



**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 - May 5, 2024

Congregational General Meeting May 12

All confirmed members of Gloria Dei are encouraged to join us at 9:30 a.m. next Sunday 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

See the Fire on Pentecost. Join us on the front lawn of Gloria Dei on Sunday, May 19, 9:45-10:15 a.m., for a Pentecost fire celebration. Fire dancers from Insphyre Performance will wow all ages as we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. While a number of chairs will be provided, you might want to bring your favorite lawn chair or blanket and enjoy the show.

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

Last Day for Flowers Baskets. After last Sunday's enormous response, we still have 20 new hanging flower baskets for sale today in the Minnesota Room between services. Each Basket is \$35 and we accept cash, check or online payment. All profits support our youth ministries program!

Forum Today: Supportive Housing & Mental Health. Having a place to call home is key to good mental health. To mark May as Mental Health Month, Gloria Dei's Beacon Housing and Mental Health and Recovery ministries invite you to explore this topic at today's Forum in Fellowship Hall (9:30-10:30 a.m.) Those attending will be asked to participate in an exercise imagining the types of choices a person with no housing is forced to make on a daily basis. 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.

Key Links from Last Week's Forum. Last Sunday's Forum speaker, J. Drake Hamilton, shared a series of resources for people to learn how to make their lives more energy efficient. For those who attended and didn't get a hand-out, and those who weren't able to attend, here's a recap of some of those key links.

- homes.rewiringamerica.org/ Programs for funding assistance and/or tax breaks for installing electricity-saving features in your home or workplace.
- fresh-energy.org/subscribe: Get newsletters and updates on the non-profit Fresh Energy's efforts to reduce Minnesota's carbon footprint.
- J. Drake's book recommendation for positive news on climate change: *Not the End of the World* by Hannah Ritchie.

Baptism Orientation is May 18. Our next Baptism Orientation Workshop is on Saturday, May 18, 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. 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. for those interested in eating before the Bible study. 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 a 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 23, 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

May's Second Offering is going toward Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, which is made up of over 100 Twin Cities area faith communities that develop deeply affordable, supportive and sustainable housing and advocate to end homelessness in Minnesota. The Gloria Dei Beacon Team is involved by reaching out to elected officials to encourage them to champion legislation like Bring It Home, MN to remove barriers that prevent people from finding a home. The in-service collection will be taken on Sunday, May 12. Any time before the end of the month, you can give online at tinyurl.com/gdBEACON2OFF or drop off a check to the church office with "second offering" in the memo line. April's Second Offering for Lutheran Social Services' Youth Homelessness Programs collected \$3,355. Thanks to all who contributed!

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 information sessions to learn more details about the trip after the second service today or on May 19. If you can't attend but have questions, you can email Julie Printz at jprintz123@gmail.com. Go 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.

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.

A Time for Beer and Cheer at Wandering Leaf. Looking for a way to reconnect with longtime friends at church and to meet new ones? Come to Wandering Leaf Brewing Company, 2463 7th St. W., St. Paul, on Sunday, June 9, from 5-7 p.m. Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages are available, along with snacks. The focus is on deepening community ties within the congregation. Lots of free parking, too!

Health and Healing

5 Simple Things to Help With Mental Health. May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Here is a list of five simple things you can do to make the world a better place for people with mental illness and their families.

- **Be a Friend.** Provide companionship and compassion on the road toward recovery. Offer a ride to church or to a support group. Listen without judgement. Pray for those you know with mental illnesses and for their family members.
- **Be an Inspiration.** Share your story. Has mental illness impacted you or your family in some way? Your story may empower others to seek treatment or have hope.
- **Watch Your Language.** Pay attention to the words you use and avoid stigmatizing labels. Do not refer to people as "crazy," "psycho," "lunatic" or "mental."

- **Be a Stigma Buster.** Challenge negative attitudes toward mental illness among your friends and acquaintances and in the media.
- **Learn the Facts.** Educate yourself about the various mental illnesses. Attend a lecture or class or use the Internet. Good places to start include the National Alliance of Mental Illness at www.nami.org and the National Institute of Mental Health at www.nimh.nih.gov.

Stewardship and Giving

3rd Graders Plant Donated Apple Trees. This past Sunday our third graders were able to help plant two apple trees that were given to the church by Donna Anderson. It was another environmental lesson Sunday School students are learning this spring with the help of the Gloria Dei's Care for Creation team. The students helped to dig the planting hole, gave a blessing and also learned about apples from apple tree expert Eric Gustafson. See if you have can find the tree next time you are at church. It is located in near the south east side of the parking lot. It will be fun to watch it grow. And some day down the road, we might even be able to eat fresh apples off of it. Thanks for the donation, Donna!

Decorate a Courtyard Planter. All but three of our courtyard planters have been adopted 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.

Fresh Altar Flowers are a Click Away. 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. And you're always welcome to stop by the church office to make arrangements in person, too.

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 Worship

In addition to the activities noted above, join Gloria Dei friends in one of these other ways to assist in worship on Sunday.

- **Altar Care Team** prepares the altar paraments and along with setting up and cleaning for communion service. Email Amy Hinrichs at amylhdhinrichs@gmail.com with questions.
- **Assisting Minister** helps lead worship with pastors, shares prayers and serves communion. Email Mark Christianson (mchristi314@gmail.com) with questions.
- **Communion Assistants** distribute bread, wine and grape juice during worship. Email Mark Christianson (mchristi314@gmail.com) with questions.
- **Hospitality Team** welcomes people to worship, collects offerings, assists with seating needs and ensure that worship runs smoothly. Email Mark Christianson (mchristi314@gmail.com) with questions.
- **Lector** reads Old and New Testament lessons during worship. Email Mark Christianson (mchristi314@gmail.com) with questions.
- **Crucifer** carries the cross in worship processions. Email Mark Christianson (mchristi314@gmail.com) with questions.
- **Sacristan** assists with the logistics of worship and guides acolytes. Email Mark Christianson (mchristi314@gmail.com) with questions.

Next week: More ways to help with Outreach. See all Gloria Dei 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](http://listeneverywhere.com)). 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).