

WORSHIP LEADERS - DECEMBER



A child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests on his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. – Isaiah 9:6

From the Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

Last month at the Chum fall assembly, Lisa Harper from Washington D.C. spoke about *shalom*, and its implications for public policy and our life together. She unpacked the concept of *shalom* with three other words from Genesis. First was the word *good* – which God announces of creation at the beginning, it was *very good* – it was overflowing, abundantly, forcefully good, she said. And goodness here meant not that good resided in a thing itself, but in Hebrew that *good existed between things*; the relationships between all parts of creation are very good, God says, working together holistically to bless the whole creation.

We kept that in mind with the second and third terms she described – *image of God* and *dominion*. Being created in the image, or literally the *icon*, of God, she said means humans are created to be *markers of where God rules*, in contrast to where other rulers oppress. We are given dominion in the same breath as we are made in the image of God. And that word dominion in Hebrew did not mean not governmental rule, not “treading down” others, she said, but *tending the good, maintaining the wellness of the relationships between things*.

I used to dislike that word dominion, but Lisa Harper helped deepen its meaning for me. Dominion was not only like stewardship but it meant *exercising agency in God's image* – and every human being is created to do so, she said. To be human is to exercise dominion, agency that reflects God's image. But the problem is – and here's the connection with Chum – that *poverty and oppression shrink the capacity of some people to exercise their agency*, their dominion, to lead, to create, to dream and pursue that dream, she said. Poverty and oppression minimize the image of God on earth, she said, the capacity for people to live to their full potential, to exercise agency as bearers of God's image. And when *shalom* is absent, Lisa Harper asked us, how can we as people of faith push policy leaders to honor the image of God?

Our world continues to suffer from terrorism, oppression, and suspicion of others. Our own lives are not immune to hurts and burdens. But with the coming of Jesus the Messiah, Isaiah and other prophets reveal how God is ending the cycle of violence and restoring wholeness to the world through his Son, whose compassion and justice truly reflect God's image. His name is *prince of shalom* – the reconciler of the goodness of all relationships.

The promised *shalom* in the birth of the Messiah characterizes our Advent

	December 6	December 13	December 20	December 27
Organist	Mary Garmar	Barbara Erickson	Worship Band	Stan Wold
Assisting Minister	Lexie Cieluch	James Crane	Sue Anderson	Kathleen Gates
Sound Technician	Steve Dalager & Scott Ruzich	Rick Troy & Scott Ruzich	Doug Maguire & Scott Ruzich	Doug Maguire & Scott Ruzich
Reader	Lexie Cieluch	Joseph Bauerkemper	Journey Amundson	Paul Uecker
Acolytes	Christian Leight & Shameka Johnson	Morgan Wimer & Deonta Lew	Shakira Johnson & Bryn Weberg	Noah Winesett & Esmeralda Lew
Ushers	Sandi Johnson & Carol Kelley	Ed & Colleen Martin	Dan Lew & Mary Gagnon	Corrine Helmen & Sandi Johnson
Nursery Attendants	Chuck or Katie Erickson	Self Serve	Stephanie Carlson	Self Serve
Counters	Mary Gagnon & Gerald Erickson	Lubov Wilms & Janine Dahquist	Rod Dahquist & David Gangeness	Bob Forbort & Sharon Stenberg
Coffee Servers	Stephanie Carlson	Myrna Matheson	Eve Gathering	Nancy Gangeness
Communion Assistant	Janet Worthing	Janet Worthing	Maury Aaseng	Janet Worthing

journey toward Christmas this month:

+ Dec 5, the Gustavus Adolphus College Choir concert is streamed live at Gloria Dei beginning at 7:15 pm; its theme is *Shalom, Salaam, Peace* in this world.

+ Dec 13, the story of Santa Lucia is told during coffee hour, a story of light in the darkness and compassion for the needy – all children are invited to be part of the procession.

