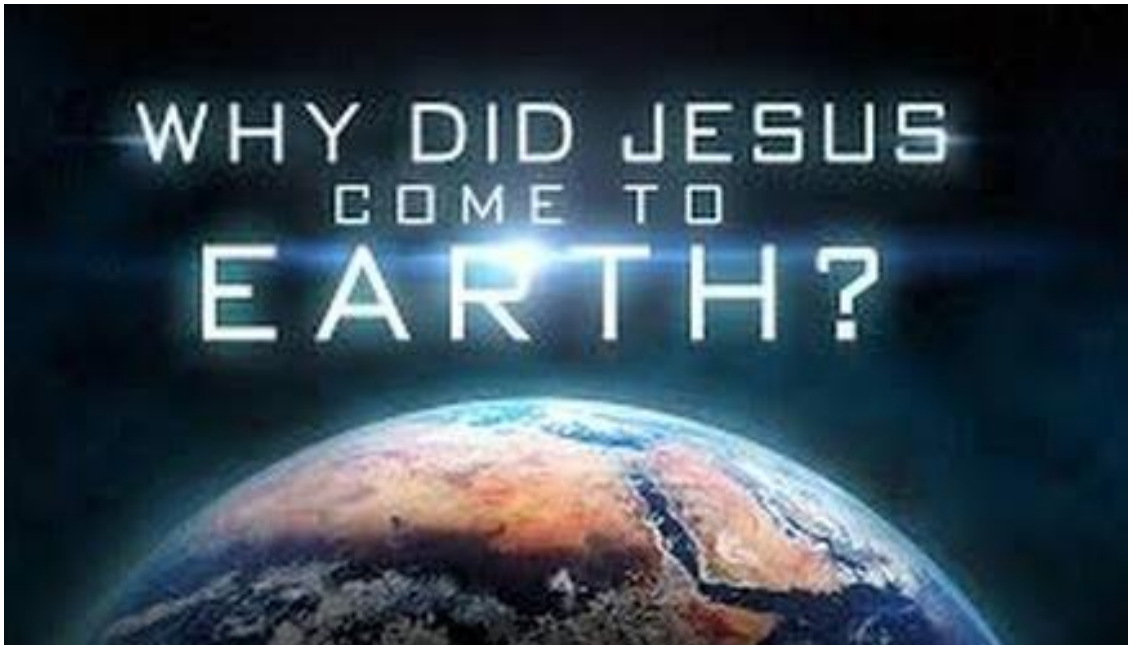


# Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

*(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)*



## **CHRISTMAS SERIES: "WHY JESUS CAME TO EARTH"**

**Order of Worship December 8, 2024 | 10 AM  
Pastor Matthew Cephus**

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

[www.gloriadeilcms.org](http://www.gloriadeilcms.org)

email: [info@gloriadeilcms.org](mailto:info@gloriadeilcms.org)

# 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:** Advent means "arrival" and signifies the start of an event or the arrival of a person. For Christians around the world, Advent refers to a four-week season of remembering and celebrating the arrival of Jesus on Earth. It's a time to reflect on the unexpected nature of Jesus' humble birth and join in the anticipation of when he will come again to reunite Heaven and Earth once and for all.

*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 assistance 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.

**NO Wednesday bible study on December 11, 18 or 25. We will resume on January 15. Join Daniel and Katie Beth for Thursday evening bible study on December 12 at 5:30 pm.**

# The Second Sunday of Advent

AS WE GATHER: There are many purposes of Jesus coming to the world. Nowadays, if you ask someone why Christ came to the world, the only answer you'd get is: "He came to save sinners." However, Christ came for many reasons. Knowing them will make celebrating Christmas meaningful and worthwhile.

