

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)

For unto us a Child is born,
unto us a Son is given...

Isaiah 9:6



“Unto Us a Child is Born”

Order of Worship December 31, 2023 | 10 AM
New Year's Eve Worship Service
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: When Isaiah described His coming, he described His coming as an infant. But this child would grow and establish a Kingdom of righteousness.

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.

No Bible Study on Wednesday, January 3 OR Thursday, January 4. We will resume the following week.



New Year's Eve Worship Service

AS WE GATHER: Remember that celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ is more than a Christian holiday. It is an opportunity to pause and give thanks for the love, hope and joy found in Jesus – our Savior and friend.

+ CONNECT +

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SOLO

"Joseph's Song"

Karmon Christopherson

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 God our Father who's ready to hear us and forgive.

C: **Almighty Father, we have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. O Lord, have mercy upon us and restore us according to Your promises declared unto us in Christ Jesus our Lord. Grant that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of His name. Amen**

FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED

+ NURTURE +

SONG OF PRAISE

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

LSB 809

Text & Music: © 1923, renewed 1951 Hope Publishing Co.

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not; Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Refrain

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Refrain

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 15:4, 8-9

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

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."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 1:21-23

L: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

"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

"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

LSB 803

Text & Music: Public Domain

Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, Praising Thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, fountain-head of love divine:
Joyful, we Thy heav'n inherit! Joyful, we by grace are Thine!

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 SONG

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

LSB 388

Text & music: Public domain

**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 +

+ + +

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SERVING TODAY

Elder: Karmon Christopherson

Reading: Mary Piper

Ushers: OPEN

Altar Care: OPEN

Counters: Pat Scott and Shirley Slagle

Attendance 12/24/2023: 39

Attendance 12/25/2023: 30

OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

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

1/01 Mon

5:30 pm Beginners AIAnon

7:00 pm AIAnon

1/03 Wed

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

1/04 Thurs

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

1/05 Fri

5:00 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal

1/06 Sat

10:00 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship

6:00 pm Living Word Prayer Night

1/07 Sun

The Baptism of Our Lord

10:00 am **Worship with Holy Communion,**
w/Vacancy Pastor Matthew Cephus of Royal Family

11:45 am Royal Family Worship Service

3:00 pm Alpha Session

6:00 pm NA

TODAY'S 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.

NEXT WEEK ON THE LUTHERAN HOUR

January 7

"As We Forgive"

(Matthew 6:12; Luke 11:4)

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Dr. Michael Zeigler discusses forgiveness--what it is and what it isn't.

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:

Luke 2:21 – “And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.” The name of Jesus means “the Lord saves.” There is no better way to end or begin a year than with the sweet comfort of the name of Jesus. He saves us. He loves us. He desires to bless us. That assurance is the basis for all we do in our Christian lives, including our stewardship of His financial blessings.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:

“While it is true that we need to be good stewards of God’s earthly gifts, it is sinful to think that we are in full control of preserving this world. It is sinful to fret about the destruction of this world before the Last Day. This world will not run out of natural resources. We will not be wiped out by climate change, a worldwide pandemic, or a meteor shower if and when those things happen. God says that as long as this earth endures—until Judgment Day—seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease. God is in control. God will protect, provide, and preserve this world. Trust in God and see His grace and mercy, especially when sin affects this world. Trust that He gives you what you don’t deserve and more than you could imagine.” *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 am on WFTC Channel 29/9-2 with an episode of *This Is the Life*. This week’s episode is “Burden Made Light.” The housekeeper helps a family through the struggle of an increasingly sick child. The worship service begins at 9:30 am with Rev. Jeff Williams from Trinity Lutheran Church in Slayton, MN, presenting a message titled, “A Light to Lighten the Gentiles” based on Luke 2:22-40. The worship service begins at 9:30 am with Rev. Jeff Williams from Trinity Lutheran Church in Slayton, MN, presenting a message titled, “A Light to Lighten the Gentiles” based on Luke 2:22-40.



BIRTHDAYS: 31st KatieBeth Stand

ANNIVERSARIES: None

ETERNAL CANDLE: Sandy Westling, Son Jeff’s Birthday

FLOWERS: Christmas Poinsettias

PRAYER CONCERNS

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, who passed away on Thursday, December 21 after suffering a brain bleed. Memorial Service details to come.

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

Nick Heille (Sandy Westling's family friend) was called home to the Lord on 12/24/23. May the Lord bless the entire family and bring them peace.

Anna Pederson (Jan Gaddes' friend) was killed in a car accident in FL, while there helping her mother who has cancer. Prayers for her family and friends.

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

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

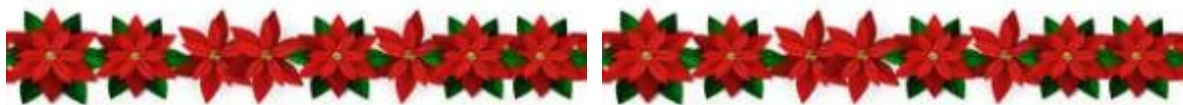
Amy Price (Morelli's niece) – treatments for stage 4 cancer

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

THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY IN DANGEROUS AREAS

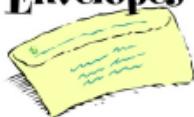
The beautiful poinsettias throughout the church were graciously given by:

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.

**Offering
Envelopes**



Please use your new 2024 envelopes **beginning January 7, 2024**. You can simply toss-out or recycle any remaining envelopes you have left-over from 2023.

**Free Drive-Through Community Dinner at St. Timothy's
January 9th**

Drive Thru Community Dinner – 2nd Tuesday of each month – 5-6:30 pm (or until the food is gone). Free and all are welcome!

St. Timothy's is located at 825 51st Ave NE, Columbia Heights.

New Year's Prayer

May the Lord make my New Year a happy one... Not by shielding me from sorrow and pain, but by strengthening me to bear it if it comes.

Not by making my path easy, but by making me sturdy enough to tread any path. Not by taking hardship from me, but by taking all cowardice and fear from my heart as I meet hardships.