

Advent-Christmas Schedule



**Sundays, Advent Worship, 8:15 and 10:45
November 27 through December 18**

**December 11 ~ Advent Lessons and Carols ~ 5:00 p.m.
December 15 ~Healing Service ~ 7:00 p.m.**

**December 18 ~ Traditional Advent 4 Liturgy @ 8:15 a.m.
Children's Program @ 10:45 a.m.**

**December 24 – Christmas Eve Worship ~ 2:00 & 4:00 p.m.*
Festival Christmas Eucharist ~ 8:00 & 10:30 p.m.
* note new times**

**Sunday, December 25 ~ Festival Christmas Eucharist
~ 10:00 a.m. ONE SERVICE ONLY**

**Sunday, January 1 – The Name of Jesus, 10:00 a.m.
ONE SERVICE ONLY**

January 1 ~ Caroling with Tim ~ 11:00 a.m.



What you need to know about Gloria Dei's Children's Christmas Program

Saturday, December 17, Dress Rehearsal

9:00 6th grade GAPP meets in room 203 to get costumes.

9:30 Grades 1-4 meet in the Sanctuary to practice with 5th and 6th grade GAPP. (Note: Preschool children do not attend this rehearsal.)

Sunday, December 18, Children's Christmas Program

Children should wear their favorite Christmas clothes (no costume) and a bright smile. Song sheets are available online at the [Gloria Dei website](#).

9:30 AM – Children Meet at Church

3s and 4s in classroom

Kindergarten in Room 100

Grades 1-4 in Fellowship Hall

Grade 5 immediately to ushering or reception set-up

Grade 6 in Room 203

10:45 AM – Worship Service and Children's Christmas Program

Families of Beginners, Preschool and Kindergarten children sit in front reserved pews, only 2 people per child will fit in this reserved space. There will be no reserved seating for the families of older children. After worship, pick up children in same area where child was dropped off. 11:00 AM (following the service) - Cookie Reception and Special Music

All Sunday School families are requested to donate two dozen Christmas Cookies.

You can buy or bake your own. You can also [order cookies from Gloria Dei's Julia Circle](#) for \$10 per 2 dozen. Consider donating gluten free, nut free, dairy free, or egg free alternatives for our friends with food allergies. – Please mark them!

Drop off cookies in the kitchen on Saturday, December 17 or on Sunday morning by 9:30 a.m. in the Gathering Place. Special Music (previously shared during the prelude) will be played during the Cookie Reception. Sign up to play [through the Gloria Dei website](#) or by email: kidsministry@gloriadeistpaul.org by December 14.

Organ Committee Update

The organ committee will be making some visits to new organ installations in January as we continue our discernment of what we would like to see at Gloria Dei. Contrary to some fatalistic news about the fate of the pipe organ, new pipe organ building is alive and well in the U.S. as churches continue to install new instruments. There still is no replacement for the beauty, versatility and depth that the pipe organ provides in leading a congregation in worship. Our Moller pipe organ still has many issues that need to be addressed and we are lucky that it is functioning as well as it is currently considering the deterioration of many of its vital components. Our organ technicians are strongly recommending a major electrical relay fix to insure that the ciphers (when the notes get stuck and play at their own will, not at the will of the organist!) can be minimized for the time being. This area of the organ has been patched so many times, that it is a mess that is just waiting for more problems.

We will be presenting at the Adult Forum on February 5th to further educate the congregation on the problems with the current instrument and to further confirm the urgency to move forward in the process since it is a complicated and lengthy one. We look forward to sharing our vision for what a rebuilt and revitalized pipe organ could mean for the long term health of beautiful music and strong congregational singing in worship at Gloria Dei!

Carols with Tim on New Year's Day!

Since New Year's Day lands on a Sunday this year, we will have one worship service at 10:00 a.m. that morning. Following the service, we will have our usual Christmas Carol sing in the Gathering Place, starting around 11:15 a.m. Come and get in on all of the Christmas carols you've wanted to sing! Bring leftover holiday cookies to share and join in the fun!

Advent Lessons and Carols, Sunday, December 11th, 5:00 p.m.

Please join us for this beautiful Gloria Dei tradition. This meaningful service of carols, anthems, lessons and readings is led by our Chancel Choir, Schola Cantorum, Youth Treble Choir and instrumentalists. It is a beautiful way to focus our hearts on the Advent season in a contemplative setting of evening worship. It is followed by a festive holiday reception in the Gathering Place. This is the perfect time to invite family and friends to join us for this wonderful service of music and poetry.



Project Home Volunteers Needed Urgently

Imagine having no place to call home. That's the harsh reality for some in our community, and why Gloria Dei each December opens our church to those needing a place to lay their heads. During the Advent season, a time of waiting and giving, we live out our mission to care, heal and welcome by providing shelter and hospitality to homeless families transitioning to long-term housing.

From December 1 to January 4 this year, we will host overnight guests of Project Home, a program of [Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul](http://www.gloriadeistpaul.org/projecthome), which last year sheltered 450 families. Currently, they're providing temporary housing to 39 people, including 27 children. The youngest is 1. The oldest is 17 and excited about starting her first job to help with family finances. One-third of the parents are employed.

Gloria Dei usually hosts five to seven families at a time, sharing food, conversation and fun.

This year the need is urgent. Though we are on our way toward filling more than 200 volunteer slots, many evening and overnight shifts remain unfilled. Sign up at www.gloriadeistpaul.org/projecthome for yourself or a group, or on Sundays near the church library on the lower level. Or talk with Pastor Javen.