## + *CONNECT* +

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SOLO                      "Noel: Christmas Eve, 1913"                      Daniel Carlson

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 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* +

HYMN OF PRAISE                      "How Deep the Father Love for Us"  
*Stuart Townend, 1995 Thankyou Music; admin. EMI Christian Music CCLI # 1558110*

How deep the Father's love for us, How vast beyond all measure  
That He should give His only Son, To make a wretch His treasure  
How great the pain of searing loss, The Father turns His face away  
As wounds which mar the chosen One, Bring many sons to glory

Behold the Man upon a cross, My sin upon His shoulders  
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice, Call out among the scoffers  
It was my sin that left Him there, Until it was accomplished  
His dying breath has brought me life, I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything, No gifts, no power, no wisdom  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection  
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer  
But this I know with all my heart, His wounds have paid my ransom

#### OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 40:1-5

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

Galatians 3:15-20

To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified. Now the promises were made to Abraham and **to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ.** This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void. For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise.

Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary. Now an intermediary implies more than one, but God is one.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:9-10, 14-18

L: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

SONG OF THE DAY

**"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"**

LSB 357

*Text & Tune: Public Domain*

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

**O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, who ord'rest all things mightily;**  
To us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

**O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height**  
In ancient times didst give the Law in cloud and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

**O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree, free them from Satan's tyranny**  
**That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.**  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

**O come, Thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home;**  
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
**Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.**  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, and be Thyself our King of Peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

**Christmas Series: "Why Jesus Came to Earth"****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

"Joy to the World"

LSB 387

*Text & Tune: Public Domain*

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 men 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 sins and sorrows 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.

#### 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<sup>®</sup>, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used with permission. Hymns are copied with permission: CCLI # 689918*

Please plan to attend Today's Yearly Congregational Meeting, following the 10 am Service!





## OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

12/08 Sun		Second Sunday in Advent
	10:00 am	Worship w/Holy Communion, with Pastor Matthew Cephus Yearly Congregational Meeting (Fireside Room)
	11:45 am	Royal Family Worship
	6:00 pm	NA
12/09 Mon	7:00 pm	Beginners AIAnon (downstairs)
	7:00 pm	AIAnon (upstairs)
12/10 Tues		Deliver Salvation Army Gift Tree Donations and Shut-In Baskets
12/11 Wed	11:00 am	<u>NO</u> Bible Study
12/12 Thurs	5:30 pm	Thursday Evening Bible Study
12/13 Fri	5:00 pm	Living Word Music Rehearsal
12/14 Sat	10:00 am	Living Word Worship & Fellowship
	4:30 pm	Lantern Walk through the Bible, Self-Guided Tour
	6:00 pm	Living Word Prayer Night
12/15 Sun		Third Sunday in Advent
	10:30 am	Joint Worship Service w/Pastor Matthew Cephus
	6:00 pm	NA

## SERVING TODAY

Elder: Karmon Christopherson

Reading: Verlayne Sather

Ushers: Tom and Patty Lyrenmann

Altar Care: Tom and Patty Lyrenmann

Counters: Shirley Holzinger and Verlayne Sather

Attendance: 12/01/2024: 31

Thank you to everyone who came out and helped decorate the church.  
Your hard work is appreciated by all who will see it! The church looks  
great and GDLC is now ready for the upcoming Holidays!

BIRTHDAYS: None

ANNIVERSARIES: None

ETERNAL CANDLE: Shirley Holzinger – **Nephew Adam's Birthday** – December 5

FLOWERS: Tom and Patty Lyrenmann – First Sunday in Advent

### PRAYER CONCERNS

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: Meridel Christopherson, Robert & Delores Kluwe, Larry Schlais, Pat Scott and all our shut-ins

Gwen Johnson strength and prayers for her upcoming surgery to repair an abdominal aortic aneurysm. This type of aneurysm is hereditary and runs in her family.

Kim Morelli upcoming surgery, prayers for successful surgery and healing

Tom Lyrenmann thank you for prayers while hospitalized and continued prayers for recovery and health

Roselyn Norman lower back surgery (11/19). Pray for success and speedy recovery **in Jesus' name.**

Mudy Mason dealing with an autoimmune disease. Pray for strength, peace, hope, believing in God, Family, Mindset.

