



**Holy Communion
Sundays**
8:15 & 10:45 a.m.
10:45 a.m. live on YouTube

Welcome to Worship at Gloria Dei!

Welcome to worship at Gloria Dei. Wherever you are in your journey of faith, you are welcome here. Every Sunday, the body of Christ gathers in this sanctuary to hear God's word of unconditional grace, share a meal of mercy and forgiveness and is then sent into the world to follow Jesus with peace, compassion and justice. Thank you for joining our mission. Please let us know how we can assist you in being at home with us.

Parish Announcements - December 1, 2024

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

December 15

10:45 a.m. ~ Children's Christmas Program
5:00 p.m. ~ Advent Lessons and Carols

December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

2:30 & 4:00 p.m. ~ Service of the Word
Time with Children
Livestream at 4:00 p.m.

7:30 & 10:00 p.m. ~ Holy Communion;
Chancel Choir and string/brass instrumentalists
Livestream at 10:00 p.m.

10 p.m. ~ Holy Communion;
Chancel Choir and string/brass instrumentalists

December 25 ~ Christmas Day

10 a.m., Holy Communion
Livestream

Worship and Music & Art

First Sunday Coffee Party is Today. The first Sunday of the month includes a potluck of baked goods coffee party and you are invited today between services in the Gathering Place. It's a coffee party for no extraordinary reason that to get to know each other better. Join us as we enjoy some time and treats together.

Faith Formation

Forum Today: Since at least the 8th Century, Christians have sung *O Antiphons* with Mary's *Magnificat* at evening prayer during the days of Advent. These ancient phrases remind us of Hebrew Scripture's (Old Testament) names for God which we learn to apply to Jesus. We continue to sing the Antiphons in *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* each year. Through the four Sundays of Advent, Sunday Forum will explore these ancient prayers and consider how they open our prayers in this season of hope and promise. Baya Clare, member of Gloria Dei and spiritual director, introduces us to the Antiphons, and Dr. Corri Carvalho, professor of theology at St. Thomas University, helps us explore *O, Adonai* ("LORD") today at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Christmas Cookies Needed. It's that wonderful time of year again! As part of our annual tradition, we're asking for cookie donations for our children's Christmas Program Cookie Reception. Whether you prefer to bake or buy, we welcome all kinds of cookies—just no peanuts or treenuts please. Your sweet treats will help us create a warm and joyful atmosphere for our post-program fellowship. Please consider bringing a dozen or two of your favorite cookie or holiday treat. You can drop off your donations at the kitchen anytime between now and Sunday, Dec. 15, by 10 a.m. There will be a sign in the refrigerator where the cookies should go. Please label your cookies with "Children's Christmas Program" and note any special dietary information. We'll carefully store and freeze them at Gloria Dei until the event. Your generosity and support will ensure this beloved holiday celebration remains a joy for all! Thank you!

Wednesday Supper. Wednesday Supper this week will include beef chow mein, eggrolls (vegetarian) with sweet & sour sauce along with vegetarian fried rice. The meals are served 5:45-6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Suggested donation is \$5-10 per person. Pay whatever you can.

Nativity Craft during Supper Hour. John August Swanson's Nativity will be used as inspiration for an Advent craft activity over the supper hour on Wednesday, 5:45 to 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. This is an all-ages four-part paper card craft time. Sunday school students have learned about John August Swanson this past month and many of his works have been shown on the Sanctuary screens this past year. This is a chance to create your own work to adorn your home.

Social Justice and Outreach

Second Offering. Your generosity last month made an impact at Keystone Community Food Center. Sunday's food collection gathered in 101 pounds of non-perishable food items. And Second Offering collections throughout the month netted \$4,562, the equivalent of 65 family Thanksgiving dinners! We now turn our attention to December's Second Offering which will support Project Home, which provides 40 beds

of emergency shelter for children and their parents in Ramsey County each night. Project Home is a program of Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul. The in-service collection will be taken Sunday, Dec. 8, but you can give digitally anytime at tinyurl.com/gd2ND1124.

Gifts of Coffee, Bowls Support Gloria Dei Missions. Looking for Christmas gifts that can have an impact with our global mission partners? You'll be able to shop for coffee and wooden bowls Sunday mornings, Dec. 8 & 15, in the area between the library and Fellowship Hall. Guatemala coffee from independent farmers in San Lucas Toliman will be available for purchase in medium or dark roast. You can also purchase this delicious coffee in the church office during regular business hours. Hand-carved wooden bowls will also be for sale those two Sundays, with proceeds going to fund completing the kindergarten school in Kilengapasi, Tanzania, our partner congregation.

