

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Email info@gloriadeilcms.org
Website www.gloriadeilcms.org
Phone 612-781-1989
Fax 612-254-8401

Pastor

Matthew Cephus

Phone

612-227-3974

Pianist

As Scheduled

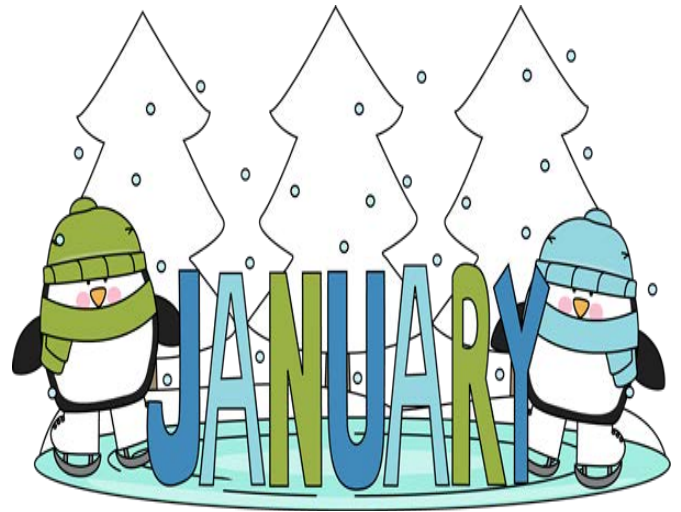
Office Administrator

Jeni Hofstede-Bryan

Ministers

All members of Gloria Dei

Caring Sharing Serving Reaching



JANUARY 2026 Worship Schedule

Jan 4 Second Sunday after Christmas w/Holy Communion

Jan 11 The Baptism of our Lord w/Holy Communion

Jan 18 Second Sunday after the Epiphany w/Holy Communion

Jan 25 Third Sunday after the Epiphany w/Holy Communion

***Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, January 14th at 11 am.
Please join us!***

Thank you to everyone who donated a poinsettia for the altar.
Gloria Dei looked beautiful during the Christmas holiday.



New Year's Prayer

May the Lord make my New Year a happy one... Not by shielding me from sorrow and pain, but by strengthening me to bear it if it comes. Not by making my path easy, but by making me sturdy enough to tread any path. Not by taking hardships from me, but by taking all cowardice and fear from my heart as I meet hardships.



FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR MATTHEW . . .

The Bright and Morning Star

During these dark days of winter when sunrise comes late, I rejoice to see the morning star rising in the east just before dawn. Some mornings, this light is clearly visible. On other mornings when there is thick cloud cover, the light is not visible. And yet, I know that whether I can see that morning star or not, it is still there. The steadfast constancy of this God-designed phenomenon is reassuring to me; it makes my heart glad.

As any astronomer will tell you, the morning star isn't really a star at all. In fact, this is actually the planet Venus, appearing on the horizon before dawn. This point-of-fact doesn't bother me; the effect is still the same. It reminds me of God's gracious ordering of creation: **"And God said, 'Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.' And God made the two great lights – the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night – and the stars. And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good"** (Genesis 1:14-18). That steadfast constancy of what God originally designed continues to this very day. Living as we do in the midst of things that are so temporary and fleeting, surely this is a blessing beyond calculation.

In these dark days of the early new year, God's people celebrate Jesus who is the Light of the world in the season of Epiphany. That word, *Epiphany*, comes from the Greek language (the original language of the New Testament) and means to manifest or show forth. The season of Epiphany begins on January 6 as we remember and give thanks for those first Gentile visitors who came to worship the Christ Child – the Wise Men. With their amazing and extravagant gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, they honored him who was born King of Jews ([Matthew 2:1-12 ESV - The Visit of the Wise Men - Now after - Bible Gateway](#)). Jesus makes clear that he himself is both the Light of the world ([John 8:12 ESV - I Am the Light of the World - Again - Bible Gateway](#)) and the bright and Morning Star ([Revelation 22:16 ESV - "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to - Bible Gateway](#)). The Epiphany season celebrates the light and love of Jesus that is ever expanding into the darkest recesses of the world and of our lives. All of these things are brought to mind each morning that I am permitted to see the morning star rising in the east just before dawn. And I am moved to give thanks and praise to God who, through his beloved Son, Jesus, has called us out of darkness into his marvelous light ([1 Peter 2:9 ESV - But you are a chosen race, a royal - Bible Gateway](#)).

