



Holy Communion

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 March 16, 2025

You Shall Be a Watered Garden

Today's Forum: Artist Talk in the Gallery. John Sterner, Lakota artist living near Marshall whose works are now on display in the Gallery, will talk about his works at Sunday Forum today. The talk is at 9:30 a.m. in the Gallery. John got his start in art doing sketches on his church's Sunday bulletins. John writes, "My mother, when I was probably about 5 years old, gave me the church bulletin and said I needed to occupy my time at church by drawing pictures. A lot of my first pictures were just doodles, small fabrications to keep my mind occupied instead of bouncing around the room, and to keep me focused on what the pastor was saying."

Lenten Evening Prayer. Each Wednesday in Lent, we explore together a different spiritual practice to help ground us, finding living water that is our source for peace, freedom and a joy that transcends life's difficulties. This coming Wednes-



day at 6:30 p.m., Director of Musical Ensembles and Composer in Residence Dennis Friesen-Carper will teach us about singing that is like praying a mantra, a repetitive set of words that calm the racing mind, connect us with one another and bring us deeper into the Spirit.

Staff Updates

Staff Retirements. Pastor Lois Pallmeyer, Music Director Tim Strand, and Office Coordinator Karen Earhuff have each informed the Congregation Council that they are retiring this year. **Pr. Lois**, after 26 years of joyful, wise and loving ministry at Gloria Dei, plans to retire, choosing May 18 as her farewell celebration and last Sunday. **Tim Strand**, our talented, faithful and compassionate music director for the last 16 years, has also decided that this is his year for retirement and has chosen June 22 for his farewell and last Sunday. **Karen Earhuff**, the compassionate heart of our office team, has kept the office running, the staff connected and congregation members assisted in many different ways. After 17 years at the front desk, she

will conclude her service at Gloria Dei in August. The Congregational Council and Human Resources Committee are preparing to discern how these roles might change in the future before searches begin to find replacements. Farewell celebrations will also be planned and announced as they arise to commemorate these transitions.

Worship and Music & Art

Follow Up on Sound Test, Part 2. On Sunday, March 2, we experimented with a possible update to the sound system. Loaned speaker equipment and a sound board were set up in the sanctuary to see if we could sharpen the quality of the spoken word. The results of the survey were mixed. 51% of those responding reported excellent results, but 47% gave it less than the highest rating. After worship, people stayed to respond in person to sound engineer, Bob Osgood. The issues raised in that session proved to be extremely helpful for the engineering team. Although they had planned to be done that morning, the team stayed for two additional days, revising and calibrating the system to be more effective, in time for Ash Wednesday. That evening, there were many positive responses to the changes since the Sunday before. In addition, the engineering team was able to eliminate some equipment they thought was needed but won't be, reducing the cost. They also suggested that we receive bids from additional equipment providers in order to ensure we get the lowest qualified cost. Teresa Sterns, member of the Facilities Committee and our Owner's Representative for the "Rise, O Church" renovation, has already begun drafting a request for bid proposals. The additional work and the second test gave us hope that we have moved closer to a solution. It may not be perfect for every listener, but we believe it can be substantially better for most. As plans develop, we'll keep the congregation informed. **If you attended services on both March 2 and Ash Wednesday evening, we would love to hear about your experience.**

Upcoming Music Events

Gift of Music is Next Sunday. Another *Gift of Music* recital will be presented next Sunday, 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The free event features Gloria Dei musicians Christine Berg Schroeder, Kurt Claussen, Beverly Dretzke, Dennis Friesen-Carper, Leigh Frost, David Mickens, Kristine Oberg, Paul Schaleger, Philip Stoyke, Timothy Strand, Russ Vander Wiel, Anita Young and Jon Young. A reception will follow in the Gathering Place with refreshments hosted by Janet Warwick. A free-will offering supports Gloria Dei's music ministries.

Thursday, March 27, 7:30 p.m. Bemidji Choir of Bemidji State University under the direction of Dr. Isaac Lovdahl. The Bemidji Choir has been here at Gloria Dei several times to perform over the last years, and they always bring a fantastic program of varied choral music.

Sunday, April 6, 5 p.m. See Change Treble Choir Community Treble Festival. This concert caps a day of "Voices On," the first of what the group hopes will be many opportunities for treble voices of all kinds to join See Change in song. The group is directed by Amy Johnson.

Faith Formation

New Members Class. Are you new to Gloria Dei? Have you been thinking about becoming a member of the church? We invite you to a New Member Class on Tuesday, March 25, 6:30 p.m. in Room 100. We'll talk about Gloria Dei—our mission and ministry, what we stand for, and ways to get involved, if you choose. New members will be welcomed during worship on Sunday, March 30. Contact Pastor Jodi prjodi@gloriadeistpaul.org or Pastor Lois prlois@gloriadeistpaul.org to RSVP or for more information.

Wednesday Supper. The menu for Wednesday, March 19, will be sloppy Joes, vegetable salad and baked mac & cheese. Meals are served 5:45-6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Suggested donation is \$5-10 per person. Pay whatever you

can. March 26's menu will include cheese or pepperoni pizza along with salad with fresh vegetables and dressing.

