



## Gifts from God - Direction

Do you ever feel lost? Do you ever feel as though you have no direction? Today we're reminded that Jesus came into our world two-thousand years ago to bring direction and to show the way! In truth, He primarily came to show the way to heaven itself as Jesus reminded us "I am the way...the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6) Through the Lord Jesus we are shown the way...more than that, we are given the way...to heaven! But Jesus coming into our world also gives us direction in our every day life, as through His Holy Spirit, He leads, guides and directs us one step at a time. How do we receive this when we often feel lost? We'll explore that today!

### Visiting today?

**Welcome!** We are glad you are here. There is a gift waiting for you at the Connection Center!

**Got children?** Awesome! We have a wonderful nursery for infant-4 years old. Please go through the "nursery" door in the southwest corner of the Gathering Area outside the Sanctuary. We also have an educational time on Saturdays at 5:45 p.m. and Sundays at 9:45 and 11:15 a.m. for children ages 3-grade 5.

**Got questions?** Please stop by the Connection Center where there will be a friendly person to assist you.

### Please Return Your Pledge Cards

If you have not turned in your pledge cards, please do so today. There are extra pledge cards in the Sanctuary and the FLC. Thank you for supporting the vision and mission at Gloria Dei.

### Baked Goods! It's Going to be Good!

**Before and after services this Saturday & Sunday**  
It's time for those delicious Christmas goodies. Naomi Circle will have their annual Christmas Goodies Bake Sale before and after worship services. The bake sale is a freewill offering and proceeds will go toward missions.

### WWW.GDLC.CHURCH Has a New Look

Take a look at our updated Web site. Our prayer is that this site will be a great "cyber door" for those outside our church family as well as a great place for our members to easily watch the weekly messages and Bible studies as well as a simple way to register for events.

# WEEKLY WORD

Leading ordinary people to an extraordinary life in Christ.



**Midweek  
ADVENT 2017**  
**Wednesday, Dec. 6, 13 & 20**  
**12:15 p.m. | 6:30 p.m. | 6:45 p.m.**

### Advent Worship - "Gifts from God"

We look forward to deepening our discipleship with our Advent midweek services on Dec. 6, 13 and 20 at 12:15 and 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Our youth-led worship services will be the same days but held at 6:45 p.m. in the FLC. (Faith Alive and ReCharge will meet.)

### Visit the Giving Tree Today!

This year we are giving food items to families at Laurel



Village. We will also have tags for household items for a few families who have great need.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Phillips at [tim.phillips@gdlc.church](mailto:tim.phillips@gdlc.church) or DeAnn McCue at [deann.mccue@gdlc.church](mailto:deann.mccue@gdlc.church).

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

## Let's pray!

Prayer requests can be made on the back of the "Welcome" card located in the pews. Please indicate your prayer request and place the card in the offering plate. We have both e-mail and phone prayer chains available. Contact Pastor Phillips at 276-1700, or Diane Young between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 321-1566 with your request.

Rick Buhrke  
Paul Bottenhoff  
Shannon Smuck  
Maddie Wright  
Bob Christensen  
Tim McClelland  
Ken Lee  
Jennifer Dehnert  
Larry Lewis  
Jessica Kramer  
Heather Kusel  
Amy Luetje (Phillips)  
Mike Burdick  
Sandy Foreman  
Paxton Bremer  
Larry Kinsey  
Sarah Smith  
Julie Bowie  
Cooper Driscoll  
Our world  
Our children and youth

## Baptized Unto Jesus

**Oliver Lynn Blaylock** born June 28, 2017 to Benjamin and Sarah (nee: Underwood) Blaylock will be baptized this Saturday. Oliver's spiritual sponsors are Andy Sterk and Rebecca Johnson.

December 9 & 10

## Christmas Caroling

**Saturday, Dec. 9 from 1-4:30 p.m.; meal included.**

Grab your children and travel with us as we spread the Christmas joy by singing to our shut-ins and nursing home members. If you have any questions, contact Tim Phillips at [tim.phillips@gdlc.church](mailto:tim.phillips@gdlc.church). Register at [www.GDLC.CHURCH](http://www.GDLC.CHURCH).

