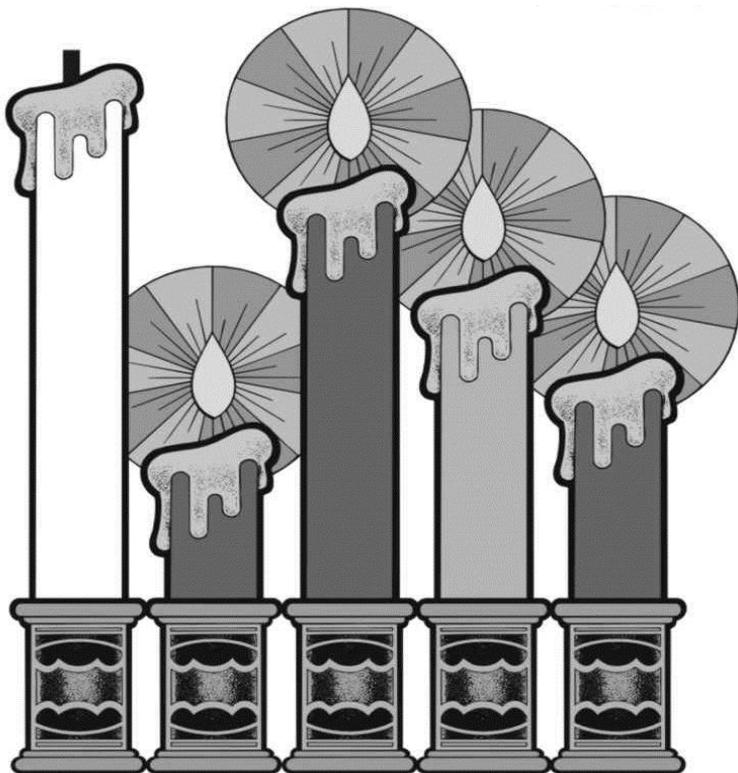


# Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

*Where Guests Become Friends and Friends Become Family*

## *Everlasting Love From Our Everlasting God*



**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent**

**Order of Worship**

**December 24, 2017**

**10:00 am**

**Gloria Dei Lutheran Church**

*(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)*

**612-781-1989**

**3014 McKinley St NE, Minneapolis, MN**

# *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)**



## **TODAY'S 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.

## **NEXT WEEK ON THE LUTHERAN HOUR**

**December 31**

**"Children of Promise"**

**(Galatians 4:4-7)**

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Anthony (Tony) Cook

Our identity as God's children encourages us to live in His grace, to embrace the freedom Jesus won, and to resist the ways of the world that strive to keep us captive.

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

The Lutheran Hour on XM 170 Sundays at noon

**STEWARDSHIP: Advent 4: 2 Samuel 7:4** - "But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan ..." Nathan thought David's idea was great, so he blessed it with the Lord's name. But later that night, the Word of the Lord set him straight. The Word of the Lord must be the basis for what we think, say, and do in God's Kingdom: not our own desires or whims.

**LUTHERANS FOR LIFE December 24** "Christmas celebrates more than just Jesus' birthday. This historical event testifies to unchangeable truth about humankind and our Almighty Maker. It bestows upon us the honor of a special connection to the Lord God that makes us more precious than any other creature. It forms the foundation for all peace and love and joy and hope by revealing His salvation and testifying to how we participate in His everlasting life. Christmas profoundly proves the Gospel to be our history, identity, and destiny, and it proclaims a distinctly life-affirming reality." *Rev. Michael W. Salemink, executive director of Lutherans For Life*



**"I will honor Christmas in my heart,  
and try to keep it all the year."**

**— Charles Dickens**

**BIRTHDAYS:** 25<sup>th</sup> Lori Sharbono, 27<sup>th</sup> Ruby Holzinger

**ANNIVERSARIES:** None

**ETERNAL CANDLE:** Shirley & Rudy Holzinger – Memory of Parents

**FLOWERS:** Christmas Poinsettias

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** Karmon Christopherson, Millie Demcho,  
Millie Eckhardt, Rose Ehnes, 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

