

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)

3014 McKinley St NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418

Website www.gloriadeilcms.org

Phone 612-781-1989

Vacancy Pastor Matthew Cephus
Phone 612-227.3974

Office Administrator Jeni Hofstede-Bryan
Email info@gloriadeilcms.org

Pianist Martin McGinn

Janitor Dorothy Pempton

Ministers All members of Gloria Dei

Caring Sharing Serving Reaching



Worship Schedule for December

December 3 – First Sunday in Advent w/HC

December 10 – Second Sunday in Advent w/HC

December 16 – Music/Caroling Service

Joint Caroling/Music service with Royal Family

(NOTE: this is a Saturday with at start time of 5 pm)

December 17 – Third Sunday in Advent

Joint Worship service with Royal Family and guest Pastor Paul Biebighauser, Retired Pastor from Christ Victorious preaching

(NOTE: Start time is 11 am) followed by a Potluck Holiday luncheon

December 24 –Christmas Eve w/HC

December 25 – The Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Day w/HC

December 31 – New Year's Eve w/HC

Advent Prayer

Lord Jesus, in this season of Advent, prepare us to celebrate Your blessed incarnation. Illumine our minds and hearts. Ignite our spirits so that we may welcome You in genuine love and faithfulness. May the Holy Spirit embrace us with His presence so that we may live sanctified lives and reflect Your Advent light in all we say and do until that day when You return. Renew and strengthen our faith with John and all the saints of God as we remember Your first advent and look with anticipation to Your second coming.

In Your name we pray. Amen.

Season Greetings From Pastor Matthew . . .

CHRISTMAS

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Christmas songs are on the radio, houses are being decorated inside and out, the Christmas tree is set up in the church, and the hustle and bustle of Christmas vacation is ramping up. As far as the church year goes, we are into the well-known season of Advent!

And what is Advent all about? First of all, the term "advent" cannot be found in the Bible. It actually came about in the early church (the first observation of Advent is uncertain) and comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning "coming".

We typically think of this season as a season of preparation, preparing for baby Jesus to be born. Some churches hold off on all Christmas songs until Christmas Day and the couple weeks post-Christmas. **But here's the kicker: Jesus has already been born! There is nothing for us to prepare for (as far as Jesus goes)!** We are actually freed from needing to prepare our souls or needing to hold off on the Christmas hymns.

Jesus not only has been born, but also has already come to do what God, the Father, sent Him to do. He came to redeem us, save us, forgive us, from all of our sins and give us eternal life! Paul writes to the Galatians: **"When the time came to completion, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons"** (Galatians 4:4- 5).

This is what Christmas is all about. Yes, we celebrate time with family and friends. Yes, Christmas is a time for joy and love and peace. But when we move all of the light fluffy snow away from what lies at the bottom of the pile that is the mountain of Christmas traditions, interpretations, and celebrations, we find that it is in fact our Savior and our God that grants us all of these things! What the Son came to do is the reason for the season. It is in His love and mercy that all the other facets of Christmas are even possible.

As you prepare for your various Christmas activities, know this to be true: no matter how anxious you get, or unprepared you may feel, Christ has already come for you. Christ has already taken your sins, died for you, and has been raised for you so that you may have eternal life in His name. There is no more preparing that you need to do, no more preparing that you can even accomplish. You have been redeemed and received by Christ now and forever.

Merry Christmas!



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry, Newsletter article – December 2023

The Measure of Our Generosity

If you open up the Small Catechism, you'll find a shortened version of the Third Commandment: "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy." But if you look up the list of the Ten Commandments in Exodus, you'll find the full version:

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. (Ex. 20:8–11)

Why did Luther shorten this commandment for the Small Catechism? Was it so that the kids wouldn't have so much to memorize? No, it was because Luther knew that all the details of the Third Commandment were part of the "shadow" of the Old Testament (Col. 2:16). Or as St. Paul puts it, there is "letter" in the Old Testament law and "spirit" (2 Cor. 3:6). The details of not working on Saturday were fulfilled by Christ. That part of the Sabbath regulation no longer applies. But the spirit of the law does remain: We need to dedicate sufficient time each week to hearing God's Word and giving it honor and respect. Or as Luther sums it up in the Small Catechism's explanation to the Third Commandment: "We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it."

