

Double Issue

WEEKLY WORD



A Publication of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Urbandale, Iowa

December 20-21 and 27-28, 2008

The Fourth Sunday in Advent and First Sunday after Christmas



Christmas and New Year's

We are excited about celebrating the birth of our Savior and welcoming in the new year at Gloria Dei. Here is a snippet of what to expect in the next couple of weeks:

December 20-21: "Re: Christmas- People of Christmas"

Today as we complete our three-week series of messages on "Re: Christmas," we will examine the messengers sent from God to speak the Good News of the birth of the Savior of all mankind, Jesus Christ.

Wednesday, Dec. 24: "What Story Are You Telling?"

There are lots of stories to be told at Christmas time. Stories of family holidays or good times with friends are always cherished and remembered. But what about the real story, the true story of God becoming man? Is this the story we are passing to our children and grandchildren? Let's discover the true story of Christmas together at one of the following worship services:

H3 Christmas Eve Service for Young Families at 4 p.m.

This family-oriented worship service in the Family Life Center will feature the sights, sounds and exploration of the first Christmas. Childcare is provided.

Traditional Candlelight Services at 4:30, 6 and 7:30 p.m.

Join us for our traditional candlelight services in the Sanctuary. Childcare is provided.

Contemporary Candlelight Service at 6:30 p.m.

Our contemporary candlelight service in the Family Life Center is a must for the entire family. Childcare is provided.

Christmas Day Service, Thursday, Dec. 25 at 9:30 a.m.

Celebrate the birth of our Lord on Christmas Day.

December 27-28: "The Stable to the Temple"

The meaning of Christmas can be found in how easy it is to locate Jesus. We know exactly where to look. But what about after Christmas, when the angels have left and gone into heaven? To find Jesus, we travel with Mary and Joseph from the stable to the temple. Please note: the H3 service in the Family Life Center on Dec. 28 at 9 a.m. will not be held; please attend the 9 a.m. worship service in the Sanctuary instead.

New Year's Service, Wednesday, Dec. 31 at 6:30 p.m.

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

Ghost

This year's Christmas Cantata marked with the brilliance of celebrating the newborn king will uplift your souls and dazzle your senses.

Please join us!

Sunday, Dec. 21
3 and 5:30 p.m.
Sanctuary

Dates To Remember:

- Dec. 24 and 31: No Faith Alive: Christmas Break
- Dec. 27 and 28: No Grace Place: Christmas Break

Winter Opportunities

We offer lots of great ministry opportunities in January; see pages 6-7 for more details.

Index

Calendar	10-11
Children	8
Last Week	10
Mission	5
News	1-4
Opportunities	6-7
Welcome	12
Youth	9

Strategic Plan Updates

Ministry Celebrations

One aspect of the Strategic Plan calls for a continued effort to create opportunities that will help individuals of all ages grow in their relationship to Jesus. On Sunday, Dec. 14, our entire facility was transformed for the Christmas program, "Taking Root, A Christmas Journey." Nearly 700 children, youth and adults participated in or attended the Christmas program. The participants moved throughout the building where the preschool and elementary children and youth told the Christmas story from their point of view.

"This year's Christmas program was incredible" said DeAnn McCue, Director of Family Ministry. "The ministry partners, the children and the parents worked so hard to help the beautiful Christmas story come alive. What an amazing experience! We saw God's hand in everything and thank him for being our Immanuel—God with us."



Cottage Meetings

Cottage meetings to discuss the progress of the ministry destination, the details of the land selection recommendation and the corresponding financial model will be held in late winter. More details will be forthcoming. Meanwhile, if you have any questions concerning any aspect of the Strategic Plan, please pick up a note card at one of the packed with possibilities displays throughout the building and turn it in at the Information Center.



Envelopes to be Picked Up

Please pick up your giving envelopes today.

Giving envelopes for next year are located on the tables near the north entrance of the narthex. Take a minute today and pick up your envelopes. Please note: each year your envelope number changes, so please use the new envelopes starting Jan. 1, 2009.