<b>12/24 Sun</b>	<b>The Fourth Sunday After Advent</b>
	<b>8:45 am Education Hour</b>
	<b>10:00 am Worship</b>
	<b>5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service w/HC</b>
	<b>6:00 pm NA</b>
<b>12/25 Mon</b>	<b>10:00 am Christmas Day Service w/HC</b>
	<b>6:30 pm AIAnon 1</b>
	<b>8:00 pm AA/AIAnon 2</b>
<b>12/27 Wed</b>	<b>10:00 am BIBLE STUDY</b>
	<b>6:30 pm TLWCC Bible Study</b>
<b>12/29 Fri</b>	<b>5:00 pm TLWCC Music Practice</b>
	<b>8:00 pm AA/AIAnon</b>
<b>12/30 Sat</b>	<b>10:00 am TLWCC Worship</b>
	<b>6:00 pm TLWCC Worship &amp; Fellowship</b>
<b>12/31 Sun</b>	<b>First Sunday After Christmas</b>
	<b>8:45 am Education Hour</b>
	<b>10:00 am Worship</b>
	<b>6:00 pm NA</b>

### SERVING TODAY

**Elder: Karmon Christopherson**

**Ushers: Lyrenmanns**

**Counters: Al, Pam and Aaron Morelli**

**Altar Care: The Lyrenmanns**

**Attendance 12/17/17: 38**

**Offerings -- Regular \$1,830; Loose: \$122; Flowers \$13;**

**Candles \$6**

**Total: \$1,971**

**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!***

**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!**



## **SHARE A SMILE**

Volunteers are needed to 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 at the HOME Program, Volunteer Coordinator at [scsvolunteer@seniorcommunity.org](mailto: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.

### **Alert: Carrier shortage causes late mail deliveries**

"Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night . . ." It's the gloom-of-night deliveries that bug the heck out of some Northeasters. According to Peter Nowacki in the downtown office, Northeast has several vacant postal routes due to attrition – retirements, moves to stations in other parts of the city, promotions. "If we have a vacant route, carriers may have to double up [on routes] to deliver the mail. So instead of doing just one route, they may deliver to two. Newer carriers don't know the routes as well, so it takes them longer," he said. And, hence, the evening deliveries. It's not just Northeast, however. There's an overall shortage of carriers throughout the Twin Cities.

### **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!**



**Salvation Army Christmas Gift Collection Tree collected approximately \$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.**

**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, low sugar and sodium canned goods; flour, rice (white, jasmine, or brown), 100% fruit juices; low sugar cereal; canned chicken, salmon or pork; granola bars and dried fruit; condiments and spices. Hygiene items: toothpaste, toilet tissue, shampoo, bar soap and deodorant.

**NON-PERISHABLE FOODS ONLY.**

**Life Line Screening Coming Soon!**

We are pleased to host this Life Line Screening event on February 5, 2018 at Gloria Dei. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. **In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit**

**[www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle).**



***The poinsettias on the altar were given by:***

*Jean Brede in memory of Loved Ones*

*Karmon & Meridel Christopherson in memory of Loved Ones*

*Pastor & Diane Gade in memory of Grandparents*

*Derald & Chris Hadrath in memory of Parents*

*Gwen Johnson*

*Tom & Patty Lyrenmann in memory of Loved Ones*

*Al, Pam & Aaron Morelli in memory of Loved Ones*

*Verlayne Sather in memory of Our Savior*

*Pat Scott in memory of Parents*

*Lori Sharbono in memory of Family*

*Shirley Slagle in memory of Family*

*Sandy Westling in memory of Loved Ones*

*Jeannette Wohlk in memory of Vernon Wohlk*

Please join us for Christmas Day worship tomorrow at 10 am

# ***Catechesis Note for the Week***

## **WHY IS THE INCARNATION IMPORTANT?**

***Incarnation*** is a term used by theologians to indicate that Jesus, the Son of God, took on human flesh. This is similar to the hypostatic union. The difference is that the hypostatic union explains how Jesus' two natures are joined, and the Incarnation more specifically affirms His humanity and His Divinity.

