

Gloria Dei Tidings

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Encourage

Dear Siblings in Christ,

I am struggling to have an Advent mindset this year. This season has always been particularly meaningful to me. Maybe it is because blue is my favorite color. Maybe because of the weekly lighting of candles. Perhaps because a major theme of the season is hope.

The way our liturgical calendar is lining up with the annual calendar seems to be pushing and cramming the seasons together with little breathing room in between. Not to mention, Christmas appeared on the shelves in stores the week of Halloween. And now that Thanksgiving is behind us, all things Christmas are moving full speed ahead. It gets me all stirred up just thinking about it. I need some room to take an advent breath.



“Stirred up”... did you ever notice “stirred up” can describe anxiety and overwhelm or also describe expectation and hope. I guess it all depends on what you are anticipating. One could be “stirred up” into fight or flight mode. Or one could be “stirred up” with joy and purpose. One more thing about being stirred...being stirred can also describe being awakened. In Advent scriptures, there is a theme of being awake, ready, prepared, and keeping watch. Being stirred up in Advent is the anticipation of the coming of Christ. We both celebrate his birth and hope in his promise of his return.

On each Sunday in Advent, the Prayer of the Day starts with the words “stir up”. We are praying for and trusting in God to take action and come to us, to be present in our lives and in our world. These are bold prayers. We pray for them and should expect that God will also stir us to engage our community and world. To share the Advent story of hope, peace, joy and love and all the challenges and changes that come with it.

Here are those prayers:

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection, awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

I invite you to pray and reflect on them beyond each Sunday morning. In what ways will the Advent of Christ stir your joy and inspire your purpose? Let us wait and see.

Your sister in Christ, stirred up and anticipating the hope, peace, joy and love of Jesus.

Pastor Trish

Worship

- ◆ Join us in person and on Facebook Live each Sunday, including Christmas Eve, at 9 am
- ◆ Watch on YouTube - posted by 11 am each Sunday (GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH (gloriadeicr.com))
- ◆ Worship on Wednesdays during Advent at 7 pm
- ◆ **Christmas Eve Services will be held at 5 pm and 7 pm (only the 5 pm will be live streamed)**

An Advent Message: THE LIGHT OF grace

Worship With Us

Wednesdays at 7 pm on the 6th, 13th, and 20th
Sundays at 9 am on the 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th

In this worship series for Advent, issued in honor of the 250th anniversary of the hymn “Amazing Grace,” we celebrate that Jesus is the Light of the World who shines on us with his amazing grace. Through Scripture, song and reflections, we are reminded that Jesus makes his grace known through the undeserved gifts of hope, peace, joy and love—gifts revealed in special ways in the lives of Zechariah, Isaiah, Elizabeth and Mary.

A “**The Light of grace**” daily devotional for the season of Advent has been placed in mailboxes and/or mailed to members’ homes. We hope you take a few minutes to enjoy the daily messages and reflect on their meaning.

Week 1 • The LIGHT of hope: Zechariah (Psalm 39:7): In his old age, after years of waiting and not giving up hope, Zechariah is blessed with a son, John the Baptist, who prepared the way for the Light of Grace, Jesus.

Week 2 • The LIGHT of peace: Isaiah (Isaiah 9:6): Isaiah announces to an unsettled people that relief is coming soon through the Prince of Peace, the Son of God, the Light of Grace.

Week 3 • The LIGHT of joy: Elizabeth (Philippians 4:4): The boy in Elizabeth’s womb leaps for joy and so does she when Mary arrives, carrying the little Lord Jesus inside her. The Light of Grace is soon to come.

Week 4 • The LIGHT of love: Mary (Isaiah 54:10): The mother of the Light of Grace sings a love song to the Lord for his undeserved favor toward her and toward all the world.



The choir performed on All Saints Sunday singing “**Peace be With You**”

Join us on December 3rd to hear the these beautiful voices sing

“**Is Your Heart Prepared For A King**” and
“**O Come O Come Emmanuel**”

Pray

O God, it is your will to hold both heaven and earth in a single peace. Let the design of your great love shine on the waste of our wraths and sorrows, and give peace to your church, peace among nations, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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Advent Dinner

Advent Dinner & Sing-along

Join us for a delicious pork loin dinner prepared by Gary and Janet Runyan on **Monday, December 4** at 6 p.m. The sing-along will be accompanied by Pastor Jayne Thompson, Coe College Chaplain, on her guitar at 7:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited for fellowship and dinner. Tickets are \$13 each and are available by calling Karen Goedken.