Scan Away Hunger

The Beacon of Blessings are providing Scan-Away-Hunger paper plates at the Information Center. Pick one up and purchase a meal at a local HY-Vee. All funds received will be used by Hope Ministries to feed and care for the homeless in central Iowa.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
8301 Aurora Ave.
Urbandale, IA 50322
515-276-1700
www.gloriadeionline.com

Full-time staff e-mail:

Rev. Ronald Burcham
Senior Pastor
rburcham@gloriadeionline.com

Rev. Kendall Meyer
Director of Adult Ministry
kmeyer@gloriadeionline.com

Rev. Tim Phillips
Director of Congregational Care
tphillips@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

Mr. Steve Kohtz
Director of Worship Ministries
steve@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. Marsha Sly
Administrative Assistant
marsha@gloriadeionline.com

Mrs. Terry Steinke
Director of Tiny Treasures Preschool
terry@gloriadeionline.com

Part-time staff:

Mrs. Martha Raecker
Assistant to Tiny Treasures
martha@gloriadeionline.com

Mrs. Laura Rath
Assistant to the Senior Pastor
laura@gloriadeionline.com

Mrs. Michelle Reinert
Assistant to the Youth Director
michelle@gloriadeionline.com

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

Governing Board:
govboard@gloriadeionline.com

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism on Sunday, Dec. 28 at the 9 a.m. service is for:



Taylor Rae Boyles born on Dec. 29, 2004 to Dylan and Jennifer Boyles.



Lucas Wayne Boyles born on June 28, 2007 to Dylan and Jennifer Boyles.

Altar Flowers



The flowers on the altar on Sunday, Dec. 21 are in celebration of:
The 50th wedding anniversary of Myron and Janet Hasstedt.

The flowers on the altar on Sunday, Dec. 28 are in celebration of:
The 50th wedding anniversary of Ken and Melva Wenndt.

Servers

Dec. 20 and 21:

Officiant/Liturgist:

Northwind (FLC):
Rev. Ron Burcham

7:45 a.m. (Sanctuary):
Rev. Tim Phillips

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

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

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

Preacher:
Rev. Ron Burcham

Organist:
Lynn Hays

Acolytes:
9 a.m. (Sanctuary):
Conner Feldotto

10:30 a.m. (Sanctuary):
Liz Giesselmann

Elders:
Tim Mueller
Steve Junge
Tim Radig

Dec. 27 and 28

Officiant/Liturgist:

Northwind (FLC):
Rev. Kendall Meyer

7:45 a.m. (Sanctuary):
Rev. Kendall Meyer

9 a.m. (Sanctuary):
Rev. Kendall Meyer

9 a.m. (FLC):
No worship service

10:30 a.m. (Sanctuary)
Rev. Kendall Meyer

Preacher:
Rev. Kendall Meyer

Organist:
Lynn Hays

Acolytes:
9 a.m. (Sanctuary):
Conner Feldotto

10:30 a.m. (Sanctuary):
Liz Giesselmann

Elders:

Tom Westby
Marvin Deer
Rod Serbus

Ushers:

Northwind
Randy Bosworth
Brad Gerke
Mike Mahler

7:45 a.m.

Dennis Dean
Mike Collins
Joe Gilg
Kory Meyeraan
Dan Timmons

9:00 a.m.

Jeff Monson
Don Pevestorf

Scripture Reading:

Dec. 20 and 21: Isaiah 52:7-10 and Luke 1:5-17 (NIV)

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 our families during the Christmas season

Prayers

- For the health and growth of the Lee family
- For helping the Winkleman family deal with Rod's cancer
- For those in our military who will be away from family during Christmas
- For Katie Gilg's foot surgery on Dec. 23
- For the scheduled surgeries of Derek Deer and Missy Deer
- For Maggie McClelland who is recovering from back surgery
- For the health of Kim Marsh's dad, Jack Pfrimmer
- For the health of Julie Mitchell's mother
- For the health concerns of Shirley Nuzum

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.

Gloria Dei's Financial Position

by Bill Jesse, Executive Director

The State of our Budget

As we quickly approach the end of 2008, with the current economic condition in our state and nation, it is understandable to wonder how the church is doing financially during these difficult times.

We are happy to report the church is weathering the storm. We have been able to pay all of our bills on time and do not face any large expenditure in the near future. We have not seen compelling reasons to cut ministry programs to meet our budget at this time. In fact, we have not had reason to utilize our savings to maintain cash flow.