There is a beautiful Epiphany hymn that speaks to this image. It has been used by countless generations of Christians for hundreds of years, and still speaks to our hearts and minds today:

*O Morning Star, how fair and bright!
You shine with God's own truth and light, Aglow with grace and mercy!
Of Jacob's race, King David's Son, Our Lord and master, you have won
Our hearts to serve you only! Lowly, holy!
Great and glorious, All victorious,
Rich in blessing! Rule and might o'er all possessing!*

(Lutheran Book of Worship #76, stanza 1)

In Jesus, who is the Light of the world, as well as that bright and Morning Star, I pray that this will be a year of grace and blessing for you. Happy New Year!



Getting ready for the Lantern Walk at Gloria Dei





Welcoming Guests to explore the stations of Lanternwalk, which highlighted bible verses. The self-guided tour was held on December 6 from 4:30- 7:30 pm









With Our Sincerest Thank You!

We extend our sincere gratitude to the entire Gloria Dei community for the cards, gifts, and prayers received throughout the Christmas season. Your thoughtfulness is truly valued. It is a privilege to serve alongside such a supportive and dedicated congregation. We wish you all continued success in 2026.

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Pastor Matthew, Jeni and Matt



Salvation Army Christmas Tree Gift Collection was a Success!

The Social Ministry Committee extends its gratitude to everyone who shopped for new gifts for the Salvation Army. Thanks to your generosity gifts totaling \$623 were collected — an incredible effort! These gifts certainly helped brighten many Christmas mornings. Additionally, Gloria Dei contributed 90 pounds of food to the Food Shelf and 21 backpacks for their after school program. Wow.

January – March 2026 Portals or Prayer available at the back of the Church. Help yourself!

Holiday Gift Basket Delivered!

The Social Ministry Committee assembled Holiday Gift baskets, filled with fruit, treats and goodies. Ten baskets were delivered to our dear shut-ins. Each basket also received a handwritten card with holiday greetings and well wishes.



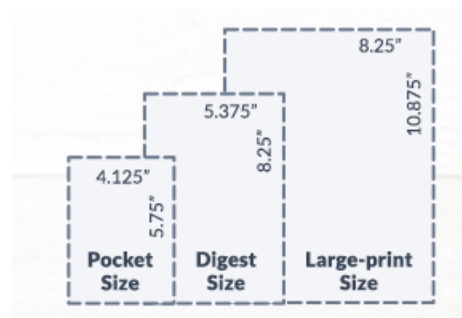
Sign-up sheets for 2026 Altar Care, Ushers, Flowers and Candles can be found on the entryway bulletin board.

Sign up for the week that works best with your schedule. Flowers can be ordered through the Church at a cost of \$28 per bouquet plus a \$12 delivery fee (**you can also pick them up at Pletcher's Floral**), or feel free to bring in your own. You will be billed directly from the Church if you order flowers. Candles are \$6.

A DAILY DEVOTION FOR ALL!

Whether you are an early riser or prefer a quiet moment later in the day, we invite you to enrich your routine with the inspirational devotions of *Portals of Prayer*. Each edition offers a meaningful Bible reading, reflection, and prayer to help you center your day on faith. POPs are conveniently available in various sizes to suit your needs. Pocket size (regular print) is \$10.25, digest-size is \$20.55 and large print is \$22.25.

Payment envelopes for your subscription can be found within your envelope box. Please remember to use the designated envelopes when submitting your payment. Thank you!



Did you miss a Sunday worship service, or want to hear a specific sermon again? You can view all our previous worship services on our YouTube Channel. Simply go to our website, where you will find a “Watch Live” [click here to watch](#) section on our Homepage, you will then be redirected to Gloria Dei’s YouTube page, where you will always find the last Sunday’s service. To view previous Sunday services, click “Live” (Home Videos Live) you will then be taken to the page with the previous Sunday services, scroll and click on the one you want to watch.

Something Sweet Needed!

Do you have a favorite recipe for cookies, bars, or cakes? Every Sunday after the 10 am service, GDLC welcomes everyone to Fellowship in the Fireside Room, where coffee and snacks are served. You are welcome to bring something to share—it doesn't need to be homemade. Thank you!

If you have Thrivent Insurance, don’t forget about Thrivent Choice Dollars!