**Roselyn Norman's** college friend and sister Famata Kamara and her two sons, Eric Golafaie, and Naide Davis, for deliverance

**Amy Rich's mom (Morelli's DnL)** Kathy Rich, diagnosed with pancreatic cancer

**Roselyn Norman's** neighbor and friend, Tom, was recently diagnosed with State 3 kidney and liver cancer

James Norman, Sr. (**James' dad**) Continued prayers, prostate cancer seems to be getting worse, hi is having increasing pain and decreased mobility

Jim (**Gwen Johnson's brother**) reoccurring issues due to his time in the Service

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **TODAY'S LUTHERAN HOUR**

December 8 "Completely Ordinary Human" (Malachi 3:7)  
Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)  
Everyone has a story to tell and yours can be one through which Jesus is working to make the world new again.

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

December 15 "Sorrow Welcomed Here" (Zephaniah 3:14-20)  
Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)  
The church welcomes people, but does it also welcome their problems? Dr. Michael Zeigler says the church should be a place that makes room for both joy and sorrow.

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](http://www.lutheranhour.org)

STEWARDSHIP: *Advent II - Luke 3:4*

**"As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" God makes long-range plans: Isaiah lived more than seven hundred years before St. John the Baptist preached by the Jordan River. Obviously, God sees farther into the future than we do! That's yet another reason to trust Him when it comes to how He tells us to live our lives: He knows what's coming and we don't**

## **LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:**

**"If heaven had been our home, would we have wanted to enter a world of grief and pain, of evil and death? Yet enter it Jesus did to give us His home to be ours forever. So, He loved us in undeserved grace. And so will we sing in the heavenly Jerusalem a refrain like that of our choirs: Hail, thou ever blessed morn, Hail redemption's happy dawn, Sing through all Jerusalem: 'Christ is born in Bethlehem.' Alleluia."** *Richard Gurgel, President, Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://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 "Red Boots Christmas." A shoemaker learns the true meaning of Christmas. The worship service begins at 9:30 am with Rev. James Neubauer from St. John's Lutheran Church in Park Rapids, MN, presenting a message titled "Stir up Our Hearts" based on Luke 3:1-20. This program is interpreted and closed captioned for the deaf and hard of hearing. For more information or to watch the program, go to [www.mainstreetliving.com](http://www.mainstreetliving.com) select the "Twin Cities" tab.**



LAST DAY TO ORDER YOUR POINSETTIAS:

The poinsettias are \$17 **for an 8" plant**. Colors are red, white or pink. If you would like to donate a plant, the deadline is TODAY, Sunday, December 8. *You can also bring in your own poinsettia, but please still sign up.* 😊

Thank you!

## **Holiday Gift Basket Distribution**

The Social Ministry Committee will be assembling Holiday Gift baskets, filled with fruit, treats and goodies. These baskets will be delivered to our dear shut-ins. If you know someone who would enjoy a gift basket or simply could use some cheering up during this Holiday season, please leave their name, phone number and address in the Secretary's mailbox. The Committee will make sure they receive a gift basket.



*The last day for toy collection is TODAY, December 8<sup>th</sup>.*

*The toys and gifts collected under the Salvation Army Christmas Tree will be delivered to the Salvation Army on Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>.*

*Thank you to everyone who so generously donated.*

*Also to note, GDLC donated 140 pounds of food to the Salvation Army Food Shelf in the month of November. Wow!*

## **Lantern Walk Through the Bible - December 14 from 4:30 – 7:30 pm**

**Now is the time to add this great event to your calendar! Come along on the journey!**

Presented in partnership by Gloria Dei's Evangelism Team and members of Royal Family Church, the Lantern Walk Through the Bible will feature "stations" along a snowy, lantern-lit pathway, highlighting Bible verses from Genesis through Revelation displaying God's great love for us all. The Lantern Walk Through is a self-guided, go at your own pace, no tour guide event. At the end of the journey, experience the warmth from a firepit and enjoy roasting marshmallows as you sip hot chocolate, all while making new friends.

This FREE one-of-a-kind event is open to the neighborhood and surrounding community and will take place entirely on the church's lawn. Please dress warm! We realize this event takes place outside, however, if as you make your way through the snowy, lantern-lined paths, you find yourself feeling a bit chilly, stop by the warming room inside the church!

*Gloria Dei and Royal Family will hold a Joint Service on Sunday, December 15 at 10:30 am (note later start time).*

*See you there!*