Budget Specifics

At this time of year, there seem to be questions relating to the budget. When planning the annual budget, we try to determine all the offerings, income and revenues for the budget year. Many of our expenses are similar to our household budgets; expenses for heating and cooling, phone bills and other bills paid on a monthly basis. Some of our expenses are seasonal, such as curriculum for Grace Place and Faith Alive, and Christmas and Easter expenses. The offerings are not always received on a consistent basis, but are seasonal as well. For instance, historically, giving drops in the summer months and increases in the winter months.

In the Weekly Word, we report the actual offerings received to date but do not report the actual expenses incurred to date. We also report on the budgeted income to date, based on an equal weekly amount over 52 weeks. Please note the year-to-date budget number in the Weekly Word does not represent the actual expenses of the church. In fact, our actual expenses have historically been much lower than the budgeted expenses. Currently, we are researching how we can communicate our finances in a more concise manner so that we all understand the complete picture.

Financial Position

The best way to determine our financial position is to look at actual income and actual expenses. For the fiscal year-to-date period from July 2008 to the end of November 2008, our actual income from offerings, pre-school tuition, and all other revenue sources totaled \$605,373. Our actual expenditures for the same time period totaled \$685,012. This reflects a shortfall of \$79,639. While we are weathering the economic storm well, there is cause for some concern. Having a shortfall of \$79,639 is not the most ideal position. We have taken steps to monitor expenditures to ensure we are being good stewards of our resources. We hope and pray the congregation will take advantage of the remaining weekends in December and the 2008 tax year to meet pledges and make offerings to help defray this shortfall.

If you have any questions, please contact Bill Jesse at 276-1700 ext. 202.

Stewardship notes

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 2009, 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.

Year-end giving

All offerings received in the church by Wednesday, Dec. 31 will be processed with the 2008 giving statements. Offerings received after Wednesday, Dec. 31 will be processed with the 2009 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 Bill Jesse at 276-1700 ext. 202.

Mission Corner

Honduras



Reports Back from Team Members

Last summer a team from Gloria Dei traveled to Honduras where they shared the love of Jesus with the people they met. Some of their stories are as follows:

Stephanie Young:

“They (Hondurans) have so much life and compassion. They are the poorest people but they are the most compassionate people that I have encountered. They would open their hearts and homes to anybody.”

Jason Neshiem:

“I enjoyed the kind and thankful smiles and hugs I received from the patients that I saw. I heard stories of people being able to read their Bible for the first time after receiving glasses at the brigade.”

Deb Timmons:

“You get so much more from the trip than you could imagine; it far exceeds what you feel you give.”

Gale Webb:

“You would see kids in the dirt streets playing in the garbage and sleeping in dirt floor homes. This is all they have and you realize you can only do so much. You still wish you could do more.”

Jennie Ganzer:

“You feel very fortunate to be born in the United States and have the opportunities that we have. I think we feel bad for them knowing what they don’t have but then you realize most of them do not realize what we have.”

Norma Rohn:

“I was amazed at the contentment and the amount of faith of the Honduran people. That really surprised me.”

Stephen Webb:

“This was my fourth year going and what keeps me coming back to Honduras is that it is always different.”

Facts:

Date:

June 26-July 4

Who can get involved?

Anyone 16 years and older may attend.

Costs:

The total cost is \$1,845, which includes airfare, sleeping accommodations and most meals; a \$200 deposit is required by Jan. 28, 2009.

Activities:

Giving free medical, dental, and optical care to Hondurans as well as sharing the story of Jesus with children and adults.

Informational Meeting:

Join us Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 7:30 p.m. for an informational meeting.

Questions:

Please contact Bill Clark at BillClark@mchsi.com or Pastor Phillips at 278-5544, ext. 204.

Bake Sale:

The Honduras 2009 team will sponsor a bake sale Sunday, Dec. 21 in the narthex. All proceeds will go toward the work in Honduras.

Cards:

Please save the front of your religious Christmas cards that you receive in the mail this year for the mission team to use in Honduras. A container will be in the narthex.

Upcoming Sermon Series

We will continue the Christmas story with our families in January as we begin a five-week series of messages on “Family Values.” We will learn about the priority that our family should play in our lives.

