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 - March 3, 2024

Created for Community 
Lent at Gloria Dei

This year, we are inviting each other to reflect on what it means to be in community with one another, with the world, with creation, and with God.

Wednesday Evening Prayer

5:45-6:30 p.m. Dinner

Evening Prayer 6:30 p.m. (also livestreamed)
Includes lighting candles for prayer
March 6 – Created for Community as Church
Reflection by Pr. Jodi Houge
March 13 – Created for Community in Diversity
Reflection by Joe Davis and Dave Scherer, JUSTMove!
March 20 – Created for Community as a Person
Reflection by Dennis Friesen-Carper

7:00-7:30 p.m. Community Discussions
Confirmation students and adult leaders meet downstairs.
Adults meet in Gathering Place.

Faith Formation

Today at Forum: Conversation and Connection 2. Our Lenten journey continues to reflect on connections with others in the congregation. Nancy Agneberg will model connected conversation with Erika Taibl, Laura Kuhlmann and Annalise Steeber in a continuation of the Feb. 18 Forum topic.

Next Week at Forum: Created for Community with God through Icons. Pastor Bradley introduces us to the new icons we will be seeing in Gloria Dei’s Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Icons are an ancient devotional form, inviting worshipers to gaze into a symbolic presence of the Divine, as a spiritual practice. Gloria Dei has four new icons from a diverse set of artistic and theological expressions, which will expand the art of our chapel.
Pizza Break for Wednesday Supper. The cook is on vacation and we'll take a break from soup. Come and enjoy a pizza buffet and salad. Wednesday Supper is 5:45-6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. A free will offering is accepted.

Show Us Your Gloria Dei Community. Community is always being created at Gloria Dei in ways that not everyone knows or gets to see. Throughout Lent, send us your photos showing community being created from your Gloria Dei perspective. We'll share them on social media and post them on church bulletin boards. Be creative in sharing your community's story. How can you share your photos?
  - Post them as a comment on the weekly posts on Facebook. Go to tinyurl.com/gdFACEBOOK24.
  - Send them by email to communications@gloriadeistpaul.org

We'll be sharing them both digitally on our Facebook page and in prints that we'll post on the bulletin board next to the Parish Nurse office.

First Communion Class. 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? Sign up for the upcoming First Communion instruction class for children and parents on Saturday, March 16, 9-11:30 a.m., in Room 109. Go to tinyurl.com/gd1stcomm to register.

Summer Youth Trip to Duluth. Current 6th–12th grade youth are invited on a four-day trip with service work AND fun adventures along the way. We will be able to go white water rafting and rock climbing, while serving Duluth and enjoying a rock concert. What more could you ask for? The trip, running July 31-August 3, costs $275 if attending the Toby Mac concert and $225 if not. Register online with a non-refundable $75 deposit to save your seat on this awesome adventure. Adult leaders are needed and able to attend free of charge. Sign up at tinyurl.com/gdDULUTH24. Email ashley@gloriadeistpaul.org with any questions.

It’s VBS Registration Time. Registration is now open for Gloria Dei's Vacation Bible School, scheduled for June 24-27. Go to tinyurl.com/gdVBS2024 to check out the VBS website for event specifics and to submit registrations. We are partnering with Camp Onomia this summer. The ELCA camping organization will send its counselors to Gloria Dei for the week to help provide programming. One of the many benefits is that partnering with the camp will allow our volunteers to be more focused on relationship building and less on logistics. It also allows us to offer all-day programming for elementary students. VBS will meet at these hours:
  - Pre-K: 9-11:30 a.m.
  - Elementary: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (with an optional extension until 5 p.m.)

Worship, Music & Art

New Lenten Paraments Mark the Season. The beautiful new, woven paraments and vestments were given in memory of Susan Opsahl, by friends and her husband, David. They were commissioned by the worship committee and woven by artist Kelly Marshall, Custom Woven Interiors, Ltd. The vestments were sewn by Melissa Sternal. The color for Lent is purple. Originally, the color was reserved for royalty but in Lent becomes the reverse, a symbol of Christ’s suffering, with royalty being re-conceived as humble service to all. The shades of purple woven into the design represent a variety of shades of purple, from the almost black of Ash Wednesday to lighter shades of purple hinting at the lengthening of days. There are also glimpses of crimson, a color often used during Holy Week, and even hints of Easter gold, a sign that even during Lent Sundays are a day of resurrection, not counted among the 40 days of Lent.

Baptism Orientation is Saturday. Our next Baptism Workshop is on Saturday, March 9, from 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. Register at tinyurl.com/gdBAPT39. Contact the church office (651-699-1378) to schedule the baptism.

A Musical March is Coming. Gloria Dei will be hosting four major concerts in March this year! We have become a highly sought out concert venue since we have completed our sanctuary renovation and new pipe organ. Here’s what is in store for us musically in March:

- **Today, 3 p.m.** Magnum Chorum will present its Midwinter Concert, *Blessed*. Tickets can be ordered at magnumchorum.org. Student tickets are only $5 This concert will feature Paul Mealor’s *Stabat Mater* with string orchestra and an achingly beautiful piece by Gloria Dei member, Paul Brandvik, *Shall I, Mother, Shall I*.

- **Sunday, March 10, 4 p.m.** Augustana University Choir from Sioux Falls, S.D., will present its Twin Cities concert as part of its spring tour. The choir is under the direction of Dr. Russell Svenningsen and will present a varied program of classic and contemporary choral literature. This concert is free and open to the public, but attendees are encouraged to reserve tickets in advance at tinyurl.com/gdAUGUSTANA.