The same sort of analysis applies to our giving. In the Old Testament, God commanded the Israelites to give a tenth of their income to the Levites so that those men could dedicate their lives to serving in God's house, teaching the people, conducting worship, etc. In the New Testament, there is a rigid requirement listed about handing in your tax forms to church to make sure you've given enough. But the mandate to have a full-time ministry, which is the spirit of that law concerning tithing to the Levites, is right there in 1 Corinthians 9:14: "The Lord has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel."

The New Testament church's job is significantly larger than the job of Old Testament Israel. We are commanded to preach the Gospel to all nations. There was only the temple to maintain in the Old Testament, but we have churches, schools, universities and seminaries, plus missionaries everywhere. So you tell me: Can we really undertake the work of the ministry if our giving doesn't even measure up to Old Testament levels of generosity?





POINSETTIA'S: Help to beautify our Sanctuary for the Christmas season by donating a poinsettia! The poinsettias will be ordered from Bachman's and are **\$16** for an 8" double plant. Colors are **red, white or pink**. If you would like to donate a plant, the **deadline is Sunday, December 10**. You will be billed directly from the church. *You can also bring in your own poinsettias, but please still sign up.* 😊

The sign-up sheet is posted on the entryway bulletin board or call the church office directly at 612-781-1989 to order.

Thank you!

Gloria Dei and Royal Family will hold a Joint Service on Sunday, December 17 at 11 am (note later start time) followed by a Potluck Luncheon. Guest Pastor Paul Biebighauser, Retired Pastor from Christ Victorious, will be preaching. Sign up to bring a dish to share. See you there!



Salvation Army Christmas Tree Gift Collection.

There is still time to bring in your gift donation. The Social Ministry Committee is collecting **new** gift items for children ages 0-14 for the Salvation Army. **Gifts will be collected through December 10th**. Bring your unwrapped gifts to Church and place them under the Christmas tree in the Lobby. As in the past years, the **Salvation Army's auditor** has requested we add the monetary value of the gifts donated. Please add an estimated dollar amount to the items you leave under the tree.

GIFT IDEAS:

BOYS 6-14: Legos, Play tent, Tonka Trucks, Walkie Talkies, Hot Wheels, Children's Camera, Remote Control Cars, Star Wars toys, NBA/NFL clothing and gear.

GIRLS 6-14: Barbie Dolls (multi-cultural), Children's Camera, Scooter, Bead/Jewelry Kits, Art Kits/Projects, Make-up kits, Hair Accessories.

THANK YOU, Operation Christmas Child Collected 21 Shoeboxes!

These simple gifts are all shipped outside the United States to children affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine, and disease. The mission of Samaritan's Purse and Operations Christmas Child is to provide local partners around the world with shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies as a means of reaching out to children in their own communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Thank you!



There are still 2024 calendar available on the Usher's Table at the back of the church. Feel free to grab one!

Graciously donated by Washburn-Mcreavy Funeral Home

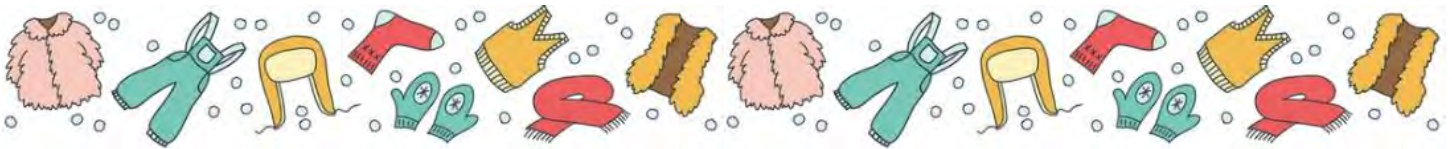
***If you have Thrivent Insurance, don't forget your Thrivent Choice Dollars!
Call every month!***

Gloria Dei was fortunate to receive \$63 in Thrivent Choice Dollars for the month of November. Through this program, eligible members can recommend where Thrivent donates millions of charitable outreach dollars each year. Call 1-800-Thrivent (1-800-847-4836). When asked for subject, say "Choice Dollars". When asked for a choice, press 1. Then answer the next question with your birth date. Then a Thrivent representative will answer. Tell them you want to direct your choice dollars to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 3014 NE McKinley Street, Minneapolis.

Thank you so much for your generous giving!

