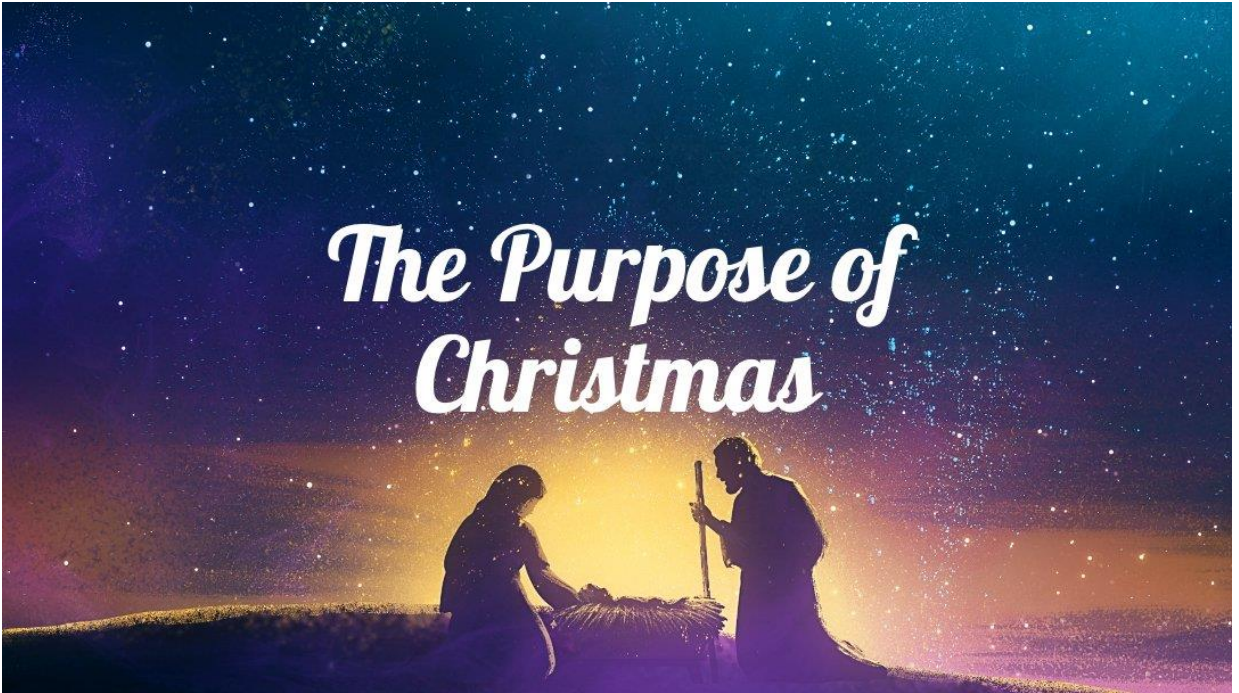


Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)



“THE PURPOSE OF CHRISTMAS”

**Order of Worship December 3, 2023 | 10 AM
Vacancy Pastor Matthew Cephus**

**3014 McKinley Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418
612-781-1989**

www.gloriadeilcms.org

email: info@gloriadeilcms.org

Pianist Martin McGinn

Welcome to God's House!

The Mission of Gloria Dei is Caring. Sharing. Serving. Reaching.

We strive to be the local church in the community of Northeast Minneapolis, who are here to help people come to KNOW Jesus, GROW in their faith and GO into the world equipped to SERVE others. GLORY TO GOD!

Today's Topic: We will be looking at three reasons why Jesus came to earth.

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 or via the church office. We pray you will feel God's love for you and be empowered to live as God's child this week. We look forward to seeing you again.

Is there something you'd like us to pray for today? If you have family members or friends who require our prayers, please use the prayer request cards found in each pew. They will be added to the Prayer list. You can hand your request to an usher before the service or during the offering. They will be given to the Pastor to be included in the prayers for today. ***Other prayer requests can be made by contacting the church office at 612.781.1989.***

Children are welcome in worship!

The Lord's Supper is celebrated.

When we receive the true Body and Blood of Jesus Christ,

- 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.

Join Bible Study with Pastor Matthew on Wednesday, December 6 at 11 am OR Thursday evening "Knowing the Bible" bible study, December 7 at 5:30 pm with Daniel and Katie Beth Carlson

First Sunday in Advent

AS WE GATHER: The season of Advent reminds us of Christ The Rescuer of all mankind who came to save us from the hopeless situation we were in. God did not stay in heaven; He came down to where we are.

+ CONNECT +

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SOLO

Bruce Cross

INVOCATION

L: Our worship begins the way our lives in Christ begin in baptism: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF OUR SINS

L: Let us confess our sins unto our heavenly Father who truly loves us.

