



News from Gloria Dei

Sunday Holy Communion Worship

8:15 and 10:45 a.m. in person and
livestream on YouTube at 10:45 a.m.

Join 10:45 a.m. Online Worship

Stay Connected with Gloria Dei

Jazz Worship Marks Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday

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



Bonhoeffer Class Moves to Bigger Room

A class on the teachings and life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer continues for Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. but in a new location due to overwhelming demand. With more than 50 people jamming a classroom last week, the class will now meet in the Minnesota Room, right inside the parking lot doors. 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 is led by Will Nordmark, retired Lutheran minister.



Chicken Curry Served for Wednesday Supper

Wednesday Supper's menu for Wednesday, Jan. 15, will include Thai coconut chicken curry with root vegetables, Jasmine rice and spicy lentil stew. Meals are served 5:45-6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Suggested donation is \$5-10 per person. Pay whatever you can. The menu for January 22 will be

beef goulash, baked mac & cheese along with broccoli.



Lutheran World Relief Supports California Fire Loses

Friends in California are asking for help — your help — as wildfires completely destroy their homes and communities. Houses, schools, churches, grocery stores, businesses ... all reduced to ashes. You can rush aid to neighbors in crisis who need it.



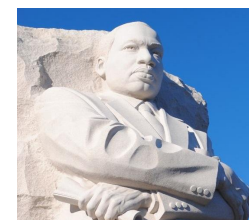
The Lutheran World Relief team is already preparing a response, and it needs compassionate and faithful people like you to make it happen. The destruction and need are overwhelming — and only getting worse. But you can do so much good at times like this. [Click here to make a donation to aid our neighbors affected by the wildfires.](#)

Coffee, Tea and Camaraderie on Current Events Jan. 22

The Wednesday, Jan. 22, Coffee, Tea and Camaraderie gathering will center on conversations about current events in the United States. If you would like to meet and share concerns in a safe, caring space, join us in the Minnesota Room at 2 to 3 p.m.

Church Closed for MLK Holiday

In observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, the Gloria Dei building will be closed Monday. Regularly scheduled church events will be canceled. The regular schedule of Monday church activities will resume on Jan. 27.



Online Racial Healing Observance is Jan. 21

The 2025 National Day of Racial Healing is an annual observance that follows Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. This year, the ELCA will join the movement of racial healing for our church and the nation. On Tuesday, Jan. 21, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Central time, join a free online educational event that centers the voices of ELCA leaders of color. This event is open to all ELCA rostered ministers, lay leaders and members, as well as the church's affiliate organizations and ecumenical and interreligious partners. [Click here to learn more, browse speaker bios and register today.](#)



Clayton Gardner Accepts New Position

Clayton Gardner, Building Supervisor, is leaving Gloria Dei for a new job with Ramsey County. We give thanks for his nearly five years of service. In addition to housing the people of God at Gloria Dei, our facility plays an important role in the church's mission to serve the community. Clayton worked to keep the building warm, safe, maintained and ready to welcome. He came to Gloria Dei during the pandemic, keeping our systems maintained while we couldn't gather, kept everything clean and running during a major sanctuary renovation and then helped welcome back ministries and outside groups. Clayton considered his work with us as a ministry and always said that he was grateful to be in "the Lord's house." We will miss his hospitable smile and good work. His last day is January 24. The job description has been posted, and we will begin interviews soon. Please pray for the church as we seek another faithful, capable and experienced member of our staff.



Give Blood, Volunteer at Blood Drive January 27, 12-6 pm

The need for blood is constant. Can you help? Gloria Dei is hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive and we need volunteers to staff the drive as well as blood donors. To sign up for a three-hour volunteer shift, please contact parish nurse Jill Stewart, nurse@gloriadeistpaul.org or 651-699-1378 ext. 3031. [Click here to sign up for an appointment to donate.](#) Each donor can save up to three lives. Let's make something good happen.



Save the Date: Annual Meeting to be Sunday, Feb. 9

Save the date for Gloria Dei's annual meeting on Sunday, Feb. 9, 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. We will celebrate the mission and ministries of our congregation, adopt our annual budget, consider our priorities and share the dreams for God's work at Gloria Dei in 2025. All confirmed members and prospective members are invited to join the Annual Meeting in Fellowship Hall. Before the business starts, we'll enjoy a bountiful potluck meal. Watch for details on the planning for that in upcoming church communications.



Second Offering Supports Our Global Mission Partners

January's Second Offering supports our three global mission partnerships: El Divino Salvador del Mundo congregation and Colegio Luterano Agustino de Guatemala, Guatemala City, and the Kilengapasi Parish, Iringa Diocese, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. You can give digitally anytime [by clicking here](#) or by putting a check in the offering plate with

"Second Offering" written on the memo line. [Click here to learn about our global mission partners.](#) So far, Second Offering collections have totaled \$1,300 this month.



Learn about Tanzania During Global Mission Month

There are several opportunities to learn and support global missions during January.

