

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)



“The Real Reason We Celebrate Christmas”

Order of Worship December 25, 2023 | 10 AM

Christmas Day: The Nativity of Our Lord

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: Our focus today is on the real reason why we celebrate Christmas.

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**



THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD CHRISTMAS DAY

AS WE GATHER: Remember that JESUS is the reason for the season, and YOU are the reason for which He came.

+ CONNECT +

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SOLO

"Welcome To Our World"

Martin McGinn

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 our heavenly Father.

C: **Father in Heaven, we confess that we never knew you had come down. We confess that we were in the dark as to your light among us. Though the world was created through your Word, we could not grasp the reality that he had entered into our neighborhood and taken up residence. We could not receive him whom we did not see. In all his humility, in his appearance in unexpected places, we were blind. We have only ourselves to blame for not opening our eyes of faith and ears of understanding. May You forgive us and once again on this Nativity of Christ's birth proclaim the good news of your comfort and redemption to us, so that all the ends of the earth may see the salvation of our God. Amen.**

FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED

+ *NURTURE* +

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

LSB 380

Text & music: Public domain

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 7:13-14

And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

EPISTLE READING

Galatians 4:4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-23

L: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

The Birth of Jesus Christ

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Joy to the World!"

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns;
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

MESSAGE "The Real Reason We Celebrate Christmas" 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.

**Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and every-where;
Go tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ is born.**

While shepherds kept their watching, O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens, There shone a holy light. **Refrain**

The shepherds feared and trembled, When, lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. **Refrain**

Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. **Refrain**

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

A Blessed Christmas to each of you!

Thank you for joining us this morning, **Christmas Day**, for our celebration of the Christ Child's birth.



OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

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	<u>NO</u> Mid-Week Service and/or Bible Study
12/28 Thurs	5:30 pm	<u>NO</u> "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: Sandy Westling

Ushers: Tom and Patty Lyrenmann

Altar Care: Tom and Patty Lyrenmann

Counters: Sandy Westling and Tom Harris

Attendance: 12/17/2023 (Joint service w/Royal Family): 29

Thank You!

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. The majority of the equipment was moved from the front of the church to the choir loft. **Thank You!**

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: *Christmas Day*

John 1:12 – “But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.” What a joy to be called the children of God! We have a Father who cares for us and loves us. Therefore, we have no need to fear, for perfect love casts out fear. And with our fear set aside, we are free to serve the Christ who has become flesh and made His dwelling among us.

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 am 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 am 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 select the “Twin Cities” tab.

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

ETERNAL CANDLE: Shirley Holzinger – In Memory of Rudy’s birthday, December 27
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, Gift Baskets Assembled and Delivered

Thank you to Shirley Holzinger, Patty Lyrenmann and Pam Morelli who assemble and delivered gift baskets to our dear shut-ins. This year, three goodie-filled baskets were delivered.



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