request.

Thanksgivings

- For our families

Prayers

- For the grieving family of Larry Shafer
- For Diana Cook's mother, Elsa, who is beginning chemo treatments
- For the health of Cara Setsodi
- For the health of Ercole Murano
- For the health of Pat Klinefelter
- For Jay McGovern
- For Mike Martens' brother-in-law, David Redd, who was taken to hospice
- For the continued healing of Richard Counley's daughter, Cheryl
- For favorable test results for Diane Mahaffey
- For the continued health of John McKeighan

Prayer Ministry Team

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

Stewardship notes

Giving statements

Giving statements were mailed last week to all families in the congregation that have made a contribution during the year. These statements reflect giving through November. If you should have received a giving statement but did not, or if you have questions about your statement, please call Steve Kammeyer in the church office at 276-1700 ext. 202. A final statement for tax purposes will be mailed after the first of the year.

Envelopes for next year

Giving envelopes for next year are located on the tables as you enter or exit the narthex. Please take a minute today and pick up your envelopes. If, for some reason, you do not have a box on the tables, please call Steve Kammeyer in the church office at 276-1700 ext. 202 and we will prepare one for you. We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your understanding.

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 2008, 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. 21 in order to make sure they get processed for year-end. There is also time to still take advantage of special IRS rules allowing gifts from IRA accounts for certain individuals. Those rules are set to expire at the end of the year.

Year-end giving

All offerings received in the church by Monday, Dec. 31 will be processed with the 2007 giving statements. Offerings received after Monday, Dec. 31 will be processed with the 2008 giving.

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 Steve Kammeyer at 276-1700 ext. 202.

DMARC donation

In the last year, Naomi Circle has had two church-wide campaigns to raise money to purchase items for the Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) food pantry. Last Tuesday, Deb Timmons and Meri Mohr, representatives from



Deb Timmons and Meri Mohr present a check to Sister Sandra Rodemyer.

Naomi Circle, presented Sister Sandra Rodemyer, food pantry director, with a check for \$3,450 from Gloria Dei.

DMARC, an interfaith agency that does not receive any federal or state funds, receives support from approximately 150 congregations in the Des Moines community. The food pantry helps to meet the short-term needs of the hungry in the metro area. When individuals or families need emergency help, they may access one of the eight pantries in Des Moines and vicinity.

Although DMARC receives food items, they prefer cash donations as the most effective and efficient way of helping stock the items needed for the pantry. A typical week's invoice for food purchases can range between \$8-9,000.

If you have any questions, or would like to help at the food pantry, please call 277-6969.

Check out the bookstore

Check out the Toolshoppe for your one-stop holiday shopping. We have many household items that will add Christmas cheer to your house during the holiday season.

African Children's Choir Praise Reports

by Amy Jo Wiese

Gloria Dei hosted the African Children's Choir on Nov. 11. The concert was amazing and the attendance a blessing. The vision of Gloria Dei's ministries provided the foundation and spotlight for 26 amazing children.

After the lights went down, the church doors were locked, 10 families opened their hearts and homes to two or three exceptional children. As host families, we were told of the possible heartbreak the children may have endured. Anyone of these children could have lost one or more family members to AIDS. A few of the homes shared with me a few words from their experiences as a host.

As I write this, it is bringing tears. I miss them and didn't want to see them go. Christine, 10, and Jackie, 7, were absolute joys. I didn't stop smiling from the first



moment we were introduced at church to the time they left. You notice I said "I couldn't stop smiling? That is because they did more for me in those few days than I could have done for

them. When we got home Sunday night, they were hungry for a snack and were thrilled when I mentioned ice cream! I kept waiting for them to start eating and finally Christine, in her quiet little voice asked, "Auntie, aren't we going to pray?" I smiled and said, "Of course we're going to pray for this wonderful ice cream!" (You see, my family typically prays for the main meals. I guess it slips our minds that God gives us snacks too.)