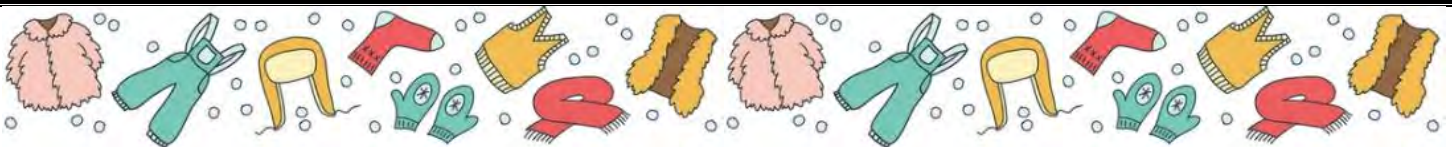
Holiday Gift Basket Distribution

The Social Ministry Committee will be assembling Holiday Gift baskets, filled with fruit, treats and goodies. These baskets will be delivered to our dear shut-ins. If you know someone who would enjoy a gift basket or simply could use some cheering up during this Holiday season, please leave **their name, phone number and address in the Secretary's mailbox.** The group will make sure they receive a gift basket.



Thank you to everyone who was able to donate to the warm clothing collection drive. The gently used/new coats, jackets, sweatshirts, hats, gloves, mittens and scarves were distributed right here at Gloria Dei on Monday, November 13. The collection was such a success, that an additional estimated 100 coats, 50 hats, scarf and mittens were dropped off at the local Northeast Salvation Army for immediate distribution to our community members facing adversity. In speaking with the Social Services Administrator at the Salvation Army, "they were in desperate need of warm clothing." **Any one, at any time** can walk into the Salvation Army and request warm clothing. They are directed to a closet, where they can pick out what they need.

A special thank you to Daniel, Katie Beth and Dorothy for organizing such an important event. **Thank You!**



LIKE TO GROCERY SHOP?

Grocery shop for seniors through Help At Your Door. Start your day off right and get some exercise while helping older adults meet their grocery needs. As a volunteer shopper you will work with a team of volunteers to fill orders at the grocery store for about three hours once a week or twice per month. Volunteers do not pay for groceries. Volunteers especially needed to assist Tuesday or Wednesday mornings (6 am start) at the St. Anthony Cub Foods. Partial shifts are available if you cannot commit for the full three hours. Info: volunteer@helpatyourdoor.org, 651-642-1892 or helpatyourdoor.org.

Holiday Concerts

Lake Wobegon® Brass Band at First Lutheran

The 30-piece Lake Wobegon® Brass Band, led by conductor Michael Halstenson, will perform at First Lutheran Church of Columbia Heights, 1550 40th Ave. NE, Saturday, December 2, 7 pm. Tickets are \$10 for all ages, available at the door.

TubaChristmas 2023

The **35nd Annual MSP TubaChristmas Concert** will be Sunday, December 3, 4:00 p.m. at Central Presbyterian Church, 500 Cedar St., St. Paul.

Audience Admission Free. There will be over 100 players. (Players age range from 10 to 80+).
Registration: 1:30 pm; Rehearsal: 2:30 pm; Concert: 4:00 pm. Information: 612-788-3516 OR cmj01a@msn.com

Christmas Pops Concert

The St. Anthony Civic Orchestra will play Christmas favorites from around the world Friday, December 8, 7:30 pm at the St Anthony Community Center, 3301 Silver Lake Road NE.

Free admission.

A Concordia St. Paul Christmas

A festival service featuring the choral and instrumental ensembles of Concordia University St. Paul. Friday, December 8 at 7:30 pm, Saturday December 9 at 4:30 pm and Sunday, December 10 at 3 pm

Buetow Music Center Auditorium, 300 Hamline Ave N, St. Paul

Complimentary Tickets: www.csp.edu/tickets OR 1-866-488-4849 --

Reserved Seating, freewill offering will be taken

Third Annual Lessons & Carols – December 9 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Holy Cross Catholic Church, 1621 University Ave. NE, will present their Third Annual Advent Lessons and Carols **Saturday, December 9, 7 pm**. This musical celebration combines seasonal carols, choral music and hymns with Scripture readings for the season. Holy Cross's observance of this tradition has a delightfully Polish flare, featuring beloved *kolędy*, a couple of readings in Polish and works by Palestrina, Hildegard von Bingen, Handel, Rheinberger, Elgar, Rachmaninoff and a work by Holy Cross's own Samuel Backman. Free, and there is ample parking. A festive social reception with food and drinks will follow in Kolbe Hall.