December Calendar

Sunday, Dec. 3	9:00 am - Worship (1st Sunday of Advent) 10:15 am - Others First Breakfast
Monday, Dec. 4	6:00 pm - Advent Dinner 7:00 pm - Sing-along; Everyone is welcome
Tuesday, Dec 5	9:00 am - Quilting Group
Wednesday, Dec. 6	6:00 pm - Confirmation Class 7:00 pm - Advent Worship
Thursday, Dec. 7	7:00 am - Women's Study
Sunday, Dec. 10	9:00 am - Worship (2nd Sunday of Advent) 10:15 am - GiFT - Cookie Exchange & Delivering cookies to the homebound
Wednesday, Dec. 13	5:00 pm - Pizza before Christmas rehearsal 5:30 pm - Christmas Program Rehearsal 6:00 pm - Confirmation Class 7:00 pm - Advent Worship
Thursday, Dec. 14	7:00 am - Women's Study 2:30 pm - Christmas Tea Everyone is welcome 6:30 pm - Council Meeting
Saturday, Dec. 16	9:00 am - Christmas Program Practice
Sunday, Dec. 17	9:00 am - Worship (3rd Sunday of Advent) Christmas Program
Wednesday, Dec. 20	6:00 pm - Confirmation Class 7:00 pm - Advent Worship
Thursday, Dec. 21	7:00 am - Women's Study
Sunday, Dec. 24	9:00 am - Worship (4th Sunday of Advent) 5:00 pm & 7:00 pm - Christmas Eve Worship (only the 5 pm will be livestreamed)
Monday, Dec. 25	Christmas Day - Church Office Closed
Tuesday, Dec. 26	Church Office Closed for the Holiday
Thursday, Dec. 28	7:00 am - Women's Study 9:00 am - Young at Heart, Tiffany Jo's 2727 6th St SW
Sunday, Dec. 31	9:00 am - Worship (First Sunday of Christmas) New Years Eve

A Special Young at Heart Monthly Event for January

On the 4th Thursday of each month we older Gloria Dei members have met for breakfast or lunch and some socialization. On January 25th, 2024 we are set to meet at Greenwood Terrace, part of the Meth-Wick Community. During our gathering we will be able to purchase a meal and a representative of Meth-Wick will speak to us about what needs to be considered when and if the time for a move to senior living needs consideration.

The Bowens are residents of Greenwood and will serve as hosts on the 25th. It is important that you let them know either by phone at 319-396-4352 or email at notsofast1938@gmail.com if interested in attending. Final plans will be made after the first of the year but is important to know about how many might like to attend.

Carol and I know personally that it is never an easy decision for such a move but one that needs thoughtful consideration and we hope this will be helpful for you. - **Larry Bowen**

Study

December 3

- ◇ Isaiah 64:1-9
- ◇ Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
- ◇ 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
- ◇ Matthew 13:24-37

December 10

- ◇ Isaiah 40:1-11
- ◇ Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
- ◇ 2 Peter 3:8-15a
- ◇ Mark 1:1-8

December 17

- ◇ Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
- ◇ Psalm 126
- ◇ 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
- ◇ John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 24

- ◇ 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
- ◇ Luke 1:46b-55
- ◇ Romans 16:25-27
- ◇ Luke 1:26-38

December 24

(Christmas Eve Service)

- ◇ Isaiah 9:2-7
- ◇ Psalm 96
- ◇ Titus 2:11-14
- ◇ Luke 2:1-14[15-20]

December 25

(Christmas Day)

- ◇ Isaiah 52:7-10
- ◇ Psalm 98
- ◇ Hebrews 1:1-4[5-12]
- ◇ John 1:1-14

December 31

(New Years Eve)

- ◇ Isaiah 61:10--62:3
- ◇ Psalm 148
- ◇ Galatians 4:4-7
- ◇ Luke 2:22-40

Give and Donate

HOLIDAY QUILT SALE

Quilters will display their quilts on **Sunday, December 10th**, and other items following worship. Quilts will be available for sale if you are interested in purchasing a baby or lap quilt for someone special. Funds from these purchases will go towards buying batting and other supplies for World Relief Quilts. Donations are also accepted.