- **Saturday, March 16 at 9 a.m.** Before Bach’s Birthday Bash. This free one hour concert is part of an all-day celebration of Bach at five St. Paul churches. The concert at Gloria Dei will be an hour in length and will be broadcast live on Minnesota Public Radio Classical (99.5 FM). Gloria Dei members Brenda and David Mickens will be playing violin accompanied by Director of Music, Tim Strand, along with other organists, a pianist and a cellist. This concert is free and open to the public.

- **Friday, March 22, 7:30 p.m.** Bemidji Choir of Bemidji State University will perform a concert under the direction of Dr. Dwight Jilek. The choir has performed here twice in the recent past and always brings a fresh mix of joyful, comforting and challenging music. This concert is free and open to the public.

Livestream Disconnection. At the start of last Sunday's worship livestream, the audio and video feeds were not getting along. We had to put them in a timeout to reboot the system and were able to pick up about five minutes into worship. We apologize for the inconvenience this may have caused. If you missed reconnecting the rebooted stream, you can watch it at tinyurl.com/gdSTREAM228.

Health and Healing

New Yogadevotion Session Starts. The next session of Yogadevotion begins Tuesday. Give yourself an hour of spiritual respite during the week. Yogadevotion is a low stress slow flow class centered on gentle poses, breathing and meditation on a Christian devotion. The class is for adults and teens. All levels of experience are welcome. Sign up for just one, a few, or all of the sessions. Classes meet weekly on Tuesdays, 6-7 p.m. in the Gathering Place. Register at tinyurl.com/gdYOGA35.

Social Justice and Outreach

Bring Us Your Rice for Foodshare Month. How much rice can we collect at Gloria Dei before the end of March? March is Foodshare Month in Minnesota, and we'll be collecting as much rice as we can to support Neighborhood House's Francis Basket Food Market on West Seventh Street. Rice is a staple food for many of the customers shopping there. It's an efficient time to collect food as Minnesota Foodshare matches a portion of each item or dollar donated.

Financial donations are the most effective way to contribute as Neighborhood House can then buy rice in bulk at lower prices. You can contribute by going to tinyurl.com/gdFOOD24 or by dropping a check off in the office or offering plate. The official Second Offering in-service collection will be taken on Sunday, March 10. We'll weigh our
contributions along with the weight of rice that can be purchased with our cash donations. How much rice can we accrue? Let's think big. Can we generate a llama's (400 pounds), a black bear's (600 pounds) or bison's (1,500 pounds) weight in rice? An even bigger animal? Bring your rice to church starting Sunday. Our hungry neighbors will be the real winners.

Upcoming Beacon Events. Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative has several information and action sessions in the coming weeks to address fair and equitable housing efforts in Minnesota. They include:

- **Rent is Due Zoom Call** – Wednesday, March 6 at 8:30 a.m. Those interested are invited to a 30-minute virtual meeting to hear updates on Bring it Home, Minnesota and other campaigns, hear from special guests or elected officials, and be given concrete actions to do. Beacon's goal is an efficient, clear meeting once a month for you to feel connected to the work and able to take impactful action. Go to tinyurl.com/gdRENT36 to register and get the Zoom link.

- **Beacon Lobby Day** – Monday, March 11, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Beacon’s 2024 Lobby Day will take place in-person at the Capitol. Email Don Fulton at revdfulton@comcast.net to help coordinate a meeting time with your district’s elected official. At noon, a housing policy expert will join all Beacon members for lunch to share a vision for equitable, sustainable housing in Minnesota and answer questions.

- **Beacon: 101** – Wednesday, March 13, 4:30-5 p.m. Learn about our work to create deeply affordable, supportive homes and impact the policies and systems creating homelessness. This event is open to anyone to join, but it is especially designed for folks who are new to learning about Beacon. Register at tinyurl.com/gdBEACON313 for this virtual event.

**Stewardship and Giving**

**Second Offering Updates.** February’s Second Offering supported Gloria Dei's involvement with Loaves & Fishes at the Saint Paul Opportunity Center in downtown Saint Paul. A total of $2,933 was raised. In March, the Second Offering is part of Minnesota Foodshare Month with proceeds going to Francis Basket Food Market. The in-service collection will be taken next Sunday. Online donations can be made at any time at tinyurl.com/gdFOOD24.

**Ways to Engage in Outreach** In addition to the activities noted above, join Gloria Dei friends in one of these other ways to in outreach ministries.

- **Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative** advocates for affordable housing options across the metro area. Contact Don Fulton at revdfulton@comcast.net.

- **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 at stephaniestegeman@gmail.com.

- **Global Missions Team** coordinates global mission efforts with partners in Guatemala and Tanzania. Contact Kenton Johnson at kentonmarkjohnson@gmail.com.

- **Habitat for Humanity** partners with Interfaith Builders to build safe, affordable homes for families in need. Contact Matt Sherwood at mgsherwood@yahoo.com.

- **Immigrant Justice Team** is dedicated to guiding Gloria Dei’s support for immigrants in our community through direct assistance and advocacy. Contact Claire Hoyum at choyum@comcast.net.

- **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 at mncinchouse@hotmail.com.

- **Project Home Meals** serves supper and hosts Bingo for homeless families staying at Project Home at Provincial House two
Download the Listening Technologies “Listen Everywhere” app (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.

Next week: More ways to engage in Faith Formation.

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.
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.

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 where the worship service shows on an LED screen. Our Nursery is available to use during worship (ushers can help you find it).