



The *Gloria Dei* Grapevine

The *Gloria Dei Grapevine* is the monthly newsletter of Gloria Dei Evangelical Lutheran Church. For more information, or if you have any questions, please contact us.

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Please Join Us

- ◆ **Sunday Morning Worship** at 9:00am
- ◆ **Communion** on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month
- ◆ **Adult, Teen, & Children's Sunday School** at 10:00am, September thru May
- ◆ **Adult Bible Study** - every Thursday at 9:00am
- ◆ **Youth Group** (6th-12th grade) First Saturday of the month, 6-9pm. Contact Laura or Allen Mortimer for more information.
- ◆ **Lutheran Pioneers** (K-8th grade) Meets twice monthly September thru May.

Scan in your banking app to make your offering for Gloria Dei Evangelical Lutheran Church at financialsec@gloriadeigb.com



From the Pastor...

And so it begins. The turkey has been roasted. The stuffing has been baked. The potatoes have been mashed. It's all been eaten. And now the leftovers are now about ready to make their way to the trash (remember that 4 day rule!). Now that Thanksgiving has passed, we're running headlong toward that big day – December 25th.

And with all that comes all the preparations that need to be made. Cookies must be baked. Candy must be molded. Food must be purchased. Trees must be trimmed. And, oh, the presents. Who can forget them? As a child, I remember anticipating all of these things. It seemed like December was a month that took an eternity to get through. With more than a half century under my belt, it's completely different. December goes by in the blink of an eye. I'm always blown away at around 8 PM on Christmas Day that it's already done. Perhaps it's the same for you.

In the busy-ness and speed of the month of December is the season of Advent. It's the shortest season of the Church

Year. And it's often the most overlooked. We notice the different colored altar paraments. We see the wreath with the candles. But we often forget what this season is all about. Well, maybe we forget half of what this season is all about. Of course, like the season of Lent prepares us to celebrate Christ's resurrection, the season of Advent prepares us to celebrate Christ's birth. But that's only half of the picture. You see, Jesus didn't simply arrive in this world once and will never be back again. He is going to arrive once again at the culmination of all things. And when he comes he will come in judgment. Advent gives us the opportunity to remember how important it is for us to prepare our hearts for his second coming.

Do you remember the feeling when someone important is about to arrive at your place? It's a mixture of anticipation and excitement and nervousness. Did you make all the correct preparations? Will the person be happy to see you? When and how will the person arrive?

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Serving in December



December 7

Ushers: Jim Luisier, Joe King, Kent Kerwin
Communion Set Up: Mortimer
Communion Assistants: Wayne Pennell
Power Point Assistant: Noah Straub
Livestream Assistant: Paul Allar
Counters: Mortimer & Major
Cleaners: Moore

December 10

Ushers: Mark Moore, Harold Fox
Power Point Assistant: Kaylee Mortimer
Livestream Assistant: Luke Mortimer
Counters: Callahan & Furnner

December 14

Ushers: Tom Furnner, Eric Bessolo, Mitchell Bessolo
Power Point Assistant: Luke Mortimer
Livestream Assistant: Allen Mortimer
Counters: Straub & Luisier
Cleaners: Bessolo

December 21

Ushers: Marshall Bessolo, Scott Mortimer, Allen Mortimer
Communion Set Up: Mortimer
Communion Assistants: Jim Luisier
Power Point Assistant: Calvin Bessolo
Livestream Assistant: Paul Allar
Counters: Mortimer & Metz
Cleaners: Mortimer

December 24

Ushers: Justin Lawrence, Eric Metz, Paul Allar
Power Point Assistant: Marshall Bessolo
Livestream Assistant: Luke Mortimer
Counters: Neuwirth & Moore

December 25

Ushers: Jim Sharich, Jim Luisier
Power Point Assistant: Owen Straub
Livestream Assistant: Allen Mortimer
Counters: Mortimer & Major

December 28

Ushers: Joe King, Kent Kerwin, Mark Moore
Power Point Assistant: Mitchell Bessolo
Livestream Assistant: Paul Allar
Counters: Callahan & Furnner

December 31

Ushers: Harold Fox, Tom Furnner
Power Point Assistant: Noah Straub
Livestream Assistant: Luke Mortimer
Counters: Straub & Luisier



From the Pastor...