– Lynne Bellile

What a blessing and another perfect example of how the family of Christ transcends earthly boundaries such as country of origin, ethnicity, language and background. It reminds me of a quote from Joni Eareckson Tada who wrote, "God's love is like trigonometry, for if you divide love, it will always multiply. Give love away and it will always come back to you with its arms full." In just two days, three charming individuals from remote villages in coastal Africa became sons and brothers we previously did not know we had, and who forever will not be forgotten. – Kory and Penny Schramm

First let me say it was an honor to host the three little ladies that stayed at our house. They are full of spunk, laughter, happiness and respect. From the moment we picked them up you could see they had a look of hope and happiness in their eyes. I cannot even imagine what they have experienced from being selected for the choir to flying to the United States and participating in the tour. These little ambassadors are unbelievable. They keep a very busy schedule and have many responsibilities, but they also loved to play dolls, swing on the swing set and play card games. – Bill & Lesli Clark



We had such a wonderful time with the boys we hosted. I cannot really put my finger on it exactly, but they were a joy to have around. Daniel and Johnson were so polite and grateful. And we were grateful to have the experience of meeting them. What an exhibit of faith they show. – Stacy Love



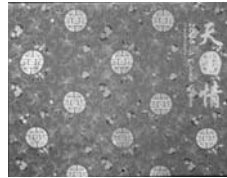
China update

For the next several weeks, there will be an opportunity to stop in the narthex between services to hear about the work in China and Tibet.

Please take a moment to stop and see pictures of the Christian church, which was built in a remote mountain village with funds from Gloria Dei. The opportunity to build this church was made possible with more than five years of humanitarian support in the region. The Gospel has been brought to life through enhanced living conditions, educational opportunities, and medical and dental clinics.

Partnering with the Shining City Foundation (SCF), we continue to support priority needs in the area. In September, several members of Gloria Dei had the opportunity to establish a relationship with the Lucky Star Orphanage School in Lhasa, Tibet. There are about 50 children in this school, who continue to need basic necessities such as bedding and food provisions. A mattress and quilt for a child can be provided for \$20, and a week-long supply of rice, wheat, and cooking oil for all 50 students costs only \$50. There is no administrative cost involved, so every dollar contributed goes to project support.

For every contribution of \$20 to support the current needs of the Lucky Star Orphanage, a 14-month calendar that showcases the spectacular beauty of remote China will be given out. The photos are by our lead contact in the area, who is also an award-winning photographer.



Calendars highlighting China's beautiful countryside are available.

Pictorial directory

Thank you to everyone who participated in having their pictures taken for the upcoming pictorial directory. We had such a great response that it was necessary to add additional dates through the end of September. For this reason, the entire process has been pushed back and we now expect to have our new pictorial directory delivered by February 2008. Thank you for your patience!

Ride Needed

Athena Anderson, a member of Gloria Dei, needs a ride from Ankeny to church on Sundays. If you can help, please call the church office at 276-1700.



Monday, January 14
 Sample 6 p.m. | Courses 6:45 p.m.
 Family Life Center (enter at the west entrance)

Women's Bible Connections

The following excerpt is from Becky DeVries, a member of Gloria Dei, concerning her experience with Women's Connections:

The gift of a beautiful flower peaked my interest. A dear friend of mine spoke of it later and I joined her for the course sampling. What a wonderful way to present the topics to us so we could receive the call for the course to attend.

I studied the "Adventurous Prayer" course because I knew my prayers were only being said when times were difficult. I received the call to learn more prayer options and to develop a pray pattern to pray every day, especially about the many blessings I've been given. This class didn't

require self study or homework. There were no tests or grades at the end and nothing deducted if life's activities kept you from making the meeting. I now know more members of Gloria Dei thanks to Women's Connections.

I believe anyone that attends would enjoy Women's Connections; it's for the quiet and the outgoing, we were all welcomed and loved. Each and every one of us has a God-given gift/talent to share with others. Attending Women's Connections is a great way to find a new gift from heaven.

