

WORSHIP LEADERS - JANUARY

*He came down that we may have love,
he came down that we may have love,
he came down that we may have love,
hallelujah forevermore. - ELW 253*

From the Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

God comes down. That's the gospel of grace we celebrate at Christmas and Epiphany, grace revealed in Jesus' birth and eye-opening ministry in word and compassionate deed. Because of the incarnation, we don't need to climb up to God with our own merits but instead God comes to us, as a child, humble and able to reach us in our own vulnerability. *God comes down.*

Scholar Kelly Fryer reminds us this is also at the heart of our Lutheran theology. In *Reclaiming the "L" Word*, she writes about an "aha" epiphany during her first year of seminary when a visiting professor took a piece of chalk...*drew a gigantic ARROW, pointing straight down, stood back, and said: "If you understand that, you understand everything you need to know about what it means to be a Christian...who also happens to be a Lutheran."* And then he left the room.... *The next time we gathered for class, he began by drawing the same arrow on the board. This time, as he began to speak, he had our full attention. "Here's what this means," he said. "God always comes down. God always comes down. There is never anything that we can ever do to turn that arrow around and make our way UP to God. God came down in Jesus. And God still comes down, in the bread and in the wine, in the water and in the fellowship of believers. God ALWAYS comes down" (p. 30).*

How appropriate that it was *Gloria Dei's children* who led us in singing this hymn from Cameroon at the Christmas program: "He came down that we may have love... light... peace... joy." Retelling the Christmas Gospel in word and song, they reminded us how *God takes the initiative* coming to us in Jesus, crossing barriers, and becoming accessible to all. Not only as our teacher and our savior who goes to the cross, but also coming into the world as a child – as a homeless child – *Jesus brings God's presence to the lowliest of places*, affirming that there is no part of this life that is unknown to God. As Gregory of Nazianzus, a 4th century bishop of the church, put it in one of his letters: "*What [Christ] has not assumed has not been redeemed.*"

When children come forward for Holy Communion or for a blessing, I try to get to their *same level*, so we are face to face. I see this also in our ministry of service and justice, which must be more than a handout or a hand

	January 5	January 12	January 19	January 26
Organist	Stan Wold	Band Sunday		
Assisting Minister	Cassie Borges	Nick Rogers	Patti Maguire	Lexie Cieluch
Sound Technician	Steve D. & Scott R.	Doug M. & Scott R.	Steve D. & Scott R.	Steve D. & Scott R.
Reader	Joan Gunderson	Cassie Borges	Lubov Willms	Alice Lahti
Acolytes	Deonta Lew & Christian Leight	Joey Peterson & Raine Amundson	Esmeralda Lew & Katie Carlson	Martha Carlson & Noah Winesett
Ushers	Alison & Duane Stucke	Barb Renick & Kathy Wimer	Rick & Marcia Troy	Corrine Helmen & Mary Gagnon
Nursery Attendants	Self Serve	Sue Pass	Cara Weberg	Stephanie Carlson
Counters	Lubov Willms & Janine Dahlquist	Rod Dahlquist & David Gangeness	Bob Forbort & Sharon Stenberg	Barb Renick & Joan Gunderson
Coffee Servers	Nancy Gangeness	Tommas Velez	Judy & Roger Oman	Church Council

ALTAR GUILD for the Month of January is Pearl Johnson, Elaine Wickstrom & Pearl Johnson - flowers

COMMUNION ASSISTANT for the month of January is

up and rather a meeting of human beings with *equal dignity*, human beings with a shared future. It is also part of how the ELCA describes Global Mission, in terms of “*accompaniment*,” not simply doing something “for” someone else, but walking together “with” each other in faith. The relationship is not one-sided but *reciprocal*; there is mutual learning, giving, and receiving, recognizing that our creative and redeeming God is at work in the lives of each person we encounter.

Reflect on those relationships as you gather with others at Gloria Dei or in the community – How has God “come down” in your life to meet you where you are? How is God accompanying you on your journey of faith through Gloria Dei, and how can we accompany each other and the community?