- Jan. 3-4** Find Time
- Jan. 10-11** Family Meal
- Jan. 17-18** Movie Night
- Jan. 24-25** Game Night
- Jan. 31-Feb. 1** Serving Together

We hope you will allow the warmth of these messages to fill your winter months as you spend time with those you love.

Book Club

Gloria Dei’s book club is an informal discussion group of Christian books, which meets the first Wednesday of the month from 6:15-7:25 p.m.

Jan. 7 - “Tuesdays with Morrie,” by Mitch Albom

Want to know more? Contact Heather Schmitz at 371-5875 or hlschmitz@mchsi.com.

Discovery 101

Membership Classes

Thursdays, Jan. 8 to Feb. 19, 2009 from 6:30-8 p.m.

Basics of the Christian Faith is a seven-week class for those wishing to join Gloria Dei who are new to the Lutheran Church. We will journey along with Apostle Paul in the hope that we will experience where God meets us in our lives. As we go through the six chief parts of Luther’s catechism (the 10 Commandments, Apostle’s Creed, Lord’s Prayer, Holy Baptism, Confession and Lord’s Supper), we will see how they pertain to and help with our daily faith-life journey. Childcare is provided. For more information, contact Pastor Kendall Meyer at 278-5544, ext. 224.

Women’s Bible Connections

Make it your time: a.m. or p.m. January is noted for a time of new beginnings, so Women’s Bible Connections will add an additional time slot for women to connect with each other. On Mondays starting in January, women can now gather, pray, study and connect with each other in the mornings and the evenings. Childcare will be provided.

Women’s Bible Connections a.m.: The new addition to Women’s Bible Connections will start Monday, Jan. 12 from 9:15 – 11 a.m. in rooms 130-32, 131-33 and 135-37. Each session will begin with an opening devotion by Tina Morton in the Sanctuary before splitting into the three groups:

Topical Bible Study: The topic we will be studying is a DVD-led Bible study entitled “Fireproof,” based on the movie. Take time out to safeguard your relationships. Beth Casady will be the facilitator.

Scriptural-based Bible Study: This group led by Barb Miles will study the book of John.

Jesus, the One and Only: Lisa Scherer will facilitate this in-depth study by Beth Moore. There will be homework to prepare for each class.

In addition to the regular a.m. schedule, the first Monday of every month, we will begin at church and then go off-site to a coffee shop, restaurant or a host’s home where we will fellowship together.

Women’s Bible Connections p.m.: The evening sessions will begin Monday, Jan. 12 at 6:30 p.m. with an opportunity to sample the different classes that will be provided.

Who is invited? All women members and non-members, whether you are young, a middle-aged, or one blessed by many years, are invited to join us in the mornings or evenings. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Meyer at 278-5544, ext. 224.

Support Groups/Care Night

Thursday Evenings starting Jan. 8, 2009

On Thursday, Jan. 8, 2009 we will begin a new series of support groups, which are designed to help people who are facing difficult situations. Join us for an evening of fellowship, worship and meeting time in an environment that will help bring Jesus Christ to the hurting and the sick for the first time and for a lifetime. Childcare is provided. If interested, sign up on our Web site at www.gloriadeionline.com.

Care Night Schedule and Classes

- 5:30 – 6 p.m.** Join us for a meal; Cost is \$3.50 per meal.
- 6 – 6:15 p.m.** Touch Point: Gather for a time of song, words of encouragement and prayer.
- 6:15 – 8 p.m.** Support Group Meetings: Individual groups meet for study, discussion and prayer.

Cancer Support Group

BCS Group is our Breast Cancer Support Group that reaches out to women who have been diagnosed with breast cancer.

Caregiver Care

Caregiver Care is for adults who are now in the role of being caregivers for their parents or spouses. We will be going through “Caring for Your Aging Parents,” by Barbara Deane, which can be purchased from the Toolshoppe for \$12.

DivorceCare Support Group

DivorceCare is a program for people who are experiencing the pain of divorce.

DC4K: Children’s DivorceCare Support Group

DC4K is a program to help children whose parents are going through a divorce.

GriefShare for adults, youth and children

GriefShare is a program designed to help those who have suffered the death of a close friend or relative. This winter, we will offer support groups for adults, youth and children.