+ Dec 20, the Sunday School tells the Christmas gospel in word and song during worship.

+ Dec 24 at 12:00 noon, we gather with Chum at the city hall steps in vigil to remember the homeless.

+ Dec 24 at 5:00 and 10:00 pm, we worship at Christmas Eve and welcome the Christ Child.

+ All month, there are opportunities to participate in God's reconciling work through special giving this season (see p. 10 & 14).

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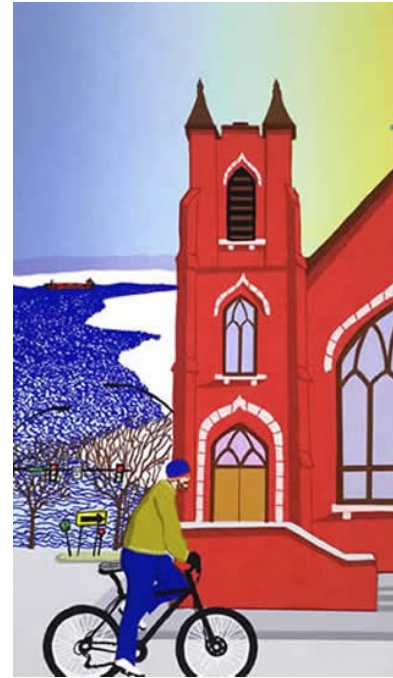
I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. - Philippians 1:3-5

Our deepest thanks to you all for the incredible surprise we received last month for my 10th anniversary at Gloria Dei. My family and I were overwhelmed by your thoughtfulness and generosity, and we look back on this decade with lasting gratitude.

Thank you to Karen Bockelman and the Heritage Committee for leading the renewal of installation promises and to Stan and the choir for your wonderful singing of "The Call" at the end of worship. Thanks to Marianne Kjolhaug for the poem and Karen Kjolhaug and the quilters for the beautiful quilt with all the meaningful symbolism - our Martha was only too thrilled to be in on the surprise as part of the group! Many thanks to Gloria Dei's tremendous staff for your partnership in ministry - Donna, Patti, Tanner, Paul, Karen, Kathy, Doug, Stan, Barb, Mary, and Steve - it is a joy to be on this journey of faith and service with you. Thank you to Brett and the Council for your outstanding leadership, and to the whole congregation for your inspiring witness in so many areas of ministry, and for your friendship in the gospel.

We give thanks for our shared ministry, and look forward to the future with excitement and faith in God's promises. *Soli Deo Gloria* – To God alone be glory!

See you in worship!
+ Pastor David Carlson



SERVING CHRISTMASE EVE

5:00 p.m. Service

- Assisting**—TBA
- Communion Assistant**— Brett Amundson
- Organist**—Mary Garmer
- Reader**— Brett Amundson
- Acolytes**—TBA
- Ushers**— Mark & Daniel Pass
- Sound Tech**— Doug Maguire & Scott Ruzich
- Altar Guild**— Barb Renick, Linda Kalweit & Kathy Wimer

10:00 p.m. Service

- Assisting**— Patti Maguire
- Communion Assistant**—TBA
- Organist**—Barbara Erickson
- Reader**— Gerry Erickson
- Acolytes**—Morgan Wimer
- Ushers**— Linda Kalweit & Paul Steklenski
- Sound Tech**— Doug M & Scott R.
- Altar Guild**— Barb R, Linda K & Kathy Wimer

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<http://cooperartpoetry.com/>
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DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12-2	Darrell Harris	12-13	Mark Pass
12-2	Elaine Wickstrom	12-20	Alison Haus
12-3	Lexie Cieluch	12-20	Nicholas Pearson
12-4	Mary Gagnon	12-21	Kingston Lew
12-4	Iris Lahti-Anderson	12-21	Joann McCall
12-5	Lowell Johnson	12-22	Mona Wold
12-6	Brendin Smith	12-25	Nicole Bissonette
12-8	Carol Uecker	12-25	Lil Peterson
12-10	Nancy Carlson	12-25	Barb Renick
12-10	Nadia Tessier	12-26	Conor Weberg
12-10	Lubov Willms	12-27	Jazzlyn Lorfald
12-12	Daphne Amundson	12-27	Doug Maguire
12-12	Joseph Bauerkemper	12-30	Danielle Cieluch
12-13	Mila Baker		

