



It is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. – 2 Corinthians 4:6

From the Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

The divine light that drew shepherds and magi to the manger continues to draw us, along with other disciples, to follow Jesus. As his ministry unfolds, they and we encounter God's transformative love, radical hospitality, and fierce devotion to justice.

As Marcus Borg puts it in *The Heart of Christianity*, an insightful book our Church Council has been using for devotional study, Jesus' disciples encounter God's *salvation* through him. Think of the people Jesus welcomed and touched and taught, those he healed and fed and forgave – in each instance, Jesus' attention was specific to their condition. In the bible, Borg says, *there are multiple images of what salvation means:*

Light in our darkness	Forgiveness and acceptance
Sight to the blind	Food and drink
Enlightenment	Resurrection from the dead
Liberation for captives	Being born again
Return from exile	Knowing God
The healing of infirmities	Becoming "in Christ"
Being made right with God	Eternal life

"Salvation" comes from a Latin word that means "wholeness" or "healing." It has the same root as the word "salve," a healing balm. Rather than being exclusively about heaven after death, salvation in the bible is primarily about *God healing and restoring wholeness in this world*, Borg explains. Moreover, salvation has both *personal and social* dimensions. It is about life together, peace and justice within community and beyond community. And, Borg says, salvation always involves our response – *it involves us in what God is doing in the world.*

This month, there are several instances in which to *give thanks for salvation in all these dimensions* – salvation that has come to us in Jesus Christ and involves us in the saving work God continues to do in the world:

+ *Intergenerational Sunday School, Jan 3* – Growing deeper in God's love for us and for all creation is part of our calling as disciples, whatever our age.

+ *The Baptism of our Lord, Jan 10* – Jesus' baptism revealed his identity and purpose to be centered in God, so also our baptism joins us to God's promises of salvation in Jesus and equips us for ministry. Martin Luther taught that the gift of baptism should be a daily reminder: that we belong to Christ now

	January 3	January 10	January 17	January 24	January 31
Organist	Mary Garmer	Barbara Erickson	Worship Band	Stan Wold	Mary Garmer
Assisting Minister	Madeline Pass	Tanner Hall	Kristen Hylenski	Linda Kalweit	Bob Kelley
Sound Technician	Steve Dalager & Scott Ruzich	Doug Maguire & Scott Ruzich	Rick Troy & Scott Ruzich	Steve Dalager & Scott Ruzich	Doug Maguire & Scott Ruzich
Reader	Maury Aaseng	Roger Oman	Mark Pass	Ryan Jagim	Craig Haugen
Acolytes	Raine Amundson & Shameka Johnson				
Ushers	Rick & Marcia Troy	Per & Elaine Wickstrom		Ryan & Julie Jagim	Alison & Duane Stucke
Nursery Attendants	Self Serve	Daphne Amundson	Cara Weberg	Sherry Dalager	Terri Erickson
Counters	Barb Renick & Judy Bailey	Mary Gagnon & Gerald Erickson	Lexie Gieluch & Janine Dahlquist	Rod Dahlquist & David Gangeness	Bob Forbort & Sharon Stenberg
Coffee Servers	Myrna Matheson	Sunday School	Eve Gathering	Church Council Pot Luck Annual Mtg	Service & Justice
Communion Assistant	Janet Worthing	Janet Worthing	Janet Worthing	Janet Worthing	Steve Erickson

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

and forever, that we are anointed with the Holy Spirit, and that we are joined to God's life and mission for the sake of the world.

+ *Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend, Jan 17-18* – Dr. King's vision for justice and peace continues to inspire our participation in the social dimensions of what salvation means. In addition to an ecumenical service at St. Mark's on that Sunday and the march to the DECC on Monday morning, conversations and a book discussion about racial justice begin this month through an event hosted at Peace UCC and co-sponsored by Gloria Dei (see p. 10)

+ *RIC Sunday, Jan 24* – With other "Reconciling in Christ" congregations around the country, we celebrate the grace of God seen in the radical hospitality of Jesus and we seek to reflect it in Gloria Dei's longstanding welcome to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons into full participation in the church. What a privilege for us to receive as our preacher that morning the Rev. Dr. Kevin Maly, who grew up at Gloria Dei and serves as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Denver, CO. Welcoming Ministries will also host a conversation during our adult forum that day.