C: **Merciful God, we confess that we do not and cannot live as you want us to live. We confess that we regularly participate in wrongdoings and do not live according to your justice. We are often proud and self-righteous. Forgive us oh Lord and clothe us with your garment of salvation won for us through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED

+ NURTURE +

SONG OF PRAISE

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

LSB 343 v. 1, 2, 4

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship

Tune: Public Domain; setting: © 2006 Concordia Publishing House

Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley A level road appear!
Then greet the King of Glory Foretold in sacred story;
Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God's Word!

God's people, see Him coming: Your own eternal King!
Palm branches strew before Him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you!
Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God's Word!

His is not earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding:
Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God's Word!

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 40:1-5

Comfort for God's People

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

EPISTLE READING

Romans 15: 5-6, 9-13

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name."

And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people."

And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him."

And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

HOLY GOSPEL

John 3:14-17

L: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

SONG OF THE DAY "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" LSB 686 v. 1, 3, 4

Text & Tune: Public domain

Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee; may I still Thy goodness prove.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.

Oh, that day when freed from sinning, I shall see Thy lovely face;
Clothed then in the blood-washed linen, how I'll sing Thy wondrous grace!
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry; Take my ransom'd soul away;
Send Thine angels soon to carry me to realms of endless day.

CONFESSION OF FAITH: Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

GATHERING OF THE OFFERINGS

+ *EMPOWER* +

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

(Prayer response – P: Lord, in your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.)

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

PREFACE TO HOLY COMMUNION

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

L: It is our duty and delight at all times and everywhere to give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for You have enlightened us by the working of the Holy Spirit. Grant that the Spirit, who has called and gathered us, would guide us in all things, that we be enabled to speak the Gospel to others and rejoice in sharing the gift of salvation that is our treasure. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, with You and the Holy Spirit, is one God, through whom with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take this, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you, Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy, You would strengthen us through the same, in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" LSB 922 v. 1, 2, 4

Text: 1983 Concordia Publishing House; Music: Public Domain

Go, My children, with My Blessing. Never alone,
Waking, sleeping, I am with you: You are My own.
In My love's baptismal river, I have made you Mine forever.
Go, My children, with My blessing—You are My own.

Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard My dear Son's story; Here you touched Him, saw His glory.
Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.

I the Lord will bless and keep you, And give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you, And give you peace:
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, my children, I will keep you and give you peace.

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

+ Silent Prayer +

POSTLUDE

+ WE DEPART TO SERVE +

+ + +

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OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

12/03 Sun

First Sunday in Advent

- 10:00 am** **Worship w/Holy Communion,
w/Vacancy Pastor Matthew Cephus of Royal Family**
- 11:00 am** **Yearly Congregational Meeting, following service**
- 10:30 am Royal Family Sunday School
- 11:45 am Royal Family Worship Service
- 6:00 pm NA

12/04 Mon

- 5:30 pm Beginners AIAnon
- 7:00 pm AIAnon

12/06 Wed

- 11:00 am** **Mid-Week Service & Bible Study w/Fellowship**

12/08 Thurs

- 5:30 pm** **"Knowing the Bible" Bible Study**

12/07 Fri

- 5:00 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal

12/09 Sat

- 10:00 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship
- 6:00 pm Living Word Prayer Night

12/10 Sun

Second Sunday in Advent

- 10:00 am** **Worship w/Holy Communion,
w/Vacancy Pastor Matthew Cephus of Royal Family**
- 10:30 am Royal Family Sunday School
- 11:45 am Royal Family Worship Service
- 6:00 pm NA

SERVING TODAY

Elder: Karmon Christopherson

Reading: KatieBeth Carlson

Ushers: Tom and Patty Lyrenmann

Counters: Tom and Patty Lyrenmann

Altar Care: Tom and Patty Lyrenmann

Attendance: 11/26/2023: 33



TODAY'S LUTHERAN HOUR

December 3

"Before They Call"

(Isaiah 64:4)

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

SOS and Mayday are distress signals that cry out for rescue. So is "Lord, have mercy!"

NEXT WEEK ON THE LUTHERAN HOUR

December 10

"A-T Walker"

(Isaiah 40:3)

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

A wilderness can be scary, but if someone is with you who knows the way out, you're not really lost.