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

You may want to give a gift to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church on the occasion of Christmas this year. You may choose to give a poinsettia for the sanctuary. Each poinsettia will be \$14.00. Or, consider giving a gift (any amount) to a ministry fund:



- Building Renovation Fund
- CHUM/Gabriel Project
- ELCA World Hunger
- Extra gift for the "General Fund"
- God's Global Barnyard
- Ingrian Lutheran Church of Russia
- LSS Center for Changing Lives
- Mission Endowment Fund
- Neighborhood Breakfast
- Northeastern MN Synod
- Parish Nurse Fund
- Radio Ministry
- Transportation Fund
- Youth Fund
- Other – Please Specify

You may place your donation into the offering plate and be sure to mark it "Christmas Gift" with a designation. **All donations must be received by Monday December 14 with this completed form.** Poinsettias or gifts to funds may be given in memory or in honor and all names will be listed in the bulletin.

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Gift: Poinsettia or Fund: _____

From: _____

Please fill in the information and drop this form into the offering plate with your donation or mail it to the church office. Thank you.

Sunday, December 06, 2015 Second Sunday of Advent

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the Baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophesy could as easily herald the coming Lord Jesus as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of the Lord and assist all flesh in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 1:68-79, Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6

Sunday, December 13, 2015 Third Sunday of Advent

The presence of the Lord "in your midst" in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the Lord in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with his winnowing fork in his hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

Zephaniah 3:14-20, Isaiah 12:2-6, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18

Sunday, December 20, 2015 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and the blessed virgin Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in the holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:46b-55, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

Thursday, December 24, 2015 Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve

On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Paul reminds us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the prince of peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh—in Christ's body and blood—so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world. **Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]**

Sunday, December 27, 2015 First Sunday of Christmas

On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God "to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God," who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts." It is Christmas, still. **1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26, Psalm 148, Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 2:41-52**

Join us for a look at the text for the next Sunday every Tuesday at 12 Noon in the Hillside Room. All are welcome!

+LIFE'S LANDMARKS+*Funeral*

Lawrence Nyberg, October 29, 2015

A REMINDER THAT ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE DEC 15, 2015.

Please e-mail them to Donna at secretary@gloriadeiduluth.org or bring them in early for her to type. Thanks! Reports will be available in the narthex in mid-January. The Annual Meeting and Potluck will be on Sunday, January 24th.

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Worship God in proclamation of the Word and administration of the sacraments and through lives of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, witness, and service.

CHOIR REHEARSAL 7:00 pm on Wed., Dec 2. Regular weekly rehearsals on Sundays at 8:30 a.m.

CHRISTMAS IN CHRIST CHAPEL, Dec 5

– Live streaming of the Gustavus Adolphus College choir concert, 7:15 - 9:00 p.m. in the Hillside Room. *Shalom, Salaam Bethlehem* – Every year, thousands of people from around the world make the pilgrimage to Palestine to celebrate Christmas in the town of Bethlehem. Processions, lights, and music fill Manger Square, the city streets, and the churches. This year, Christmas in Christ Chapel will take you on a journey, joining the global travelers and the residents of Bethlehem, Palestine, to celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace and to give voice to our shared hope for *shalom, salaam, peace in this world*. Join us for an evening of worshipful music and fellowship. Coverage begins at 7:15 p.m.; the concert at 7:30. All welcome.