Attend the next sampling on Monday, Jan. 14 at 6 p.m. and listen for the call to attend the course that is right for you. See you in January, – Becky DeVries

Wish to join Gloria Dei?

Sign the friendship pad in the pew or at the Information Center and check "wish to join Gloria Dei." All who wish to join must attend the Discovery classes.

New to the Lutheran church?

You are invited to attend Discovery 101 and Discovery 201.

Transferring from another Lutheran church?

You are invited to attend Discovery 201.

Discovery 101: Wednesday, Jan. 9 - Jan. 30 at 6 p.m.

Discovery 101 is a class for those who are new to the Lutheran Church. Childcare is provided. For more information, please contact the church office at 276-1700.

Discovery 201: Sunday, Feb. 10 at 3 p.m.

Discovery 201 is a four-hour event for everyone joining Gloria Dei. Dinner and childcare are provided. For more information, contact Pastor Phillips at 278-5544, ext. 204.

Sign-up

If you have any questions or want to register, please contact Pastor Phillips at 278-5544, ext. 204 or tphillips@gloriadeionline.com.



Congregational Care Corner

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

Contact Information:

Pastor Tim Phillips, 278-5544, ext. 204
or tphillips@gloriadeionline.com

Congregational Care, a ministry of Gloria Dei aimed at supporting people in difficult situations, will launch a variety of services in January that will bring Jesus Christ to the hurting and the sick for the first time and for a lifetime. Please feel free to join us at any time for all of our adult support groups; new people are always welcome.

Current Support Groups:

Cancer Support Group
BCS Group: Thursday, Jan. 10 from 6:30-8 p.m.

Divorce Support Group
DivorceCare: Tuesday, Jan. 8 from 6:30-8 p.m.

Adult Grief Support Group
GriefShare: Thursday, Jan. 10 from 6:30-8 p.m.

Children Grief Support Group
Stepping Stones starts Thursday, Jan 17 from 6:30-8 p.m.
If you are interested, please call Lynn Meyer at 986-5653.

January Kindermusik sessions

Please pick up the new Kindermusik brochure at the Information Center.

Kindermusik Village

Kindermusik Village for children newborn to 1 1/2 years old, incorporates the most current research on early childhood development and provides families a special place for learning and connecting with other parents and babies through music and movement.

Instructor: Angie Gage **Cost:** \$70

Date: 8-week session: Tuesdays, Jan. 8 to Feb. 26 from 6:30-7 p.m.



Kindermusik Our Time

Kindermusik Our Time is designed for children ages 1 1/2 to 3 years old. Along with an accompanying parent or caregiver, children meet weekly for a 30-minute class and enjoy singing, moving, listening, interacting socially and playing simple instruments.

Instructor: DeAnn McCue **Cost:** \$95

Date: 12-week session: Tuesdays, Jan. 8 to April 1 from 6:30-7 p.m. (No class March 18.)

Date: 12-week session: Wednesdays, Jan. 9 to April 2 from 10-10:30 a.m. (No class March 19.)



Kindermusik Imagine That!

This session takes children ages 3 to 4 years old on an incredible musical journey of discovery and exploration—a journey limited only by the power of imagination.

Instructor: Julie DenHerder **Cost:** \$100

Date: 12-week session: Wednesdays, Jan. 9 to April 2 from 10-10:45 a.m. (No class March 19.)

Kindermusik for the Young Child

Kindermusik for the Young Child is for children ages 4 1/2 to 7 years old and balances activities that integrate listening, vocal development, movement and performing in instrumental ensemble, and introduces your child to the written language of music while cultivating music creativity.

