Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Email Website Phone Fax

Pastor Phone

Pianist Office Administrator Ministers info@gloriadeilcms.org www.gloriadeilcms.org 612-781-1989 612-254-8401

Matthew Cephus 612-227-3974

As Scheduled Jeni Hofstede-Bryan All members of Gloria Dei

Caring Sharing Serving Reaching



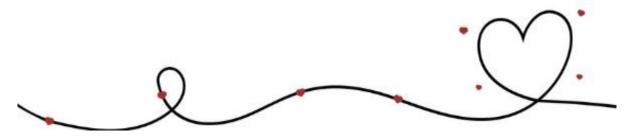
Worship Schedule for February 2025

Feb 2 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany w/HC Feb 9 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany w/HC Feb 16 Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany w/HC

Feb 23 Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany w/HC

Love is patient and kind, It doesn't envy or boast and it's never proud. Love is not rude or selfish, It doesn't get angry easily, or keep track of wrongs. Love doesn't delight in bad things but it rejoices in the truth. Love always protects, trusts, hopes and perseveres. Love never fails.

- St. Paul to the Corinthians



Newsletter February 2025. Pastor Matthew Cephus

THE "AGAPE LOVE" OF GOD

Valentine's Day is right around the corner and the theme is love. We hear a lot about love from many different directions, but predominantly in our culture love is a fleeting feeling filled with passion that can rise one day and fall or even fade away the next, whose target is ever changing as the fickleness of the human heart demonstrates its indecision.

None of this is love, at least not as the Bible speaks of it. In the New Testament, when we see the word "love" appear, it is almost always a translation of the Greek word *agape*. Here is the thing with *agape*: it isn't really used to describe a feeling at all. Rather, *agape* describes a commitment or a decision to do what is right and necessary for another no matter the cost or sacrifice to oneself. While there are feelings that are associated with love, those feelings are the product of love, rather than the actual love (*agape*) itself. And if the actual love itself is missing the commitment, then the feeling and one's actions often become self-serving.

On the day I married my wife Patience, the commitment I made was to show *agape* love to and for her. There's a marvelous quote from Dietrich Bonhoeffer: "It is not your love that sustains the marriage, but from now on, the marriage that sustains your love." There are certainly challenges and struggles in every marriage, but God has sustained our love in marriage for over 25 years now.

On the day of our marriage, I thought no one could love another anymore. Then my daughter Faith was born and as I held that little one-hour old child, I loved her so unconditionally and realized I would climb the highest mountain for her if it were necessary. It isn't that I loved her more than my wife, but differently. I thought *that* was a love none could surpass. Until the first time I saw anything that threatened her even a little bit and realized my wife would bareknuckle box a grizzly bear if it was necessary to protect her baby. That might be the height of *agape* love for human beings like us. What a marvel it is, then to recognize that our human attempts at living out *agape* love for others merely scratch the surface of our holy God's divine *agape* love for us. Ours is a pale reflection in comparison to the brilliant fullness of His love.

Jesus says in John 15:13, "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends." This is exactly what Jesus does. He lays down His life for those whom He has called to be His friends. But it is even more amazing than that. In Romans 5:8, Paul writes, "God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Jesus did not lay down His innocent, perfect, righteous life for people who had earned that privilege. He didn't do it for those who were appealing, those who were attractive, those who were in some way worthy. He laid down His life for those who by their sins made themselves His enemies, all so that they could then become His friends. So that you could be numbered among His friends who gain the benefit of His life-laid-down.