Self-Defense Class

This class is taught by an experienced self-defense/martial arts instructor and will teach you how to protect yourself and avoid unsafe situations. The cost for the class is \$25 and meets six times.

New Mission Trip Opportunity

Gloria Dei has been approved to participate in the Gulf Coast Thrivent builds event from Feb. 15-22, 2009. The trip is open for the first 15 participants; the cost is \$185 for Thrivent members (\$370 for non-Thrivent members). The team will leave on Sunday, Feb. 15 and drive 8-10 hours before staying overnight; on Monday they will drive to Gulfport, Miss., where they work with the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity.

For more information, please contact Bill Clark at 491-8543 or BillClark@mchsi.com.

Preparing for Marriage Class

New session begins Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2009

Couples wishing to be married at Gloria Dei in the coming year must take the six-week pre-marriage class. To register, contact Pastor Phillips at 278-5544, ext. 204 or tphillips@gloriadeionline.com.

Bible Study for Parents of Teenagers

A Bible study for parents of teenagers will be offered on Mondays starting Jan. 12 at 7 p.m. in the Youth Center.

River Bend, a six-week Bible study led by Tim Kightlinger, Director of Youth Ministry, will help parents navigate through their children’s teen years. Even though parents cannot predict their teenager’s future, they can prepare for some of the unfamiliar waters that lie ahead, just around the river bend.

If you are interested, contact Tim Kightlinger, at 278-5444, ext. 212.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who made the Christmas program memorable!

Thank you to the children and youth who were part of the each cast. Thank you to the adults who helped make the programs run smoothly. Thank you to Wesley Woods Camp and Retreat Center for loaning their animals for the program. Thanks be to God who came to us as a baby, our Immanuel, God with us.

May the joy of Christmas take root in your hearts! – DeAnn McCue, Penny Schramm and Terry Steinke



Kindermusik

New Kindermusik classes start the week of Jan. 5. We will offer Family Time classes, Village, Our Time, Imagine That and Young Child Semester 4. More information can be found on our Web site by clicking on the Kindermusik link from our home page at www.gloriadeionline.com.

Dance Classes

Starting Monday, Jan. 12, the following dance classes will be held for pre-school and elementary age children:

- Beginning Ballet and Creative Movement for children ages 3 and 4.
- Creative Dance for children ages 5-7
- Creative Dance for children ages 8-12

Additional information and registration can be found at www.gloriadeionline.com/children.

Tiny Treasures Playgroup

Tiny Treasures will offer a playgroup for children who will be old enough for the regular preschool in the fall. 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 Friday from 9:15-11:15 a.m. from February through May. Registration materials are available in the plastic racks today. Children must be 3 years old by Sept. 15, 2009 and toilet trained. Tuition is \$40 each month; registration fee of \$10 must accompany the form. Class size will be no more than eight children with two teachers.

If you have any questions, please contact Terry Steinke at 278-5544, ext. 305.

Important Dates:

- **Wednesday Dec. 24 and 31:**
No Faith Alive:
- **The Weekend of Dec. 27 and 28:**
No Grace Place:
- **The Weekend of Jan. 3 and 4**
Grace Place Resumes
- **Wednesday, Jan. 7**
Faith Alive Resumes

Grace Place Notes

Dec. 20-21: The birth of Jesus serves as the focus of this Sunday school lesson. The Son of God became what we are, human, to make us what he is, a child of the heavenly Father. Consider discussing, “Why is it important that Jesus became a human like you and me? Why is it important that Jesus was both God and man?”

Dec. 27-28: *Please note: Grace Place will not be held this date, but feel free to ask your children the questions.* On this First Sunday after Christmas, the lesson focuses on “The Presentation of Jesus.” In the Divine Service, we join with Simeon and Anna, the angels and archangels, and the great cloud of witnesses in heaven and on earth hailing Christ as the fulfiller of the Law. Parents might ask, “Where do we sing our praises to God? How has Christ fulfilled the law for us?”

growyleldminister



gloriadciyouthministry

luke 9:23

Junior High Grades 6-8

Service and Mission Hours

Sign up at the youth bulletin board today for service and mission hours.

Eighth Grade

Please turn in your Urban Plunge registration forms by Feb. 1 to Tim or the office. We need at least three parents to attend; the Youth Ministry will cover the cost for the parents.

