

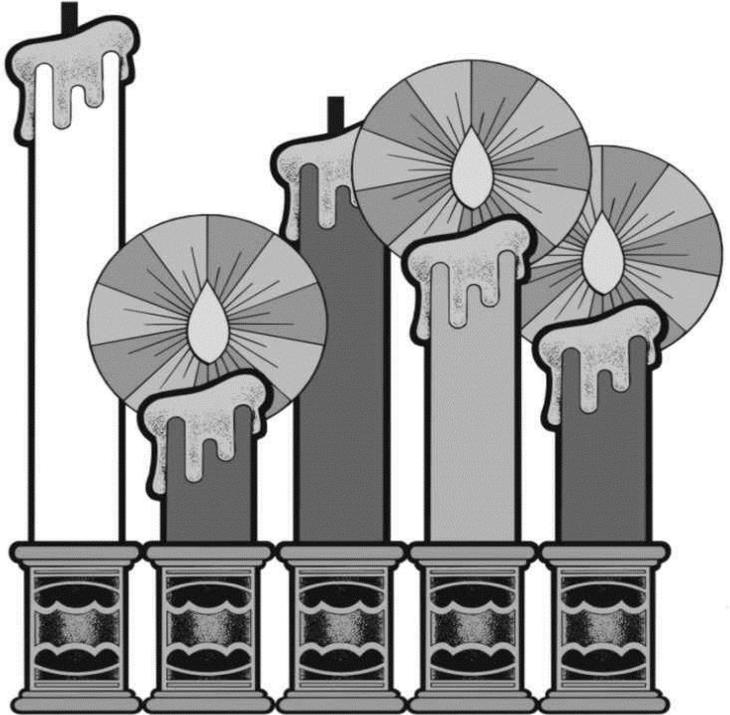
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Where Guests Become Friends and Friends Become Family

DECLARATION

He came as a witness to testify
to the light, so that all might
believe through him.

John 1.6



3rd Sunday in Advent

Order of Worship

December 17, 2017

10:00 am

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)

612-781-1989

3014 McKinley St NE

Minneapolis, MN 55418

email: info@gloriadeilcms.org

website: www.gloriadeilcms.org

Welcome to God's House today!!!

A special welcome to visitors and guests; we are pleased that you have joined us today! If you have no church family, and if we can be of any help to you, please speak with the pastor after the service. We invite all guests to sign the Guest Register. We pray you will feel God's love for you and be empowered to live as God's child this week.

Today's Focus: *Advent is the season of preparation and expectation for the coming of Christ. It encourages us to examine our lives, to reflect on our need for God to enter our lives and to earnestly prepare for and eagerly await to coming of Christ. The first lesson turns our attention to confession, repentance and divine restoration. The second lesson sees the restoration of the faithful beginning in Christ and fulfilled in the revealing of Jesus Christ on the day of the Lord. Finally, using some of the images of apocalyptic, the Gospel urges the elect to be alert for the return of Christ for no one except the Father knows the day or the hour of the Lord's return.*

Children are welcome in worship! If childcare is needed, an unattended nursery is open during worship services. It is located across from the restrooms next to the Church Offices.

Is there something you'd like us to pray for today? "Prayer Request" cards are in each pew. Please hand your request to an usher before the service or during the offering. They will give them to the pastor to include in the prayers for today.

The Lord's Supper is celebrated on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. We joyfully share our conviction that this is The Lord's Table. We receive the true Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, together with the bread and wine in a manner our human reason cannot understand. (Real Presence) By communing together with our Lord:

- we express the belief that Jesus is the Son of God and Son of Man;
- that Jesus is our Savior and only way for salvation;
- that Jesus offers us His Body and Blood in a mysterious yet real way;
- that Christ's sacrificial death grants the forgiveness of our sins;
- and that God is strengthening us in this Sacrament to live a more godly; life and to amend with the help of the Holy Spirit, those areas not in conformity with God's will.

We declare these statements because it is our concern for people to not be hypocritical between their faith and celebrate the blessings of God's Table at the Altar. Persons unable to approach the Altar may be communed in the pew, please notify the Pastor or Elder if you wish this service.