NE Community Band Holiday Concert

The Northeast Community Band will present its holiday concert at Edison High School, 700 22nd Avenue NE, Thursday, December 14. The concert will begin at 7 pm. Selections include old chestnuts such as Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride" and "Auld Lang Syne," as well as a special reading of "The Night Before Christmas." The concert is free. The band will also raffle a pair of wooden music stands created by master woodworker Wilfried Hein. Proceeds will go to the band's Ralph Sowden Memorial Scholarship, which provides financial assistance to an Edison senior who will continue their music experience after high school. Refreshments will be served post-concert.

Winterfest: Christmas Carols from Germany & Sweden

December 15 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Celebrate beautiful musical traditions with the Minnesänger, Minnesota's German-language chorus, and the American Swedish Institute's Cloudberryes. You'll hear songs you know and love, and discover new favorites. The concert is free, but you're welcome to donate at the door. 7 pm Friday, December 15. St. Boniface Church, 633 Second Street NE.

Book sale at Pierre Bottineau - December 2 @ 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Friends of the Pierre Bottineau Library will hold a book sale on Saturday, December 2, from 10 am-2 pm at the Pierre Bottineau Library, 55 Broadway Street NE. Hundreds of adult and children's fiction and nonfiction books (most are \$.50 – \$1) in hardcover and paperback. They will also sell 'blind date' books. Items are withdrawn from the Hennepin County Library system or donated by the public. Funds raised will benefit the library. Cash only. If you are interested in assisting with the book sale, please contact Maryellen (pierrebottineau@supporthclib.org).

St. Hedwig's Christmas Fair

Christmas Fair at St. Hedwig's, 129 29th Ave. NE, Saturday, December 2, 10 am-4 pm and Sunday, December 3, 11 am-12:30 pm. Many items for sale, baked goods, raffles and more. Free coffee, hot chocolate and cookies. Baked goods accepted for donation. Info: Carolyn Kraskey 612-221-7864

Christmas Craft and Bake Sale

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 2114 Fifth Street NE, will hold a Christmas craft and bake sale Saturday, December 9, 9 am-1 pm. They will sell pierogi (potato-cheese, sauerkraut, and apple).

CP Holiday Train Returns - December 11 @ 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

The Canadian Pacific Holiday Train will roll through Northeast **Monday, December 11**, making a stop at **Lions Park on 37th Avenue between 37th Avenue & Stinson Blvd at 8 pm**. Country artists Tenille Townes and Breland will perform. Holiday Train shows are free to attend. CP asks attendees to bring a cash or non-perishable food donation if they're able. Local food shelves will set up collection stations at each event, with all donations made staying with the local food bank to help people in need in the community. Because local food shelves buy food at a discount, cash donations can go further than food donations to help those in need.

Community Blood Drive – December 13 @ 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

The American Red Cross will conduct a blood drive Wednesday, December 13, 10 am-4 pm at the Machine Shop, 300 Second Street SE. Walk-ins are welcome, although appointments can be scheduled at pritzlaw.us/donateblood.

Santa on the Fire Truck

Santa will visit St. Anthony aboard a fire truck for three nights: Sunday, December 10: South of 34th Ave NE & West of Silver Lake Rd; Tuesday, December 12: South of 37th Ave NE & East of Silver Lake Rd; and Wednesday, December 13: North of 34th Ave NE & West of Silver Lake Rd, all of North of 37th Ave. He begins his ride at 5:30 pm each night. Firefighters will accept donations for Toys for Tots (acceptable donations include new unwrapped toys, cash or checks made to Toys for Tots) and Nourish 282 (acceptable donations include cash or checks made to Nourish 282. Donations will be accepted until Thursday, December 14 at the Fire Hall, 3505 Silver Lake Rd.

Santa's City Tour - December 19 @ 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Santa's City Tour returns to Columbia Heights on Tuesday, December 19. Santa and his friends at the Columbia Heights Fire Department, Police Department, and Public Works will drive through Columbia Heights from 5 to 6:45 pm. (The route will be announced in the coming weeks.) Santa will also collect unused toys along the route. In addition to the tour, the Columbia Heights Recreation Department will host a holiday party 6:30-8 pm at Murzyn Hall, 530 Mill St. Santa will visit with families at that time.



