



**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 28, 2024

Congregational General Meeting May 12

All confirmed members of Gloria Dei are encouraged to join us at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. We will elect members to the Congregation Council and other leadership positions, express our gratitude to those who have served Gloria Dei in significant ways in the past year and take care of other important business in the life of the church. Also on the agenda will be the consideration of recommended changes to the church constitution. Please plan to join us between services in Fellowship Hall.

Worship and Music & Art

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.

Music in May. Mark your calendars for a pair of musical events in May at Gloria Dei.

- **Organ Recital** on Sunday, May 12, at 3 p.m. featuring Trevor Good, a student at the University of Kansas, and Aaron Looney, a senior at St. Olaf College. They are the first- and second-place winners of Regional Competition of the American Guild of Organists. Come and hear these talented young players! Free and open to the public.
- **Minnesota Boychoir Annual Spring Concert**, Sunday May 19, at 4:30 p.m. This concert will feature all four choirs of the Boychoir from elementary through high school singers. Under the direction of Mark Johnson, these young singers always inspire with their beautiful voices and present a wide array of music in their concerts. Freewill donation. Come early to get a seat!

Faith Formation

Buy Your Hanging Flowers Today. We are offering beautiful 12-inch hanging baskets of flowers for \$35 at Gloria Dei today between services. Get there fast to choose your favorite color! If you ordered in advance, you can pick up your order today. 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.

This Week's Forum: 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. She will focus her talk at today's Sunday Forum in the Fellowship Hall (9:30-10:30 a.m.) 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.

Forum Next Week: Supportive Housing. Having a place to call home is key to good mental health. To mark May as Mental Health Month, Gloria Dei's Beacon and Mental Health and Recovery ministries invite you to explore this topic at the Sunday, May 5, Forum in Fellowship Hall (9:30-10:30 a.m.) As a Minnesota housing nonprofit committed to change, Beacon leads the way in creating supportive, deeply affordable housing in the Twin Cities metro area. Gloria Dei's Mental Health and Recovery Ministry works with staff to promote our faith community as a safe place to discuss mental health and substance abuse concerns and learn ways to address related issues.

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 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-August 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 or register your student this month. Register at tinyurl.com/gdDULUTH24.

Baptism Orientation is May 18. Our next Baptism Orientation Workshop is on Saturday, May 18, from 9-10 a.m. We ask all parents (members and non-members) who are preparing for a baptism to attend a Baptism Orientation Workshop (on Zoom) before the child's baptism. Go to tinyurl.com/gdBAPT524 to register. Contact the church office (651-699-1378) to schedule the baptism.

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.

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.

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.

Take Me Out to the Ball Game. Let's share in fellowship and have fun cheering on the Minnesota Twins and the St. Paul Saints 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/gdTWINNS24.

Social Justice and Outreach

April's Second Offering is going toward Lutheran Social Services's 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 in the offering plate with "second offering" in the memo line. So far we've collected \$2,045 to support the programs for homeless teens.

Learn About a Fall 2024 Trip to Guatemala.

Gloria Dei is planning a trip to Guatemala to visit our church partners in Guatemala City and San Lucas Toliman from Oct. 25 through Nov. 4, 2024. Please join us at one of our informational sessions to learn more details about the trip after the second service on Sunday, May 5 or May 19. If you can't attend but have questions, you can email Julie Printz at jprintz123@gmail.com. Got to tinyurl.com/gdGUAT24 to fill out a form to express your interest in joining the trip whether you can or can't attend the information sessions.

Rent Is Due Meeting is May 1. Join the Gloria Dei Beacon Interfaith Housing team for the monthly Rent is Due call on Wednesday, May 1, 8:30-9 a.m. Every month, over 200,000 households pay too much rent. Housing insecurity jeopardizes the health of individuals and families, drives the growing numbers of people experiencing homelessness and increases the racial disparities already present. We gather virtually the first Wednesday of every month as Beacon advocates to change this reality. Our 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/gdRENT524 to register for the Zoom meeting with Closed Captioning available.

Mendota Dakota Book Discussion is May 1.

Gloria Dei's Racial Justice Committee Chair, Dr. Deanna Thompson, will help us to think robustly about our growing relationship with the Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Tribal Community (MMDTC). We'll look at the three books about this community that some of us have been reading and also reflect on the April 14 Forum presentations made by Sharon Lennartson and Dr. Mike Klein. Copies are still available in the Gloria Dei Library of the three books: *Stolen Culture, Traditions, and Heritage: Good Thunder Woman—Wakiya Waste Win in Dakota* by Sharon

Lennartson; *Mendota Dakota: Stories of Land and Leadership* edited by Dr. Mike Klein; *Mendota Dakota: Erasure and Recognition* edited by Dr. Mike Klein, commentary by Dr. Chris Mato Nunpa. Here are three questions to consider in advance of the May 1 discussion.