SAMARITAN SUNDAY, Dec 6 – Thanks for remembering: 1) canned food items to help replenish the CHUM Food Shelf, which are brought forward as part of our offering. 2) Our loose cash offering on the first Sunday has for several years gone to the Gabriel Fund, a ministry started by Gloria Dei and other Central Hillside parishes and managed through CHUM, for direct assistance to the needy.

EUCHARIST AT ST. ANN'S, Dec 6 - Each month, Gloria Dei conducts a worship service and fellowship time at a senior residential home. This month, the service of Holy Communion will be at St. Ann's on Sunday, December 6, at 3:00 pm in the chapel, and a gathering is also planned there for Wednesday, Dec 15 at 3:00. All are welcome to attend.

EARTH STEWARDSHIP TIPS December 2015

- Greening your laundry is as easy as hitting the cold water button and drying your clothes on an indoor rack or outdoor line instead of in a dryer. You'll save money on electric bills too - about 5% of all electricity used in U.S. homes is used to dry clothes.
- Buy locally: Shipping food long distances uses a lot of fuel. On average, produce sold in supermarkets has traveled 1,500 miles from farm to table.
- Connected to Creation. The atoms that make up our bodies are about 13 billion years old. They were all created by God "in the beginning." And it was very good. Since then they have been "bouncing around" the universe and then planet earth until now, through the gift of life, they form our bodies. And it is very good. Thanks be to God the Creator.
- If you're under 30, you've never experienced a month in which the average temperature of the earth was below the monthly average.

**Gloria Dei Renovation Update**

The Renovation Committee is recommending a three-phase plan for the Hillside Room Renovation. We gathered feedback from the congregation and hired a mechanical/electrical/plumbing/engineering consultant to provide us with an assessment of our existing systems. Subsequently we hired a professional architect to assist us with schematic cost estimates for building construction. With this additional information our committee reflected on priorities in regard to key focal points of Gloria Dei's mission: "Striving to be inclusive in serving the community". We measured the financial implications of the project and created a plan to accomplish our renovation goals within realistic budget expectations.

Phase 1 includes new front's entry steps, waterproofing the north wall, building a Hillside Room addition, and relocating the toilet rooms into that addition. Phase 2A includes the kitchen remodeling along with equipment upgrades. Phase 2B involves the remodeling of the Hillside Room.

We will be recommending this renovation plan to the Council and congregation and initiating a subcommittee to address the funding of this project. Sue Anderson has volunteered to chair this fundraising committee.

You will be receiving a letter from Pastor David that provides a more detailed summary of the plan including a floor plan and cost estimates. Please keep our project in your prayers. Feel free to ask questions of me or any of the renovation committee members: Brett Amundson, Gary Olson, Terri Erickson, Carol Kelley, Carol Uecker, Bob Hewitt, Sue Anderson, John McDonald, and Karen Kjolhaug.

Respectfully, Ryan Jagim, Chair, Gloria Dei Renovation Committee
218-464-0675 email: rdjagim@gmail.com

STEWARDSHIP

PLEDGE CARDS As of Consecration Sunday (Nov 15) we received 38 Commitment cards totaling \$117,452. THANK YOU to those who turned theirs in, we are off to a great start! If you have not yet turned yours in please do so. Your commitment is very important in planning our budget for 2016. If you have and questions, please contact Kathy Wimer at 727-1987. Additional cards are available in the foyer. Thank you for remembering God's mission through the ministry of Gloria Dei.



FINANCE REPORT THRU OCT 2015

Needed per month \$16,833; per week \$3,885

Envelope Offerings:

Budget, 10 months	\$168,333
Actual, 10 months	\$179,046 106%
Difference, <i>ahead</i>	\$ 10,713

Our regular offering is a sign of worship and thanksgiving for all that God has done and continues to do. In our offering, we return to God a portion of what God has so graciously entrusted to us. THANK YOU for remembering your offering as a regular part of your worship!