Please also strongly consider volunteering the weeks of Christmas and New Year's, even on Christmas Day with our friends from Mount Zion Temple, who graciously support our Project Home effort when many of us are celebrating with our families. Help cook a Christmas meal. Help fill Christmas stockings. Perhaps come to share your musical or theatrical talents.

And if you are able to give more than of yourself, Project Home also welcomes donations of pajamas, a "luxury" to families trying to make ends meet, says Sara Liegel, director of the program. Sorely needed are boys' pajamas in any sizes and women's and teen's nightwear in 2XL and 3XL.

Above all, prepare to have your heart touched.

"You see huge strengths come out in some people in the midst of chaos. You see resilience," one of the Project Home coordinators says, reflecting back on her years of involvement with the program, remembering especially one 9-year-old girl. Young as she was, the child helped create order out of the disruption in peoples' lives, informing volunteers about the habits of guest families: They like to wake up at 6 a.m., she'd say, or they like eggs for breakfast.

Please consider joining us! See what a difference caring and hospitality can make, especially at this time of year.



Open Hands – Open Hearts

Thank you to all of you who have recently pledged your support to Gloria Dei for 2017! We have received generous pledges to both the operating fund which is for regular ministries and operations of the congregation and the capital fund which is for mortgage expenses and the upkeep of our church home.

Here are the pledges we've received as of November 29 in comparison to 2016:

2017 Operating	2016 Operating
330 pledges	298 pledges
\$777, 989.36	\$840, 923.52
2017 Capital	2016 Capital
223 pledges	339 pledges
\$309,275.19	\$290,309

As you can see, we are behind in our operating fund. Please prayerfully consider making a pledge to this fund and letting us know of your intentions as soon as possible. If you give through Simply Giving, it would be very helpful to know what your plans are for 2017. Every gift counts!

While our capital fund is very strong in terms of amount pledged, we invite those of you who haven't pledged yet to join us in paying the mortgage and staying on top of the necessary improvements to our church building so that it continues to serve us and our community well.

Mail in your pledge card to the church office, drop it in the offering plate or pledge online. We would like to have pledges in by December 15 so the Congregation Council can determine budget and mission support for the coming year.

Thank you for your ongoing and faithful generosity!

Kate Ostrem
Stewardship Chair

Giving Tree

Gloria Dei continues our tradition of supporting Neighborhood House and Rezek House by providing Christmas gifts for people in need. Helping is easy and fun! Take a tag – or two! – from the tree on the lower level, go shopping, and return your wrapped gifts to the church office by December 11. Please make sure to attach the tag so we know who should receive the gift. Thank you for your generous gifts for our neighbors!



Christmas Brunch & Harmony for your Holidays

On **Saturday, December 3, 9:30 am – 12:00 pm**, all women of Gloria Dei are invited to this annual **Christmas Brunch** to begin your Advent season. How about inviting family or old friends to enjoy this scrumptious brunch with you at a beautiful table setting? Or meet new friends here for a leisurely conversation and fellowship as we enter this season. All ages are welcome!

Music Director Tim Strand and friends join us again this year for a program of "**Harmony for your Holidays**" with favorite carols and hymns. Whether you're rushed, nostalgic, blue, or eager, music is the elixir that will bring the Christ Child back into the center of Advent and the Christmas to come.



Embrace Gloria Dei's "*Advent Conspiracy*." Don't think of this as just another item in a busy pre-Christmas calendar. Take the stress away and begin your preparation to keep the Advent season and "**WORSHIP FULLY**" with an Advent homily, fellowship, and music for the body and spirit.

Material offering opportunity to "*GIVE MORE*" and "*LOVE ALL*" for **Project Home** emergency shelter guests hosted by Gloria Dei in December: Help brighten our guests' holidays by bringing to the brunch the following UNWRAPPED NEW items for infants, preschoolers, school-age children, teenagers and parents:

- small and portable toys or gifts for all ages, which will be presented by Project Home on Christmas Day to all guests. (No ideas??? Small Lego© kits are popular toys for school-agers; gift cards are welcomed by teenagers and parents.)
- new sleepwear for ALL AGES and GENDERS in infant, children's, and teen sizes; adult sizes XXXL, XXL, XL, L, M, S, depending on guests. Project Home gives new pajamas/nightgowns to all guests, including adults, on Christmas Eve.

Dates for Women of Gloria Dei Circle Meetings in December:

Thursday, December 8:	Phoebe
Monday, December 12:	Julia, Miriam
Thursday, December 15:	Mary
Friday, December 16:	Ruth



Save the Date! Gloria Dei Auction 2017

Join us on Saturday evening, February 25 for Gloria Dei's annual fundraiser.
Come support the ministries of Gloria Dei through the live and fund-a-need auction.

Have auction donations? Drop them off in the church office. Questions? Contact Audrey Johnson at ajohnson@gloriadeistpaul.org or call, 651-295-9699.



Financial Update

Jeanne Hanson, Administrator

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

700 Snelling Avenue South

St. Paul, MN 55116

651-699-1378

**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.**

Capital Fund Information

Contributions Year to Date	\$ 379,548
Monthly mortgage payments	\$ 18,752
Capital Improvement Costs Year-to-Date	\$ 1,569,535
Balance in Capital Accounts	
October 31, 2016	\$ 348,487
Mortgage Balance	
October 31, 2016	2,991,248

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Operating Information

October 31, 2016

Total offerings	\$ 101,628
Ahead (Behind)	\$ 16,337
Total Income	\$ 122,308
Total Expenses	\$ 111,417
Net for Month	\$ 10,891
Total YTD Offerings	\$ 902,388
Ahead (Behind)	\$ 10,498
Total YTD Income	\$ 1,102,342
Total YTD Expenses	\$ 1,064,573
Net for Current Year	\$ 37,769