On Sunday mornings, listen on 830 AM WCCO AM at 6:05 am, or 1110 AM, Omaha, at 6:30 am, or XM 170 Satellite Radio on Sundays at noon or listen anytime at www.lutheranhour.org

STEWARDSHIP: *Advent 1*

1 Corinthians 1:9 – "God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." The faithfulness of God is our great comfort. He has made promises to us, and He will keep them. He is kind and loving toward us and will not break faith with us. This gives us the confidence to step out in faith, to leave fear behind. So, when it comes to following the Lord's commandments for our daily lives, we know His will is best for us because He is faithful.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:

"In view of God's display of love in Advent and Christmas, we gladly unite to praise Him. Christmas brings out that unity as we join with Mary and Joseph and shepherds and angels to glorify our Savior as one united family. For this reason, we pray as Paul did, 'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him.'" *Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Main Street Living airs each Sunday at 9 a.m. on WFTC Channel 29/9-2 with a special presentation produced by Lutheran Hour Ministries titled, "**Stable Boy.**" A manger scene comes to life and tells the story of the first Christmas. The worship service begins at 9:30 am with Rev. Robert Moeller, pastor at St. John's in Trosky, MN, and Our Savior's in Pipestone, MN, presenting an Advent message based on **Isaiah 64**. For more information or to watch the program, go to www.mainstreetliving.com select the "Twin Cities" tab.

BIRTHDAYS: 7th Bob Bauer, 8th Alex Martinez

ANNIVERSARIES: None

ETERNAL CANDLE: Shirley Holzinger – Nephew Adam’s Birthday, December 5

FLOWERS: Open

PRAYER CONCERNS

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: Robert & Delores Kluwe, Larry Schlais, Lillian Troiden and all our shut-ins

John (Meridel and Patty’s brother) who had a kidney transplant (few years back), transplanted kidney may now be failing(?), biopsy scheduled. Prayer for good results

Sandy Westling – Pastor Jim Gullickson for bleeding eye, seeing specialists

Butch Morelli – Blocked carotid artery, surgery postponed; continued prayers

Yvonne Pawlowicz (Wenda’s sister) surgery for cancerous brain tumor and benign cyst went well, radiation will be needed, prayers for recovery

Amy Rich (Morelli’s DnL) – successful surgery for recent breast cancer diagnoses, treatment to follow

Cory – Tom & Patty’s nephew – Open heart surgery, now recovering

Nonie Wakeman (Shirley Slagle’s SnL) diagnosed with Lung Cancer

Greg Henderson (Vicki’s Husband and Shirley Holzinger BnL) Prostate Cancer

Karen (Karmon’s sister) Recently diagnosed with cancer (Warren’s wife)

James Norman, Sr. (James’ dad) Being treated for Stage 4 cancer

Kurt Nowacki (Bruce & Julie Cross’ Brother-in-Law) recently diagnosed with ‘myopathy,’ a degenerative muscle disease

Jeremy (Patty and Meridel’s neice, Mandy’s husband) prayers for recovery

Rod DeKam (Dale’s brother in law) has pancreatic cancer

Bruce (Wenda Schwoch’s BiL has stage 4 prostate cancer and **Ashley** (Wenda’s niece) continued prayers

John (Karmon/Meridel SnL) has been diagnosed with chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML), prayers for good results on continued cancer treatments

Roxie Johnson (Morelli’s niece) heart issues, pacemaker implanted, continued prayers

Warren (Karmon’s BnL) Receiving chemo and radiation for Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma

Ty (Wade Billmeyer’s Friend of a friend) continued prayers

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

For First Responders/Health Care Workers, including James Norman, an ICU nurse

THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY IN DANGEROUS AREAS

NOTE: Those “in our extend prayers” are removed from the list after eight weeks. If there is someone you would like to keep on the list for another eight weeks, please contact the church office.

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.*☺ Sign-up sheet are posted on the entryway bulletin board or call the church office directly at 612-781-1989 to order. **Thank you!**

Thank you to **EVERYONE** who has been instrumental in getting Gloria Dei's outside property ready for the winter months. It is a big job to get the continuously dropping leaves bagged up, cut down the brush and do the other yard trimmings needed before the snow flies! It is people like YOU who truly make Gloria Dei a great place to be a member. It takes a village!

CHRISTMAS TREE



The Social Ministry Committee will be collecting **new** gift items for children ages 0-14 years old for the Salvation Army. You may purchase anything that is appropriate. Collection runs 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. **Thank you so much.**

It's Not Too Early to Think About 2024

Feel free to grab a 2024 calendar from the Usher's table in back of the church. Calendars were graciously donated by Washburn McReavy Funeral Homes.

St. Timothy's Community Dinner

Drive Thru Community Dinner, Tuesday, December 12 – 5:00-6:30 pm (or until the food is gone). Free and open to all, everyone is welcome, so spread the word!! St. Timothy's is located at 825 51st Ave NE, Columbia Heights.