



## Giving Tree

Once again the generosity of Gloria Dei came shining through.

**Food boxes will be delivered this weekend!** Please remember to bring your filled food boxes to worship and place it at the Giving Tree.

### International \$20 Donation Outreach (Mama Kit and Shoes That Grow)

Now until Christmas, we will have envelopes on the Giving Tree. For a \$20 donation, you will be able to provide a pair of shoes for children in impoverished circumstances and a Mama Kit for expecting mothers in Uganda. Stop by the giving tree for more information and to donate your \$20...or \$200...or \$2,000 today!



## Devotions for the Devoted

We want to say a HUGE thank you to all of you who have given so generously to the Military Devotionals endeavor. What a privilege for us to give back to the men and women who are serving us by serving our great country! We are hoping to finish the \$26,000 goal by the end of the year so that we can move on to purchasing Bibles for them through the American Bible Society for just \$5 apiece. We'll begin working on that right after we finish with the devotionals. We will keep you updated on all of the progress! Thank you again! ~ Pastor Joe



## Poinsettias Giveaway

We are thankful for the beautiful poinsettias that are making our worship venues look so beautiful for our Advent and Christmas celebrations. However, we don't want to be bad stewards and simply keep their beauty to ourselves. We are therefore inviting you to grab one after the 9 a.m. Christmas Day Service for your own home, your neighbor, a nursing home, or someone in need. Use this as an opportunity to share Christ's love and the Christmas message with the people the Lord has brought into your life!



## 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)

### Today's Message: "What's Your Story" "The Wise Guys"

**Scriptures:** Daniel 2:12-16 & Matthew 2:1-12

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	Cooper Driscoll	Peyton Post
Tim McClelland	Taylor Peterson	College students
Jennifer Dehnert	Doug Jackson	For the grieving family of Jared Walter
Larry Lewis	Mike Dehnert	Those who are traveling
Jessica Kramer	Paula Spark	All of our Christmas Eve worship services
Heather Kusel	Linda Trobaugh	
Shari Smith		

Outpouring of Love Dec.2-8, 2018 (Fiscal year July 2018 -June 2019)	
General Fund Offerings	\$49,210
General Fund Offering Budget	\$47,700
1st QTD Offering Total	\$337,588
1st QTD Budget	\$311,700
YTD Offering Total	\$775,003
YTD Budget	\$726,900

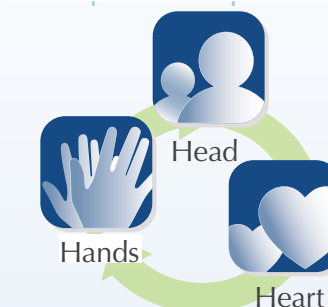
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# G D L C

## CONNECTIONS



12 | 15-16 | 2018



Now after Jesus was born... behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews?" For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." Matthew 2:1a-2



### 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: The Wise Guys

We come across an amazing set of characters today. While they were not at the manger/stable when Jesus was born, they do give us an amazing glimpse into our wonderful God. The



Wise Men as they have become known, were likely Medo-Persians who met up with the Jewish nation in Babylon.

In other words, God disciplined His children by sending them to Babylon and He did so not only to discipline them, but to bring saving knowledge of the Savior of the world to the Medo-Persians as well. This is simply a reminder of the lengths to which God will go to bring us to salvation and ultimately to bring us to worship at the side of the King of kings in heaven itself!

Leading Ordinary People to an Extraordinary Life in Christ.

## Advent Midweek Worship Services

**Wednesday, Dec. 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.

## Worship Schedule Change

**Saturday, Dec. 22**

There will be no worship service.

**Sunday, Dec. 23**

8:30 a.m. (Blended with Communion in Sanctuary) (No Grace Place)

10:30 a.m. (Blended with Communion in Sanctuary) (No Grace Place)\*

\*(Livestream)

We will also have muffins and goodies, coffee and fellowship in between the two services! (See article in this week's Connections.)

## Christmas Eve

Please invite your friends, family and neighbors to join you as we worship the birth of our Savior!

### Monday, December 24 in the Sanctuary

12:00 p.m. (Traditional)

2:00 p.m. (Traditional – Nursery\*)

4:00 p.m. (Traditional – Livestream – Nursery\*)

6:00 p.m. (Traditional)

8:00 p.m. (Acoustic with Strings)

### Monday, December 24 in the Family Life Center

4:00 p.m. (Acoustic with Strings – Nursery\*)

6:00 p.m. (Acoustic with Strings)

\*Nursery: Children 4 and under: We will provide a safe and loving place for your young children on Christmas Eve. The nursery will be open for the 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. worship services (1:45-5:15 p.m.)

## Christmas Day

Join us Christmas Day as we continue to be in awe of Jesus Christ.

### Tuesday, December 25 in the Sanctuary

9:00 a.m. (Traditional with Communion)



## Worship December 23

As you prepare for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship services, make sure you also mark your calendars for December 23! We will not have worship service on Saturday, Dec 22. However, on Sunday, Dec. 23 we will only have two services, both of them in the Sanctuary, both of them Christmas-carol-filled, one at 8:30 a.m. and one at 10:30 a.m. We will also have muffins and goodies, coffee and fellowship in between the two services! So, plan to stick around and fellowship with your brothers and sisters after 8:30 a.m. or come a little early to fellowship before the 10:30 a.m. service! Blessings as you and your family celebrate these Holy-Days and this Holy-Season!



## Tiny Treasures Invites You!

**Thursday, Dec. 20 at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

You are invited to see our smallest ones tell the Christmas story. If you can't attend, watch it livestream at [www.GDLC.CHURCH](http://www.GDLC.CHURCH).



## 2018 Contribution Deadline

Monday, December 31 will be the last offering taken for 2018 income tax purposes. All items mailed must be postmarked by December 31 to receive credit for 2018. All items received or postmarked after December 31 will be credited to 2019 even if the date is written for 2018. Thank you for your support.



## 2019 Offering Envelopes Available

The 2019 offering envelopes can be picked up in the Gathering Area. They are arranged alphabetically on the tables and should not be used until January first. Each family has a new offering envelope number, so please destroy all old envelopes. If you do not find a box with your name on it, contact Alena in the office or by e-mail at [alena.naberhaus@gdlc.church](mailto:alena.naberhaus@gdlc.church).



## XYZ Group

**Tuesday, Jan. 8 | 9 a.m. at Cozy Cafe**

Join a bunch of senior adults as they gather once a month on Tuesday. Please note that they will meet on Jan. 8 and not Jan. 1. If you have any questions, contact Carol Dickey at 707-3975.



## Joppa Outreach

**Sunday, Dec. 30 | 12:30-4:00 p.m.**

Come help us encourage and love those who are shelterless this winter. Please register at [www.GDLC.CHURCH](http://www.GDLC.CHURCH). Meet at Joppa Outreach, 118 SE 4th, Des Moines.



## 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.*

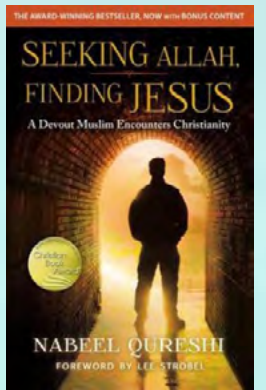
If you ever wanted more personal and intimate information concerning the Muslim faith, this book is a must read.

Nabeel Qureshi was born and raised in a loving Muslim home, where his parents raised him to love and respect Allah and the Quran. 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 continued 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.



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