



**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

Christmas Schedule



December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

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

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

December 25 ~ Christmas Day

10 a.m. ~ Holy Communion

Worship and Music & Art

Carols with Tim! On the Fifth Day of Christmas, Sunday, Dec. 29, gather around the piano to sing your favorite carols, in the Gathering Place between services at 9:30 a.m. All ages are welcome to be part of the fun. No Sunday School classes are scheduled.

Star Words on Epiphany Sunday, Jan. 5.

A star word is a prayer practice, a word to guide your year. Everyone receives a word, picked randomly, on a small card. Take that word home and put it somewhere where you will see it every day. Watch and listen for how the Spirit is showing up through that word.

Jazz Worship for Martin Luther King, Jr.

Sunday. Jazz Sunday returns to Gloria Dei next month for the MLK Holiday. At both services on Sunday, Jan. 19, guest musicians will join the Chancel Choir and other Gloria Dei musicians along with keyboardist Dennis Friesen-Carper to lead hymns and service music in jazz and related vernacular styles.

Faith Formation

Advent Sunday Forums. 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, we have explored these ancient prayers. Today Pastor Bradley concludes the series with *O, Dawn*. Sunday Forum gathers at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

First Sunday Coffee Party. It's time again to be one big church family. The monthly First Sunday Coffee Party is Sunday, Jan. 5. Join us in the Gathering Place between services at 9:30 a.m. This is an opportunity for both services to come together and connect. We invite 8:15 service folks to plan to stick around and 10:45 attendees to come early. It's baked goods potluck, so bring your sweetest treat to share.

Learning from the Life of Bonhoeffer. A class on the teachings and life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer will be offered on four Wednesdays beginning January 8 at 6:30 p.m. The study was created by Dr. Lori Brandt Hale, religion professor at Augsburg University. Come learn of what Bonhoeffer, a German theologian during WWII, can teach us about the intersection of faith and civil life today. The class will be led by Will Nordmark, retired Lutheran minister.

Writing Group Regathers Jan. 9. Come to write. Come to listen. Come to participate in community. Come to reflect and grow towards the person God created you to be. Come to develop a spiritual practice. Come to sit in silence and deepen your awareness of God. No writing experience needed. Membership at Gloria Dei not required. All are welcome. Thursdays, beginning January 9, 10:30-noon in the Mississippi Room. To register and receive the winter schedule, email Nancy Agneberg nagneberg48@gmail.com. NOTE: If you or someone you know is unable to attend in-person, but would like to receive the weekly writing prompts, email Nancy.

Baptism Workshop Our next baptism workshop is on Saturday, Jan. 11, 9-10 a.m. If you are preparing for a baptism, we ask all parents (members and non-members) to attend a baptism orientation workshop (on Zoom) before the child's baptism. Go to tinyurl.com/gdBAPWORKSHOP to sign up before your child's baptism. Contact the church office (651-699-1378) to schedule the baptism.

First Communion Class is Feb. 8. At Gloria Dei, families decide when their child is ready to start participating in communion. Is your child asking a lot of questions about communion and showing interest? Go to tinyurl.com/gdCOMM225 to sign up for the upcoming First Communion Instruction class for children and parents on Saturday, Feb. 8, 9-11:30 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall.

Youth Lock-In is Jan. 19. Youth in grades 7-9 are invited to a cities-wide ELCA Lock-In at Woodlake Lutheran in Richfield, starting at 1 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19. We'll meet with new friends to enjoy a full day of games, inflatables, fun and worship! This event asks for a \$10 donation and youth can leave early if they'd like. Registration link is on the Youth Room door and available with Deacon Ashley. Hope you can join us!

Family Fun in January. Every year, families gather for a special class, outside of Sunday School classes, geared towards their child's age. It is a time for families to learn, grow in their faith and spend time together. January Families of Faith classes include:

- **1-Year-Olds on Sunday, Jan. 12:** Parents and their child will be recognized in worship in honor of their baptism in 2024. Between worship services, they are invited to a Baptism Birthday Party that will provide tangible and easy ways for families to celebrate their child's Baptism birthday later in the year.
- **1st Graders on Sunday, Jan. 26:** This is a favorite class of many as the 1st graders and their families participate in a sanctuary scavenger hunt! There are many neat facts and

things to explore in our beautiful sanctuary. It helps students to learn more about our space and how it translates to their worship experience.