The white wine is denatured (alcohol removed)

3RD Sunday in Advent

AS WE GATHER

The whole company of heaven proclaims the glory of Christ. The prophets of ages past have strained continuously to make the revelation of God known to His chosen people. The promised Gospel from God is soon to become Word and flesh, in the imminent birth of Jesus. We are filled and "stirred with incomparable joy."

✠ WE ENTER TO WORSHIP AND BE BLESSED ✠

PRESERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

"Tell Out, My Soul"

Tune: "Lift High the Cross"

LSB 837

INVOCATION

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

HYMN

Tune: "Away In A Manger"

LSB 364

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

GOD'S ABSOLUTION

SONG OF PRAISE

"God Almighty, Lord Of All"

LSB 380

Tune: "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

✠ THE LORD COMES TO US IN HIS WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 61:1-4; 8-11

ESV

EPISTLE LESSON

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

ESV

GOSPEL ANTHEM "We Will Glorify the King of kings" T. Paris

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:6-8; 19-28

ESV

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH

HYMN of the DAY

"God Is with Us! Alleluia!"

Ken Bible

SERMON

"The Joy of the Season"

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

✠ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD ✠

HYMN OF RESPONSE

"Create in Me"

MM 39

THE GATHERING OF THE TITHES & OFFERINGS *2 Corinthians 9:7*

OFFERING PRAYER

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

✠ THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR ✠

LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PREPARATION HYMN *Tune: "O Come. . ."* **LSB 357**
THE DISTRIBUTION - DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord" *Tune: LSB 352*
"There is a Redeemer" **LSB 971**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

"O God Everlasting"
Tune: "O Come All Ye Faithful" LSB 379

+ Silent Prayer +

ANNOUNCEMENTS/POSTLUDE

✠ WE DEPART TO SERVE ✠

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY The Letter of Jude

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY The Advent of Christ

TODAY'S LUTHERAN HOUR

December 17 **"Life Narrows Down"**

(John 1:6-8, 19-28 (John testifies to Christ))

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer

John the Baptist had a passion for the Lamb of God. What's your passion in life? How far into the future will it take you?

NEXT WEEK ON THE LUTHERAN HOUR

December 24 **"The Greatest Story Ever Told"**

(Luke 1:30-32a)

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus

What is your favorite story? This Christmas Eve Day, The Lutheran Hour speaks about God's greatest story.

Listen on WCCO AM at 6:05 am, Sunday mornings, or listen anytime at www.lutheranhour.org or on XM Satellite Radio you can also hear

The Lutheran Hour on XM 170 Sundays at noon

STEWARDSHIP:

Advent 3: 1 Thessalonians 5:18 -- "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Christians express their thanks to God in many ways: in prayer, in giving to the Lord, in acts of service to others, in faithful living in their daily callings. Everything we do to honor God in our lives is a means of returning thanks for the Lord's many gifts to us.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

December 17 "We love children as they can remind us of the simple fact of love's openness and embrace of new life and communion of one person with another. Children can open up our hearts to this. That our society now treats children the way it does is a dark shame, another sign of its separation from God. Regardless, we confess that Jesus Christ, Son of God, has come in the flesh and preach these glad tidings to all." *James M. Kushiner, The Fellowship of St. James – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life •*

www.lutheransforlife.org

SHARE A SMILE

Brighten the day of a senior citizen and have some fun. Hang out with an older adult on an ongoing basis and do things that you both enjoy. Elders reside in Minneapolis or suburban Hennepin County. Small groups and families welcome; youth must be age 12 or older and supervised by an adult. Please contact Jeanne the HOME Program, Volunteer Coordinator at scsvolunteer@seniorcommunity.org or call 952-767-7894 for more information about a variety of unpaid volunteer options.

The HOME Program number is 952-746-4046, if an elder seeks a Friendly Visitor or other services in Hennepin County. Senior Community Services is a nonprofit organization with four programs serving elders age 60+ and caregivers statewide. For more information please visit www.seniorcommunity.org or call 952-541-1019. Seniors outside of Hennepin County should contact the Senior Linkage Line at 1-800-333-2433 for information about services in their area. Thank you!

2018 Calendars

The 2018 Wall Calendars from Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapels are now available on the table (back of Church). *Help yourself!*

Holiday Twirl and Whirl – December 19, 10:00-11:00 am
East Side Neighborhood Services, 1700 Second Street NE, Minneapolis, invites you to share in some Holiday Twirl, Whirl, Song and Sweets. Refreshments, singing, music and dancing for young and old in their community room. Please join the celebration of community and the season!