- What did you hear in the April 14 Forum conversation that would be important for this congregation to learn more about?
- What is a takeaway from one of the books about the MMDTC that you didn't know before?
- How does our learning about the MMDTC help Gloria Dei imagine what it means to become a good partner with this community?

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 Egan 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.

Health and Healing

New Session of Yogadevotion Starts.

Yogadevotion is a gentle flow class developed by Lutheran pastor Cindy Senarighi. It combines yoga poses and breathing with a Christian devotion. No prior yoga experience is required; do wear comfortable clothing. We have mats and blocks or you may bring your own if you wish. This session is eight weeks long and meets Tuesdays 6-7 p.m. in the Gathering Place. Register at tinyurl.com/gdYOGA424.

Raising Alcohol Awareness in April. During April's Alcohol Awareness Month, Gloria Dei's Mental Health and Recovery ministry reminds us that this is a time to raise awareness and understanding of alcohol abuse. Information is

available online to assess one's own drinking habits as well as to understand the physical and mental health dangers of alcohol abuse. Go to tinyurl.com/gdAWARE24 to learn more and get information on how to talk to someone you know is struggling with alcohol use or abuse.

St. Paul Gun Safety. Since May 2023, it has been the law in St. Paul that guns must be securely stored when not being used. Secure storage measures, such as gun safes and gun locks, can play a crucial role in preventing unauthorized access to firearms and ensuring compliance with the city ordinance. Go to tinyurl.com/gdGUNSTORAGE to learn more about how this works and why it's important through information provided by St. Paul Moms Demand Action.

Stewardship and Giving

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. Don't wait on this opportunity. Seven of the planters are already spoken for.

Sponsor Donut Holes. We depend on the generosity of members to help restock the bowls of donut holes for between-service snacking. It costs \$65 to purchase a Sunday's worth of donut holes. Sign up at tinyurl.com/gdDHOLES. After you submit your order, you will receive a confirmation email that includes a link for online payment. You may also leave your cash or check payment in the offering plate or the church office in an envelope that is clearly marked with the date you selected, "donut holes" and your name. Thank you for considering filling the donut hole "hole."

Community

Volunteer for Mendota Dakota. Here are some upcoming volunteer opportunities with the Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Community:

- **Digitizing.** We are sorting through hundreds of pieces of information that need to be digitized. If you have an interest in digitizing and have a scanner, this might be something you can do from home. We will be starting up again in May.
- **Donate items** for the 30th Anniversary Silent Auction. They do not need to be Indigenous items--just items in good condition.
- **Volunteer** to help with 30th Anniversary Celebration on Wednesday, June 19, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at St. Peter's Church, 1405 Sibley Memorial Highway, Mendota. It is a potluck celebration and charity fundraiser. Help will be needed in kitchen and at various tables for raffles and the silent auction.
- **Wacipi/PowWow** will be held Sept. 14 and 15. Everyone is invited! Volunteer opportunities include help with setting up during the week, working in the kitchen serving Indian Tacos, as well as helping prepare and serve the Sunday Feast that we have co-sponsored with Cherokee Park United Church. Email Karen Lansing at lansingkaren13@gmail.com to get more information and get your name on the list to get to know this wonderful community.

Ways to Help with Facilities and Administration

In addition to the activities noted above, join Gloria Dei friends in one of these other ways be involved in Facilities and Administration.

- **Facilities Committee** ministries meet the fourth Monday of each month. For more info email Alan Howell at alan.howell@mspmac.org.
- **Communications Committee** meets the second Tuesday of the month to review communication efforts in the church. Contact Thor Carlson at communications@gloriadeistpaul.org.

- **Art Committee** prepares art shows in the Gallery and also maintains and rotates displays of art in other parts of the church. Contact Liz Knutson at lizknutson80@gmail.com or Mona Ahlf at mona.ahlf@yahoo.com.
- **Landscape Gardening Team** maintains the foundation plantings and perennial gardens on the grounds. Contact Bruce Agneberg at agnebergb48@gmail.com.
- **Shared Ministry Committee** meets the third Thursday of the month to coordinate gift, passions and interests inventories shared with congregation members to connect to volunteer opportunities. Contact Carol Engel at cjengel626@comcast.net.

Next week: More ways to help with Worship. 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 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.

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