Specific opportunities this month speak to such reciprocal relationships of accompaniment at Gloria Dei:

+ January 5 we will observe Epiphany, and celebrate the Christ who is revealed and worshiped in many cultures, as represented by the magi.
 + January 12 Lee Stuart, the Executive Director of CHUM, will be our guest preacher and lead us in conversation at adult forum about the face-to-face work we do together as CHUM to address poverty, hunger, and homelessness in our area.

+ January 26 is RIC Sunday, “Reconciling in Christ” Sunday, and Nicole Garcia, a transgender person on the board of Reconciling Works (formerly Lutherans Concerned) will be our guest preacher and adult forum leader as we lift up God’s inclusive love and empowerment of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

Our Annual Meeting, also January 26, is a gathering up and celebration of how God has faithfully accompanied us in ministry this past year and is equipping us for the time ahead. Building relationships across barriers and meeting us where we are, the Holy Spirit empowers us to participate in God’s self-giving love for the world. As Gregory of Nazianzus encourages: “*Let us seek to be like Christ, because Christ also became like us.*”

My family and I also wish to THANK YOU for the blessing you are to us at Gloria Dei, for your thoughtful cards, gifts, and friendship in ministry. We thank God for the privilege of serving Christ with you and pray God’s blessing upon our ministry together this New Year!

See you in worship!
 + Pastor David Carlson

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK
 JANUARY 26, 2014**

The Annual Report will be available in the office in mid January, and will include reports from committees and ministries, as well as the 2014 Budget. Finished reports will be ready to pick up a week or more before the meeting, which will convene at 10:00 a.m. January 26, and resume after worship. Please read and bring your reports to the meeting.

FINANCE REPORT JAN-NOV 2013

Needed per month \$16,333
per week \$3,769
 Envelope Offerings
 Budget, 11 months \$179,667
 Actual, 11 months \$172,257
 Difference, *behind* (\$7,410)

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.

LIFE’S LANDMARKS

Baptism

Lexi Erin Rose Baker - December 22
 Maya Chereen Rose Smith - December 22

Marriage

Kathleen Gates & Katherine Speare - December 7

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 ~ Per Amundson	19 ~ Samantha Lufholm
4 ~ Charles Ralph	19 ~ Tim Raun
5 ~ Tom Aitken	24 ~ Kylie Dalager
5 ~ Paul Steklenski	25 ~ Amber Olson
8 ~ Conrad Nelson	25 ~ Oscar Velez-Crane
11 ~ Sandi Johnson	27 ~ Brandon Dahlquist
11 ~ Gary Olson	29 ~ Mryna Matheson
14 ~ Lloyd Curtis	29 ~ Tom Uecker
14 ~ Paul Uecker	29 ~ Samuel Winesett
17 ~ Amanda Switzer	30 ~ Marian Denno
18 ~ Nathan Winesett	30 ~ Jean Starkey

RADIO MINISTRY SINCE 1942 - BECOME A SUPPORTER

- Worship with us on Sunday morning at 10:00.
- If you can't attend in person, listen to the live broadcast on AM 710 - WDSM Radio.
- Make a difference in our community by supporting Gloria Dei's Radio Ministry through your regular gifts, or as a special gift in memory or in honor of someone to recognize an event.
- Each Sunday broadcast costs \$230.
- Call the church office at 218-722-3381 to sponsor a Sunday and support the spread of the Gospel!

WORSHIP STREAMING LIVE ON THE INTERNET

1. Listen live using Windows Media Player: Download Windows Media Player for best software interface with the audio stream.
2. After opening up the media player, type CTRL U (Hold down CTRL key, then press U key) which will open a new window asking for "URL."
3. To play live audio stream, copy and paste the following into the URL window: <http://24.158.26.190:17543>.

Note: you will only hear the live audio while the service is being broadcast, so if you are early just wait a few more minutes and try again.

A WORD FROM THE INGRIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH OF RUSSIA

Dear Stephanie, David .. and all the members of the congregations,

Today we received into our account the \$1500 [from Gloria Dei and other churches in the N.E. MN Synod]. A huge thank you to all of you, both for your prayers and for the offerings you collect for us. May God grant you multiplied blessings!