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. A Thrivent representative will come on the line, tell the representative you want to direct your choice dollars to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 3014 NE McKinley Street, Minneapolis.

By directing Choice Dollars through the Thrivent Choice program, eligible members recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable outreach grant dollars. These dollars are distributed among thousands of participating nonprofit organizations and congregations each year.

Thank you for your generous giving!

MARCH FOR LIFE 2026

The annual Minnesota March for Life raises awareness surrounding pro-life issues, especially the value of mothers and unborn children. Along with the March around the Capitol grounds, the event features speakers and the opportunity to advocate for legislative changes that protect the rights of the unborn. This year's March will be held on Thursday, January 22 at noon at the State Capitol. Everyone is encouraged to participate! Please dress appropriately.

Preceding the March, there will be a worship service held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church (655 Forest Street North, St. Paul) at 10 am with President Woodford preaching. You are invited to attend even if you choose not to participate in the March at the Capitol. Refreshments will be served following the worship service.

*Happy
New Year*

Around the Community!

Free Drive-Thru Community Dinner at St. Timothy's | January 13th

Drive Thru Community Dinner – Second Tuesday of each month – 5-6:30 pm (or until the food is gone). Free, everyone is welcome! St. Timothy's is located at 825 51st Ave NE, Columbia Heights.

Free Community Meal

Faith United Methodist Church, 2708 33rd Avenue NE, holds a free Community dinner every second Thursday of the month, 5-6 pm. Everyone is welcome. Upcoming 2026 dates are Jan. 8, Feb. 12, March 12, April 9, May 14, June 11, July 9, Aug. 13, Sept. 10, Oct. 8, Nov. 12 and Dec. 10.

Traditional Scandinavian Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner | January 17 @ 12 pm – 6 pm

First Lutheran Church of Columbia Heights, 1555 40th Avenue NE, will hold its annual Scandinavian Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner, Saturday, January 17, seating times are 12 pm, 2 pm, 4 pm and 6 pm. Takeout may be ordered for the same times. However, takeout orders will be filled after all onsite attendees are seated for their scheduled time (about 30 minutes after seating time). Tickets are \$25, and \$12 for children 3 – 12, under 2 are free and can be reserved by calling Cheryl at 651-633-0679 or www.flcch.org/lutefisk-meatball-dinner. No ticket returns and reservations are required! Tickets are sold through January 11. Dinner includes lutefisk with butter and optional white sauce, meatballs, mashed potatoes, gravy, carrots, mashed rutabagas, herring, beet pickles, lefse, julekake, rice pudding with raspberry sauce. Meals can be requested without fish (for the faint of heart) and will include extra meatballs.

Drop-In Tech Time - Wednesdays 11:00 AM-12:30 PM

If you have a specific tech question and want 1:1 support, please consider stopping by for Vital Living's Drop-In Tech Time conveniently located within East Side Neighborhood Services at 1700 Second Street NE, Minneapolis. They can help with day-to-day questions regarding things like how to search the internet, app functions, making text bigger, etc. If you need support and Wednesdays do not work for you, please feel free to call, they can try to find a different day that works better. It is helpful to call in advance and let them know you are coming. All drop-in tech support sessions take place in the Tech Lounge at East Side Neighborhood Services. No cost for this service but donations are welcome. For questions and to register, contact 612-787-4086 or VitalLiving@esns.org.

Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow

Sidewalk clearing basics

- Shovel the full width of the City sidewalk along your entire property down to bare pavement.
- Use sand/salt on icy sidewalks. Some sand/salt mix is available from the City for residents. Keep in mind, 12 ounces of salt is all you need to treat eight or ten sidewalk panels. Any **more than that is overkill! That's the word from the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO), based in Northeast.**
- Shovel around your garbage, organics and recycling carts so the City can empty your carts.
- Shovel snow into your yard or boulevard. Do not shovel snow into the street or alley.
- If you will be away, arrange for someone else to shovel your sidewalk.
- If you do not shovel and properly maintain your sidewalk, crews may be sent to remove the snow and ice and you will be billed for the work.

Snow clearing assistance: if you need assistance clearing your sidewalk, please contact 311 for information on possible resources in your area.

Contact 311 to report a sidewalk snow and ice complaint.

Your neighbors will thank you!