## Advent Worship Celebration on Dec. 10

On **Sunday, December 10 at the 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. services in the Sanctuary**, we will be blessed with Scripture, a message and special music anticipating and celebrating the birth of our Savior Jesus! You don't want to miss experiencing the amazing musical talents that the Lord has given to our members as they sing and play and rejoice in God our Savior.

We will maintain our normal weekend worship service times, but the 8 and 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary will be filled with special music. **There will be Grace Place on Saturday but not on Sunday.**

## Youth in the Kitchen = Pancake Breakfast

**Sunday, Dec. 10 after worship**

The youth and their parents are in the kitchen again. This time they are cooking pancakes along with some other goodies. Please stop by and enjoy the fruit of their cooking. A free-will donation will be collected for youth trips. Thank you for your support.

## Senior Adult Ministry Christmas Party

**Sunday, December 10, at 4:30 p.m.**

For those who have registered, please remember that we have a seat for you. We will have lots of singing and other Christmas activities. Barbecue sandwiches, salads and desserts will be provided. You are invited to bring a nativity scene for a display for the evening. See you then!

## Shepherds, Sheep and a Savior



The entire congregation is invited to watch the children as they re-enact the Christmas Story. Your presence would be an encouragement to our children.

## Join us Christmas Eve! Candlelight Worship Services

**Saturday, December 23**  
5:30 p.m.  
(Contemporary - Family Life Center)

**Sunday, December 24**  
12:00 · 2:00 · 4:00 · 6:00 p.m.  
(Traditional - Sanctuary)

8:00 p.m.  
(Contemporary - Sanctuary)

**Sunday, December 24**  
4:00 p.m.  
(Contemporary - Family Life Center)

Fully staffed nursery for children under 3 years old.

## Urbandale Food Pantry Ingathering

As you might expect at this time of year, we will be gathering non-perishable food for the **Urbandale Food Pantry**...but there's a twist this year. We intend to gather the food (see display in the FLC and Gathering Place) all of November and all of December, too. The twist is...we won't deliver the food until after the first of the year! Doing it that way should prove to be a huge blessing to Urbandale Food Pantry efforts as we will bring the food to them after the Holiday rush when most food pantries are hurting for stock.

Please bring your items now through Christmas!

**INGATHERING**

← Items →

- cereal
- beans
- rice
- pasta
- diapers
- baby wipes
- peanut butter
- canned soup
- canned fruit (in water or 100% juice)
- canned tuna & chicken (in water)
- canned vegetables
- canned tomatoes

## Important Information Surrounding Christmas Eve

**Worship Service on Sunday, Dec. 24 at 9 a.m.**

Please note that we will have a regular worship service in the Sanctuary with communion.

**Parents:** We are excited for your children to be able to experience Christmas Eve at Gloria Dei. Since worship services will be held both in the Sanctuary and the Family Life Center, we thought you may have a couple questions:

**What Christmas Eve service should children attend?** Any of them! Even though the services vary from traditional to contemporary (*see graphic to the left*), they are all great for families, so please select the one that best fits into your family schedule.

Children can pick up an activity booklet and crayons before worship on a table in the Gathering Place and in the FLC. In lieu of candles, glow sticks will be available for your children.

**When will the nursery be open?** We will provide a safe and loving place for your children on Christmas Eve. Our nursery will be open for children ages 3 and under on Saturday from 5:15-6:45 p.m. and Sunday from 1:45-9:15 p.m.

**Faith Alive** will not meet Dec. 27 & Jan. 3.

**Grace Place** will not meet Dec. 23-24 & Dec. 30-31.

# Welcome to the Family of Gloria Dei

This weekend at the 9:30 a.m. worship service in the Sanctuary,  
we will welcome these individuals into our church family.

If you get a chance, please introduce yourself and get to know them better.  
And while you are at it, please pray that they find great connections with others  
in their new church home.