**Please give a warm welcome to our newest team member
Coralie Vail!**

Welcome to THE TEAM



Coralie Vail

Gloria Dei's
Director of Faith and
Community Engagement

Coralie grew up in Cedar Rapids and attended Gloria Dei with her grandparents, Charles and Mabel Keller, from childhood through confirmation. She received her bachelor's degree in communications/public relations from Mount Mercy and, just this year, a bachelor's degree in early childhood education from Northwestern College.

While in school these last few years, Coralie kept telling herself she would do more with the church when she graduated. She believed she could make a more significant impact by volunteering in youth programs and helping those in need. After receiving a second BA, she spoke with Pastor Trish about changing careers. Pastor Trish casually mentioned that the team was looking for a **Director of Faith and Community Engagement** and felt Coralie would be a great fit. Coralie believed that this was God's guidance, leading her to be most useful in doing the Lord's work.

She is very excited about this opportunity and looks forward to working with the congregation and committees to bring the workings of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church into the community.

Volunteer

Meals On Wheels Looking for Volunteers

The Meals on Wheels program at Horizons in Cedar Rapids is looking for more volunteers. When the weather turns colder, more volunteers are going to be needed to get hot meals to people who may not be able to leave their homes. The cold weather doesn't stop the Meals on Wheels volunteers from getting to their clients, but if they don't have enough volunteers to fill their routes completely, meals may be delayed. Delivering meals takes about 45 minutes to an hour to complete. For more information on becoming a Meals on Wheels volunteer for the winter, contact Coralie Vail at 319-396-2641.

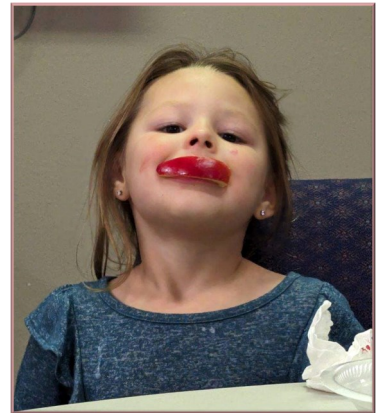
**Meals
on
Wheels**
A PROGRAM OF Horizons

Youth News

November was a BLaST for our young people at Gloria Dei.



Boden, Brantley and many others enjoyed mashed potatoes, turkey-sandwiches and treats at the Thanksgiving dinner.



Apple slice SMILE



Decorating clothes pins for the Thankful wreath.



Abby and Zach are ready for turkey bowling fun!



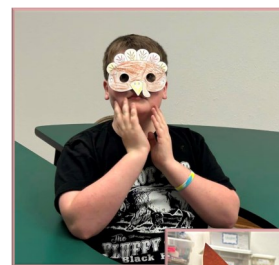
Friends decorating turkey masks .



Cooper's fantastic turkey puppet.



Thankful wreath - Everyone colored a clothes pin and wrote what they are thankful for to create this beautiful wreath that is displayed on the Get Connected Wall.



Lance and Colsen showing off their decorated turkey masks.

BLaST off in the new year:

Wednesday, January 10 at 5:30 pm - Sloppy joe supper followed by bible lessons and flash light games at 6:00 pm
Sunday, January 14 at 10:15 AM - Epiphany

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

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Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

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Invite

Gloria Dei Tidings
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
153 Cherry Hill Rd NW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405
(319) 396-2641

Send correspondence to:
pastorish@gloriadeicr.com
office@gloriadeicr.com

www.gloriadeicr.com

Please remember to check
your mailbox in the church
fellowship hall.

And like us on Facebook!

Young at Heart, Gloria Dei's fellowship group for anyone over age 55, enjoys getting together monthly for breakfast or lunch. The group meets next on **Thursday, December 28 at 9 am at Tiffy Jo's**, 2727 6th St SW, CR



Christmas Tea

You are invited to a **Christmas Tea** on **Thursday, December 14th at 2:30 pm**. Come and celebrate those who served on Altar Guild this past year. They are a faithful and dependable crew who prepare the communion table and set the scene for worship throughout the church seasons. All are welcome.