STEWARDSHIP PRAYER FOR ADVENT/CHRISTMAS

From heaven unto earth you come to bear good news to everyone, O God! Open our hearts and minds to receive all over again the assurance of your presence among us. In the newborn Child, may we find newly born in our lives the gift of generosity—the love that frees us to live and give beyond cost and calculation. Make of our money the gold and frankincense of those who, like the wise men of old, are “overwhelmed with joy,” in the spirit of Christ. Amen. - Moravian Book of Worship

SIMPLY GIVING - An increasing number of people at Gloria Dei are using Simply Giving, an automatic withdrawal process operated through Thrivent Financial. This process allows one to designate an offering amount and a schedule for giving automatically. Forms for Simply Giving are available through the church office—722-3381.



RECIPE FOR FALL (WELCA) FAIR SUCCESS! - Prepare Hillside, Lakeside, and Community rooms. Pre-heat Saturday Nov 14 to 35-50 degrees above zero! Mix Gloria Dei volunteers, interesting crafts and donations, delicious food, and lots of visitors. Combine well and serve from 9:00-1:00. Delightful! Thanks for everyone's help with the Fall Fair, which raised over \$1900 for WELCA ministries. Your energy, smiles & spirit were key ingredients! - Karen Kjolhaug, for WELCA

SANTA LUCIA, Dec 13 - After worship join us downstairs during coffee hour for the telling of Santa Lucia by Daphne Amundson. All children are invited to participate too, with costumes, singing, and distributing treats. Though little is known about her, she is remembered as someone who devoted her life to God and her possessions to the poor. Her celebration became particularly important in Sweden and Norway, perhaps because the feast of Lucia (the name means “light”) originally fell on the shortest day of the year. A tradition arose of a girl in the household, wearing a crown of candles, bringing saffron rolls to her family early in the morning on the day of Lucia.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM, Dec 20 – The Sunday School again recreates the nativity story during the worship hour on December 20. Please note: there will also be a rehearsal for the Christmas Program on Saturday morning, December 19, at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. Many thanks to Sunday School leaders for arranging this special service again this year—all children invited to participate!

ONE BREAD, Dec 20 - Thanks to One Bread, our worship band, for accompanying worship once a month. The next Sunday planned is Dec 20 with the Setting 7 liturgy in the ELW. Other Sundays, the liturgy will be accompanied with organ, piano, and choir. We thank God for the gifts of all musicians at Gloria Dei!

CHUM CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL, Dec 24 – 12:00 noon at City Hall steps, prayer for the homeless.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP, Dec 24

5:00 p.m. worship with Holy Communion and Candlelight

10:00 p.m. worship (prelude starts at 9:45) with Holy Communion and Candlelight. This late service is broadcast live from 10:00-11:00 p.m. and rebroadcast 12/25 at 10:00 a.m. on WDSM Radio 710 AM.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS & POINSETTIAS - (See the insert in this month's Dei by Day on page 14. Tear out, fill in and drop it in the collection plate with your offering or mail it into the church office by the deadline.

MANY THANKS to Bishop Tom Aitken, who is leading worship on December 27, when Pastor Carlson is on vacation. A member of Gloria Dei, Tom has served as Bishop of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod since 2008.



MINISTRY OF DISCIPLESHIP

Nurture members in the Word of God so as to grow in faith and hope and love, to see daily life as the primary setting for the exercise of our Christian calling, and to use our gifts of the spirit for our life together and for our calling in the world.

INTERGENERATIONALSUNDAY SCHOOL, Dec 6 — “All God’s Critters!” Human beings aren’t God’s only concern but throughout scripture we find how animals share in God’s praise, accompany God’s people as part of the web of creation, and even provide lessons about faith! Join us once a month for singing, bible dramas, crafts and conversations across the generations that will focus on God’s creatures, great and small. See you there!