Fare for All Sale – Affordable Grocery Program

Fare For All is a pop-up grocery store. They sell packs of fresh produce and frozen meat at up to 40% off of retail prices.

Everyone and anyone can shop at Fare For All across 30+ pop up sites in the Twin Cities and Greater Minnesota. Shop for quality, nutritious foods at discount and budget-friendly prices. They follow a co-op model, so the more people who shop, the better the discounts. Just stop by and shop!

How It Work? Fare For All buys fresh produce and frozen meat in bulk from wholesalers, manufacturers, and growers. Volunteers bundle it into \$10 – \$30 packages that are sold at sale locations across Minnesota.

Meat & Produce Packs:

Fresh fruits and vegetables and quality frozen meats.

Mega Meat Pack \$25 — 6-8 frozen meat items (chicken, turkey, pork, beef, or fish)

Mini Meat Pack \$11 — 3-5 frozen meat items (no pork)

Produce Pack \$10 — 2-3 fresh fruits and 3-4 fresh veggies

Specialty Pack \$35 — Brunch, turkey (Nov), or ham (Dec), typically include protein, veggie sides, and dessert

Near-by Pick Up Locations are --

Parker Skyview, 1815 Central Ave NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418

Mondays from 3 – 4:30 pm

Parkview Villa, 965 40th Ave NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421

Thursdays 10:45 – 11:45 am

The Holland, 1717 Washington Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413

Thursdays from 3:30 – 4:30 pm

Their services also include the Twin Cities Mobile Market, which is a grocery store on a bus! The Mobile Market brings affordable, healthy foods right to your neighborhood. **Anyone can shop for a full selection of fresh fruits, vegetables, meat, dairy, grains and other high-quality groceries.**

The bus visits neighborhoods that don't have access to full-service supermarkets, grocery stores, or food shelves. Each year they serve nearly 10,000 customers at more than 25 sites around St. Paul and Minneapolis. Shopping is easy, convenient, and open to everyone.

Northeast Farmers Market Winter Market

Northeast Farmers Market moves indoors with the winter months. They'll be at Quincy Hall, 1325 Quincy St. NE, on the following dates: Dec. 3, Jan. 7, Feb. 4, March 3, and April 14, 10 am-2 pm.

2024 Northeast Calendar Available for Pick-Up

The ever-popular Northeast Calendar is now available for pickup at a location near you. It contains images created by 12 Northeast artists. The calendar also includes an update of public art and other changes in the landscape of the neighborhoods, information on the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District and spotlights on arts allies American Craft Council and Theater Latté Da.



THE LUTHERAN HOUR

WCCO 830 AM Radio

Heard each Sunday morning at 6:05 a.m.

Hosted by Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler (unless otherwise noted)

Dec 4 "Paradise Restored" (Isaiah 11:1-10)

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
If God is love, what are we to make of His wrath?

Dec 11 "Beauty We Can't See" (Isaiah 28:5)

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
We often feel our need for God's presence only when we see what it looks like when He's absent.

Dec 18 "Gestures of Hope" (Isaiah 7:14)

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
Dr. Michael Zeigler shows how even the smallest acts of kindness can go a long way, by God's grace.

Dec 25 "A Shoot from the Stump"

(Isaiah 11:1)

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
A shoot springs forth from the stump of Jesse. Is it a sign of hope--or a threat?

Time of Grace

Time of Grace tv program airs globally via various outlets, but you can also search topics and watch the program at timeofgrace.org/tv-program. Each episode is a 30-minute study of God's Word with Pastor Mike Novotny. Pastor Mike Novotny has served God's people in full-time ministry since 2007 as a pastor in Madison and now Appleton, Wisconsin. He also serves as the lead speaker for the Time of Grace television program and contributes to the written resources of Time of Grace Ministry.