January 26 is Mission Sunday. The guest speaker at Sunday Forum (9:30 a.m.) comes from the Iringa Diocese in Tanzania. Pastor Joyce Ngandango is attending Luther Seminary and is the former director of the Humuri Center, a home and school for children who are orphaned or severely abused. Come for an informative and inspirational presentation about the work of the Iringa Diocese partnered with St Paul Synod. A market will be available in the Fellowship Hall before, during and after the presentation, raising proceeds to support our global mission efforts.



Sundays, Jan. 19 and Feb. 2. After each service there will be information sessions regarding a trip being planned to Tanzania this year. We will be a presence with Iringa Diocese and our partner parish, Kilengapasi. Proposed dates will be around the end of September or early October. The information sessions will be in room 203.

Sunday Forum: Creating Community Connections

Get to know others at Gloria Dei as we bounce ideas and share our thoughts at Sunday Forum, Jan. 19. Our pastors will lead the discussion on how to build deeper relationships with each other, reflect on the coming year and strengthen our community. Sunday Forum gathers at 9:30 a.m. We hope you'll join us!



Do You Know the GDLC Connections Facebook Group?

Just in case you aren't aware of this and would like to be, Gloria Dei has a Facebook group, GDLC Connections, that is for creating and maintaining connections with one another. If you use Facebook, you might want to join this group. You'll find yourself "liking" sweet baby pictures, reflections from someone or maybe an insight that's bubbled up. Find the group and say hi. This is a private group which you have to ask to join, which means it's still public in the sense that everyone in the group can see your post/comments, but the general public cannot. [Click here to start the process](#) to request joining the group. You will likely need to login to your Facebook account before being directed to GDLC Connections. Also, current



First Sunday Coffee Party is Looking for Helpers

The First Sunday Coffee Party team is looking for additional people who would like to make this monthly event happen. If you are looking for a low commitment/high joy way to involve yourself in Gloria Dei's life, this might be for you. If you are interested, [click here to email Pastor Jodi](#) for more information.



Winter Wellness: Relieving Stress Through Prayer

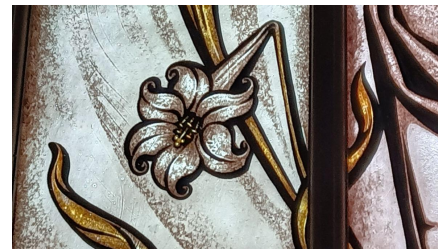
This week Winter Wellness focuses on the practice of prayer, remembering the faithful example of Simeon, whose prayers were answered when he met Jesus in the temple. Studies have shown that praying for yourself and others benefits the health of the person praying as well as the one prayed for. [Click here to see the University of Minnesota's helpful information.](#) When you find yourself feeling worried or stressed, say a prayer and release those concerns to God, trusting that you are heard and help is already on the way. This is often tough to do when our worries are big ones. It's common for thoughts to return to our concerns. When this happens, recognize the issue, name the feelings, and release them to God again. You can write down your prayer concerns, keep a prayer box or ask a friend, a family member or church to pray for you, too.



Upcoming Funeral Reminders

Several funerals for Gloria Dei members are scheduled over the next few weeks. They include::

- **Ruby Hunt, Friday, Jan. 17:** Funeral at 1 p.m. with visitation in the Gathering Place one hour prior and a lunch following the funeral service.
- **Chuck Maddux, Friday, Jan. 31:** Funeral at 11 a.m. with visitation in the Gathering Place one hour prior and a lunch following the funeral service.



Fun Family Celebrations in January

Every year, families gather for a special class, outside of Sunday School classes, geared towards their child's age. On Sunday, Jan. 26 a favorite class of many as the 1st graders and their families will be to 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.



Registration Now Open for June VBS

We are partnering with Camp Onomia again this summer for Vacation Bible School. Camp Onomia is a member of Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, an ELCA camping organization. They will send their counselors to Gloria Dei for the week to help provide programming. Partnering with the Camp Onomia allows our youth and adult volunteers to be focused on relationship building and less on logistics. It also allows us to offer all day programming for elementary students! For all of the details and the links to register check out our [VBS website](#).

GLORIA DEI
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 23 - June 26, 2025
PreK: 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. \$40
Elementary K-5th: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. \$100
Elementary optional extension: 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. \$30
Youth and Adult volunteers needed!

Scan the code to register by May 18
Contact: Kyrstin Schwartz
kidsministry@gloriadeistpaul.org

Join Confirmation Students at Food Pack Feb. 5

Gloria Dei confirmation students will be doing another food pack project next month and they're inviting others from our church to come along and help. They'll be packing weekend food bags at Every Meal in Roseville for children experiencing food insecurity. The event is open to all who are age 8 or older and will be run from 6-8 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 5. [Click here to register and learn](#) more about the project.



Is 2025 Your Year to Get Involved with Music?