+ *Annual Meeting, Jan 24* – We convene in worship and during a potluck to give thanks for all God has done and continues to do in and through our shared ministry (see p. 15).

+ *Healing Service, Jan 31* – Conscious of the wholeness God intends for all people, we commend to God all who are in need of healing, through prayer, the laying on of hands, and anointing during worship. Afterward, Chaplain Patti and the Care Team will also remember with thanksgiving all who have died this past year and now rest in God's eternal embrace.

Salvation by grace through faith – that is not only a good Lutheran phrase but also a good comprehensive understanding of the personal and social wholeness God intends, gifting us and involving us in hopeful response for the well-being of the world.

Finally, my family and I wish to thank you for the Christmas cards, gifts, and well wishes during a very worshipful season. We give thanks for Gloria Dei and look forward to our ministry together in the New Year!

See you in worship!
+ Pastor David Carlson

+LIFE'S LANDMARKS+
Funeral
James Gilbertson, December 23, 2015

In honor of Kathy Wimer for her hard work and dedication to the Church
In honor of Bob, Brenda, Travis & Samantha ~ from Kathy Wimer

Neighborhood Breakfasts

In memory of Todd & Roger McGurk ~ from Connie McGurk
~ from Jim & Judy Bailey

Radio Ministry

In memory of Charles Lufholm ~ from Delores Lufholm
In honor of Gloria Dei's Care Team ~ from Patti Maguire

Transportation Fund

~ from Bob & Carol Kelley

Youth Fund

In Memory of Chet Brooks ~ from Rick & Marcia Troy
In Honor of Confirmands ~ from Tom & Carol Uecker
In memory of Edna & Art Mattson ~ from Duane & Alison Stucke

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK—JAN 24, 2016

The Annual Report will be available in the office in mid January, and will include reports from committees and ministries, as well as the 2016 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 24, and resume after worship. Please read and bring your reports to the meeting.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 ~ Per Amundson	18 ~ Nathan Winesett
4 ~ Charles Ralph	19 ~ Samantha Lufholm
5 ~ Thomas Aitken	19 ~ Tim Raun
5 ~ Paul Steklenski	21 ~ Livia Dietz
8 ~ Conrad Nelson	24 ~ Kylie Dalager
11 ~ Sandi Johnson	25 ~ Amber Olson
11 ~ Gary Olson	25 ~ Oscar Velez-Crane
14 ~ Lloyd Curtis	29 ~ Myrna Matheson
14 ~ Colleen Martin	29 ~ Tom Uecker
14 ~ Paul Uecker	29 ~ Sam Winesett
17 ~ Amanda Switzer	30 ~ Jean Starkey

CHRISTMAS GIFT LIST ~ Thank You

Poinsettias on the Altar In Memory of:

George Jennings & Rodney Bredin ~ from Dan Lew & Pakou Ly
 Archie & Mary Wold, Peter & Mary Mobraten ~
 from Stan & Mona Wold
 Loved ones ~ from Carl & Janet Schramm
 Don & Kit Carson & Uno Sr. & Janie Wehvila ~
 from Donna & Sonny
 Parents & Grandparents ~ from Bart & Lisa Smith
 ~ from Per & Elaine Wickstrom
 Parents, Ilene & Charles Elving ~ from Roger & Judy Oman
 ~ from Jason Hester
 Charles Lufholm ~ from Delores Lufholm

Poinsettias on the Altar In Honor of:

Ebba Brooks ~ from Rick & Marcia Troy

Building Renovation Fund

In memory of loved ones ~ from Ed & Colleen Martin
 In memory of Parents ~ from Mary Gagnon & Gary Olson
 Parents, Thure & Esther, & brother Glen Oman ~
 from Roger & Judy Oman
 In honor of Pastor Carlson, Donna Gerdes
 & Patti Maguire ~ from Stan & Mona Wold
 In honor of Family ~ from Kathy Wimer
 In memory of Tomas Velez ~ from Alice Lahti
 In memory of David Bockelman Yu-hsuan McDonald
 In memory of Tomas Velez ~
 from James Crane, Ryan & Oscar Velez Crane
 In memory of Carl Robert Wikblad ~ from Helen Wikblad
 In memory of Edward M. Peterson ~ from Lil Peterson

