



**Holy Communion
Sundays**
at 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 - April 21, 2024

Worship and Music & Art

It's Confirmation Sunday. Come support and celebrate our 10th graders in the Gathering Place between services today as they affirm their baptism in the rite of Confirmation. Tenth graders will be displaying their Credo projects in the Gathering Place, describing their faith in unique and interactive ways. This is a wonderful chance to personally meet our confirmands, review their projects, and share your encouragement and congratulations with them as they take this next step in their baptismal journey.

Blue Signs Reserve Accessible Seating. Six blue "reserved" signs have been added to the sanctuary to alert congregants to the location of places in the sanctuary available for people with accessible seating needs. The seats with the blue signs are reserved for their companions or may be used by people keeping a walker or other mobility device close at hand. We hope everyone feels welcome and can find a comfortable place to join the assembly's song.

Faith Formation

Updated Youth Flower Sale Information. We are offering beautiful 12-inch hanging baskets of flowers for \$35 at Gloria Dei on Sunday, April 28, between

services. Get there fast to choose your favorite color! If you ordered in advance, this will also be the new day to pick up your order. If you wish to order and pay beforehand, go to tinyurl.com/gdflowersale to place and pay for your order. All flowers have been generously donated by a member with all proceeds supporting our Gloria Dei youth ministries, including summer trips to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans and a mission/adventure trip to Duluth.

A Local Look at Global Climate Change. Climate change is a daunting topic. But it's much more approachable when looked at through a local lens. Gloria Dei's Caring for Creation Team invites you to hear J. Drake Hamilton, Fresh Energy's senior director of science policy and an expert in climate and energy policy at the state and national levels. Her talk at the Sunday, April 28 Forum in the Fellowship Hall (9:30-10:30 a.m.) will focus on current action happening at the local and state levels. J. brings optimism and encouragement and spreads a message that there still is time to act and fight our climate crisis. When she's not presenting at national and international climate summits, J. also grows organic peaches, pears, grapes, apples and plums that have won 50

ribbons—mostly blue—at the Minnesota State Fair. The Hamilton orchard is only about two miles from Gloria Dei.

Rolls and Lids Needed. The Caring for Creation team is leading an upcoming Sunday School for Water Tower students. They are asking people to save and donate their toilet paper rolls and jug/spice jar sized lids. Drop them off any time in the box by Kyrstin Schwartz's office. We will collect them now through May 15.

Duluth Youth Trip Deadline is May 1. We'll need ten 6-12th grade youth to sign up for our Duluth youth trip by Wednesday, May 1. The trip runs Wednesday-Saturday, July 31-Aug. 3, and will be a mission/adventure trip that will include service work, rock climbing, white-water rafting and a Christian music festival. This will be an amazing trip, and we can help with cost as needed. The fee is currently \$225, with scholarships available. Contact Ashley with any questions. Register at tinyurl.com/gdDULUTH24.

Two Year-Olds Tour Church Today. We know 2 year-olds are so curious about their surroundings and want to check everything out! Today they'll get to check out the church. Our time together will be focused on helping our 2 year-olds and their families get to know Gloria Dei better. We will take a mini tour of the church, do some fun activities and then finish our class with Java with Junior in the Nursery. The event, running 9:30-10:30 a.m., will start in Room 105.

Faith & Science Topic: Divine Design. Our next Faith and Science meeting will be Thursday, April 25, 7 p.m., in the Mississippi Room. It will be in-person only, no Zoom. Why is there a universe at all? Why is the universe organized by the laws of nature? Why have these laws been so delicately fine tuned that even the slightest variant would prevent the emergence of life? Why is math so good at describing nature? Why have brains that evolved to fend off saber toothed tigers and thwart starvation find such

fulfillment in art, music and literature? We'll ponder these questions and discuss other elements of God's creation including the Fibonacci Series, the Mandelbrot set, the Golden Ratio and the ubiquity of Pi. Prepare to be blown away!

Study on Acts. Join us on Wednesday evenings to explore the New Testament book of Acts, 6-7 p.m. in the Gathering Place, through May 22. A light lunch of sandwiches will be served at 5:30 p.m. We read from this book during the season of Easter, which tells of the courageous and inspirational work of the early church. Why do we tell these stories? How do they speak to us today? This is a one-hour Bible study with others who are interested in deeper reflection on how scripture touches our lives. No former expertise or knowledge needed. Bring a Bible or use one here at church. Join others for reflection, exploration, and growth. Questions? Contact Baya Clare at bayathread@gmail.com.