Confirmation

We need confirmation students to sign up to acolyte for the 7:45 a.m. service in December, January, February and March. We also need an acolyte for the 9 a.m. service in March. We also need someone for Christmas morning at 9:30 a.m. and the New Year's Eve service at 6:30 p.m. Confirmation resumes on Wednesday, Jan. 7.

Sunday: Castaway

Join us Sunday for Castaway at 9:20 or 10:50 a.m. in the Youth Center.

Dec. 21: Private Life

Dec. 28: No Castaway

Jan. 4: Castaway resumes

Junior High Café 923

Friday, Jan. 9 from 6-9 p.m.

Mark your calendars for a fun and fast time in the Family Life Center and Youth Center. Pizza will be available \$1 a slice.

Mission Trip

July 11-18, 2009, Ashland, MT If you currently are in grades 8-12, you are invited to the mission trip. Currently there are 11 signed up to go. A \$75 deposit is due at this time. There are still spots available, contact Tim if you are interested.

Mission trip meeting on Sunday, Jan. 11 at 4:30 p.m. in the Youth Center.

Senior High Grades 9-12

Sunday Bible Study

Join us Sunday from 9-10 a.m. in room 136-38.

Dec. 28: No Bible Study

Jan. 4: Bible Study resumes

Wednesday: The Point

Dec. 24: No Point

Dec. 31: No Point-Happy New Year!

Jan. 7, The Point resumes

Senior High Café 923

Sunday, Jan. 11 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Come and hang out with us as we play games in the Family Life Center and the Youth Center. Hamburgers will be served for dinner. Invite your friends.

Thank You

Thank you to the many ministry partners and actors who helped with the Christmas program. You are awesome!

Dinner Theatre Rehearsals

Join the dinner theatre rehearsals on Jan. 4. Casting will be done at 6 p.m. in the Youth Center. We will then decide rehearsal times.

Week of Dec. 20-26, 2008

Saturday, December 20

7:00 a.m. Cantata Dress Rehearsal
 4:00 p.m. Northwind Worship Rehearsal
 5:30 p.m. Northwind Service
 5:50 p.m. Grace Place

Sunday, December 21

7:45 a.m. Traditional Worship Service in Sanctuary with Communion
 8:00 a.m. Honduras Bake Sale
 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. Senior High Bible Study
 9:20 a.m. Grace Place
 9:20 a.m. Castaway
 9:20 a.m. Worship Team Warm Up
 9:20 a.m. Lifelight Adult Bible Study
 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service in Sanctuary with Communion
 10:50 a.m. Castaway
 10:50 a.m. Grace Place
 1:15 p.m. Cantata Set Up Meal
 1:30 p.m. Cantata Bells Rehearsal
 1:30 p.m. Cantata Orchestra Rehearsal
 1:30 p.m. Cantata Choral Rehearsal
 3:00 p.m. Cantata
 4:15 p.m. Cantata Participant Meal
 5:30 p.m. Cantata
 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

Monday, December 22

8:00 a.m. Cantata Tear Down
 8:00 a.m. Cantata Meeting
 6:30 p.m. Men's Basketball
 6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Connections

Tuesday, December 23

1:00 p.m. Helping Hands
 4:30 p.m. 4th Grade Basketball Practice
 6:30 p.m. Co-ed Volleyball

Wednesday, December 24

4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
 4:30 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
 6:00 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
 6:30 p.m. Contemporary Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
 7:30 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 25

Office closed
 9:30 a.m. Christmas Day Service

Friday, December 26

Church Office Open

Saturday, December 27

4:00 p.m. Northwind Worship Rehearsal
 5:30 p.m. Northwind Service with Communion

Outpouring of Love	
General Fund Offerings	42,995
YTD Offering	670,903
YTD Budget	805,368

Scripture Base on Giving:

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it." Malachi 3:10-11

Worship Service	Attendance	Communion
Northwind	94	66
7:45 a.m.	165	
9 a.m. (Sanctuary)	391	
9 a.m. (FLC)	109	57
10:30 a.m. (Sanctuary)	322	
Total	1081	123

Weeks of Dec. 28, 2008-Jan. 10, 2009

Sunday, December 28

7:45 a.m. Traditional Worship Service in Sanctuary
 9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service in Sanctuary
 9:20 a.m. Worship Team Warm Up
 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service in Sanctuary
 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