And why? Not because it did Him any favors. No, rather for one simple reason: because you needed it. Because I needed it. And our Savior dedicated Himself to doing what was right and necessary for us, no matter the cost or sacrifice to Himself – even if that cost was taking up human flesh and blood all so that **He could lay it down again. But through the Savior's** *agape* love for you, you now have life in abundance. And because He loved us, we can love (*agape*) those whom God has placed in our lives to love, be it husband or wife, children, parents, neighbors, or anyone else. Reflecting the love of Christ to others is a **worthy calling. May you shine brightly with the love of Christ this Valentine's Day and always.**

Gloria Dei at Christmas



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry -- February 2025

"Christ's Life, and Love, and Light"

Open our eyes Lord to see Your love's intent, To know with minds and hearts its depth and height May thankfulness be days in service spent Reflection of Christ's life, and love, and light. (LSB 788)

As stewards enter the month of February, it is fitting that we look at the last stanza of the stewardship hymn, "Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness" (LSB 788). It is in these words that we see that the heart of stewardship is indeed love. Love has flowed from our Lord to us in the person and work of Jesus Christ. This love is then to flow from us to others. Being a conduit of love is really the central task of what it means to be a steward. The Lord entrusts us with His love that reconciles us to Himself, so that we might be stewards of the Gospel reconciliation that is freely given through us to those around us.

If we don't see this love from God to us, then through us, to others, our eyes will be closed not just to the needs of those around us. They will also be closed to the very heart of the Gospel itself. This is why the hymnist prays that the Lord would "Open our eyes, Lord, to see Your love's intent, To know with minds and hearts its depth and height."

Only when we are immersed in God's Holy Word, washed in Holy Baptism's life-giving water and fed on the holy, precious, body and blood of Jesus in the Holy Supper, will the Spirit be able to open our eyes to see the Lord's loving intent for us, and those we know and love. Sin blinds us. It makes us think that we are the center of our world, and our pleasure is the key.

In the Word, the Lord shows us the depth and height of His love. The depth of that love is what moved Him from His throne in heaven into our world. There He would don our human flesh, walk the dusty roads of Palestine, and set His face toward Jerusalem. Once there we get to see the height of His love, as He is elevated on a Roman cross to die a death that we deserve. But that would not be the end. He would be lowered into a tomb for three days. On that third day we then see the heights of love ascended to in His resurrection. This resurrection is already ours too!

The depth and height of this love poured out on us by the Holy Spirit then is distributed through us to others. Christ's servant love is shown in our servant love. The hymn utters the prayer of every Christian steward:

May thankfulness be days in service spent Reflection of Christ's life, and love, and light.

This is the task for which stewards were originally created. Bearing the image of creation and redemption, we reflect Christ's love to those around us. The light of Christ shining through us to others is the true stewardship to which we are called. It takes place in our homes. It is lived out in our workplaces and classrooms. As we bear the life, love and light received in Word and Sacrament, we carry it out in service to our neighbor and for the glory of God!

Forgive us, Lord, when our stewardship of thankfulness is shallow or lacking! Fill us with Your life, love and light! Not just for us, but through us to those we know and love, that they may know Your life, love and light for them!

OUTREACH TO THE HOMELESS

On January 20, 2025, several LCMS entities partnered to share needed items at a "shantytown" under the Lafayette Street Bridge in St. Paul near the Union Gospel Mission. Jim Seeman, coordinator of the New Freedom Store, again organized this visit. LCMS partners included the St. Paul Outreach Center (with pastors/members from four St. Paul circuit churches and students and staff from Concordia University, St. Paul) and members of a LERT team led by Pastor Kris Bjornstad. The New Freedom Store and the St. Paul Outreach Center are supported, in part, through your mission offerings to the MN South District.

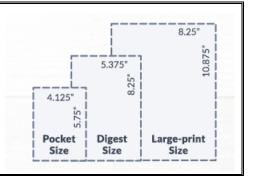
As a side note: We all know Mary Piper has a kind and giving heart and Mary's heart was in the right place as she joined the group visiting the homeless encampment. Together with other volunteers, she dedicated her time to assisting those in need by erecting tents and securing tarps to provide shelter from the cold. She also ensured the donations of jackets, sweatshirts, hats and gloves, etc. collected by Gloria Dei were distributed to those in need, offering warmth and comfort during the harsh winter months.



