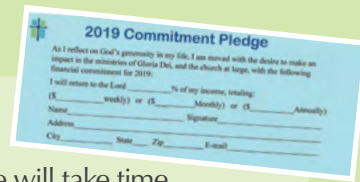


## 2019 Commitment Pledges

During worship this weekend, we will take time to offer our pledge cards.



### Giving Tree

We are very excited to provide you an incredible missions opportunity through our Christmas Giving Tree 2018! Here are this year's options:

#### International \$20 Donation Outreach:

These two items are what \$20 will provide:

**Mama Kit:** In Uganda the women giving birth are required to have a \$5 medical kit in order to be allowed to have their baby in the hospital or clinic. No kit? No hospital! Many of them cannot afford the paltry \$5 for the kit! So, in partnership with Shining City, you can make that happen for them!



**Shoes That Grow:** All over the world children are going without shoes and even if they have them, they often grow out of them quickly ending up bare-footed after all. "The Shoe That Grows" is a ministry that provides expandable shoes for children and adults that are not only sturdy, but that also expands (forward and sideways) with the growing foot. The shoes are \$15 a pair.

So for your very small gift of just \$20 (\$5 kit and \$15 shoes) you can provide children/families two vitally important health needs this Christmas Season. Stop by the giving tree for more information and to donate your \$20...or \$200...or \$2,000 today!

**Laurel Village Food Gift Boxes:** We want to remember our friends at Laurel Village by providing the items for a simple turkey dinner. Grab a tag and a box and bring the filled box to Gloria Dei on Dec. 8/9 or Dec. 15/16.

If you would like to help deliver these food boxes to Laurel Village, please contact Karen Kennedy at [karen.kennedy@gdlc.church](mailto:karen.kennedy@gdlc.church).



### Tutors Needed

Gloria Dei has been working with Moulton Elementary to provide Laurel Village children with extra reading and math help on Wednesdays from 1:15-2:15 p.m. at Moulton Elementary, 1541 8th St., Des Moines. The only requirement needed is a desire to help these children; we will provide the materials and guidance. If interested, contact Karen Kennedy at [karen.kennedy@gdlc.church](mailto:karen.kennedy@gdlc.church).

## Today's Message: "What's Your Story" "Humble Beginnings"

**Scriptures:** Philippians 2:1-11 and Luke 2:1-7

As a result of what you have received from God's Word today, what do you think He is giving you to believe or do this week?

#### Additional Notes:

### Let's pray!

**Prayer Wall:** Post your prayer requests (anonymously, if you choose) to a pastor or the online community. (Go to: [www.gdlc.church/prayer-wall/](http://www.gdlc.church/prayer-wall/))

**Connection Cards:** Prayer requests can be made on the back of the "Welcome" card located in the pews.

**Phone Calls:** Contact Pastor Phillips at 276-1700, or Diane Young between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 321-1566 with your request.

#### Please Pray for:

Shirley Voshell	Jessica Kramer	Taylor Peterson	Karen Seltz
Tim McClelland	Heather Kusel	Doug Jackson	Linda Trobaugh
Jennifer Dehnert	Shari Smith	Mike Dehnert	Kevin Zehnder
Larry Lewis	Cooper Driscoll	Paula Spark	Jared Walter



### Urbandale Food Pantry

Your monthly donations are a great blessing to our community. Thank you! December's requested item is deodorant.

Outpouring of Love Nov. 18-24, 2018 (Fiscal year July 2018 -June 2019)	
General Fund Offerings	\$27,382
General Fund Offering Budget	\$34,100
1st QTD Offering Total	\$263,838
1st QTD Budget	\$235,700
YTD Offering Total	\$701,253
YTD Budget	\$650,900

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church  
8301 Aurora Ave. Urbandale, IA 50322  
276-1700 • [www.gdlc.church](http://www.gdlc.church)  
Pastor Joe Meyer, Senior Pastor  
Ph: 777-3892 | Twitter: @KeyRowJoe  
E-mail: [joe.meyer@gdlc.church](mailto:joe.meyer@gdlc.church)

# G D L C

## CONNECTIONS



12 | 01-02 | 2018

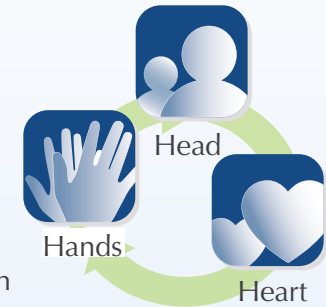
And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Luke 2:7



### Visiting Today?

**Welcome to worship!** We are glad you're here. If you have any questions, please stop by the Connection Center or contact Pastor Ben Johnson at 777-3900 or [ben.johnson@gdlc.church](mailto:ben.johnson@gdlc.church).