CATCH THE LHM FLOAT ON JAN 1

"Bringing Christ to the Nations" is the theme of the Lutheran Hour Ministries float that will be featured in the 2018 Rose Parade in Pasadena, CA. The parade kicks off at 8 am Pacific Standard Time on **January 1, 2018** with nearly 40 floats, 20 marching bands and 20 equestrian groups. Among TV stations that will air the parade is the commercial-free HGTV cable channel (Home and Garden Television), as well as a number of local stations.

This is the only Christian-themed float in the parade!

Mammograms & Breast Health

Tuesday, December 19, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm at Central Clinic

(2610 Central Ave NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418).

To schedule a mammogram, call 612-287-2433.

Join Neighborhood HealthSource for mammograms and breast health education. Most insurance accepted. If your insurance doesn't cover a mammogram or if you don't have insurance, MDH Sage covers costs for eligible women. Funded by Susan J. Komen Minnesota and Park Nicollet Health Services.

If you haven't turned in your Annual Pledge Letter and Commitment Card, it's not too late!

There are extra cards and envelopes on the usher's shelf in the back of the church. Fill one out, place it in a sealed envelope with your name on the front, and place it in the offering plate OR mail it to the church. Thanks!

Thanks to everyone who helped fill the SALVATION ARMY Grocery Cart!

So far for the month of December

120 pounds of food was donated and delivered.

As a reminder, high demand items are ethnic foods, cooking oil; canned fruits and vegetables (low sugar and sodium); ramen, spaghetti noodles and sauce; flour, rice (white, jasmine, or brown), macaroni and cheese; crackers, peanut butter, jelly; 100% fruit juices; low sugar cereal; canned chicken, salmon or pork; dry or canned beans; granola bars and dried fruit; salad dressings, condiments and spices. Hygiene items: toothpaste, toilet tissue, shampoo, bar soap and deodorant.

NON-PERISHABLE FOODS ONLY.

BIRTHDAYS: 19th Pat Vogel, 20th Gwen Johnson

ANNIVERSARIES: None

ETERNAL CANDLE: Sandy Westling, Jesus – Joy to Our World!

FLOWERS:

IN OUR PRAYERS: Karmon Christopherson, Millie Eckhardt, Deb Forsberg, Harriet Harris, Gwen Johnson, Ada Samson, Dorothy Woll

REQUESTED PRAYERS:

Tyler Blumke (Son of Layne Betterman's Coworker) Brain cyst

Larry Derksen (Shirley's brother) – recovery from surgery

Dr. Lori Ongeri (Debra Forsberg's niece) – for a baby boy

Jeffrey Lucero (Debra Fosberg's nephew) – Ulcer

Vera Gade (Pastor's mother) recovering at home

John Gillund (Patty & Meridel's brother) heart surgery recovery

Dick Gillund (Patty & Meridel's brother)

Elaine Gillund – surgery and radiation

Evie Horman (Sandy Westling's sister) recovery – heart issues

Brandon Johnson (son of Lori Sharbono) continued good results

Roxie Johnson (Morelli's niece) heart issues & upcoming surgery

Steve Kaiser (friend of Patty Lyrenmann's brother) – COPD

Beverly Papcek (Grunnes' cousin) – numb leg, but not cancer

Amy Price (Morelli's niece) – treatments for stage 4 cancer

Jimmy Royal & Dave (friends of Dick Gillund)

LaDonna Sund (Verlayne's sister) pacemaker surgery & recovery

Marvin & Norma Thor – poor health/stomach cancer

Mary Phillips and Dan Crocker – Chronic Illness

Seth Ayala (Verlayne's nephew) – continuing problems

"IN OUR PRAYERS" AND "REQUESTED PRAYERS"

If you have family members or friends who require our prayers, please use the prayer request cards found in the pews or at the Ushers' counter and give to the office. They will be added to the Prayer list. Any updates to the current list? Let the office know

HINGES-Opening Your Church's Doors To The Community

In the past, the doors of the church opened inward, but now people are no longer coming in through Church doors as they once did.