CHUM / GABRIEL FUND

In memory of our parents ~ from Will & Sharon Stenberg
 ~ from Jim & Judy Bailey

Extra Gift For the General Fund

In memory of Natividad Borges & Vivian Haak, my grandmothers ~
 from Cassie Borges

God's Global Barnyard

In memory of Pastor Kal Kalweit ~ from Linda Kalweit
 & Paul Steklinski

Sunday, January 03, 2016 Second Sunday of Christmas

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth. **Jeremiah 31:7-14, Psalm 147:12-20, Ephesians 1:3-14, John 1:[1-9] 10-18**

Sunday, January 10, 2016 Baptism of Our Lord

The Baptism of Our Lord cannot help but recall our own and all baptismal blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as daughters and sons, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire." On this day the heavens open again, for this assembly, and we receive the gift of the beloved Son of God in bread and wine. **Isaiah 43:1-7, Psalm 29, Acts 8:14-17, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

Sunday, January 17, 2016 Second Sunday after Epiphany

The Sundays after Epiphany continue to celebrate the revelation of the glory of God to us as it was made known to the magi and to those on Jordan's banks at the baptism of Jesus—today using wedding imagery. Our God rejoices over God's people "as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride." By the power of the Spirit there are gifts galore for everyone. In Christ Jesus the best wine is saved for last. Taste and see. **Isaiah 62:1-5, Psalm 36:5-10, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, John 2:1-11**

Sunday, January 24, 2016 Third Sunday after Epiphany

The glory of the Lord is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of the glory of God. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God. **Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10, Psalm 19, 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a, Luke 4:14-21**

Sunday, January 31, 2016 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

The glory of God is often revealed when and where it is least expected. God uses our lips to declare that glory, inexperienced and hesitant though they may be. God uses our love to demonstrate that glory and so urges us to exercise it. God uses Jesus of Nazareth, water and the word, bread and wine, to reveal God's glory where and when God chooses. Take heed, lest the glory of God slip through our midst unnoticed. **Jeremiah 1:4-10, Psalm 71:1-6, 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, Luke 4:21-30**

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

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

- Daphne & Brett Amundson, Sherry & Steve Dalager for directing and leading the music for our Sunday School Christmas program.
Thanks to all the parents of Sunday schoolers who helped shepherd and costume everyone for our Saturday practice and Sunday program. A big thanks to them and other Sunday School leaders, and especially the children who sang the songs, extra musicians Journey Amundson, Bryn Weberg, Molly Weberg, Connor Weberg, and Martha Carlson, the narrators and readers, and holy family Allison, Nick, and Barrett, and guardian angels Atticus & Deacon Haus. The tradition of retelling the Nativity Story by the children is heartfelt year after year.
- The choir, director Stan Wold and our organists Mary Garmer and Barb Erickson deserve our thanks for their dedication and beautiful music throughout the season. Thanks to special musicians Ed Martin, Martha Carlson, Madeline Pass & Daniel Pass on Christmas Eve.
- One Bread, our worship band, continues to enhance our worship— thanks all of you!
- Sound and radio technicians got the Word out; thank you.
- Thanks to Nancy Aronson-Norr, sponsor of this year's sanctuary Christmas tree, and to Paul Steklenski, Linda Kalweit, and Bob Forbort for decorating the tree.
- The Altar Guild for their dedication especially during the extra services.
- The church was warm and the walks were clear thanks to Karen, Paul, and Scott.
- Thanks to Karen & Marianne Kjolhaug and Nancy Gangeness for organizing and providing refreshments at the Gustavus Choir Concert we hosted on December 5th, and to Doug for providing internet streaming capacity. A very meaningful, worshipful event!
- Also, thanks to all who participated and planned the special Santa Lucia event December 13: Patti for organizing, Daphne Amundson for re-telling the story of Lucia, Doug M. for enabling video capability, Paul S. for making cardamom buns, Shameka Johnson for her role as Lucia, Sunday school teachers and all the children for their preparation and attentiveness!