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)

January 4 John 17:3
"Knowing and Being Known in a New Year"
Lutheran Hour Speak: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
God invites us to speak with Him in prayer and hear from Him in the Bible, to know Him and to love as we are loved.

January 11 Romans 6:5 "Solidarity"
Lutheran Hour Speak: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
Solidarity is how Christians understand their relationship to Jesus Christ. We believe that Jesus, the Son of God, went where we had gone so that we might go where He goes.

January 18 1 Corinthians 1:18-19
"Outstanding Universal Value"
Lutheran Hour Speak: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
The Christian faith has the power to make us act better. But that's not the goal.

January 25 1 Corinthians 1:17-18
"Cross Words--Words of Power"
Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola
A crossword puzzle uses an answer only once, but Christ is the answer for all people in every place and time.



Daily Devotions from The Lutheran Hour Ministries

With several ways to read and listen, you can get your daily does of Scripture when you need it.

Visit lhm.org/dailydevotions to subscribe for email delivery to your inbox, sign up for the podcasts, or download the app for your mobile device – all for **FREE!**



December Official Acts

None

Time of Grace

About Time of Grace

The mission of Time of Grace is to point people to what matters most: Jesus. Using a variety of media (television, radio, podcasts, print publications, and digital), Time of Grace teaches tough topics in an approachable and relatable way, accessible in multiple languages, making the Bible clear and understandable for those who need encouragement in their walks of faith and for those who don't yet know Jesus at all.

Pastor Mike Novotny has served God's people in full-time ministry since 2007 in Madison and, most recently, at The CORE in Appleton, Wisconsin. He also serves as the lead speaker for Time of Grace, where he shares the good news about Jesus through television, print, and online platforms.

Sundays KARE (NBC 11) 10:30 AM

Subscribe to Time of Grace 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 www.timeofgrace.org/subscribe

WORSHIP FOR SHUT-INS

Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc. produces a weekly, 30-minute Lutheran broadcast, **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 in the "Online Viewing" portion of the website www.worshipforshutins.org!

January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 New Year's Day	2 5 – 8 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal	3 10 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship 6 – 8 pm Living Word Prayer Night
4 The Second Sunday after Christmas 10 am GDLC Worship w/HC 11:45 am Royal Family Worship 6 pm NA	5 Pastor's Day Off 7 pm Beginners AlAnon (downstairs) 7 pm AlAnon (upstairs)	6 7:30 pm SLAA Group Meeting	7 <u>NO</u> 11 am Bible Study	8	9 5 – 8 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal	10 10 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship 6 – 8 pm Living Word Prayer Night
11 First Sunday after the Epiphany 10 am GDLC Worship w/HC 11:45 am Royal Family Worship 6 pm NA	12 Pastor's Day Off 7 pm Beginners AlAnon (downstairs) 7 pm AlAnon (upstairs)	13 7:30 pm SLAA Group Meeting	14 11 am Bible Study	15	16 5 – 8 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal	17 10 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship 4 – 5 pm Living Word Board Meeting 6 – 8 pm Living Word Prayer Night
18 Second Sunday after the Epiphany 10 am GDLC Worship w/HC 11 am GDLC Congregational Meeting 11:45 am Royal Family Worship 6 pm NA <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	19 MLK, Jr. Day Observed Pastor's Day Off 7 pm Beginners AlAnon (downstairs) 7 pm AlAnon (upstairs)	20 7:30 pm SLAA Group Meeting	21 11 am Bible Study	22	23 5 – 8 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal	24 10 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship 6 – 8 pm Living Word Prayer Night
25 Third Sunday after the Epiphany 10 am GDLC Worship w/HC 11:45 am Royal Family Worship 6 pm NA	26 Pastor's Day Off 7 pm Beginners AlAnon (downstairs) 7 pm AlAnon (upstairs)	27 7:30 pm SLAA Group Meeting	28 11 am Bible Study	29	30 5 – 8 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal	31

Special Occasions for Special People



2012

No Birthdays

No Anniversaries

JANUARY SERVANTS

Elder: Karmon Christopherson

Counters

4th Sandy Westling and Tom Harris
 11th Dale Raschke and Wade Billmeyer
 18th Al, Pam and Aaron Morelli
 25th Tom and Patty Lyrenmann

Candles

Flowers

4th
 11th
 18th
 25th

4th
 11th
 18th
 25th

If you sign up for flowers or candles after the newsletter is published, be sure to let the office know. We want to make sure that flowers are ordered and you are properly acknowledged in the bulletin notes. Thanks!