The holy spirit is most active where it seems he is not. Anonymous

PORTALS OF PRAYER

Within your box of envelopes is an envelope for the Portals of Prayer payment. Each daily devotion includes a Bible reading, meditation and prayer to apply to your daily life, published in multiple sizes and formats – note the slight cost increase for this **years' subscription.** Pocket size (regular print) is \$9.76, digest-size is \$20 and large print is \$21.25. Please use the designated envelope when you make your payment. *Thank you!*





SALVATION ARMY: Fill Our Grocery Cart!

Gloria Dei has continued to be very generous in donating food to the Salvation Army Food Shelf in Northeast Minneapolis. In January, 66 pounds of food/hygiene products were donated. Thank you for your kindness! ⁽²⁾
Our cart is always located in the lobby ready to be filled – items in demand are 100% juice; low sugar cereal; canned chicken, salmon and/or pork; low sugar canned fruit; soups (low sodium); dry or canned beans; granola bars and dried fruit; rice (white, jasmine, or brown); salad dressings; condiments and spices. Hygiene items: toothpaste; toilet tissue; shampoo; bar soap; deodorant. Please remember those less fortunate as you shop for your groceries. <u>PLEASE, NON-PERISHABLE FOODS ONLY</u>.

NEED TO CATCH UP ON GLORIA DEI'S RECENT SERVICES?

Check out our website, where you will find a "Watch Live" *click here to watch* section on our Homepage, you will then be redirected to Gloria Dei's YouTube page, where you will always find the last Sunday's service. To view previous Sunday services **click "Live"** (Home Videos Live Community) you will then be taken to the page with the previous Sunday services, click on the one you want to watch.

THRIVENT CHOICE® DOLLARS

2024 DOLLARS EXPIRE MARCH 31, 2025 - ACT NOW!

Eligible clients with membership can recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable grant funds. These recommendations are shared by directing Choice Dollars to enrolled nonprofit organizations, including churches. Thousands of 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations—including churches, camps, schools, seminaries, campus ministries and more—are enrolled in the Thrivent Choice program. Thrivent Choice® provides a platform for members to have a financial impact on the causes and nonprofits they care about.

To be eligible to direct Choice Dollars as part of Thrivent Choice®, you must be a client with benefit membership. Individual eligibility is also based on at least one of the following: • Having \$750 or more in annual billed premiums of qualifying life and health insurance products. • Having \$20,000 or more in contract value of qualifying life insurance and annuity products. Eligibility is determined monthly and reevaluated on an annual basis. Eligible clients will be designated a minimum of 25 Choice Dollars and a maximum of 5,000 Choice Dollars per eligibility period (Jan. 1 to Dec. 31).

To direct your Choice Dollars, simply call 1-800-Thrivent (1-800-847-4836), when asked for a subject, say "Choice Dollars." When asked for a choice, press 1. Then answer the next question with your birth date. A Thrivent representative will then come on the line, tell the representative you want to direct your choice dollars to **Gloria Dei Lutheran Church**, 3014 McKinley Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418. Bringing generosity to life!

Please add to your Calendar: Ash Wednesday is March 5, 2025. Gloria Dei will host a 5:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service with the Imposition of Ashes. This service will <u>not</u> include Holy Communion.



Upcoming Community Events

Snowblast 2025

SnowBLAST returns on Saturday, February 1, 4-7 pm at Huset Park, 3965 Jefferson Street NE. Live music from Columbia Heights band Pickle, free pony rides, free s'mores and hot drinks, while supplies last, ice skating, Columbia Heights Athletic Boosters food truck, snow soccer, plus a heated tent and Lions beer sales.

Drive Thru Community Dinner at St. Timothy's

Tuesday, February 11 – 5:00-6:30 pm (or until the food is gone). Free and open to all and all are welcome! St. Timothy's Lutheran Church is located at 825 51st Ave NE, Columbia Heights. Spread the word!