Sundays KARE (NBC 11) 10:30 am
www.timeofgrace.org

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To help you stay rooted in Jesus by taking time out for God's Word every day. Subscribe to Time of Grace resources to be delivered to your email inbox daily. It's easy to subscribe to resources that'll keep you rooted in Jesus. Just select which types of resources you would like to receive, and they will be sent right to your inbox! <https://timeofgrace.org/subscribe/>

OFFICIAL ACTS for November

None



Main Street Living North

Main Street Living is an hour-long Lutheran television program that airs new episodes each Sunday morning. The Twin Cities program is broadcast **at 9 am**. Central time on WFTC channel 29/9-2. Each Sunday, viewers enjoy a **30-minute remastered episode of "This is the Life,"** a popular Lutheran Hour Ministries series from the 70s and 80s. The episode is followed by a modified Lutheran worship service—led by a different local pastor each week. Main Street Living (Twin Cities) is endorsed by the Minnesota South District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; however, the program receives no funding from the District. It is totally funded by viewers and congregations of the WFTC viewing area.

WORSHIP FOR SHUT-INS

Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc. produces a weekly, 30-minute Lutheran broadcast worship service called **Worship for Shut-Ins**. Each service includes music, scripture readings, prayers, and a Lutheran pastor delivering a message that is designed to feel one-on-one to the viewer. Each program is closed captioned for the hearing impaired.

Weekly programs are broadcast on Total Christian Television (TCT) network -- **DIRECTV channel 377 at 10:30 am on Sundays OR** watch online on the homepage and in the **"Online Viewing"** portion of the website www.worshipforshutins.org!

December Special Occasions for Special People



<p>2nd Shirley Slagle 7th Robert Bauer 8th Alex Martinez 13th Dorothy Pempton 16th Dolores Kluwe 16th Pat Vogel 20th Gwen Johnson 24th Danielle Ohnstad 29th Lyle Payette 31st Katie Beth Stand</p>	<p><i>No Anniversaries</i></p>
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DECEMBER SERVANTS

Elder: Karmon Christopherson

Be sure to sign up for Altar Care and Usher duties.
 Sign-up sheets located on the bulletin board in the Church lobby.

Thank you!

Counters

- 3rd Tom and Patty Lyrenmann
- 10th Al, Pam and Aaron Morelli
- 17th Dale Raschke and Wade Billmeyer
- 24th Shirley Holzinger and Verlayne Sather
- 25th Sandy Westling and Tom Harris
- 31st Pat Scott and Shirley Slagle

Candles

- 3rd Shirley Holzinger –
Nephew Adam’s Birthday – December 5
- 10th OPEN
- 17th Shirley Holzinger – In Loving Memory of Rudy
- 24th Sandy Westling – Come into our hearts Jesus!
- 25th Shirley Holzinger – In Memory of Rudy’s
birthday, December 27
- 31st OPEN

Flowers

- 3rd OPEN
- 10th OPEN
- 17th OPEN
- 24th Christmas Poinsettias
- 25th Christmas Poinsettias
- 31st



In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16 NIV



December 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church 3014 McKinley Street NE 612-781-1989						
3 First Sunday in Advent 10 am Worship w/Holy Communion Yearly Congregational Meeting (following service) 10:30 Royal Family Sunday School 11:45 am Royal Family Worship 6 pm NA	4 Pastor's Day Off 5:30 pm Beginners AIAnon 7 pm AIAnon	5	6 11 am Service and Bible Study + Fellowship	7 5:30 pm Bible Study	8 5 – 8 pm Living Word Music set-up/Practice	9 10 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship 6 – 8 pm Living Word Prayer Night
10 Second Sunday in Advent 10 am Worship w/Holy Communion 10:30 Royal Family Sunday School 11:45 am Royal Family Worship 6 pm NA	11 Pastor's Day Off 5:30 pm Beginners AIAnon 7 pm AIAnon	12 	13 11 am Service and Bible Study + Fellowship	14 5:30 pm Bible Study	15 5 – 8 pm Living Word Music set-up/Practice	16 10 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship 5 pm Joint Caroling Service (Gloria Dei + Royal Family) 4 – 5 pm Living Word Board Meeting 6 – 8 pm Living Word Prayer Night
17 Third Sunday in Advent 11 am Joint Worship Service (Gloria Dei + Royal Family) Holiday Luncheon 10:30 Royal Family Sunday School 6 pm NA	18 Pastor's Day Off 5:30 pm Beginners AIAnon 7 pm AIAnon	19 5 pm GDLC Council Meeting	20 11 am Service and Bible Study + Fellowship	21 5:30 pm Bible Study	22 5 – 8 pm Living Word Music set-up/Practice	23 10 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship 6 – 8 pm Living Word Prayer Night
24 Christmas Eve 10 am Christmas Eve Service w/Holy Communion 10:30 Royal Family Sunday School 11:45 am Royal Family Worship 6 pm NA	25 Christmas Day The Nativity of Our Lord 10 am Christmas Day Service w/Holy Communion 5:30 pm Beginners AIAnon 7 pm AIAnon	26	27 11 am Service and Bible Study + Fellowship	28 5:30 pm Bible Study	29 5 – 8 pm Living Word Music set-up/Practice	30 10 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship 6 – 8 pm Living Word Prayer Night
31 New Year's Eve 10 am Worship w/Holy Communion 10:30 Royal Family Sunday School 11:45 am Royal Family Worship 6 pm NA						