***"If you're praying for a Blizzard,
 please just visit the Dairy Queen!"***

Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.
 Isaiah 60:1



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Pray For Us Calendar

EPIPHANY — JANUARY 1-31

Epiphany is from a Greek word meaning to “reveal” or “make manifest.” The season of Epiphany is our time to focus on the revelation of who Jesus is — both true God and true man — as we remember Christ’s revelation to the Gentiles in the visit of the Wise Men.

Give thanks as you pray:

1. *That God would make us bold witnesses to the Good News of Jesus Christ in this new year and always.*

2. *For opportunities to witness to friends, family members and strangers. Please send Your Holy Spirit to give us wisdom and faithful words to use during these encounters.*

3. *For our congregations, that God would strengthen them by fostering a faithful Lutheran approach to confessing Christ to neighbors and planting daughter congregations.*

4. *That our schools would be faithful mission outposts, reaching unchurched families with the Gospel and strengthening the faith of church families.*

5. *With thanksgiving for all the Synod’s faithful church workers, that they might be re-energized daily and find great joy in their service.*

6. *That just as You made known Your Son to the Gentiles through the leading of a star, You would continue to bring the light of Your Gospel to the hearts of all people.*

7. *For new church plants and mission starts, that the Lord would help faithful congregations sprout up in every corner of the United States.*

8. *That we would be effective in reaching out to people of different ethnicities who are living in our communities. Pray that the Lord would use us*

as His instruments to make the LCMS a reflection of the Church Triumphant.

9. *For those marching for life, whether at the National March for Life in Washington, D.C., or a pro-life event closer to home. Please pray that all those who attend might be a powerful witness to others.*

10. *For all children, that they would be brought to the saving waters of Baptism and raised in the love, nurture and admonition of the Lord.*

11. *That the Lord would help us raise our children and young people in the faith, always pointing them to the hope and salvation found only in Christ.*

12. *For college students, who are struggling with many different issues and challenges. Ask God to make them receptive to the peace and healing of the Gospel.*

13. *For the aged, that they would be godly examples to the young as they are patient in their tribulations, joyful in their hope, firm in their faith and humble in all they say and do.*

14. *That God would strengthen our hope and impact by encouraging partnerships in the Gospel that clearly confess Christ.*

15. *For the Synod’s 35 districts, that they might have the resources and wisdom to effectively reach out to their communities.*

16. *For strong districts, congregations and Recognized Service Organizations. When our Synod is strong at home, we can better reach out across the world.*

17. *For all missionaries around the world, who leave family and friends to travel to a foreign land to share the Gospel with those who have not heard. Pray that God would grant them safety, wisdom and strength.*

JANUARY *Pray For Us Calendar*

18. *With thanksgiving for all the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ who support the work of LCMS missionaries through their prayers and gifts.*

19. *That God would raise up indigenous pastors, deaconesses and other church leaders to reach out to their own communities and share His Word.*

20. *For the Synod's partner churches around the world, that they would continue to teach Christ's Word in all its truth and purity.*

21. *With thanksgiving for all past missionaries. Thanks be to God, the Gospel seeds they planted continue to bear much fruit.*

22. *That God would raise up more missionaries to serve at home and abroad, according to His will.*

23. *That the Lord would open up the hearts and minds of people around the world, so that His grace-filled message can be spread far and wide.*

24. *For discernment, that we might heed God's call to serve in His name, whether around the world or right here at home.*

25. *That God would bless mission work in urban areas and protect those He sends to work in these often-difficult situations.*

26. *For mission work in sub-urban areas, that we would not become complacent in the work God has called us to do in our own communities.*

27. *For mission work in rural areas, that congregations would be equipped to respond to the changing demographics around them.*

28. *That congregation members might be welcoming to every person the Lord brings to their church.*

29. *That God would strengthen our faith so that His Word has free course in our congregations and homes.*

30. *For all people who turn away from the loving arms of their Savior. Pray that the Holy Spirit would transform their hearts and minds.*

31. *With thanksgiving that God has called and equipped us to join in His mission to seek and save the lost. Ask God to give you courage to be His witness in your daily life.*



Congregations and individuals are invited to copy these pages for newsletters or other distribution. Download at lcms.org/prayforus or call 888-843-5267 to request a copy.

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