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Will there be any surprises?

During these weeks before Christmas, we anticipate the **imminent arrival** of Jesus. He's an important person! We are about to celebrate his birth – and that will be a wonderful time. But there's so much more. He could return on judgment day at any time. And it's important for us to be ready.

How does that happen? It's simple really. Jesus came into this world as a lowly child. He's coming again as the righteous judge. But he isn't absent in these "in between" times. He impacts our lives even now when God's Word is read and when the Sacraments are administered. There we see why Jesus came into this world. It was to live and die in our place so that we will have a place on his right hand when he does return and will live in a place of joy for all eternity.

So during this busy time, don't forget to schedule some "Jesus time" alongside all of the shopping and cooking and decorating. For then not only will we be prepared to remember Christ's first coming into this world, but with faith strengthened and repentance directing our lives, we will be ready for his second.

In those days, John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, **"Repent, because the kingdom of heaven is near!"** **"Yes, this is he of whom this was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:**

A voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
"Prepare the way of the Lord. Make his paths straight." (Matthew 3:1-3)



Christmas for Kids

Christmas for Kids will be held this year on Saturday, December 6.

All children, preschool thru 6th grade, are invited, please make sure you tell your friends and family to save the date.

We will be needing a lot of volunteers to make the day run smoothly, so please prayerfully consider if you would be willing to help out.

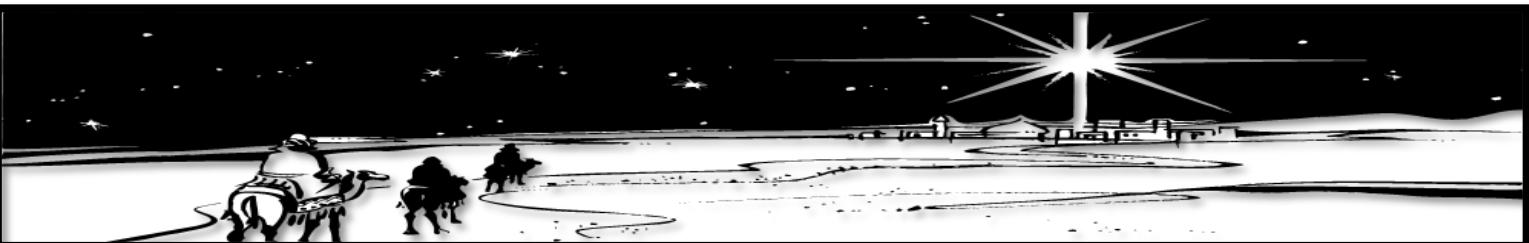
You can register at: www.GloriaDeiGB.com

Men's Breakfast and Bible Study

Join us for the next Men's Breakfast on Saturday, December 20, at 8:00am.

There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board.