Sign Up for River Cruise. Join us for a fun summer boat ride on the Mississippi River to renew friendships and build new ones in our Gloria Dei community. We will cruise on the *Betsey Northrup* riverboat on Friday, July 12, from 7-9 p.m. Boarding starts at 6:30 p.m. on Harriet Island near downtown St. Paul. All ages are encouraged to come. Pricing is \$16 adults, \$15 seniors, \$11 ages 3-17 and free for children 2 and under yet still requiring a reservation. Go to tinyurl.com/gdRIVERBOAT24 to register and make payment.

VBS Registration. Has the warming weather gotten you into a Vacation Bible School mood? Gloria Dei's Vacation Bible School, scheduled for June 24-27, can take more students and needs more volunteer helpers. 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 take place Monday, June 24, to Thursday, June 27, with these hours:

- PreK: 9-11:30 a.m.
- Elementary: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (with an optional extension until 5 p.m.)

Register at tinyurl.com/gdVBS2024.

Take Me Out To The Ballgame. Let's share in fellowship and have fun cheering on the St. Paul Saints and the Minnesota Twins on group outings this summer. We will be attending the Saints game on Tuesday, July 30, at 7:07 p.m. Tickets are \$20. Deadline is June 26. Then in August, we will attend a Twins game on Saturday, August 10 at 6:10 p.m. Tickets are \$48. Deadline is July 8. Transportation isn't provided, but we can help organize carpools if needed. It is very helpful if people sign up early in the summer.

- Get Saints tickets at tinyurl.com/gdSAINTS24.
- Get Twins tickets at tinyurl.com/gdTWIN24.

Social Justice and Outreach

April's Second Offering is going toward Lutheran Social Services' Metro Homeless Youth Programs. It offers a continuum of holistic services to runaway, homeless and street-dependent youth in the Twin Cities area. It's estimated that 3,000 youth experience homelessness on any given night in the Twin Cities area. Youth in Minneapolis and Saint Paul who are at-risk or experiencing homelessness can find non-judgmental support and assistance through shelter, outreach and transitional support. Any time before the end of the month, you can also give online at tinyurl.com/gdLSSTEENS or drop off a check at the church office or offering plate with "second offering" in the memo line.

Hear About 2025 Civil Rights Tour Today. Would you be interested in joining a Gloria Dei group going on a Civil Rights Tour to sites in the southern U.S. in April 2025? There will be an

informational meeting regarding the trip today at 9:30 a.m. in Room 203. The eight-day tour will visit historic sites in Montgomery, Birmingham, Selma and Memphis. The exact dates will be decided soon. If you have questions email Will Nordmark at willnordmark@gmail.com.

Help with Loaves and Fishes April 24. It's Gloria Dei's turn to serve Loaves and Fishes again. Every other month a team from Gloria Dei provides the evening meal at the St. Paul Opportunity Center in downtown St. Paul for people struggling with hunger and homelessness. Gloria Dei's next shift is Wednesday, April 24. There are three shifts, all with a few openings still to fill:

- Hot food prep (cooking the main meal): 1:45-3 p.m.
- Cold food prep (buttering bread, and preparing salad and other side items as available): 3-4:30 p.m.
- Serving the meal: 4:15-5:45 p.m.

You are welcome to volunteer for one, two or all three shifts. If you have helped with one of these roles before and would feel comfortable serving as a shift lead (helping direct other volunteers), sign up for the "Shift Lead" role. There should be at least one person there for each shift who knows the routine and can help guide other volunteers. Go to tinyurl.com/gdLOAVES424 to register.

Learn about Mendota Dakota Through Book Events. Gloria Dei's Racial Justice Committee is offering opportunities to connect with our Mendota Dakota Partners. A good place to start is reading books from the Gloria Dei Library's Mendota collection, including *Stolen Culture, Traditions, and Heritage: Good Thunder Woman—Wakiya Waste Win in Dakota* by Sharon Lennartson; *Mendota Dakota: Stories of Land & Leadership* edited by Dr. Mike Klein; *Mendota Dakota: Erasure and Recognition* edited by Mike Klein with commentary by Dr. Chris Mato Nunpa. These collections of stories told by Mendota Dakota families will introduce you to the history and deep heritage of these close neighbors. You'll have a chance to discuss what you've read on Wednesday, May 1, from 7 to 8 p.m. at a book discussion hosted by the Racial Justice Committee

and led by Dr. Deanna Thompson. We will consider how we at Gloria Dei might respond as a community to what we are learning.