Renovation appeal letter was sent, with a graphic of the project and explanation of the phases, an additional \$1240 was given in November - for a balance on 11/30 of \$40,396. Thanks to all who are prayerfully considering gifts to the Renovation Fund beyond their regular offering. For more information about the renovation and how it can enhance our capacity for ministry, please talk with Pastor Carlson, Ryan Jagim, Brett Amundson, or Sue Anderson.

EARTH STEWARDSHIP TIPS January 2016

- With wonder and trust we respond to God's call to be stewards of creation, caretakers of nature, planet earth. We are called to understand how our actions impact the ecological systems we live in: land, water, atmosphere, species of plant and animal. Does it sound daunting? I'll say, but never boring.
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- To learn about climate change checkout the NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) website at: climate.nasa.gov. It is a robust source for: Facts, Articles, NASA's Role, Solutions, Exploration, and Resources.
 - "Lutherans Restoring Creation" (<http://www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org/Home>) is a grassroots movement of ELCA Lutheran laypersons and pastors who share information about care for creation activities and sustainability initiatives and provide resources and examples of what you can do to become part of the great work of our time--helping to restoring creation.
 - In our very own backyard is "Hartley Nature Center," (<http://www.hartleynature.org/index.html>) which is, "dedicated to inspiring lifelong connections to nature through education, play and exploration. If people have a clearer picture of how nature functions, we believe they will enjoy it more and do all they can to protect it."
 - The power of dominion God has granted human beings as stewards is not for tyrants or the faint of heart. As ecologist Wendell Berry said, we "daily shed the blood and break the body of creation" to sustain human life. But we will do so "knowingly, lovingly, skillfully, reverently" and not "ignorantly, greedily, clumsily, and destructively." (The Gift of Good Land)

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.

STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING ENVELOPES – Thanks for remembering to pick up your offering envelopes in the narthex today!

THANK YOU to all who have returned Giving Commitment cards for 2013 to support God's mission through the ministry of Gloria Dei. It's not too late - extra cards in the foyer.

INITIAL OFFERING - In your offering envelope box, the first envelope is called the Initial Offering. We are encouraged to put at least \$3.00 in that envelope to cover the cost of offering envelopes. Thanks!

FINANCE REPORT THRU NOV 2015

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

Envelope Offerings:

Budget, 11 months	\$185,167	
Actual, 11 months	\$198,183	107%
Difference, <i>ahead</i>	\$ 13,016	

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! A complete 12-month financial report will be included in the Annual Report available in mid-January.

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.

RENOVATION FUND

In July 2015, Gloria Dei received a generous gift of 30,000 to the Renovation Fund from the Estate of Glen Oman. It's a wonderful start and an encouragement to see how soon it can be matched! Since an initial

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.

SAMARITAN SUNDAY, Jan 3 – 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 (see also p. 10).

EUCHARIST AT EDGEWOOD VISTA, Jan 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 the Edgewood Vista Chapel on Wednesday, January 6, at 1:00 p.m. All are welcome.

CHOIR REHEARSAL, Jan 6 - Monthly on the 1st Wednesday each month at 7:00. The choir also rehearses each Sunday at 8:30 a.m. For more information, contact Stan Wold, Director of Music, 728-5925.

MIDWINTER BLUES & ONE BREAD, Jan 17- Thanks to One Bread, our worship band, for accompanying worship once a month. The next Sunday planned is Jan 17 with the annual Midwinter Blues Service. Other Sundays, the liturgy will be accompanied with organ, piano, and choir. We thank God for the gifts of all musicians at Gloria Dei!

WELCOMING SUNDAY, Jan 24

By Sue Anderson

January 24 will be Welcoming Sunday at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. Gloria Dei selects one Sunday a year to emphasize its inclusive ministry, including its status as a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation.

This year's guest preacher and presenter will be Rev. Dr. Kevin Maly. Kevin is the son of Neva Maly and brother of Tim Maly and Janine Dahlquist, all longtime members of Gloria Dei. Kevin grew up in Duluth and is a former member of Gloria Dei. Kevin is a graduate of UMD, Luther Seminary, and the University of Denver. He has served as pastor of St Paul's Lutheran Church in Denver, Colorado (an RIC Congregation) since 2001. Kevin served on the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality and the Rocky Mountain



Synod Council. We look forward to his sharing at the Adult Forum that Sunday and also his sermon.