Pastor Vladimir Nikolaevich will write to you himself. I just write as the bookkeeper and as a member. Artyom works for us here; we have loaded him with an increase of work needed in the congregation. From your offerings we pay his salary and send in taxes on his behalf, so that when he is old, he can collect a pension. Now he has taken participants to Birk for a Marii seminar, and he is helping to move the Deanery's Parish School from Birk to Kazan. So work for him has increased, praise God!

At the end of December the project "Room to spend the day" with the free lunches will be ending. I will send you an accounting of it and for the camp "Grandmothers, grandfathers, grandchildren," which we were able to conduct thanks to the Lord and to you! We have a lot of work now -- we are preparing for Christmas, and there is a lot of accounting work to be done, and we are planning for 2014. Thank you, that we will be able to conduct the camp for grandparents and grandchildren again!

Thanks again to you all! Blessings and health to the girls! May the Lord keep you all!! We have winter here, too, but it is only -10 Celcius, while you in Minnesota ----- a real Siberia!

Go with God, Svetlana Zagainova, Yoshkar-Ola parish, Mari El

JANUARY LESSONS

January 5, 2014 EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Epiphany means "manifestation." On this day we celebrate the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles—that is, to all nations. Some Christian traditions celebrate three great epiphanies on this day: the magi's adoration of the Christ child, Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River, and his first miracle in which he changes water into wine. The word and sacraments are for us the great epiphany of God's grace and mercy. We go forth to witness to the light that shines brightly in our midst

January 12, 2014 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 29, Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-17

January 19, 2014 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Today's gospel opens with further reflection on Jesus' baptism. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and the one anointed by the Spirit. In the liturgy we come and see Christ revealed among us in word and meal. We go forth to invite others to come and worship the Holy One, and to receive the gifts of grace and peace made known among us.

Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-11, 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42

January 26, 2014 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be "caught" in the net of God's grace and mercy.

Isaiah 9:1-4, Psalm 27:1, 4-9, 1 Corinthians 1:10-18, Matthew 4:12-23

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

CHRISTMAS GIFTS THANK YOU



Poinsettias on the Altar In Memory of:

~ From Per & Elaine Wickstrom

In memory of Charles Lufholm ~ from the Lufholm Family

In memory of Chet Brooks ~ from Rick & Marcia Troy

In memory of Harold A. Bakke ~ from Ruth Bakke

Building Renovation Fund

~From Eldora Recksiedler

In memory of Carl R. Wikblad ~ from Helen Wikblad

In honor of Teri Erickson ~ from Tom & Carol Uecker

CHUM

In memory of Chet Brooks ~ from Rick & Marcia Troy

ELCA World Hunger

In memory of Archie & Mary Wold ~ from Stan & Mona Wold

In memory of Peter & Mary Mobraten ~ from Stan & Mona Wold

Extra Gift For the General Fund

In memory of Edward Peterson ~ from Lil Peterson

In memory of Harold A. Bakke ~ from Ruth Bakke

In memory of the Renick & Swain Families ~ from Barbara Renick

Neighborhood Breakfasts

In Memory of Mrs. Helga Savolainen ~ from Mary & Michael Savolainen

In memory of Carl R. Wikblad ~ from Helen Wikblad

~ from Connie McGurk

Radio Ministry

In memory of Charles Lufholm ~ from the Lufholm Family

In memory of David Bockelman Yu-Hsuan McDonald and Wilfred C.

Bockelman ~ from Karen Bockelman & John McDonald

Transportation Fund

In honor of Per & Elaine Wickstrom ~ from Marjorie Nelson

In honor of Lois Hamlin ~ from Mona & Stan Wold

Ingrian Lutheran Church of Russia

In honor of our parents ~ from David & Stephanie Carlson

In memory of Kal Kalweit ~ from Paul Steklenski & Linda Kalweit



up surplus bakery items from Cub Foods and bring them to the Damiano Center by 9:30 a.m. Food is used for the soup kitchen that serves 300 meals daily. Please call Maria Alecia, Volunteer Coordinator, at 722-8708 x100.