Join the Beacon Book Discussion. Gloria Dei's Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative team hosts a weekly book group in Fellowship Hall each Thursday in April from 7-8 p.m., discussing *Poverty, By America* by Dr. Matthew Desmond. Each session will focus on three chapters. This event is open to members, friends of the congregation and the Beacon Collaborative. Registration is required. Email revdfulton@comcast.net with name(s) and number attending. There is a limit of 100 participants. The only cost may be the purchase of the book. A few copies of *Poverty, By America* are available in the Gloria Dei library for two-week checkout. Softcover copies of *Poverty, By America* may be purchased from church library at cost while supply lasts.

3 Summer Food Packing Events. Anyone age 5 and older is invited to serve together with others from Gloria Dei at Feed My Starving Children in Eagan this summer. We will help pack food bags that will be shipped all around the world. Children should be accompanied by an adult. This event is free but consider bringing a donation for Feed My Starving Children. You can help pay for a child to eat for a year for \$88. The three packing events are:

- Wednesday, June 12, 9:30-11:15 a.m.
 - Tuesday, July 30 from noon-1:45 p.m.
 - Monday, August 19 from 5-6:30 p.m.
- Register for any of the events at tinyurl.com/gdFMSC24.

LSS Youth Programs Fundraiser. Lutheran Social Service of MN (LSS) Youth & Young Adult Services is proud to serve more than 5,500 individuals and families every year. We invite you to join us at the 2024 Benefit for Youth as we celebrate all the ways that together, we are Reaching Further to support youth and families with the resources they need to live full and abundant lives. Twin Cities Benefit for Youth, Tuesday, May 7, 5:30 p.m., Quincy Hall in Minneapolis. Register at tinyurl.com/gdLSSFUNDS24 or call the LSS Events Team at 651-432-4731.

Documentary on Racism is April 27. All are invited to a free and screening of the award-winning documentary, "A Binding Truth," on Saturday, April 27, beginning at 1 p.m. hosted by Mount Olivet Lutheran Church in Plymouth, 12235 Old Rockford Road, Plymouth. The film received rave reviews in this year's Independent Film Festival. Director/Producer Louise Woehrlé, of Edina-based Whirlygig Productions, will join us to host a Q & A session immediately following. The film tells the tale of one of North Carolina's most volatile civil rights cases, played out at the explosive intersection of high school football and race. See the preview at tinyurl.com/gdBINDINGTRUTH.

Stewardship and Giving

Fresh Altar Flowers are a Click Away. Our Easter Garden has withered away, but do not fret. We appreciate everyone who provides altar flowers to beautify our Sunday worship. Purchasing flowers online is quick and easy. They can be purchased for \$65. Go to tinyurl.com/gdFLOWERS24 and follow the instructions to order flowers for a specific week to commemorate a special occasion or just to brighten worship. You're always welcome to stop by the church office to make arrangements in person, too.

Decorate a Courtyard Planter. Our courtyard has 12 large planters that need to be filled with wonderful flora. If you or your household would like to adopt one or more, register at tinyurl.com/gdPLANTERS24. Six of the planters are predominantly in the sun, six predominantly in the shade. You can design your planter with your own favorite plants and colors. All you need to do is complete your planting between May 15-31. Church staff will tend to them and take care of watering through the summer season.

Community

Assist with Tests. Highland Park Senior High School is putting out the call for volunteers to help proctor International Baccalaureate Diploma Program exams. Each year, the school

administrators between 250-300 students and volunteers are needed to help support the endeavor. The exams run from April 25 to May 17, and there are slots for half days or full days. If you can volunteer for one (or more; even better!) slots, register at tinyurl.com/gdHPSHTESTS. Know someone who might be interested in doing this as well? Let them know.

Ways to Engage with Health and Healing

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.

- **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 (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 (ai.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 (salavab@yahoo.com).

Next week: More ways to help with Facilities and 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/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” 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 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
Kyrstin Schwartz, Children's Ministry Director
Ashley Greenwood, Deacon of Youth and Family Faith Formation
Timothy Strand, Music Director
Dennis Friesen-Carper, Director of Instrumental Ensembles and Composer in Residence
Jill Stewart, Parish Nurse
Beverly Sargent, 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
Johnny Alexander, Custodian

Contact Us

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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).