Monday, December 29

6:30 p.m. Men's Basketball

Tuesday, December 30

1:00 p.m. Helping Hands
 4:30 p.m. 4th Grade Basketball Practice
 6:30 p.m. Co-ed Volleyball

Wednesday, December 31

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

Thursday, January 1

Offices Closed for Holiday

Friday, January 2

Church Office Open

Saturday, January 3

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

Sunday, January 4

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. Sr. High Bible Study
 9:20 a.m. Grace Place
 9:20 a.m. Castaway
 9:20 a.m. Worship Team Warm Up
 9:20 a.m. Lifelight Adult Bible Study
 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service in Sanctuary with Communion
 10:50 a.m. Castaway
 10:50 a.m. Grace Place
 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

Monday, January 5

8:00 a.m. Iowa Dept. of Ed Monthly Meeting
 6:30 p.m. Men's Basketball

Tuesday, January 6

9:00 a.m. XYZ Monthly Meeting
 11:45 a.m. Kindermusik Family Time
 1:00 p.m. Helping Hands
 3:30 p.m. Mt. Olive Basketball Practice
 4:30 p.m. 4th Grade Basketball Practice
 6:00 p.m. Kindermusik Our Time
 6:30 p.m. Kindermusik Imagine That
 6:30 p.m. Kindermusik Young Child
 6:30 p.m. Co-ed Volleyball
 6:45 p.m. Kindermusik Village

Wednesday, January 7

5:15 p.m. Midweek Meal
 5:30 p.m. M and M Rehearsal
 6:00 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal
 6:00 p.m. Confirmation
 6:00 p.m. Faith Alive/Music Alive
 6:00 p.m. Small Group Bells
 6:00 p.m. The Point – Sr. High
 6:30 p.m. Worship Team Rehearsal
 7:30 p.m. Alleluia Ringers Rehearsal
 7:40 p.m. Gloria Dei Orchestra Rehearsal

Thursday, January 8

9:30 a.m. Naomi Circle
 10:00 a.m. Kindermusik Family Time
 2:00 p.m. Homeschool Choir
 5:30 p.m. Care Night
 6:30 p.m. Discovery 101
 6:30 p.m. SPI MAT

Friday, January 9

8:30 a.m. Scrapbook Fellowship
 3:30 p.m. Mt. Olive Basketball Practice
 6:00 p.m. Junior. High Café 923

Saturday, January 10

8:30 a.m. Scrapbook Fellowship
 4:00 p.m. Northwind Worship Rehearsal
 5:30 p.m. Northwind Service with Communion
 5:50 p.m. Grace Place

Last Week's Educational Attendance				
	Sat. 5:50 p.m.	Sun. 9:20 a.m.	Sun. 10:50 a.m.	Wed. 6 p.m.
Preschool	3	29	16	23
Elementary	11	61	40	93
Total Children	14	90	56	126
Junior High		25	12	88
Senior High		14		30

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

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.

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 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.

Families worship together

At both 9 a.m. services, families are encouraged to worship together before the children are invited to join their peers in an educational time specifically for them. Of course, if children would rather be with adults throughout the service, they are more than welcome.

Children:

Grace Place - preschool and elementary children: We offer educational opportunities for children ages 2 through grade 5 Saturday at 5:50 p.m. and Sunday at 9:20 and 10:50 a.m. Each class is grade-level appropriate with lots of hands-on activities to help reinforce the lessons. Families are welcome to worship together before the children are excused for Grace Place 20 minutes into the service, or families can take their children to the classrooms.

Youth:

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

Senior high students: Our senior high youth in grades 9-12 are invited to a small group study from 9-10 a.m. in rooms 132-36 this week.

Adults

There are lots of community groups forming. For more information, contact Pastor Meyer at 278-5544, ext. 224.



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.

Weekly Bible Reading: Luke 1:5-7; 11-15a

In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. Both of them were upright in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commandments and regulations blamelessly. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren; and they were both well along in years.

Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord.

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

Educational Times: Saturday at 5:50 p.m. and Sundays 9:20 and 10:50 a.m.

• Staffed nursery from 8 a.m.-noon