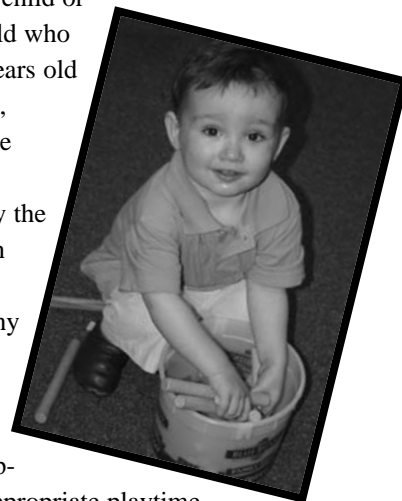
Instructor: Penny Schramm **Cost:** \$110

Date: 12-week session: Tuesdays, Jan. 8 to April 1 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. (No class March 18.)

If you have questions, contact DeAnn at 278-5544, ext. 207.

Tiny Treasures Playgroup

Tiny Treasures Playgroup opens in February. If you have a child or know a child who will be 3 years old by Sept. 15, 2008, please pick up a brochure by the Information Center or near the Tiny Treasures office. The playgroup is a developmentally appropriate playtime to acquaint young children with our school. The children will have group experience away from their parents for a few hours and will make new friends. The class is held on Fridays, Feb.- May from 9:15-11:15 a.m. Cost is a \$10 registration fee and \$40 monthly tuition. Please don't delay; space is limited. Contact Terry at 278-5544, ext. 305, if you have questions.



Midweek Meal Menu:

Dec. 19
Grilled Cheese
Tomato Soup

Dec. 26
(No Faith Alive)

Jan. 2
(No Faith Alive)

Cost: \$2.50 per person.
Children under 3 eat free.

Wednesdays from 5-6 p.m.
in the Family Life Center

growyieldminister



gloriadeiyouthministry

luke 9:23

Junior & Senior High Holiday schedule

Wednesday, Dec. 19

Youth will be dismissed at 7:05 p.m. for Advent services.

Wednesday, Dec. 26 and Jan. 2

Confirmation and the Point will not meet.

Sunday, Dec. 23 and 30

Castaway and the senior high Bible study will not meet.

Junior and senior high paintball

Sunday, Dec. 16

Remember to join us at the church at noon, travel to Action Jack's and return at 5 p.m. Cost is \$15, plus paintballs at \$20 for 500.

Thank you

Dinner Theatre

Thank you for everyone who helped make our dinner theatre a big success.

Junior High - Grades 6-8

Sunday: Castaway

We offer a junior high educational time, Castaway, on Sundays at 9:20 and 10:50 a.m. in the Youth Center.

Wednesday: Confirmation

Confirmation held Wednesdays from 6:15-7:15 p.m.

Senior High - Grades 9-12

Sunday: Bible Study

Join us today from 9-10 a.m in rooms 134-38 for a Bible study.

Wednesday: The Point

New! View our video-taped Bible studies on our Web site. Go to the youth page and click on the "New Online Bible studies" link.

Check us out this Wednesday as we hang out starting at 6 p.m. in the Youth Center. The evening activities consist of praise, teaching and activities.

Dec. 19: Christmas Party

Grab a friend and come for food and games and bring an unwrapped toy valued between \$5-10 for a children's charity.

Survive Tour

February 22-23 in Lincoln, Neb.

Dare 2 Share's Survive Training Tour will equip teenagers to live strong and stand firm in a culture of fear due to global and personal uncertainty. Cost is \$25, which includes transportation, food and housing. If you would like more information, contact Tim; registration information will be mailed in January.

Buy it today!

Youth Sweatshirts

They are in and they can be bought!

Check out our youth sweatshirts at the Toolshope for \$25.