GOD’S GLOBAL BARNYARD - Coffee Hour, Dec 6 - An animal can make a world of difference for a family in need. Animals provide food to eat, fertilizer to grow crops, and offspring to sell on the market. With one gift you can help a family escape the cycle of hunger and poverty for good. This year’s Sunday School offering focus is God’s Global Barnyard through ELCA Good Gifts, going with the theme of our Intergenerational Sunday School. The kids already have a good start toward their goal of \$715 by the end of May; learn more about it at the coffee hour on Dec 6!



YOUTH CONFIRMATION CLASS Dec 5 & 19 - In addition to regular worship, our confirmation class will be focusing on the biblical story of God and God’s people. *We meet every other Saturday from 9:00-10:30 a.m.—this month Dec 5 and 19. All families with students in grades 7 & up are welcome—please speak to Pastor Dave.*

ADULT FAITH FORUM – All are welcome to join us at 8:45 in the Hillside Room before worship.

Dec 6 - Intergenerational Sunday School - All God’s Critters!

Dec 13, 20 - Christian & Muslim Interfaith dialogue using the resource from Lutheran Social Services: “My Neighbor is a Muslim,” written by Lutheran college and seminary professors, with input from practicing Muslims. Copies of the 60-page document available, with a suggested donation of \$2.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL OR ADULT FORUM PLANNED DEC 27

RELIGION AND SCIENCE IN DIALOGUE, Dec 23 - 8 a.m. at Valentin-i’s (London Rd). Through the College of St. Scholastica, Pastor Carlson facilitates a monthly discussion group in the community on the topic of

QUILT CARDS FOR SALE

The WELCA quilt made this year by congregations in the Lake Superior Conference was photographed to create beautiful note cards that can be purchased at the Fair Trade Table during coffee hour. Proceeds from the sale of these cards will go to the PV for Phoebe project.



EVANGELISM - WITNESS

1) Proclaim God’s saving Gospel of justification by grace for Christ’s sake through faith alone, according to the apostolic witness in the Holy Scripture, preserving and transmitting the Gospel faithfully to future generations. 2) Carry out Christ’s Great Commission by reaching out to all people to bring them to faith in Christ and by doing all ministry with a global awareness consistent with the understanding of God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of all.

THANK YOU RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORS

It takes \$1000 per month to fund our ongoing Radio Ministry. As of October 31, Radio Ministry has received \$8350, which is \$1650 behind our budget needs. Thanks to all who sponsor broadcasts and give regularly throughout the year. Gifts of \$230 to sponsor a Sunday or in any amount continue to make this an important outreach.

WORSHIP WITH THE RADIO OR STREAMING LIVE ON THE INTERNET

+ Live Radio Broadcast Sundays 10:00 a.m. on AM 710 - WDSM Radio
+ Listen live using Windows Media Player - download Windows Media Player for best software interface with the audio stream.

+ Directions at: <http://www.gloriadeiduluth.org/worship/liveaudio.html>

HEAR IT AGAIN, OR FOR THE FIRST TIME?

Gloria Dei’s Radio Ministry has copies of all worship services and speakers in the sanctuary over the years, including those who have recently been special guests: Prof. Barbara Rossing in October at the Eco-Reformation event and Pastor Heidi Neumark from Trinity Lutheran in Manhattan. To order a CD from the Radio Ministry, complete a request form, located on the door of the Secretary’s office.

GOT AN EXTRA RADIO? - If you have an extra radio laying around—that the AM works on it, we have a handful of homebound members who want to listen each Sunday to the live broadcast but their radios are no longer functioning.

VOLUNTEER TAX PREPARERS. Once again Gloria Dei will be hosting one of the free tax preparation sites in Duluth. We will be one of the sites under the CHUM umbrella. We could use an additional tax preparer. AARP offers training and this usually involves a day in December and one or two days in January. If you can help or want more information, contact Tom Uecker 525-4173.