Colorado Youth Trip. Sign up now to join us in Loveland, Colorado, July 19-26 for a week-long mission trip. We will meet with youth from all over the country, serve those in need and have a lot of fun! The cost is \$750 with assistance available. Email Deacon Ashley, ashley@gloriadeistpaul.org, now if you have any questions and for info on how to sign up your 7th-12th grade youth. Friends are welcome!

Social Justice and Outreach

Second Offering. December's Second Offering supports Project Home, which provides 40 beds of emergency shelter each night at Provincial House for families in Ramsey County. Project Home is a program of Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul. The in-service collection has been taken, but you can always give digitally anytime at tinyurl.com/gd2ND1124. Learn more about Project Home at tinyurl.com/gdPROJHOME24. Gloria Dei's ongoing support for Project Home consists of providing evening meals and games of Bingo two Sundays each month.

Health and Healing

Watch for Winter Wellness. Epiphany is right around the corner, and so is Winter Wellness! Watch for wellness reminders and tips each week during the Epiphany season to help you stay well whether you made New Year's resolutions or not. If you would like more information, please contact parish nurse Jill Stewart 651-699-1378 / nurse@gloriadeistpaul.org.

Stewardship and Giving

Stewardship Pledges are Not Too Late. Thank you to all who have turned in pledges for the 2025 Stewardship campaign, *Fill the World with Love Divine*. 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.

Stock Donation Reminders. As the year comes to a close, the church often receives stock gifts and is extremely grateful for these donations. When we receive these gifts from the brokers, we do not get the name of the persons giving the gift. If you have given a stock donation or are going to give stock, we would really appreciate follow-up information including:

- Name of giver
- Date of transfer
- Name of stock
- Number of shares
- Fund where the donation will go: Operating, Capital, *Rise, O Church*, etc.

Send this information by email to Greg Henderson (greg@gloriadeistpaul.org), finance administrator.

More Ways to Help With Health and Healing

In addition to the activities noted above, join Gloria Dei friends in one of these other ways to assist in reaching out to assist in caring and healing.

- **Coffee, Tea and Camaraderie**, weekly on Wednesdays, 2 p.m., Minnesota Room, for older adults with informal discussion with occasional special topics or guest speakers. Email nurse@gloriadeistpaul.org.
- **Gloria Dei Quilters** meet Thursdays, 9 a.m. to noon, in Room 100 with coffee at 10:30 a.m. No sewing skills necessary; all are welcome. Email Connie Anderson cojeranderson@gmail.com.
- **Mental Health and Hope in Recovery** ministries meet the second Tuesday of each month. Email Maren Jansen at marenjansen@live.com.

- **Prayerful Knitters** meet the first Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Gathering Place; email Paula Hutchinson at paulahutchinson651@gmail.com.
- **Card Ministry** makes greeting cards for various church needs. Completed cards are used by staff and ministry leaders for distribution. Email Heidi Isaacson-Anderson at heidi09@gmail.com.
- **Yogadevotions** stretches out on Tuesday evenings from 6-7 p.m. Descriptions of the classes and registration are available on the Yogadevotion website: yogadevotion.com.
- **Blood Drive** tasks include greeting donors, helping them sign in and offering refreshments. Email nurse@gloriadeistpaul.org.
- **Funeral Reception** volunteers prepare and serve funeral reception luncheons. They provide warm hospitality to funeral guests. Email Brenda Higgins brendakleinhiggins@gmail.com.
- **New Arrival Ministry** identifies individuals who have had recent additions to their families by birth or adoption. Email Heidi Robole heidi.robole@gmail.com.
- **Growing Stronger Fitness Group** meets on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9-10 a.m. in the Gathering Place. Email nurse@gloriadeistpaul.org. No cost to attend.
- **Grief Support Team** connects with those grieving loss by sending cards or messages, phone calls, or conversation. Email nurse@gloriadeistpaul.org.
- **Visitation Ministry** visits and brings communion to individuals who cannot be in church. Contact Barbara Salava at salavab@yahoo.com.

Next week: More ways to help in Facilities & Administration. 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/RoomRequestGDLG. 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 Listening 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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office@gloriadeistpaul.org
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.