Instead, God is calling His Church (you) to open the doors outward as the people of God take the Gospel to the community. Copies of the book we are reading and will have discussion groups in January are available. Ask Pastor for one!!!

OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

12/17 Sun	Third Sunday in Advent
	8:45 am Education Hour
	10:00 am Worship w/HC
	6:00 pm NA
12/18 Mon	6:30 pm AIAnon 1
	8:00 pm AA/AIAnon 2
12/19 Tues	7:00 pm Council Meeting
12/20 Wed	10:00 am BIBLE STUDY
	6:30 pm TLWCC Bible Study
12/22 Fri	5:00 pm TLWCC Music Practice
	8:00 pm AA/AIAnon
12/23 Sat	10:00 am TLWCC Worship
	6:00 pm TLWCC Worship & Fellowship
12/24 Sun	The Nativity of Our Lord
	8:45 am Education Hour
	10:00 am Worship
	5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service w/HC
	6:00 pm NA

SERVING TODAY

Elder: Karmon Christopherson

Ushers: Layne Betterman and Gwen Johnson

Counters: Derald and Chris Hadrath

Altar Care: The Lyrenmanns

Attendance 12/10/17: 43

Offerings -- Regular \$2,075; Loose: \$12; Flowers \$13.50;

LWML \$3.82

Total: \$2,104.32

Needed each week for 2017: \$3,477.59

***18 Holiday Baskets were delivered to our shut-ins.
Thank you to everyone who shopped and helped
will the assembly!***

DECEMBER KOA

The Many Symbols of Christmas and Their Meaning

Thursday, **December 21st** at noon, we will be having a Pot Blessing. See the signup sheet on the bulletin board and choose an item to bring. If you are unable to make something or get out to buy something or need a ride let Verlayne know.

Also please bring an item for the food shelf.

Our Sanctuary will be beautiful for Christmas!

18 poinsettia plants were donated and will be arranged throughout the Church for the Christmas services. Thank You!



Grocery Assistance -- Help At Your Door

Help At Your Door provides access to nutritious food, companionship, and a helpful hand in your kitchen. Grocery Assistance is \$15 and includes:

- Easy-to-use product catalog and phone order placement
- No internet needed — though clients do have the option to place orders online
- Delivery of grocery items and help with putting them away
- Accept EBT payments/SNAP benefits

Schedule Help At Your Door's Grocery Assistance Service today by calling 651-642-1892 or to speak with an Help At Your Door spokesperson?



Salvation Army Christmas Gift Collection Tree collected \$563 worth of toys. The Social Ministry Committee would like thank everyone who so graciously donated toys in order to help make a child's Christmas brighter.

IF you haven't already done so, please sign up for 2018 Altar Care, Flowers, Fellowship and/or Candles. Sign-up sheets are conveniently located on the entryway bulletin board. Flowers can be ordered through the church (\$20 per bouquet plus \$10 delivery fee) or you can bring your own. Candles are \$6. **Thank you.**

**“Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before!
What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store.**

What if Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more!”

— Dr. Seuss, How the Grinch Stole Christmas!

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

At the Annual Voter's Meeting on Nov 12th
Gloria Dei voted to become a
TOGETHER IN MISSION congregation.

This partnership agreement means that
because of our desire to participate more
directly and personally in God's mission—
to bring the Good News of salvation to the
very ends of the earth—we commit
ourselves to support the mission



endeavors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod through LCMS
Mission Advancement in partnership with

Missionary Kayla Hoem – Spain Team

Commitment of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Our earnest and sincere desire is to be Christ's ambassadors,
proclaiming the saving Gospel of Christ and making disciples for Him
both at home and throughout the world. We, the members of Gloria
Dei Lutheran Church, do prayerfully and joyfully commit ourselves by
God's grace:

1. to support Missionary Kayla Hoem in the amount of **\$600** per year, payable quarterly for 1 year. A 2 or 3 year option is open.
2. to praying in private and weekly in public worship for Missionary Kayla Hoem and the work of the Spain/Latin America Team;
3. to communicate with Missionary Kayla Hoem through letters, cards, and e-mails, especially on her birthday (**February 15**) and during special church seasons;
4. to welcome Missionary Kayla Hoem when she return on home service, providing her the opportunity to share with us what God has done and is doing through her and the Latin America;
5. to assume the responsibility for the missionary's travel expenses such as transportation, meals, and housing to visit Gloria Dei Lutheran Church during home service, **if her schedule allows.**

TOGETHER-IN MISSIONS- Kayla Hoem - Missionary to Spain
Offering envelopes are being sent to us and can be used in addition
to your regular offering as you choose. Quarterly door offerings
are being planned throughout the year to support her.