Free Community Meal - February 13 @ 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Faith United Methodist Church, 2708 33rd Avenue NE, holds a free Community dinner every 2nd Thursday of the month, 5-6 pm. Everyone is welcome. Upcoming dates are February 13 and March 13.

Puzzle and Board Game Swap: Thursday, February 13, 6:30 pm. Do you have stacks of puzzles that you finished and now you need a new challenge? Or you are seeking a new game to try out? Bring your puzzles and board games to swap and find something new to keep you busy on these cold winter nights. Event to be held in the Senior Room at Murzyn Hall, 530 Mill Street NE. Please park in the back of Murzyn hall and enter through the lower level entrance.

SAV Puzzle Showdown

A jigsaw competition, a collaboration between St. Anthony Community Services and Silverwood Park will take place Sunday, February 23, 3-5 pm at Silverwood Park, 2500 County Road East, St. Anthony. Teams of up to four will race against the clock to complete a 500-piece puzzle in 2 hours, with volunteer judges tracking progress and prizes for top finishers. Ages: 14+, registration required. Cost: \$60 per team, \$15 per person. Doors open at 2 pm. Arrive early for check-in and **rules. Don't have a team? You'll be matched with other puzzle pros. There will be a zero** cancellation/refund policy on this event. Questions: Call Angela at 612-706-1176.

Hennepin County Neighborhood Fix-It Hub – February 25 @ 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm Hennepin County's Neighborhood Fix-It Hub is at St. Anthony Library, 2941 Pentagon Drive. Work with a friendly, skilled volunteer to try to fix your broken household stuff, gain confidence and learn new repair skills. This event is family friendly. No registration required. Volunteers are needed to assist with repair and sewing – come help your neighbors. Contact Nancy Lo at <u>nancy.lo@hennepin.us</u> or 612-348-9195. Every other Tuesday, 4-7 p.m., last items accepted at 6:30 p.m. Upcoming dates: Feb. 11 and 25, March 11 and 25, April 8 and 22, May 13 and 27, June 10 and 24.



Heard each Sunday morning at 6:05 am Hosted by Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigle (unless otherwise noted)

February 2

(John 4:9)

"Do the Things That Make for Unity" Lutheran Hour Speaker: <u>Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler</u> Jesus crosses borders and even breaks down the barrier of death to do the things that make for unity: shared worship, shared mission, shared harvest.

February 9

) (John 5:6) "We Have an Advocate"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: <u>Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler</u> Where we might see only a problem, Jesus sees a person who needs an Advocate.

February 16 (John 6:35)

"The Bread of Our Lives" Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola Jesus gives us Himself as the Bread of Life so that everything we need can be filled by Him and His gifts.

February 23 "Need to Know" (John 7:28-29) Lutheran Hour Speaker: <u>Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler</u> If you don't need God, you won't know God.

JANUARY OFFICIAL ACTS: None

Would you like to participate in Sunday's services? Readers are always needed! Reach out to Pastor Matthew or the Office if interested.

TIME OF GRACE Sundays KARE (NBC 11) 10:30 AM www.timeofgrace.org

You can also watch any *Time of Grace* program ondemand on the Time of Grace YouTube channel. Straight talk about God's Word and Real Hope for this Life. A strong gospel message delivered in an informal Bible study style. Pastor Mike Novotny The CORE in Appleton, Wisconsin



Daily Devotions from The Lutheran Hour Ministries

With several ways to read and listen, you can get your daily does of Scripture when you need it.

Visit **lhm.org/dailydevotions** to subscribe for email delivery to your inbox, sign up for the podcasts, or download the app for your mobile device – all for **FREE**!