ELCA Sexuality Statements. The 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly called for two reconsiderations of specific sections of the 2009 social statement Human Sexuality Gift and Trust. As a first step in this process, a task force from across the ELCA has released draft edits to the social statement, which address possible word changes without changing the substantive meaning of the statement. Your feedback is needed as the church considers the draft edits. Go to tinyurl.com/gdELCASURVEY to take a survey. Go to tinyurl.com/gdELCAFAQS for FAQs and a discussion guide. Provide feedback by Jan. 31 at tinyurl.com/gdELCAFEEDBACK or emailing Reconsiderations@elca.org.

Health and Healing

Coffee, Tea and Camaraderie on Wednesdays. Do you know how to use a rotary phone? So do we! Join us for Coffee, Tea and Camaraderie. This new group for older adults meets weekly on Wednesdays 2-3 p.m. in the Minnesota Room. This will be a time for visiting over coffee or tea, with occasional speakers on topics of interest.

Which topics? We'll decide! For more information contact parish nurse Jill Stewart, nurse@gloriadeistpaul.org or 651-699-1378 ext. 3031.

Stewardship and Giving

Thank You to All Who Have Turned in Pledges, it's Not Too Late. The 2025 Stewardship campaign, *Fill the World with Love Divine*, is winding down. Physical copies of the stewardship materials are available at the church office. Have you considered using digital contributions to make your offerings? Here are digital tools you can use.

- Go to tinyurl.com/gdSTEW25 to make your pledge online.
- Go to tinyurl.com/gdDIGGIVE to set up digital giving.

Pledges help the Congregational Council make budgeting decisions for the 2025 year.

Community

Mendota Dakota Holiday Potluck is Dec. 7. The Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Tribal Community would like to invite members of Gloria Dei to the Annual Christmas Holiday Potluck! It will be held on Saturday, Dec. 7, noon-3 p.m., at the DuPris House, 1357 Sibley Memorial Highway, Mendota. There usually is a group from Lumen Christi Catholic Church and Sisters from St. Joseph Carondelet that attend and we would love to bring a group of members from Gloria Dei to the potluck and meet more members of the tribal community. We make an offering plate for the ancestors, pray and eat and visit with a variety of folks that are connected to the community. Meet at the site or those who wish may meet at the Gloria Dei parking lot at 11:30 a.m. and we can travel together. Email Karen Lansing at lansingkaren13@gmail.com to coordinate meeting at church.

More Ways to Assist With Worship

In addition to the activities noted above, join Gloria Dei friends in one of these other ways to assist in worship on Sunday.

- **Altar Care Team** prepares the altar parameters and along with setting up and cleaning for communion service. Email Barb Veath at veathb!@me.com with questions.
- **Assisting Minister** helps lead worship with pastors, shares prayers and serves communion. Email Mark Christianson mchristi314@gmail.com with questions.
- **Communion Assistants** distribute bread, wine and grape juice during worship. Email Mark Christianson mchristi314@gmail.com with questions.
- **Hospitality Team** welcomes people to worship, collects offerings, assists with seating needs and ensure that worship runs smoothly. Email Mark Christianson mchristi314@gmail.com with questions.
- **Lector** reads Old and New Testament lessons during worship. Email Mark Christianson mchristi314@gmail.com with questions.
- **Crucifer** carries the cross in worship processions. Email Mark Christianson mchristi314@gmail.com with questions.
- **Sacristan** assists with the logistics of worship and guides acolytes. Email Mark Christianson mchristi314@gmail.com with questions.
- **Adult & Children's Choirs** provide special music for worship services with rehearsals on Wednesdays. Email Music Director Tim Strand at tstrand@gloriadeistpaul.org.
- **Tech Crew** produces the weekly YouTube livestream. Email Tadhg Ferris Wayne at WorshipTech@gloriadeistpaul.org.

Next week: More ways to help with Outreach. See all Gloria Volunteer Opportunities at: gloriadeistpaul.org/giving/volunteer/

Gloria Dei News. To receive our weekly eNews email and other emails, please contact the church office, office@gloriadeistpaul.org. You can also visit our website for news and other messages about our ministries and programs at gloriadeistpaul.org/news.

