

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)



“GOOD NEWS FOR ALL PEOPLE”

Order of Worship December 24, 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: The God News from God to "All People."

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 Pastor Martin after the service or via email. 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.

Please take a moment to pray that God will bless your time in His house and that your worship this evening would be in "***Spirit and in Truth!***" May our worship help you experience the peace which comes from knowing that you have been reconciled with your heavenly Father through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ.

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.

A special note to our visitors:

We welcome you and invite you to worship with us every Sunday at 10 AM



A Blessed Christmas to each of you!

Please join us tomorrow morning, **Christmas Day, at 10:00 AM** for our continuing celebration of the Christ Child's birth.

Christmas Eve Worship Service

AS WE GATHER: Christmas is about the birth of God's Son – Jesus. It is about how he came to give us love, hope, peace, and joy. That message doesn't change from year to year. With so much bad news and devastation in the world, this is good news worth celebrating!

+ CONNECT +

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SOLO

"Mary Did You Know?"

Bruce Cross

Lighting of Advent Candle (Week 4) – Love

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 to God the Father who is faithful to hear and forgive.

C: **Heavenly Father, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED

+ NURTURE +

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains;
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be; Which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see, Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

OLD TESTAMENT READING**Isaiah 9:6-7**

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

EPISTLE READING**Romans 15:8-12*****Christ the Hope of Jews and Gentiles***

For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, 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."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:8-14

L: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

The Shepherds and the Angels

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ!**

CAROL

"Silent Night"

LSB 363

Text & Tune: Public Domain

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Away In a Manger"

LSB 364

Text & Tune: Public domain

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

MESSAGE

"Good News for All People"

Pastor Matthew Cephus

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**"O Holy Night"****Congregation joins following v1**

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
'Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;

Fall on your knees, Oh hear the angel voices!
O night divine! O night when Christ was born.
O night, O holy night, O night divine.

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming;
With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand:
So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here come the wise men from Orient land,
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our friend;

He knows our need, To our weakness no stranger!
Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King! Your King! Before him bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is Love and His gospel is Peace;
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,
And in his name all oppression shall cease,
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful Chorus raise we;
Let all within us praise his Holy name!

Christ is the Lord, then ever! Ever praise we!
His pow'r and glory, evermore proclaim!
His pow'r and glory, evermore proclaim!

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 +

+ + +

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. Hymns are copied with permission: CCLI # 689918

OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

12/24 Sun

Christmas Eve

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

12/25 Mon

Christmas Day, The Nativity of Our Lord

10:00 am **Worship with Holy Communion,**
 w/Vacancy Pastor Matthew Cephus of Royal Family
5:30 pm Beginners AIAnon
7:00 pm AIAnon

12/27 Wed

11:00 am **NO Mid-Week Service and/or Bible Study**

12/28 Thurs

5:30 pm **NO "Knowing the Bible" Bible Study**

12/29 Fri

5:00 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal

12/30 Sat

10:00 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship

6:00 pm Living Word Prayer Night

12/31 Sun

New Year's Eve

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

SERVING TODAY

Elder: Karmon Christopherson

Reading: Julie Cross

Ushers: Mary Piper

Altar Care: Tom and Patty Lyrenmann

Counters: Shirley Holzinger and Verlayne Sather

Attendance: 12/17/2023 (Joint service w/Royal Family): 60

TODAY'S LUTHERAN HOUR

December 24

"Community and Conversation"

(John 1:1)

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

This Christmas Eve, God wants to be found in the human community gathered in the name of Jesus and in the conversation connected with Him.

NEXT WEEK ON THE LUTHERAN HOUR

December 31

"The Exit from Regret"

(Luke 2:27-28)

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. John Nunes

When life becomes an endless roundabout of regret, Christ is your entrance to forgiveness and a new start.