Main Street Living | Twin Cities

Main Street Living is an hour-long Lutheran television program that airs new episodes each Sunday morning. The Twin Cities program is broadcast at 9 am Central time on WFTC channel 29/9-2. Each Sunday, viewers enjoy a 30-minute **remastered episode of "This is the Life," a popular** Lutheran Hour Ministries series from the 70s and 80s. The episode is followed by a modified Lutheran worship service—led by a different local pastor each week. This program is totally funded by viewers and others who want to keep the Gospel available to those who cannot or do not attend worship services on a regular basis.

| February 2025 | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---------------------------|----------|--|--|--|--|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | | |
| Gloria Dei Lutheran Church 3014 McKinley Street NE Minneapolis, MN 55418 Ph. 612-781-1989 Fax 612-789-9727 www.gloriadeilcms.org info@gloriadeilcms.org | () | | | | | 1 10 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship 6 – 8 pm Living Word Prayer Night | | |
| 2 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany 10 am GDLC Worship w/HC 11:45 am Royal Family Worship 6 pm NA Groundhog Day | 3 Pastor's Day Off 7 pm Beginners AlAnon (downstairs) 7 pm AlAnon (upstairs) | 4 | 5 11am Bible Study | 6 | 7 5 – 8 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal | 8 10 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship 6 – 8 pm Living Word Prayer Night | | |
| 9 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany 10 am GDLC Worship w/HC 11:45 am Royal Family Worship 6 pm NA | 10 Pastor's Day Off 7 pm Beginners AlAnon (downstairs) 7 pm AlAnon (upstairs) | 11 | 12 11am Bible Study | 13 | 14 5 – 8 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal Valentine's Day | 15 10 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship 4 - 5 pm Living Word Board Meeting 6 - 8 pm Living Word Prayer Night | | |
| 16 Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany 10 am GDLC Worship w/HC 11:45 am Royal Family Worship 6 pm NA Newsletter Deadline | 17 Pastor's Day Off 7 pm Beginners AlAnon (downstairs) 7 pm AlAnon (upstairs) President's Day | 18 5 – 7 pm GDLC Council Meeting | 19 11am Bible Study | 20 | 21 5 – 8 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal | 22 10 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship 6 – 8 pm Living Word Prayer Night | | |
| 23 Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany 10 am GDLC Worship w/HC 11:45 am Royal Family Worship 6 pm NA | 24 Pastor's Day Off 7 pm Beginners AlAnon (downstairs) 7 pm AlAnon (upstairs) | 25 | 26 11am Bible Study | 27 | 28 5 – 8 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal | | | |

February Special Occasions





| 4 th Debra Panning | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| 5 th Derald Hadrath | | | | |
| 11 th Lillian Troiden | | | | |
| 16 th Tim Harris | | | | |
| 16 th Tom Harris | | | | |
| 28 th Brian Morelli | | | | |

No Anniversaries

| | 28 th Brian Morelli | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| FEBRUARY SERVANTS | | | | | | | |
| Elder: Karmon Christopherson | | | | | | | |
| Ushers | | Counters | | | | | |
| 2 nd | Morelli's | 2 nd | Al, Pam and Aaron Morelli | | | | |
| 9 th | OPEN | 9 th | Tom and Patty Lyrenmann | | | | |
| 16 th | OPEN | 16 th | Pat Scott and Shirley Slagle | | | | |
| 23 rd | OPEN | 23 rd | Shirley Holzinger and Verlayne Sather | | | | |
| Candles | | | Flowers | | | | |
| 2 nd | OPEN | 2 nd | OPEN | | | | |
| 9 th | Shirley Holzinger, Brother Larry's | 9 th | OPEN | | | | |
| | Birthday -10^{th} | 16 th | OPEN | | | | |
| 16 th | Sandy Westling, Grandson Chris' | 23 rd | OPEN | | | | |
| | Birthday | | | | | | |
| 23 rd | OPEN | | | | | | |

If you sign up for flowers or candles after the newsletter is published, be sure to the let the office know. We want to make sure that flowers are ordered and you are properly acknowledged in the bulletin notes. Thanks!