RUBY'S PANTRY, Dec 17 - For \$20.00 those purchasing a share will receive approximately two large boxes of food. Cash only, no checks or EBT cards will be accepted. There is no "typical" food order and contents of a share vary depending upon what food is available to Ruby's Pantry at the time. You will need to bring your own boxes (laundry baskets work very well). There are no income guidelines. The Pantry operates the third Thursday of every month with distribution from 5:30-7:00 pm. We depend upon volunteers to help with the distribution process. If you are interested in volunteering or have questions, please call First Methodist Church at 727-5021 or talk with Sue Anderson.



NEIGHBORHOOD BREAKFAST, Dec 26—All are welcome to join us for our free fourth Saturday Neighborhood Breakfast on Saturday Nov 28 from 9:00-10:30 a.m. in the Hillside Room.



FALL CHURCH CLEAN UP - is scheduled for Saturday December 5 from 9 a.m. - noon. Come join Paul Steklenski and Linda Kalweit in doing a few fall clean up chores. Lunch will be served.

YOUR GENEROUS GIVING IS A WAY OF THANKING GOD

As we go into the festive Christmas season we remember those who will not have some of the things that go along with these special days. We can help by providing gifts which will make for some happier times for some of these folks.

- **CHUM** Gifts that help keep us warm -- warm hats, mittens, scarves, white sport socks, and sweaters. Warm jackets in good wearing condition are also welcome. Always needed are soaps, lotions, tooth paste, tooth brushes, shampoo, combs, towels, and wash clothes. Also, your monetary gifts are always welcome and can be put in the collection plate with CHUM indicated on the memo line of the check or on the envelope.
- **LSS** will be having a diaper drive during December. Especially needed are sizes 4, 5, and 6. Other sizes welcome, also. The goal is 40,000 diapers.

Boxes for these items will be in the Hillside Room during the month of December.

Religion and Science. The group is lively and engaging and connects our readings with current events and daily life. Newcomers are welcome! This month, we're reading through page 191 of *The Sixth Extinction* by Elizabeth Kolbert (2014).

DAILY TEXTS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE- Each 2016 paperback book costs \$6.50 and would make a great Christmas gift (checks payable to Gloria Dei). Available from Donna to purchase today – call the office or see her on Sundays.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE - are available at a discounted rate through the church office. \$11.00 per year. Renewals are due by Jan 1. If you are interested in receiving a subscription or renewing a subscription, please call the church office at 722-3381.

FELLOWSHIP— "KOINONIA"

Manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives.

THANK YOU - Thank you for helping us to celebrate our 18th wedding anniversary on November 8, and also for the great cards. Joan & Wayne McCall

GLORIA DEI QUILTERS - will meet on Tuesday Dec 1 at 6:30 p.m. in the Lakeside Room. New comers are welcome. No sewing experience necessary. For questions, call Marianne Kjolhaug at 722-1493.



SWEDISH CULTURAL SOCIETY will be celebrating Sankta Lucia on Saturday Dec. 12 at 9:00 a.m. in the Great lakes Ballroom of the Holiday Inn in downtown Duluth. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children 5 to 12 years of age. Call Nancy Lahti (727-4416) for tickets.

WELCOMING MINISTRIES meets the first Thursday each month at 6:30 in the Youth Room. Next meeting will be Thurs December 3.

BOOK CLUB usually meets on the third Monday of most months at 10:00 a.m. in the Community Room. Upcoming reads: (No meeting in December) Jan.17, 2016 - *I Am Malala* by Malala Yousapzei. Feb.21 - *All the Light You Cannot See* by Doerr. All are welcome to our Book Club meetings!

LGBT ELDERS - meets the 4th Saturday each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Lakeside Room. This group gathers for support and fellowship and

plans to meet on a regular basis as part of Gloria Dei's Welcoming Ministries. For more information, please contact Kathleen Gates gatespea@centurylink.net or 624-4589.