Spring Writing Workshop. The spring session of *In Your Own Words, Contemplative Writing as a Spiritual Practice* starts Thursday, April 3. Come to write, to listen, to sit in silence and find community. Come to grow towards the person God created you to be, as you deepen your awareness of God. Come to develop a spiritual practice. Come to discover what is yours to do in the midst of change. No writing experience needed. Membership at Gloria Dei not required. All are welcome. The group gathers Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.-noon. in the Mississippi Room. To register and receive the spring schedule, email Nancy Agneberg *nagneberg48@gmail.com*. If you or someone you know is unable to attend in-person, but would like to receive the weekly writing prompts, email Nancy.

Social Justice and Outreach

Second Offering for Neighborhood House Food Markets. The focus of March's Second Offering will be to collect money to support the food programs at Neighborhood House. This is FoodShare Month, so financial matches from Second Harvest and The Food Group multiply Neighborhood House's buying power by eight times. A \$35 donation buys \$280 worth of food; a \$150 donation has \$1,200 of purchasing power. You can give digitally anytime at tinyurl.com/gd2NDOFF25 or by putting a check in the offering plate with "Second Offering" written on the memo line. The need is great. Neighborhood House serves over 1,700 unique families in a month—nearly doubled from this time last year. Last year's Gloria Dei Second Offering total of \$3,063 would have purchasing power of \$24,504 this year. We've set this year's goal at collecting \$4,375 for a purchasing power of \$35,000, or 10% of Neighborhood House's 2025 goal of raising \$350,000 during Foodshare Month. Through last Sunday, \$2,576 has been collected.

Do you still want to give food? Drop non-perishable food items in the red barrels right inside the parking lot doors. Each week the collected food is delivered to the Food Market on Montreal. Want to do more? Go to tinyurl.com/gdFOODFUN to

get Neighborhood House tips on how you can organize a food drive in your neighborhood, workplace or school.

Special Neighborhood House events:

- **Grocery Store Weekend** at Kowalski's on Grand & Lunds on Ford Parkway, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., March 22-23. Food and funds collections.
- **Gather and Give**, Wellstone Center, Saturday, March 29, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., interactive food market tour, family activities, food and fund collection.
- **The Final Pour**, Wednesday, April 2, 4 to 7 p.m. Wandering Leaf Brewing. Final Food and Funds collection, awards.

Health and Healing

Create Cards at March 19 Wednesday Supper.

Join the Gloria Dei Card Ministry to make handmade greeting cards at 5 p.m., Wednesday, March 19, in Fellowship Hall. No creative skills necessary as everything is pre-designed and pre-cut so all you have to do is come in, stamp and assemble. We will work on Easter Cards for the homebound, confirmation, and graduation cards. The time is conveniently set so that you can also take in the Wednesday dinner and then head to church for Wednesday night service. In order to help support the ministry's expenses, cards are also for sale to the congregation near the church office. If you have questions, feel free to contact email Heidi Anderson-Isaacson at stampin@anderson-isaacson.com.

March is Gambling Prevention Month. Gloria Dei's Mental Health and Recovery Ministry notes that March is Problem Gambling Awareness Month, a time to learn more about resources Minnesota offers to people concerned about their own or a loved one's gambling. The State of Minnesota pays for inpatient and outpatient problem gambling treatment for residents who qualify for help. A statewide, toll-free, confidential 24-hour help-line is also available at 800-333-HOPE. There you can get suggestions for how to make changes and how to talk to people whose gambling concerns

you. To participate in a motivational text messaging program, text EncourageMeMN (English) or AnimameMN(Spanish) to 53342. More information is available at GetGamblingHelp.com.

Stewardship and Giving

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. Go to *ti-nyurl.com/gdDHOLES25* to sign up to sponsor the treats for a specific Sunday. 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."

More Ways to Assist 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.

- **Library Volunteers** help readers checkout library materials Sunday mornings from 9 to 11 a.m. and Wednesday evenings during the school year, 5-7:30 p.m. Contact Joan Kallas, *jikallas@comcast.net*.
- **Facilities Committee** meets monthly. For more info email Alan Howell, *alan.howell@mspmac.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, *lizknutson80@gmail.com* or Mona Ahlf, *mona.ahlf@yahoo.com*.
- **Landscape Gardening Team** maintains the foundation plantings and perennial gardens on the grounds. Contact Bruce Agneberg, *agnebergb48@gmail.com*.

- **Shared Ministry Committee** meets monthly to coordinate gift, passions and interests inventories shared with congregation members to connect to volunteer opportunities. Carol Engel, *cjengel626@comcast.net*.

Next week: More ways to help with Worship. See all Gloria volunteer opportunities at *gloriadeist-paul.org/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" 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. After 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
Ashley Greenwood, Deacon of Youth and Family
Faith Formation
Kyrstin Schwartz, Children's Ministry Director
Timothy Strand, Music Director
Dennis Friesen-Carper, Director of Instrumental
Ensembles and Composer in Residence
Jill Stewart, Parish Nurse
Greg Henderson, Finance & Administration Director
Tadhg Ferris Wayne, Director of Worship
Technologies
Thor Carlson, Communications and Technology
Coordinator
Karen Earhuff, Office Coordinator
Jazz Vogel, Bookkeeper
Doug Wakefield, Facilities Manager
Jessica Juneau, 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.