Catechesis Note for the Week

Why is it important that Jesus is God in the flesh?

Since Jesus' conception by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin Mary (Luke 1:26-38), the real identity of Jesus Christ has always been questioned by skeptics. Even Joseph was afraid to marry her when she revealed that she was pregnant (Matthew 1:18-24). but took her as his wife only after the angel confirmed that the child she carried was the Son of God.

The prophet Isaiah foretold the coming of God's Son: ***"For to us a Child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace"*** (Isaiah 9:6). When the angel spoke to Joseph and announced the impending birth of Jesus, he alluded to Isaiah's prophecy: ***"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him, Immanuel"*** (which means 'God with us')" (Matthew 1:23). This did not mean they were to name the baby Immanuel; it meant that "God with us" was the baby's identity. Jesus was God coming in the flesh to dwell with man.

Jesus Himself understood the speculation about His identity. He asked His disciples, ***"Who do people say that I am?"*** (Matt. 16:13). The answers varied, as they do today. Then Jesus asked a more direct question: ***"Who do you say that I am?"*** (Matthew 16:15). Peter gave the right answer: ***"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God"*** (Matt. 16:16). Jesus affirmed Peter's answer and promised that, upon that truth, He would build His church (Matt. 16:18).

The true nature and identity of Jesus Christ has eternal significance. The Bible is clear about the divine nature of the Lord Jesus Christ (John 1:1-14). Phil. 2:6-7 says that, although Jesus was ***"in very nature God, He did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness."*** Colossians 2:9 says, ***"In Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form."***

Jesus is fully God and fully man, and the fact of His incarnation is of utmost importance. His divine nature made Him fit for the work of Redeemer; His human body allowed Him to shed the blood necessary to redeem. If Jesus were merely a good man as some claim, then He had a sin nature and was not perfect. In that case, His death and resurrection would have no power to save anyone. Because Jesus was God in the flesh, He alone could pay the debt we owed to God. His victory over death and the grave won the victory for everyone who puts their trust in Him (John 1:12)

Today's Scripture Readings

ISAIAH 61:1-4, 8-11: The original setting of this reading is that of the suffering servant of God, namely the people of Judah as captive slaves in Babylon. Just like the general proclamation of release for debtors in the Jubilee year of ancient Israel (every seven years), so God's people could now look forward to freedom and release soon to come from their Babylonian masters. Our Lord quoted this section at the outset of his career as both the suffering servant and the Messiah who would bring full release for all by his own redemptive work. The freedom he has brought for the 'down-trodden', and the 'captive', and 'those that mourn' lies in the full forgiveness which establishes a righteousness and praise in spiritual terms. This can indeed be seen through faith and its fruitful action in 'all the nations'.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24: In this closing advice of the letter, Paul points the Thessalonian Christians to ways in which their preparedness for the second coming of the Lord can be strengthened. Rejoicing, praying and giving thanks all come under God's will in order for us to remain faithful. Repressing the truthful hearing of his word extinguishes the Spirit's fire! Criticism of the 'word' – or its 'preacher' – are meant only for establishing the saving truth. God will remain true to his promise to effect full and final holiness in us if we remain simply within the framework of his own directions for faith and life.

JOHN 1: 6-8,19-28: John with his radical dress, diet and message was drawing tremendous interest from all of Judea. His all-consuming mission was that all might come to know and believe in the coming one. He announced the coming light, which of course presumes the presence of sin's darkness that would be overcome. In answer to the Pharisees' questions, John asserted that he himself was not one of the popularly expected forerunners (Elijah, Moses) or even the Messiah himself. John was merely the forerunner or herald, a voice in the wilderness. His baptism with water was important and authoritative only insofar as it led to the 'one standing among you whom you do not know', whose worthiness is inestimable.

Lessons for the 4th Sunday in Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11,16; Ps 89:1-5; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38