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Pray For Us Calendar

ADVENT: THE SECOND COMING — DECEMBER 1-15

Advent means coming. We anticipate the promised return of Christ as the judge of the world. We look with hope to the day of the resurrection of all flesh, when those who believe in Christ will rise to everlasting life.

The Church waits for the Second Coming in repentance, hope and faith. For the following, we pray “Lord, have mercy.”

- 1.** For hearts that imitate the generosity and graciousness of Jesus. Pray that God’s people would be eager to show forth the love of God through their good works for their neighbor.
- 2.** That the Lord would preserve His Word and Sacraments in our midst, so that we may be kept strong in the one, true faith until Christ’s return.
- 3.** That the people of God would be faithful in their attendance of the Divine Service, where God

strengthens our faith toward Him and our steadfast love for one another.

- 4.** That all people would fear God and find hope in His gracious forgiveness through Christ.
- 5.** For all who do not believe in Jesus, that they might hear the Gospel and believe.
- 6.** For all Christians, that we might repent of our sins and prepare for Christ’s return.
- 7.** For steadfast faith as the world writhes and groans in anticipation of the day of judgment.

8. For the ministers of the Word, that they would be faithful to their calling.

9. for the Church’s missionaries, that through them the Word would go forth into the world with power.

10. For our government, that we might live peaceable and quiet lives.

11. For parents, that they would see their role in raising children as a holy calling from God in these last days.

12. For patience, as we wait for Christ’s coming, that we might believe God is not slow in keeping promises, but patient.

13. For those who mourn the loss of loved ones, that the promise of the resurrection may be their hope.

14. For those who are dying, that they may entrust their whole lives unto God who keeps them.

15. For the coming of Christ. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.



ADVENT: THE INCARNATION — DECEMBER 16-31

During Advent we rejoice that God sent His Son to be the redeemer of the world. We gather with all Christians to celebrate this gracious gift from our heavenly Father. We trust in Christ alone as our Savior.

The Church gathers to thank God and ask for faith to trust in His gift of a Savior. For the following, we pray “Lord, have mercy.”

16. For faithful reading of Old Testament, that all who read may see Jesus as the promised Savior.

17. For opportunities to proclaim the Gospel in this season. When the world is open to hearing the story of Christmas, may we be unashamed in our witness.

18. That all Christians might see the needs of their neighbor and love with the love of Christ.

19. For those who only attend worship at Christmas, that the Spirit would work faith through the hearing of the Word.

20. That we may believe the truth of the two natures of Christ.

21. For St. Thomas, apostle. That with him we might believe and confess that Jesus is Lord and God.

22. For faithful readings of the New Testament. That all the words of the apostles and evangelists may result in faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

23. For pastors who serve as Christ’s under-shepherds in our midst. That they might proclaim the truth of the Good News of Christmas.

24. Rejoice that Jesus is Immanuel. God is with us to save us.

25. Rejoice in the incarnation of Jesus Christ. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We have seen His glory — glory as the only-begotten of God.

26. Thank God for St. Stephen, the first Christian



Martyr. That we might also serve God with our lives — thoughts, words and deeds.

27. That God would grant us faith to believe that He comes to us in the Means of Grace.

28. For all those who face depression and desperation at this time of year. That God’s gift of love in Christ would gladden their hearts.

29. For all those who travel. That God would grant them safety.

30. That all would know and believe in the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus for the world’s salvation.

31. That the Lord would abundantly bless the efforts of the LCMS and its partners in the coming years. That the Gospel is the primary focus of all that is done and proclaimed.

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