Week of Dec. 16-Dec. 22

Sunday, December 16

- 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. Family-focused Worship Service in Family Life Center
- 9:00 a.m. High School Bible Study
- 9:20 a.m. Castaway
- 9:20 a.m. Grace Place
- 9:20 a.m. Adult Bible Study; Lifelight
- 10:20 a.m. Being an Effective Christian Bible Study
- 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service in Sanctuary with Communion
- 10:50 a.m. Castaway
- 10:50 a.m. Grace Place
- 12:00 p.m. Youth Paintball Activity
- 6:00 p.m. Care Callers
- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

Monday, December 17

Tuesday, December 18

- 9:00 a.m. Grief Share Facilitators
- 10:00 a.m. Homeschool Class
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 1:00 p.m. Helping Hands
- 5:00 p.m. Urbandale Community Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts
- 6:00 p.m. Care Callers

- 6:00 p.m. Tiny Treasures Christmas Dinner and Program
- 6:00 p.m. Thrivent Board Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. Governing Board Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. Spirit Nourishers Women's Bible Study
- 7:00 p.m. Community Group Bible Study

Wednesday, December 19

- 9:30 a.m. M.O.S.T. (Moms of Small Tykes)
- 10:00 a.m. Bible Study with Pastor Meyer
- 5:00 p.m. Midweek Meal
- 5:30 p.m. Music Alive
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Handbells
- 5:30 p.m. Christmas Caroling
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Choir Practice
- 6:00 p.m. The Point
- 6:15 p.m. Confirmation
- 6:15 p.m. Faith Alive
- 7:15 p.m. Advent Service
- 7:15 p.m. Advent Service (Preschool Children's Program)

- 7:30 p.m. Gloria Dei Orchestra

Thursday, December 20

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study
- 10:00 a.m. Sew and Sews
- 2:00 p.m. Homeschool Music Group
- 5:00 p.m. Urbandale Community Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. Worship Team Rehearsal
- 6:30 p.m. Breast Cancer Support Group
- 6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study

Friday, December 21

- 3:30 p.m. Mt. Olive Girl's Basketball Practice
- 6:30 p.m. Oil Painters Class

Saturday, December 22

- 4:00 p.m. Northwind Worship Rehearsal
- 5:30 p.m. Northwind Service with Communion
- 5:50 p.m. No Grace Place

Outpouring of Love	
General Fund Offerings	\$56,038
YTD Offering	\$694,913
YTD Budget	\$724,128

Last Week's Attendance			
Northwind	135	Communion	
7:45 a.m.	142	Northwind	85
9 a.m. (Sanctuary)	289	9 a.m. (FLC)	60
9 a.m. (Family Life Center)	60		
10:30 a.m.	266		
Total	892	Total	145
Advent Service (Sanctuary)	161		
Advent Service (FLC)	314		

Week of Dec. 23-29 and Dec. 30-Jan.5

Sunday, December 23

No Grace Place for children and youth
 7:45 a.m. Traditional Worship Service in Sanctuary
 9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service in Sanctuary
 9:00 a.m. Family-focused Worship Service in Family Life Center with Communion
 9:20 a.m. Adult Bible Study; Lifelight
 10:20 a.m. Being an Effective Christian Bible Study
 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service in Sanctuary
 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. Family-focused Christmas Eve
 4:30 p.m. Traditional Christmas Eve
 6:00 p.m. Traditional Christmas Eve
 6:00 p.m. Contemporary Christmas Eve
 7:30 p.m. Traditional Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 25

Christmas

Office Closed

9:30 a.m. Christmas Day Service

Wednesday, December 26

No Faith Alive for children and youth
 7:30 p.m. Gloria Dei Orchestra

Thursday, December 27

10:00 a.m. Sew and Sews
 2:00 p.m. Home School Music Group
 3:30 p.m. Mt. Olive Basketball
 4:30 p.m. Kelsey McManus and Brandon Ermess Wedding Rehearsal
 6:00 p.m. Worship Team Rehearsal
 6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study

Friday, December 28

4:00 p.m. Kelsey McManus and Brandon Ermess Wedding
 6:00 p.m. Lisa Adkins and Andrew Merfeld Wedding Rehearsal