**Infants-4 years old:** Our fully-staffed nursery is waiting for your child! It is located through the doors at the southwest corner of the Gathering Area outside the Sanctuary.

**PreK-Elementary Children:** We would love for your children to join us during our educational time on Saturdays at 5:45 p.m. and Sundays at 9:45 and 11:15 a.m.



### What's Your Story: Humble Beginnings

One of the most amazing truths of the birth of Jesus is where He was born. We often hear it said "Jesus should have been born in a palace" and that's all true. But the reminder today is that it's not exactly true...you see, no earthly location would



have ever been good enough for our Lord Jesus. This isn't just a king...this is the King of Kings! No earthly locale would suffice to honor Him. And that's the point...He didn't come to be

honored, He came to be the humble servant of humanity. The manger/stable simply foreshadowed His death for the sins of the world and through Him we inherit heaven itself!

### Advent Midweek Worship Services

Wednesday, Dec. 5, 12 & 19

12:15 p.m. (Traditional in Sanctuary)

6:30 p.m. (Blended in Sanctuary)

**Please note:** During worship, children are welcome to worship with their families before being invited to Faith Alive. ReCharge will meet in the Youth Center at 6:20 p.m. Family meal will be served at 5:45 p.m. Nursery will be opened from 6:15-7:45 p.m.

Leading Ordinary People to an Extraordinary Life in Christ.





## Giving With Compassion

I am so thankful for the generosity of this amazing congregation! You all genuinely put your money where your faith is and I'm so thankful to Jesus for you! As you consider all of the ways you can be even more generous during this Christmas Season, why don't you consider adopting a child through Compassion International. Robin and the kids and I have been privileged to support Johana and Jose from Peru and the blessings we have received have far out-weighed the blessings we give. It's only \$38 a month per child! Go to [www.compassion.com](http://www.compassion.com) and search for your spiritual "son" or "daughter!" Many blessings during this Holy-Day Season! Your Brother - Pastor Joe



## Christmas Caroling

**Saturday, Dec. 8 | 1-5 p.m.**

Come and lift the hearts of those who are home bound. Please meet at church at 1 p.m. Afterwards, we will finish by eating a meal together at church. Register online at [www.GDLC.CHURCH](http://www.GDLC.CHURCH).



## Senior Adult Christmas Party

**Sunday, Dec. 9 | 4 to 6:30 p.m. in the Youth Center**

All seniors are invited to the Senior Adult Christmas Party. There will be carol singing and other Christmas activities. Please bring a wrapped White Elephant gift or a wrapped inexpensive gift. Register online at [www.GDLC.CHURCH](http://www.GDLC.CHURCH) or call Elaine Mueller at 515-276-8903 Please register by Wednesday, December 5.



## ReCharge Breakfast Fundraiser

**Sunday, Dec. 16 | 8 a.m. to noon**

Join us for a delicious hot breakfast lovingly made by our youth and their parents. All profits will help support the Youth Ministry and mission trips. The delectable menu is:

- Omelets (Cheese, Meat & Cheese, Veggie & Cheese) • Bacon
- Pancakes • Fresh Fruit • Baked goods • Drinks (OJ, milk, coffee)



## Embryo Adoption Webinar

Learn about a special family building opportunity and alternative to in-vitro fertilization called Embryo Adoption. Through embryo adoption, you can build your family by adopting and implanting a frozen embryo, and giving birth to your own adopted child. Lutheran Family Service will be hosting a free Embryo Adoption Webinar on Wednesday, December 12 from 12 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Anyone interested will need to register online at [LutheranFamilyService.org/events](http://LutheranFamilyService.org/events). You may also contact Kim Laube with any questions at [klaube@LFSiowa.org](mailto:klaube@LFSiowa.org).