Ladies Advent by Candlelight

Thursday, December 4

6:00pm

Midweek Advent Service

Wednesday, December 10

7:00pm

Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 24

5:00pm at Gloria Dei

7:00pm at Grace Lutheran

Christmas Day Service

Thursday, December 25

10:30am

New Years Eve Service

Wednesday, December 31

7:00pm





Bible Readings for December



Date	Old Testament	Psalm	Proverbs	New Testament
December 1	Ezekiel 38,39	119: 161-176	1	Hebrews 11
December 2	Ezekiel 40	120	2	Hebrews 12,13
December 3	Ezekiel 41,42	121	3	Titus
December 4	Ezekiel 43,44	122	4	Philemon
December 5	Ezekiel 45,46	123	5	I Timothy 1,2
December 6	Ezekiel 47,48	124	6	I Timothy 3,4
December 7	Lamentations 1,2	125	7	I Timothy 5,6
December 8	Lamentations 3	126	8	2 Timothy 1,2
December 9	Lamentations 4,5	127	9	2 Timothy 3,4
December 10	Nahum	128	10	I Peter 1,2
December 11	Ezra 1,2	129	11	I Peter 3-5
December 12	Ezra 3,4	130	12	2 Peter
December 13	Ezra 5,6	131	13	I John 1,2
December 14	Ezra 7,8	132	14	I John 3-5
December 15	Ezra 9,10	133,134	15	2, 3 John
December 16	Zechariah 1-3	135	16	Jude
December 17	Zechariah 4-7	136	17	Revelation 1
December 18	Zechariah 8,9	137	18	Revelation 2
December 19	Zechariah 10-12	138	19	Revelation 3
December 20	Zechariah 13,14	139	20	Revelation 4,5
December 21	Haggai	140	21	Revelation 6,7
December 22	Nehemiah 1,2	141	22	Revelation 8,9
December 23	Nehemiah 3,4	142	23	Revelation 10,11
December 24	Nehemiah 5,6	143	24	Revelation 12,13
December 25	Nehemiah 7,8	144	25	Revelation 14,15
December 26	Nehemiah 9,10	145	26	Revelation 16,17
December 27	Nehemiah 11-13	146	27	Revelation 18
December 28	Esther 1-3	147	28	Revelation 19
December 29	Esther 4-7	148	29	Revelation 20
December 30	Esther 8-10	149	30	Revelation 21
December 31	Malachi	150	31	Revelation 22



Join us on Wednesday, December 10, at 7:00 pm for our Advent Service. This is a wonderful time to take break from all the Christmas hustle and bustle and turn your focus back on the reason for the season, the birth of our Savior.



Birthdays in December

- 12-03 Dennis Hipps
- 12-03 Sharon King
- 12-05 Lindsay Szecsodi
- 12-07 Lisa Hull
- 12-11 Lilly Allar
- 12-11 Heinz Pfitzer
- 12-12 Calvin Bessolo
- 12-16 Josh Leplow
- 12-17 Julie McGowen
- 12-18 Eric Gresock
- 12-21 Patrick Tesler
- 12-21 Asher Tesler
- 12-26 Bob Kost Sr.

Anniversaries in December

- 12/06 Eileen & Bob Smith
- 12/08 Donna & Scott Freimark
- 12/09 Sharon & Joe King
- 12/21 Anna & Tobias Edgett
- 12/26 Lynne & Brian Reinke
- 12/27 Erica & Eric Gresock
- 12/29 Lori & Randy Neuwirth



DECEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30 9:00 am - Worship 10:00 am - Sunday School Classes <i>Advent</i>	1 Cleaners for December 7: Moore 6:30pm —Confirmation Class 7:00pm —Choir Practice	2	3	4 9:00 am - Adult Bible Class 6:00pm —Ladies Advent by Candlelight	5	6 6:00pm —Youth Group
7 *Donation Sunday* 9:00 am - Worship with Communion 10:30 am - Adult, Teen, & Children's Bible Class <i>Advent 2</i>	8 Cleaners for December 14: Bessolo 6:30pm —Confirmation Class 7:00pm —Choir Practice	9	10 7:00pm —Advent Service	11 9:00 am - Adult Bible Class 6:30pm —Church Council Meeting	12	13
14 9:00 am - Worship 10:30 am - Adult, Teen, & Children's Bible Class <i>Advent 3</i>	15 Cleaners for December 21: Mortimer 6:30pm —Confirmation Class 7:00pm —Choir Practice	16	17	18 9:00 am - Adult Bible Class	19	20 8:00am —Men's Breakfast
21 9:00 am - Worship with Communion 10:30 am - Adult, Teen, & Children's Bible Class <i>Advent 4</i>	22 Cleaners for December 28: Reinke	23	24  5:00pm - Christmas Eve Service at Gloria Dei 7:00pm - Christmas Eve Service at Grace	25 10:30 am - Christmas Day Service 	26	27
28 9:00 am - Worship <i>Christmas 1</i>	29 Cleaners for January 4: Gresock	30	31  7:00pm —New Years Eve Service	1 	2	3 6:00pm —Youth Group