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.

WHY IN GOD'S NAME DO WE HAVE TO DO SOCIAL MEDIA?

You are invited to this Synod Event, a day of exploration of the church and the use of Social Media in our ministries. When we say "social media" we are referring to electronic communication - websites, Facebook, twitter, linkedin, myspace, etc. How do we use them, what are healthy protocols and procedures, what are the best uses of which tools and how do we use them as tools for our ministry together for the sake of God's world? Presenter is Christine Halvorson, adjunct professor at Southern New Hampshire University and the University of New Hampshire, lifelong Lutheran and graduate of Augsburg College. Saturday, January 11, 2014 from 10:00-3:00 at Grace Lutheran Church, Hermantown. Cost of \$20 includes lunch. Limited to the first 200 registered. Registration form online at www.nemnsynod.org or see Pastor Carlson.



A NOTE ABOUT RECYCLING - Hartel's accepts plastics 1 thru 7. Our paper container accepts all paper and cardboard. For many years Gloria Dei recycled only office paper but recently I called Hartel's and they're happy to include cardboard. So please recycle and keep our church on a sustainable path. Thanks! Mr. Fixit



CREATION CARE—SYNOD RETREAT FEB 21-22, 2014 - Save the date for this overnight retreat at Camp Hiawatha, entitled, "The Next Reformation," for all people of faith who care about the earth. Cost for lodging and meals (supper, breakfast, lunch) is \$60; scholarship money is available. Topics will touch on worship (Season of Creation cycle A), education, and action. If interested in attending, registration forms are online at www.nemnsynod.org or see Pastor Carlson.

NEIGHBORHOOD BREAKFAST—JAN 25

HAPPY 8TH ANNIVERSARY! All are welcome to join us for our free fourth Saturday Neighborhood Breakfast on Saturday, January 25, from 9:00-10:30 a.m. in the Hillside Room. To help, please contact Carol Kelley 525-6098.



TAXES. Yes, tax season is approaching. Gloria Dei will again be hosting one of the free tax sites in Duluth. This year Gary Olson and Tom Uecker will be preparing taxes, and Carol Uecker will be greeting clients as they arrive. Church secretary Donna will be keeping the appointment list. We will begin around the beginning of February. Watch for postings—or call the church office, 722-3381.

SOAP SOAP SOAP It's that time again. WELCA is collecting soap to be sent to Lutheran World Relief this spring. You can donate new, wrapped bars of bath size soap and place in the boxes in the Narthex or Lakeside room. Thank you!

CHUM - You Can Help!

Street Outreach CHUM's outreach team, which works with people who are homeless and living on the streets, can use

2-man tents, tarps, sleeping bags, waterproof hats and gloves, warm winter socks, blankets, candles, chap-stick, long underwear, hand warmers and winter boots.

Supplies can be dropped off at CHUM, 102 West 2nd Street.

**Food Shelf**

The Food Shelf's greatest needs continue to be **peanut butter, tuna, plastic grocery bags, and chicken noodle soup.**

As folks move from homeless to housed we provide them **sheets** but our stocks are low.

Please help by donating new or clean used items.

Volunteers

Some of our most pressing volunteer needs include;

A Human Resources professional, a development office assistant, and a storage room organizer. If you can help weekly or monthly or as needed, contact **Ellen.**

THE DAMIANO CENTER NEEDS YOU! The Damiano Center is looking for volunteers for their Saturday morning bread runs. Drivers pick

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.

THANK YOU to all who worked so hard to make this Christmas season so meaningful.