The word ***Incarnation*** means "the act of being made flesh." It comes from the Latin version of John 1:14, which in English reads, "***The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.***" Because of the near-exclusive use of the Latin Vulgate in the church through the Middle Ages, the Latin term became standard.

Biblical support for Jesus' humanity is extensive. The Gospels report Jesus' human needs including sleep (Luke 8:23), food (Matthew 4:2; 21:18), and physical protection (Matthew 2:13-15; John 10:39). Other indications of His humanity are that He perspired (Luke 22:43-44) and bled (John 19:34). Jesus also expressed emotions including joy (John 15:11), sorrow (Matthew 26:37), and anger (Mark 3:5). During His life, Jesus referred to Himself as a man (John 8:40), and after His resurrection His humanity was still recognized (Acts 2:22).

But the purpose of the Incarnation was not to taste food or to feel sorrow. The Son of God came in the flesh in order to be the Savior of mankind. First, it was necessary to be born "***under the law***" (Galatians 4:4). All of us have failed to fulfill God's Law. Christ came in the flesh, under the Law, to fulfill the Law on our behalf (Matthew 5:17; Galatians 4:5).

Second, it was necessary for the Savior to shed His blood for the forgiveness of sins (Hebrews 9:22). A blood sacrifice, of course, requires a body of flesh and blood. And this was God's plan for the Incarnation: "***When Christ came into the world, he said: 'Sacrifice and offering [under the Old Covenant] you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me'***" (Hebrews 10:5). Without the Incarnation, Christ could not really die, and the cross is meaningless.

God did an incredible work in sending His only begotten Son into the world and providing us with a salvation we do not deserve. Praise the Lord for that moment in which "***the Word became flesh.***"

We are now redeemed "with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect" (1 Peter 1:19)

## Today's *Scripture* Readings

**2 SAMUEL 7:1-11,16** : This special prophecy has its decided place here in the Advent lead-up to the birth of the King. King David, after defeating Israel's long-standing enemies, established peace for the land. He made Jerusalem the capital city and built a royal palace, a king's house. Being such a man of God, he thought it only right to build also a fitting house for God, a temple. However, God sent the prophet Nathan to tell David that this was not to be. God did not need such a 'house' as David envisaged. Instead, he would make a 'house' out of David – a play on words. This 'house' or 'dynasty' would be a kingship which would last forever (v 16). The New Testament sees the descendant of David who rules forever as none other than our Lord Jesus Christ.

**ROMANS 16:25-27**: This magnificent doxology concludes the mighty letter of St Paul to the Christians at Rome. Paul sums up all he has written in the letter in adoration of the only wise God. God is so gracious as to employ his limitless power to work within believers in Christ. In this way they are established in their faith and can stand firm in their salvation. The wondrous gospel planned before the ages, attested in the Old Testament by the prophets, brings about this obedience of faith. To God alone be glory!

**LUKE 1: 26-38**: The annunciation of Gabriel to Mary most fittingly prepares us for the marvellous event of the Christmas gospel. The prophecy made to King David in the first reading is brought to its full meaning in Gabriel's announcement. Mary's son will be called Jesus, Saviour. As an adopted son of Joseph he was a descendant of David. This Son of God, fully human and fully God (conceived by the Holy Spirit), will rule a kingdom which will never end, both in time and in space. No wonder a puzzled Mary should ask for explanation! Like all believers, her acceptance of Gabriel's explanation came from trust which God's servants always place in his word of promise.

### Lessons for the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday After Christmas

Is. 61:10-62:3; Ps. 111; Gal. 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40