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 4*

2 Samuel 7:4-5 – "But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan. "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in?' 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, not our own desires or whims, must be the basis for what we think, say and do in God's kingdom.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:

"Merry Christmas! And may the certainty of God's love for you in Jesus Christ give you strength, comfort, and confidence this day to face whatever comes tomorrow. For, nothing can overpower the persevering power and blessing of Christmas." *Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty – 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 "**Christmas on Main Street**" – The Christmas message at a mission brings a grandson and his grandfather together. The worship service begins at 9:30 a.m. with the Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, presenting a Christmas message. For more information or to watch the program, go to www.mainstreetliving.com and select the "Twin Cities" tab.

BIRTHDAYS: 20th Gwen Johnson, 24th Daniel Ohnstad, 29th Lyle Payette
ANNIVERSARIES: None

ETERNAL CANDLE: Sandy Westling – Come into our hearts Jesus!
FLOWERS: Christmas Poinsettias

Praying the Heavenly Father's Spirit will be with Vicki Henderson, Shirley Holzinger and their entire family as they grieve the loss of Vicki's husband, Greg. Greg, passed away early morning Thursday, December 21 after suffering a brain bleed. May the Lord bless the entire family and bring them peace.

PRAYER CONCERNS

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

Jerry Mayer (Wenda Schwoch's BF's husband) entered hospice 10/31/2023, prayers for comfort and peace

Gwen Johnson – Thank you for the prayers!

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

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

Yvonne Pawlowicz (Wenda's sister) surgery for cancerous brain tumor and benign cyst went well, new complications, continued prayers

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

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 niece, 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

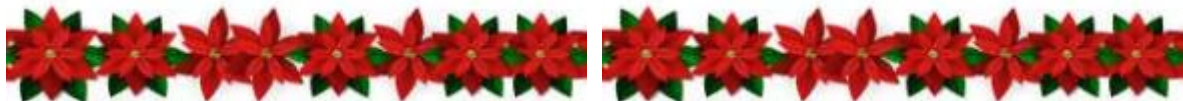
Ty (Wade Billmeyer's Friend of a friend) continued prayers

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

The beautiful poinsettias throughout the church were graciously given by:
Wade Billmeyer (IMO Mom); Pastor Matthew Cephus and Family; Karmon & Meridel Christopherson; Julie Cross; Shirley Holzinger (IMO Mom & Dad and Husband, Rudy); Gwen Johnson; Tom & Patty Lyrenmann; Barb McDonald (IMO Don McDonald); The Morelli's (Loved ones); Mary Piper (IMO Lil & Jerry and Bob Piper); Pat Scott (IMO Max Crocker); Shirley Slagle; Sandy Westling (Loved ones)



Mark Your Calendars!

It is with delight and excitement we announce Pastor Matthew Cephus will be installed at Gloria Dei on January 21, 2024 at 3 pm. Please plan to attend this joyful event.

CHRISTMAS TREE



The Social Ministry Committee would like to thank everyone who took time to shop for new gift items for the Salvation Army. These gifts, mostly toys ☺, were collected and placed under our Christmas tree in the Lobby and with your generosity, gifts collected, amounted to **\$795**. WOW! These gifts/toys will brighten a lot of Christmas mornings.

Thank You to everyone who so graciously gave to the Goodwill Door Offing which was given entirely to Orlin and Kyle in appreciation for their hard work and commitment in installing the new audio/video equipment throughout the sanctuary and upstairs choir loft. This was all made possible with a grant from the MN South District, enabling GDLC to upgrade our A/V capabilities to be able to record and/or live-stream services going forward.



Jeans, Jeans, Jeans Project Update

Gloria Dei collected 69 pairs of jeans that were donated to Jim Seaman, who works closely with the New Freedom Store and FreedomWorks for distribution to those in need. An additional 12 more were donated on December 12. Thanks to everyone for their kindness.

"The giving of gifts is not something mans invented. God started the giving spree when He gave a gift beyond words, the unspeakable gift of His Son."

-- Unknown