Inspiring music is a hallmark of worship at Gloria Dei, and the performers enjoy a warm community of creativity and fellowship. As we start 2025, please consider helping lead worship through music!

Alleluia! Choir for children in grades K-2.
Rehearsals on Wednesdays from 5-5:45 p.m. in Room 100, appearing about once a month – [email Elizabeth Trites](#)



Schola Cantorum for children in grades 3 - 6. Rehearsals on Wednesdays from 5-5:45 p.m. in the Choir Room, appearing about once a month. Members develop vocal and musical skills through part-singing and playing choir chimes. – [email Tim Strand](#)

Chancel Choir, for adult and high school singers, rehearses Wednesdays in the Choir Room, 7-8:30 p.m., regularly singing second service and special events – [email Tim Strand](#).

Matins Singers sing once a month at the 8:15 a.m. service, with rehearsal that morning at 7:30 a.m. This is a pick-up choir for choristers with some music-reading experience – [email Dennis Friesen-Carper](#).

Handbell Choir performs once a month, with two rehearsals. This spring a small group, **Chapel Ringers** will work on skill building as well as playing in services – [email Dennis Friesen-Carper](#).

Other Instrumentalists

Our worship is enriched by many talented instrumentalists, of all experience levels – solos and duets throughout the year, with larger groups leading in festival services – [email Dennis Friesen-Carper](#).

- String, Baroque and Chamber ensembles
- All-ages Band
- Brass, and Percussion ensembles
- Salsa Band, and Jazz Sunday

Ways to Help With Outreach

In addition to the activities noted above, join Gloria Dei friends in one of these other ways to engage with outreach.

- **Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative** advocates for affordable housing options across the metro area. [Contact Don Fulton](#).
- **Caring for Creation** promotes more sustainable practices in individual lives and around the Gloria Dei facilities, and advocates for public policy addressing climate change. [Contact Stephanie Stegeman](#).
- **Global Missions Team** coordinates global mission efforts with partners in Guatemala and Tanzania. [Contact Kenton Johnson](#).
- **Habitat for Humanity** partners with Interfaith Builders to build safe, affordable homes for families in need. [Contact Matt Sherwood](#).
- **Immigrant Justice Team** is dedicated to guiding Gloria Dei's support for immigrants in our community through direct assistance and advocacy. [Contact Claire Hoyum](#).
- **Loaves and Fishes** feeds an evening meal at the Dorothy Day Center in downtown St. Paul on the 4th Wednesday of every other month [Contact Cheryl Stever](#).
- **Safe House Meals** volunteers provide a meal every fourth Wednesday of the month for residents of Safe House, an emergency shelter for homeless youth ages 16-20. [Click here to learn more about the program](#).
- **Project Home Meals** serves supper and hosts Bingo for homeless families staying at Project Home at Provincial House two Sundays a month. [Contact Marie Hanson](#).
- **Racial Justice Committee** coordinates Gloria Dei's activities in support of racial justice and equality. [Contact Deanna Thompson](#).
- **Weekend Back Pack Program** packs and delivers healthy snacks for students at Highland Elementary School. [Contact Diane Burk](#).
- **Welcoming Committee works with ministries to evaluate and enhance signs of welcome to new faces coming to Gloria Dei.** [Contact Julie Printz](#).

Next week: Ways to help with Faith Formation.

[See all Gloria Volunteer Opportunities at this link.](#)

Rooted in Generosity, We Give

Your generosity continues to bless and enrich Gloria Dei's work and ministries of love, welcome, care, healing and justice. For every one of us who can't give more, we trust that someone else will step forward and fill the gap. We are the church together.

Second Offering – January

As is our custom, on the second Sunday of each month we collect a Second Offering. Any time before the end of the month, you can give [online](#) or mail a check to the church office with "second offering" in the memo line. January's Second Offering will go to Gloria Dei's global mission partners in Guatemala and Tanzania.

Online Offering

[Options for Giving](#) as you are able:

- [Electronically through Vanco Payments](#) (a third-party website).
- [Vanco Mobile App](#), a third party, or by text to 833-608-0559 with the amount.
- Mail your offering to the church office at 700 Snelling Ave. S., Saint Paul, MN 55116. Note on the memo line to designate your gift for a specific fund.

Electronic giving through automatic deductions provides a steady income stream that helps us the most.

Submit News

Click Button to Submit
Gloria Dei News
and Events

Reserve a
Room

Click Button to
Reserve Rooms
for Church-Sponsored
Events/Meetings

Prayer List
Email

Click Button to Sign Up
to Receive our Weekly
Prayer List Emails

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
651-699-1378 | [Email](#) | [Website](#)

Gloria Dei is a [Reconciling in Christ](#) Congregation

[Bible readings for this Sunday](#)

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Friday 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Call our phone number above to reach staff.
Select option "2" for the on-call pastor.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church | 700 S. Snelling Avenue | Saint Paul, MN 55116 US

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