- Once again, Sherry and Steve Dalager directed our Christmas miracle of a Sunday School program. A big thanks to them and to all the children who sang the songs, the musicians who played, the soloists, readers, and parents who helped. The tradition of retelling the Nativity Story by the children is heartfelt year after year.
- The choir under the direction of Stan Wold and our organists Mary Garmer and Barb Erickson deserve our thanks for their dedication and beautiful music. Truly Gloria Dei is blessed with talented members. The special concerts by the Arrowhead Chorale were also a blessing to host this year.
- One Bread, our worship band, continue to add energy and spirit to our worship—thanks all of you, including those who play for special music.
- Sound and radio technicians got the Word out; thank you.
- Our tree this year was a gift from Paul Steklenski and Linda Kalweit through Duluth's Farmer's Market. Thanks to them and also to the Altar Guild, especially Pearl Johnson, and Bob Forbort for decorating the tree. Please know how much effort goes into extra services and thank the Altar Guild for their dedication.
- The church was warm and the walks were shoveled thanks to Karen, Paul, and Scott.
- Also, thanks to all who participated and planned the special Santa Lucia event December 8: Ebba Brooks for re-telling the story of Lucia, Paul S. for making cardamom buns, Elaine Wickstrom for organizing the costumes, Madeline Pass for her role as Lucia, Sunday school teachers and all the children for their preparation and attentiveness!
- Karen Bockelman for preaching and presiding on December 29.

CELEBRATE EPIPHANY JANUARY 5

In the church, Christmas is not a single event but an entire season lasting from December 25 through "Twelfth Night" on January 5, and culminating on January 6 with the Feast of the Epiphany.

The word "epiphany" means manifestation or appearance and the Feast of the Epiphany recalls the appearance of God in Jesus. The event we remember on this day is the coming of the Magi (the wise men)



to worship Jesus. Matthew is the only gospel to tell this particular story and even Matthew doesn't give a number. Nor does the Bible give us their names or any description, simply saying "wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?'" (Matthew 2:1-12)

Tradition has filled out the story:

Three gifts (gold for a king, frankincense for a god, and myrrh for burial) must mean three wise men, named Melchior, Caspar, and Balthasar. At least one was thought to be African, and another is sometimes depicted as Asian; emphasizing that Jesus' coming is for all nations, all people.

This year we will celebrate Epiphany on January 5. Our worship service will begin with a procession led by a star and wise ones (maybe more than 3!) bearing gifts. You are invited to wear ethnic clothing (either of your own nationality or another) in honor of Christ's appearing to all nations. The Hillside Room will be decorated with stars and nativity sets from many places in the world.

Join us for this Epiphany Twelfth Night celebration.

SAMARITAN SUNDAY, Jan 5 – 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.

WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP AT EDGEWOOD VISTA Each month, Gloria Dei conducts a service and fellowship time at a senior residential home. This month, Chaplain Patti Maguire is leading worship service on Wednesday, Jan 8 at 1:00 with fellowship following. All are welcome to join us.

CHOIR AND ONE BREAD— The Gloria Dei Choir *usually* rehearses every Sunday morning at 8:30, in preparation for worship at 10:00, and the normally the first Wednesday of each month—this month is Jan 8, at 7:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Stan Wold, Director of Music, 728-5925.

Thanks also to One Bread, our worship band, for leading and accompanying worship once a month. The next Sunday planned is Jan 12. Other Sundays, the liturgy will be led on organ, piano, and choir. We thank God for the gifts of all musicians at Gloria Dei!

chapel. Please join us as we worship together. Even in the bad weather, the Care Team continued to visit, call and bring communion to those who can't get to church regularly. Christmas is an important time to keep up these contacts, visits and calls that connect our members to their church family. God is present in these interactions blessing all involved.

As the year comes to an end, annual reports and statistics are gathered. Please see the annual report for final counts of my activities as Chaplain under the Central Hillside Parish Nurse Program (CHPNP). Being involved with the parish nurses has been a true blessing as I've gotten to know how other churches and parish nurses do their healing ministries.

The birth of Jesus truly brought new life to the world. In the coming Christmas season, may Jesus be born anew in all of us. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas with your loved ones and are ready for 2014. Happy New Year to all!

Coming in 2014 – Gloria Dei will host the Parish Nurse monthly meeting on January 9th. A light lunch and dessert will be served at noon. Sara McComber, a nursing professor at CSS, will speak on medication management for seniors. If you are interested in learning more about this important topic, please let me know.