PHOTO MAGNETS If you are a fan of Will Stenberg's greeting cards, then this is the next step for you. Will's photo images are now on magnets (about 2x3 inches). There are several images that sell for \$3.00 each at the coffee kiosk. Proceeds from these will go to the renovation fund.

WELCOMING MINISTRIES OF GLORIA DEI

by Sue Anderson

Welcoming Ministries provides affirmation and support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) persons and allies both in our church family and in the community. We work together with RIC (Reconciling in Christ) and ReconcilingWorks (formerly Lutherans Concerned) efforts within the congregation and Lutheran community. Welcoming Ministries helps organize Gloria Dei's annual RIC Sunday and serves as a resource for other congregations and individuals. We meet one Sunday a month following worship. All supportive people are invited to join us.

Gloria Dei has been an officially welcoming and affirming congregation since the 1990s. Within the Lutheran community, it was the first RIC congregation in the Northeastern Minnesota Synod, welcoming LGBTQ persons into all aspects of ministry and leadership, and establishing a chapter for Lutherans Concerned North America (now called ReconcilingWorks). Welcoming Ministries also provides meeting space for supportive groups and works with other inclusive efforts in the community.

LSS Together for Youth, a support group for LGBTQ teens ages 14-20, meets weekly at Gloria Dei, and Northland LGBT Elders meets monthly at Gloria Dei. The Gay Men's Center has had an office at Gloria Dei for the past 18 months.

We are currently entering into a partnership with the Northland LGBT Elders and the Northland Gay Men's Center to establish the Northland LGBT Resource Center here at Gloria Dei. We will keep you updated as those plans evolve.

Even now with the changes in marriage laws and inclusive policy changes within the ELCA, there is still a need to educate and advocate on behalf of LGBT people within the church and in the broader community. Gloria Dei's Welcoming Ministries will continue to be a resource to other congregations, promote inclusive policies within ELCA, and serve as ambassadors to the LGBT community.

MINISTRY OF SERVICE

Purpose: Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, and standing with the poor and the powerless and committing to their needs.

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT - Patti Maguire

Thanksgiving seems to sneak up on me each year. As I write this, I realize how much we have to be thankful for: our faith, our homes, our families and friends.

We are blessed with a great pastor and a congregation that reaches out in Christ's love to serve our neighbors. I'm especially thankful for the Health Cabinet and the Care Team that share Gloria Dei's health ministry with me.

On the 4th of November we worshiped and shared communion with our friends at King Manor. Saturday, Nov 7th, Kristin Parendo from Legal Aid and the Pastor helped us "Plan Ahead" for the next leg of our lives. Contact me if you want copies of Kristin's packet or the funeral planning guide. I attended the monthly Parish Nurse meeting on the 12th to learn how to help seniors live well at home. On November 19th Essentia Health's Hospice team presented an excellent workshop entitled *"Meeting in Thin Places: Spiritual Friends and Companions on the Dementia Road"* with Dr. Susan and Pastor John McFadden. Some of Care Team members attended with me.

December 6th Pastor Carlson will be preaching at St Ann's at 3 pm and on the 15th the Health Cabinet will bring treats to St Ann's fellowship. All are welcome to join us. During the month, the Pastor and I, along with the Care Team, will be visiting and bringing communion to those who don't get to church often. If you or a loved one would like a special visit, call me. Also please let us know of any hospitalizations or health concerns so that we can see you.

November brings us to the brink of winter and the end of our church year. As we begin to plan for all the Christmas activities, I urge you to take time during Advent to prepare your hearts for the miracle of God coming to us in the baby Jesus. Rather than rush around worrying about shopping, food preparations and decorations, please slow down, listen to some carols, and thank God for the blessings of the season.

December 3rd is a FREE fall prevention workshop at Essentia Health at 4:00 in the 2nd floor Auditorium. This is geared for anyone who might have some balance issues or is concerned about falling. No reservations required. See Patti for more information.