**W O M E N** | Contact: DeAnn McCue at [deann.mccue@gdlc.church](mailto:deann.mccue@gdlc.church)



## Christmas Brunch Women's Event

**Saturday, Dec. 15 | 9-11 a.m.**

Women of all ages and stages are invited to join us to celebrate Jesus, our Savior, born in a manger. We will slow down and focus on His presence as we prepare for Christmas. Together, we will enjoy fellowship, worship and a Bible study.

Registration is required at [www.GDLC.CHURCH](http://www.GDLC.CHURCH). The cost is \$5.



## December's Book Recommendation

The following is December's book recommendation from Karen Kennedy, Director of Promotions.

*"Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus"* written by Nabeel Qureshi.

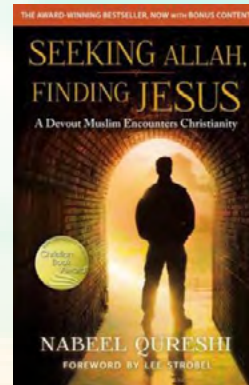
If you ever wanted a more personal and intimate information concerning the Muslim faith, this book is a must read.

Nabeel Qureshi was born and raised in a loving Muslim home, where his parents raised him to love and respect Allah and the Quaren. In fact, his father softly whispered into Nabeel's ears a traditional prayer, directing him to Allah, the moment after he took his first breath. Those words were the first words Nabeel ever heard.

Nabeel's parents immigrated from Pakistan and settled in California where his father served in the US Navy. Nabeel describes his life in America as a Muslim who was set out to defend his faith. However, as a teen, he realized that he was torn between two diametrically opposite realities: the Christian/Muslim beliefs and the eastern/western world view. In college, he continues to banter with other intellects concerning Islam. His journey took a different turn when he would embark in deep friendship and faith conversations with David, a fellow student and Christian.

The book then describes his intense wrestling that would eventually lead to his accepting the claims of Jesus, and the turmoil of denying the faith he loved, Islam, and being shunned by his family.

Since we often have a shallow understanding of other religions and cultures, this book shows the intense conviction and inner dealings of a completely different faith. Personally, it has helped me to understand their world view through Nabeel's personal account. My prayer is that this book will be a catalyst to love those of the Islam faith more intensely.



**C H I L D R E N** | Contact: Jenn Fuller at [jenn.fuller@gdlc.church](mailto:jenn.fuller@gdlc.church)



## No Rehearsal, No Stress Christmas Program and Family Event

**Sunday, Dec. 2 | 3:30-5 p.m.**

It's going to be an interactive and fun time as entire families gather to share about Jesus' birth and enjoy songs, crafts and food. This event is for all, so please invite your friends and relatives. Please bring a savory or sweet snack to share with everyone.

Registration is required at [www.GDLC.CHURCH](http://www.GDLC.CHURCH).



## Empty Paper Towel Rolls

We need lots of empty paper towel rolls for various projects. Please drop them off in the box in front of Jenn's office. Thank you!



## Christmas Gifts for Military Families

For the 6th year, Operation Barnabas of Des Moines (OBDM) is partnering with the Freedom Alliance's Presents for Patriots Program (<https://freedomalliance.org/programs/presents-for-patriots>). This program helps provide Christmas gifts to the children of military families, with very limited resources, who are struggling with combat wounds and other service-related injuries.

OBDM is adopting military families and collecting Walmart or Target gift cards to give to the parents. Monetary donations are also being accepted for the purchase of gift cards. The cards will be divided among the families, providing the parents with the opportunity and pleasure of purchasing gifts for their children.

Donations can be mailed to: Linn Hayden, Operation Barnabas, 405 NW Sturbridge, Ankeny, IA 50023. Please note "Presents for Patriots." All donations are tax deductible and must be received by Wednesday, December 12. For more additional information, contact Linn at 515-664-7359.



## Christmas Decorating

A huge thanks to the more than 75 volunteers who helped decorate our facility for the Christmas season. Your desire to share your time and talents created a great environment to proclaim the wonder of the Christmas season. Thanks to you, we are ready to open our doors to our members and visitors during this Christmas season. You are truly the best! Karen Kennedy, Director of Promotions