January is:

National Blood Donor Month: www.aabb.org

National Glaucoma Awareness Month: www.glaucoma.org

3rd week is Jan 20-24, Healthy Weight Week: www.healthyweightnetwork.com

Many Thanks - Joann McCall thanks all of the people who helped her raise funds to support the March of Dimes. Because of the huge snow storm, she didn't actually have to go to JAIL and BAIL, but your donations will help improve the health of mothers and babies. Thank you.

RUBY'S PANTRY JAN 16 Distribution begins at 5:30pm at 1st United Methodist (Coppertop) Church, 230 E. Skyline Pkwy. Food for people who need or want to stretch their food dollar. \$15.00 per share. Cash only. No checks or EBT cards. Bring a box to carry your food. Volunteers are always needed to help with the food distribution. Contact Sue Anderson for details.



in Christ to ReconcilingWorks, and in keeping with our Welcoming Ministries, this Sunday is now called Welcoming Sunday. Nicole Garcia will be preaching on Welcoming Sunday and also be part of our Adult Forum that day. Nicole is from Colorado and a former member of St Paul's Lutheran Church in Denver. She is currently a counseling intern at the University of Colorado Denver Student and Community Counseling Center and on track to earn an MA in counseling in May 2014. Nicole has been granted Entrance to Ordained Ministry in the ELCA and has been accepted into a specialized M. Div. Distance Learning program at Luther Seminary. Nicole is the co-chair of the board of ReconcilingWorks: Lutherans for Full Participation, an international organization that works for the full inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Lutherans. Nicole began her transition, male-to-female, in 2003 while employed as a law enforcement officer for the state of Colorado. She successfully completed her transition in 2005 and earned a living as a state parole officer until July 31, 2013. She has been on an incredible personal journey and has vast experience as a speaker and facilitator. We look forward to her message both in worship and at Adult Forum.

GENDER BEGINS AT HOME: IS IT A BOY OR A GIRL?

January 27th 2014

6-8 pm, Griggs Center (Kirby Student Center, 2nd Floor)

Nicole Garcia, Presenter

Our society begins crafting a child's gender well before birth. In this workshop, we will begin with the theoretical aspects of gender, Butler's "Performance of Gender", and Lorber's "Social Construction of Gender" and move into to more contemporary concepts surrounding the fluidity of gender. We will take a personal view of how we determine who we are as a "gendered" person. From this perspective, we will explore why individuals do not fit neatly into a binary gender system. This is an interactive workshop and you will be given the opportunity to look at yourself through the lens of gender formation and identity.

Free/Open to the Public

Sponsored by the UMD Queer and Allied Students Union (QASU), Latino/Chicana Student Association (LCSA)

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT – Patti Maguire

December was snowy, cold and busy at Gloria Dei. We had to cancel or postpone a few things because of storms, but we did worship with Betty Lavin and our friends at King Manor. On January 8th we will bring communion and treats to Edgewood Vista at 1 PM in the

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.

INTERGENERATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL Jan 5 —'Tree of Life' -

The Bible is "book-ended" with two trees—one in the Garden of Eden and another in the Book of Revelation. This year, we'll be looking at those and other biblical images of trees in the Bible (stump of Jesse, family trees, the tree of the cross, for example) that speak to our lives of discipleship today. Join us once a month for singing, bible stories, crafts and conversations across the generations that will focus on one of these trees of life. January's "tree of life" is Family Trees (Matthew 1), and baptism which brings us into God's family.

Intergenerational Sunday School seeks to equip parents (and other adults) and kids with materials and tools to practice faith at home during the week. The other Sundays the Sunday School will focus on the Scripture readings that day and Adult Faith Forum will have its own schedule.

SUNDAY SCHOOL resumes on Sunday January 5.

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

Jan 5 - Intergenerational Sunday School (see above)

Jan 12 - Guest speaker: Lee Stuart, Executive Director of CHUM

Jan 19 - BYOB (Bring your own Bible) with this new monthly rotation for the forum, we will focus on particular books, themes, and people of the bible, and you are welcome to bring your own bible to mark, underline, or add notes. January's BYOB topic is Timeline of the Old Testament.