Saturday, December 29

3:30 p.m. Liturgical Dance
 4:00 p.m. Lisa Adkins and Andrew Merfeld Wedding
 4:00 p.m. Northwind Worship Rehearsal
 5:30 p.m. Northwind Service
 5:50 p.m. No Grace Place

Sunday, December 30

No Grace Place for children and youth
 7:45 a.m. Traditional Worship Service in Sanctuary
 9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service in Sanctuary
 9:00 a.m. No Family-focused Worship Service
 9:20 a.m. Adult Bible Study; Lifelight
 10:20 a.m. Being an Effective Christian Bible Study
 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service in Sanctuary
 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

Monday, December 31

3:30 p.m. Mt. Olive Basketball

New Year's Eve

6:30 p.m. New Year's Eve Service

Tuesday, Jan. 1

New Years Day

Office Closed

Wednesday, January 2

No Faith Alive for children and youth
 6:15 p.m. Gloria Dei Book Club
 7:30 p.m. Gloria Dei Orchestra

Thursday, January 3

Tiny Treasures Open
 2:00 p.m. Homeschool Music Group
 3:30 p.m. Mt. Olive Basketball
 3:30 p.m. Democratic and Republican Caucuses
 6:00 p.m. Worship Team Rehearsal
 6:30 p.m. Strategic Planning Meeting
 6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study

Friday, January 4

9:00 a.m. MOM's Club of WDM
 3:30 p.m. Mt. Olive Practice

Saturday, January 5

4:00 p.m. Northwind Worship Rehearsal
 5:30 p.m. Northwind Service
 5:50 p.m. Grace Place

Last Week's Educational Attendance

	Saturday, 5:50	Sunday, 9:20	Sunday, 10:50	Wed., 6:15	Misc.
Preschool	4	23	17	31	Music Alive
Elementary	11	57	23	98	53
Total	15	80	40	129	Wed. Meal
Junior High		21		79	140
High School		5		28	

Welcome to Gloria Dei

Welcome

If you are new to Gloria Dei, welcome! We seek to be a place where people can come and discover God's perspective on life, a place where you can find real answers to today's questions. 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.



Interested in learning more?

Please go to the Information Center for brochures and information.

Weekends at Gloria Dei

Nursery

Infants to age 3. Located on the lower level, access is 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 southeast corner of the Narthex is a room for parents to take their small children to when they are upset or crying. This room allows full view of the Sanctuary and has full audio to hear the service.

Families worship together

With the exception of the 7:45 a.m. service, the first 20 minutes of each worship service is designed for families to worship together. At that point in the service, children and youth will be invited to join their peers in an educational time specifically for them as outlined below.



Grace Place - preschool and elementary children

We offer Grace Place, our weekend educational time, for children ages 3 to fifth grade at three different times: Saturday from 5:50-6:30 p.m.; Sunday from 9:20-10 a.m.; and Sunday from 10:50-11:30 a.m. Children will be invited from worship to attend Grace Place. They will gather outside of worship and leaders will escort them to their classrooms.

Castaway - youth

For our junior high youth in grades 6-8, we have a high-energy educational time, Castaway, in the Youth Center on Sundays at 9:20 and 10:50 a.m.



Senior high and adults

Our senior high youth in grades 9-12 are invited to a study on Sundays from 9-10 a.m. in rooms 134-38.

Adults are invited to join us for an in-depth journey using materials from the Lifelight series in rooms 131-33 from 9:20-10:20 a.m., or a study that parallels the new sermon series from 10:20-11:20 a.m. in rooms 135-37.

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 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.

Gloria Dei Weekend Worship Times

Sunday Morning: 7:45 Traditional • 9:00 Traditional • 9:00 Family-focused • 10:30 Contemporary
Educational Times: 9:20 and 10:50 a.m. • Staffed nursery from 8 a.m.-noon

Saturday Evening: 5:30 Northwind Contemporary
Grace Place at 5:50 p.m. • Staffed nursery from 5:15 p.m.