To receive our weekly prayer list email, please sign up online bit.ly/PrayerListEmail. On Friday mornings, you'll receive an email that lists our brothers and sisters who have requested our prayers. You can opt out at any time.

Submit Gloria Dei news and events by noon on Mondays. Please use the online form at gloriadeistpaul.org/News. Your submission goes to the communications staff.

Reserve a room for a Gloria Dei-sponsored meeting or event through this online form: bit.ly/RoomRequestGDLC. Your submission goes to the office staff. If you have any questions, please contact Office Coordinator Karen Earhuff office@gloriadeistpaul.org.

Try our Technology for Improved Sound in the Sanctuary. Upgraded technology helps us support individual sound needs. All you need is a smartphone with Wi-Fi capability and earphones, or your hearing device or cochlear implant. Download the Listening Technologies "Listen Everywhere" free app and connect to the dedicated Gloria Dei Wi-Fi (network: Gloria Dei AV System, password: GloriaDeiAV3014). Plug in your earphones, or connect your hearing device with Bluetooth, and launch the app. If you have any questions, please talk with an usher on Sunday mornings. Learn more on the Listen Technologies website, listentech.com *listeneverywhere*. Once you have used the Listen Everywhere app once, you should be able to easily connect the next time.

Mission Statement

By God's grace, we are called to be a caring, healing and welcoming community who proclaim and celebrate the love of Jesus Christ, live as God's servants and seek justice for all people.

Our Guiding Principles

- Rooted in **Christ**, we worship with meaning and relevance.
- Rooted in **Generosity**, we share our resources and our building.
- Rooted in **Compassion**, we serve and advocate.
- Rooted in **Justice**, we acknowledge privilege and combat racism.
- Rooted in **Love**, we build intentional and diverse relationships.
- Rooted in **Beauty**, we seek transformation through music and art.

Gloria Dei Staff

Pastor Bradley E. Schmeling, Senior Pastor
Pastor Lois Pallmeyer, Associate Pastor
Pastor Jodi Houge, Associate Pastor
Ashley Greenwood, Deacon of Youth and Family Faith Formation
Kyrstin Schwartz, Children's Ministry Director
Timothy Strand, Music Director
Dennis Friesen-Carper, Director of Instrumental Ensembles and Composer in Residence
Jill Stewart, Parish Nurse
Greg Henderson, Finance & Administration Director
Tadhg Ferris Wayne, Director of Worship Technologies
Thor Carlson, Communications and Technology Coordinator
Karen Earhuff, Office Coordinator
Jazz Vogel, Bookkeeper
Clayton Gardner, Building Supervisor
Jessica Juneau, Custodian
Halie Juneau, Custodian

Contact Us

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www.GloriaDeiStPaul.org

Welcome Statement

All are welcome at Gloria Dei. We rejoice that diversity has enriched, nurtured and challenged the life and ministry we share as members of the body of Christ and workers in the kingdom of God. We believe that the gospel is God's gift to all people, to be shared unconditionally, without regard to age, race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, family configuration or relationship status, socio-economic status, mental health status, or physical or mental abilities. We strive to be a more inclusive and anti-racist community. We know that the world is often an unloving place and that the experience of alienation is all too common. To those who have felt excluded here or elsewhere, we extend a particular welcome in Christ's love.

Land Acknowledgment Statement

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church recognizes that its building stands on traditional Dakota land near Bdote Mni Sota, the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers, the center of creation for Dakota people and also sacred to Ojibwe. The congregation acknowledges that this land was taken from Indigenous people by exploitation and violence. Given the deep significance of this sacred ground, as well as its painful history, the congregation recognizes its responsibility to use this land, its building and mission for the work of reconciliation and healing with Native people. The congregation repents of this injustice that continues to harm Native communities and pledges to work for justice, peace and the wellbeing of all creation.

Let the Children Come

Children are the church of the present and the future, and Gloria Dei welcomes them in worship along with their giggles, wiggles and questions. They learn to worship as they see, hear, feel and even smell the Sanctuary during worship. They learn about worship when they watch their household and others sing, pray, participate and give offerings. They learn about community when we smile at them, learn their names and share the Peace of the Lord. We invite you to share our Worship Activity Bags Center with them (just outside the Narthex). When they need a bit more space, we provide a coloring table and toys in the Gathering Place.