Jan 26 - RIC Sunday Guest speaker: Nicole Garcia, Reconciling Works

OASIS/CONFIRMATION - This year, in addition to discipleship practices of worship, prayer, and service, our confirmation will focus on an overview of the Bible. We meet every other Saturday from 9:00-10:30 a.m.—this month Jan 4, 18. *All families with students in grades 7 & up are welcome—please speak to Pastor Dave.*

RELIGION AND SCIENCE IN DIALOGUE JAN 15 - 8 a.m. at Chester Creek Café. Pastor Carlson facilitates a monthly discussion group in the community on the topic of Religion and Science. The group is lively and engaging and group members continually bring in their own experience to connect our readings with current events and daily life. Newcomers are welcome! November's selection is the second half of *When Science Meets Religion* by Ian Barbour.

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.

WELCA News

Greetings to all and an update on WELCA for your consideration – and hopefully your participation!

Learning together has always been a hallmark of WELCA and we will continue that tradition over the winter months with several presentations. Come and enjoy a time to learn, share good stories and some laughs with friends, and find companionship with other women in this unique ministry!

January 11th we will meet in the training room at DAIP, 202 East Superior St., for a workshop led by Karen Bockelman entitled *Bad Girls of the Bible*. We will take up the stories of some of the women we often see as “bad” in the Bible and consider more closely the details of their lives. What is the context and what are the considerations they had to take into account as they made choices for themselves and those around them? Come and share a morning of story and experience new perspectives on classic Biblical women.

Time: 9:30 – 1:00, includes soup and sandwich lunch

Location: 202 E. Superior St., Duluth, MN

Domestic Abuse Intervention Program’s (DAIP) training room is a pleasant space overlooking the lake with easy access from Superior St. (parking is easy to obtain on the street or at the Casino ramp across the street). There is an elevator to the third floor and there is a small kitchen so we can prepare our lunch right there. There is also some room for parking in the building spaces off Michigan street so those in need of easy access can utilize that option.

RSVP to Karen at 218-591-3432 by January 5th so we have time to plan food – and fun!

Mark your calendars for February 23, 2014, and a special presentation on the Lutheran Church in Russia AND participate in a Russian potluck. Stephanie Carlson will introduce special guest from the INgrian Lutheran Church: Aleksandra Seliverstova. A warm and cozy event at a chilly time of year! More details will be available in the next issue.

GLORIA DEI QUILTERS - will meet on Tuesday Jan 7 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.



BOOK CLUB will meet on Monday January 20th at 10:00 in the community room. The book for discussion in January is “In the Garden of Beasts” by Eric Larson. February’s selection will be “Knocking on Heaven’s Door” by Kate Butler and “The Cellist of Sarajevo” by Steven Galloway will be the book for the month of March.



COFFEE & CONVERSATION will meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Next gathering is Tuesday, January 21 at 9:00 a.m. in the back room at London Road Perkins. For more information please call Marjorie Nelson.



LGBT ELDERS - 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.

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.

Welcoming Ministries**Upcoming Events:**

“Trans-A Feature Documentary”-Wednesday January 15, 6:30 pm, Lakeside Room

Welcoming Sunday-January 26

Nicole Garcia, Presenter, Adult Forum at 8:45am

Nicole Garcia, Preaching, Worship at 10:00am

Welcoming Ministries is striving to deepen our understanding and support of people who identify as transgender. Please check out the bulletin board near the kitchen for information on Welcoming Ministries and the transgender topic. As part of increasing our understanding, we will be showing the film “Trans-A Feature Documentary” Wednesday January 15 at 6:30pm in the Lakeside room. All are welcome, goodies will be served, and discussion will follow. The film is about 90 minutes long.

As is tradition at Gloria Dei, we have designated Sunday January 26 to lift up our ministry to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities. In the past this Sunday has been referred to as RIC (Reconciling in Christ) Sunday. With a name change from Reconciling