"People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."







THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD

Pray For Us Calendar

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES – FEBRUARY 1-29

"Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God," Jesus says in Luke 18:16. God wants all His children to have faith in Him, yet sin and brokenness permeate the lives of His people. Children are orphaned, and families are ripped apart. Over the years, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has reached out to care for God's precious children through the mercy ministries of congregations, missionaries and Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs).

Remember God's love and will for children and families as you pray:

1. *for all Christians,* that they would help and defend the orphan and widow, the poor and lonely, the helpless and oppressed.

2. The purification of Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord: *for mothers,* that they might rejoice in their vocation and raise their children in the Lord.

3. for adoption and foster-care agency workers, that they would make good and right decisions concerning what is best for all involved — enabling them to find proper families and resources to

meet the needs of the children they serve.

4. *for all children,* that they might be brought to the waters of Baptism and taught God's Word.

5. Jacob (Israel), Patriarch, thank God for Jacob, through whom came the promise of the Messiah and the 12 tribes of Israel: *for fathers,* that they might raise their children in the Word.

6. for men as they grow up, that they may be godly in their youth and their adult years.

7. for orphanages around the world, that they might receive

proper funding, food, resources and godly caregivers so that they can provide the best care possible to the children entrusted to them.

8. for orphanage workers, that they might be refreshed by Your Word and be good role models and teachers as they provide loving care to those in their charge.

9. *for all orphans,* that they might find Christian families who will nurture them with the love and knowledge of Christ.

10. Silas, Fellow Worker of St. Peter and St. Paul, thank God for Silas, lesser known, but essential to the work of the Kingdom: *for all church workers,* that all might work as God calls them to serve Him.

11. *for all foster children,* that they might find peace among the chaos as they wait for a proper family to be established.

12. for all who suffer from domestic violence, that the Lord would deliver them from danger and comfort them with His peace and forgiveness.

13. Aquila, Priscilla, Apollos, thank God for these examples of earnest learning and meditation in the Word of God.

14. Valentine, Martyr, pray that the love of Christ might be the love celebrated above all loves.

15. Philemon and Onesimus: for all Christian workers and those in authority, that all might serve God in their vocations.

16. Philipp Melanchthon (birth), Confessor: thank God for the Augsburg Confession and the other writings of Melanchthon that proclaim the truth of the Gospel.

17. *for all caregivers,* that they might raise children in the truth faith.

FEBRUARY Pray For Us Calendar

18. Martin Luther, Doctor and Confessor: thank God for Luther's proclamation of salvation by grace through faith for Christ's sake.

19. for children and parents who are deaf, that they might know Jesus's voice and be filled with His peace.

20. *for widows,* that they might know Christ as their faithful bridegroom who will supply for their needs as they lives their lives in prayer and purity.

21. for the homeless, that they might find a warm and safe place to lay their head, food for their bellies, hope for the future and rest in the love of Christ.

22. *for the unemployed,* that they might find suitable and fulfilling employment, fair wages and encouraging support.

23. Polycarp of Smyrna, Pastor and Martyr: thank God for those who continued the teachings of Jesus and gave their lives for the Gospel. **24.** St. Matthias, Apostle: thank God for his quiet witness and those who gave their lives for the Gospel without any recognition.

25. *for the poor,* that they might find true riches in the Word of God and be blessed by the generosity of others.

26. for children who are missing, that the Lord would keep them from danger, restore them to their families and give them His peace and protection.

27. for peace among siblings, that the Lord would help them love and support each other throughout their lives, instead of being divided by bickering and jealousy.

28. for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, that they might be treated with respect and love as beloved children of God.

29. *for families*, that they might attend worship to hear the Word and receive the Sacraments.















Congregations and individuals are invited to copy these pages for newsletters or other distribution. Download at **lcms.org/prayforus** or call 888-843-5267 to request a copy.