HEALING SERVICE, Jan 31 - During worship on Sunday, January 31, we will incorporate the Order of Healing (ELW pp. 276-78) into the service, which includes the Prayers of Intercession, the Laying On of Hands, and a Blessing.

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, Jan 3 — “All God’s Critics!” 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!

YOUTH CONFIRMATION CLASS Jan 2, 16 & 30 - 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 Jan 2, 16, and 30.* 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.

Jan 3 - Intergenerational Sunday School

Jan 10, 17, 31 - LSS 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.

Jan 24 - RIC Sunday conversation with Welcoming Ministries

TRAVELING TEXT STUDY, Jan 12 - Most “First Word” bible studies on Tuesdays at 12 noon are in the Community Room at Gloria Dei. But on Jan 12, we are invited to the home of Marianne Kjolhaug - either meet us there, or arrive at church by 11:45 to carpool. The Word is on the move!

Lake Ave) through downtown to the DECC Auditorium, where a local rally will follow. More information at <http://mlk-duluth.org>.

RUBY’S PANTRY, Jan 21 - 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.



FREE NEIGHBORHOOD BREAKFAST, Jan 23
HAPPY 10TH ANNIVERSARY!

All are welcome to join us for our free fourth Saturday Neighborhood Breakfast on Saturday, January 23, from 9:00-10:30 a.m. in the Hillside Room.



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 November 30, Radio Ministry has received \$8785, which is \$2215 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>

every day. A short brochure of tips for individuals with a mental illness and their families that may be helpful during this time of year is available that also includes a list of resources. See Patti for more information.

(GOOD) SAMARITAN SUNDAY

The first Sunday of every month is Samaritan Sunday at Gloria Dei. Please remember our neighbors in need by bringing non-perishable foods to worship on that Sunday. Although the CHUM Food Shelf welcomes all non-perishable foods, they are usually in need of: peanut butter, canned chicken and tuna, and canned fruit. Other foods that they distribute on a regular basis are: canned peas, canned stew, hash, chili, pork and beans, macaroni and cheese, cream or chicken noodle soup and Spaghettios.

The CHUM Food Shelf provides a five-day food order for people without food or the resources to buy food. Staff, along with approximately 100 volunteers, distribute 260,000 pounds of food annually. An average of 570 households receive emergency food each month; roughly 37% of those fed are children.

Remember that all loose offering on that first Sunday is given to the Gabriel Project at CHUM. This is a program that distributes emergency money to those in need.

Thanks for all of your food and financial donations this past year. ~ Service and Justice Ministry

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.



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR WEEKEND EVENTS

Sat, Jan 16

6:00 p.m. Soup, 7:00 p.m. Performance: "Jam'n with MLK, A Celebration of the Contributions of People of African American Heritage" at Peace Church

Sun, Jan 17

5:00 p.m. Community Ecumenical Worship at St. Mark's AME, 530 N. 5th Ave. E.

Mon, Jan 18

7:00 a.m. *Free Community Breakfast* Holy Family Catholic Church, featuring broadcast (8:00 a.m.) of former Mass. Governor Deval Patrick 10:45 a.m. *MLK March* - Join members and help carry Gloria Dei's banner in the walk at 10:45 a.m. from the Washington Center (4th St and

LIVING INTO THE DIFFICULT— RACE, DIVERSITY & DULUTH FOR ALL

Join A.M.E. Pastor and Professor of Religion & Ethics Dr. Melanie Harris and Professor of Religion and American Baptist Minister Dr. Jennifer Harvey as they guide us in racial justice analysis of our community and the spectrum of ways we are called to heal from structural violence as people of faith. Mark your calendars for two days of workshops and preaching about dismantling oppressive social structures, the transformative work of reparations, an how to work together in the Spirit while being passionate about justice. Saturday, March 12, 9:00 a.m. Held at Peace UCC, co-sponsored by Gloria Dei and other congregations. More opportunities leading up to this event:

- **“Cracking the Shell of Whiteness”** - 6 Wednesday sessions Jan 6 - Feb 10 from 6:45-8:15 pm at Peace Church, with Sandy Moore and Kevin Skiwra-Brown, an experience to build capacity for understanding white identity individually and collectively to be able to stand in solidarity to address systemic injustice. All welcome.
- **“Dear White Christians: For Those Still Longing for Reconciliation”** Discussion of Jennifer Harvey's book in 3 sessions, led by Jackie Falk and Sarah Holst at Peace Church. Either Jan 12, 19 & 26 at 12 noon, or Feb 2, 9 & 16 at 6:30. All welcome.
- Jan 25 Planning meeting for the March 12 event. Join us for supper and meet with members of the community to plan our workshop events based on information from Drs. Harris and Harvey about the choice of focus and content of the workshops.

RELIGION AND SCIENCE IN DIALOGUE, Jan 20 - 8 a.m. at Valentin's (London Rd). Through the College of St. Scholastica, Pastor Carlson facilitates a monthly discussion group in the community on the topic of 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 completing *The Sixth Extinction* by Elizabeth Kolbert (2014).

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.

GLORIA DEI QUILTERS - will meet on Tuesday Jan 5 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.



WELCOMING MINISTRIES meets after worship in the Youth Room on Sunday, January 10.

SWEDISH CULTURAL SOCIETY does not meet in January, but will resume February 21.

BOOK CLUB usually meets on the third Monday of most months at 10:00 a.m. in the Community Room. Upcoming reads: 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.

DRAFT DIRECTORY - A revised copy of the church directory will be made available mid-January in the Hillside Room after worship until Feb 7. If you are one of our homebound members, or haven't yet checked your contact information in the draft copy, please call Donna in the office (722-3381) and give her the necessary changes. Thank you. New paper directories will be available in February.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR VALENTINES DAY PARTY

Saturday Feb 13, from 12-2 in the Hillside Room. We will have a picnic style lunch and Terrance Smith will join us for music and dancing. To help with the days events, contact Carol Kelley 525-6098.



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

December is always filled with preparations for Christmas even as we try to focus on Advent. I hope you and



your family experienced the wonder of this holy season.

Thank you to the Care Team who keep in close contact with our home bound members by calling, visiting and bringing communion to them. During this time of year it is especially important to continue those relationships.

In December, Pastor Carlson led worship at St Ann's on the 6th and the Health Cabinet brought treats to our friends there on the 15th. It is always good to see the folks and enjoy fellowship time with them. On January 6th we will bring worship with communion to our friends at Edgewood Vista at 1pm in their chapel. Please join us; it is a very nice service in a lovely space.

Sr Joan Marie at Essentia Health-St Mary's Medical Center arranged an excellent program on Fall Preventions on December 3rd. A couple of us from Gloria Dei learned excellent and practical tips on ways to prevent falls in the home. Physical Therapist Margo Furcht explained that falls can greatly limit to our quality of life as we age. Both extrinsic factors such as walking surfaces ice, lighting, spilt liquids, etc. and intrinsic factors such as aging, vision changes, pain, etc. contribute to falls. She said that the most important thing is to stay strong and keep active. If you are interested, I have copies of her handouts and a list of local resources.

Please see the Annual Report for a review of my activities in 2015. I'm also gathering final statistics which will appear in the report. If you have any questions, we can talk before the Annual Meeting on January 24th.

Care Team Meeting - January 31st 11:30 in the Lakeside Room. This will be our annual memorial meeting and review of the Care Team mission. Please join us if you would like to be part of this healing ministry.

Health Resolutions for 2016:

- Get moving! Increased physical activity helps your heart, energy, and attitude.
- Eat better! More vegetables and fruits, and less junk food. www.healthyweightnetwork.com
- Stop smoking! This is good for you and those around you.
- Wash your hands! This will help you avoid colds and the flu. Get a flu shot too.

Mental Illness: Coping with the Holidays

The holiday season is supposed to be a time full of joy, parties and gatherings with friends and families. But they can also be difficult time for people dealing with grief, loneliness, illness, economic concerns or relationship issues. While some people experience temporary periods of depression like "holiday blues", many folks live with mental illness