Joel & Kelly Allman



Sarah Biermann



Josh & Hannah Boese  
Clara & Alice



Todd Kimm & Polly Carver-Kimm



Kyle & KayDee Kinning



Tricia Moeller



Tyler & Kristi Bottoms  
Jonah



Dwight & Jeanine Christiansen



Michael & Melanie Dana  
McKinley & Brennan



Vu & Ruth Nguyen  
Maximillin & Temperance



Gary & Jane Pike



Keith & Marlys Schmadeke



Sarah Dunnagan



Alex & Abi Fortsch



Greg & Barrie Judge




Kevin & Heather Schmidtz



Keith & Jane Sersland



Dylan and Kaela Shoemaker

Continue on next page 

# New Members (continued)



Brett & Heather Tamminga  
Lucas & Ivy



Jimmy & Marisa Waldschmidt

Not pictured:  
Molly Gabrilson  
Kyle & Elizabeth Hansen, Ethan & Adlyn  
Augusta Marshall, Mason  
Josh & Angie Harris, Samuel, Wyatt,  
Emma, Finn & Lucy

**Christmas Express**  
family event

Bring your family to an afternoon of Christmas fun as we travel to Bethlehem to hear about Jesus.

Register today at [gdlc.church](http://gdlc.church) or contact DeAnn McCue at [deann.mccue@gdlc.church](mailto:deann.mccue@gdlc.church)

**Sunday, Dec. 17 at 4 p.m.**  
Cost is \$10 per family

## Girlz of Faith and Boyz of Faith

**Dec. 17 from 1-2:30 p.m.** Kids in grades 3-5 are invited to join the fun as we study God's Word, pray together, play together, and fellowship together. Girls and boys will meet separately for Bible study, but join together for fellowship and food. This active group is open to all students in grades 3-5. We will meet once a month throughout the year. No registration is required.

You are invited to *Tiny Treasures'* Christmas program

**Follow the Star**

**Tuesday, Dec. 19 at 6 p.m.**  
in the Sanctuary

## Invitation to Dee Dennis Surprise Birthday Party

**Saturday, Dec. 9 from 2-4 p.m. at the church**

The congregation is invited to celebrate the 90th birthday of Dee Dennis. Dee Dennis was a founding member of Gloria Dei and her family wanted to bring her back here to celebrate her 90th birthday; She now lives in Illinois.

## Monday's Women's Bible Study

**Monday, Dec. 18 at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.** Join a group of women for an hour discussion on "In the Shadow of Jezebel" by Mesu Andrews. If you need childcare, please let us know.

## Help Gloria Dei through Amazon Smile

Gloria Dei is a registered charitable organization in the Amazon Smile program. If you do any online shopping through Amazon, you can simply go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), search for and select "Gloria Dei Lutheran Church" in Urbandale. The site is exactly the same as [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) and 0.5% of your purchase total will flow back to Gloria Dei. This is a very easy way to help your church as you go about your online Christmas shopping!

## Marriage on the Rock Class

**Begins Thursday, Jan. 11 through March 1**

Whether you've been married for years or just preparing for the journey, Marriage on the Rock will transform your relationship. Discover God's design for your dream marriage. Registration is available at [GDLC.CHURCH](http://GDLC.CHURCH). If you have any questions, contact Janet Strachan at [j.strachan@mchsi.com](mailto:j.strachan@mchsi.com) or 515-707-7205.

## Save the date! Marriage Conference

**Friday, Feb. 9 from 7-9 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 10 from 9:30 a.m. to noon**

*(Optional sessions: Friday, Feb. 9 from 9:30 a.m. to noon and 1:30-4 p.m.)*

Gloria Dei will be joining with over 500 churches from around the world in hosting the simulcast *XO Conference*. The *XO Conference* is the largest marriage conference of its kind, designed to enhance intimacy, renew passion, and refresh your relationship. No matter where you are on your journey of marriage, come and encounter God's dream for your future. The cost is \$25 per couple. More information will follow.

## Gifts for the King

We are thankful for the musical gifts that are offered by our children and youth at Gloria Dei. A special thanks to Olson Carstensen for sharing his musical gifts with us today at the 9:30 a.m. worship service.

**Calling children and youth:** All Gloria Dei kindergarten through college age students who take instrumental or vocal lessons or are part of their school bands and choirs are invited to share your gifts in worship on Sunday mornings.

If you're interested, call to set up a time to perform a piece and discuss scheduling for worship:

For piano playing, contact Julie Dueker at (515) 710-6719 or [jdueker69@gmail.com](mailto:jdueker69@gmail.com).

For all other instruments or vocals, contact Marsha Fries at (515) 707-0667 or [fries.monavation@gmail.com](mailto:fries.monavation@gmail.com).

## How Can I help a Veteran in Need at Christmas?

This is a common question for Operation Barnabas. We have the perfect opportunity for you to help five very worthy disabled Veterans this Christmas season! This is a wonderful nation-wide program that adopts wounded soldiers and their families for Christmas.

Given the number of children involved, Operation Barnabas is collecting Target and Walmart gift cards, so that our adopted Veterans can experience the joy of purchasing Christmas gifts for their families. Please consider giving a gift card or cash donation to these deserving families.

### To make a donation:

- Please mail a tax deductible donation along with a signed Christmas card (to be passed along to the Veterans) to:

Operation Barnabas  
405 NW Sturbridge, Ankeny, IA 50023

ATTN: Linn Hayden

- Or you can join us for our meeting on Thursday, Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Urbandale.

- You may also contact Operation Barnabas at [www.IowaMilitarySupport.org](http://www.IowaMilitarySupport.org).

Thank you for your support in sharing some blessings with these wounded heroes and their families! Once donations are gathered, the goal is to deliver the gifts directly to the families by December 16.

### Invitation to Meeting:

Please join us for the Operation Barnabas meeting on Thursday, Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. at Gloria Dei.

# The next 9 days...

## Saturday, Dec. 2 - Naomi Bake Sale

- 10:00 a.m. Gingerbread Tea
- 12:30 p.m. Dorothy's House Meeting
- 5:30 p.m. Contemporary Worship (FLC)
- 5:45 p.m. Grace Place

## Sunday, Dec. 3 - Naomi Bake Sale

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)\*
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday Morning Bible Study
- 9:30 a.m. Traditional Blend Worship (Sanctuary)\*  
*(Welcoming New Members at Worship)*
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship (FLC)
- 9:45 a.m. Grace Place
- 10:45 a.m. Sunday Morning Bible Study
- 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship (Sanctuary)\*
- 11:15 a.m. Grace Place
- 2:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #806
- 3:00 p.m. Advent by Candlelight Set up

## Monday, Dec. 4

- 8:30 a.m. Stephen Ministry Supervision
- 2:00 p.m. Tuesday Bible Study on Monday
- 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry Supervision
- 6:30 p.m. Advent by Candlelight

## Tuesday, Dec. 5

- 6:30 a.m. ICA Archery Practice
- 9:00 a.m. XYZ (Off-site)
- 3:15 p.m. ICA Archery Practice
- 4:00 p.m. Alzheimer's Support Group
- 6:00 p.m. Gloria Dei Choral
- 7:00 p.m. Tuesday Evening Women's Bible Study

## Wednesday, Dec. 6

- 10:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Bible Study
- 12:15 p.m. Advent Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 5:45 p.m. Christmas Program Rehearsals
- 6:00 p.m. ReCharge Meal, Opening and Small Groups
- 6:30 p.m. Faith Alive
- 6:30 p.m. Advent Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 6:45 p.m. Advent Worship Service-Youth led (FLC)
- 7:30 p.m. Gloria Dei Bell Choir

## Thursday, Dec. 7

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study
- 6:30 a.m. ICA Archery Practice
- 10:00 a.m. Joyful Stitchers
- 3:15 p.m. ICA Archery Practice
- 6:30 p.m. Flute Ensemble

## Friday, Dec. 8

No activities

## Saturday, Dec. 9

- 1:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling
- 2:00 p.m. Birthday Party for Dee Dennis
- 5:30 p.m. Contemporary Worship (FLC)\*
- 5:45 p.m. Grace Place

## Sunday, Dec. 10

- 8:00 a.m. Advent Worship Celebration (Sanctuary)
- 8:30 a.m. Youth Fundraiser Pancake Breakfast
- 9:30 a.m. Advent Worship Celebration (Sanctuary)
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship (FLC)\*
- 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship (Sanctuary)
- 12:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #763
- 3:00 p.m. Shepherds, Sheep & a Savior Children's Play
- 4:30 p.m. Senior Adult Christmas Party

Outpouring of Love (Nov. 19-25, 2017)	
General Fund Offerings	\$33,359
General Fund Offering Budget	\$34,000
2nd QTD Offering Total	\$305,062
2nd QTD Budget	\$283,500
YTD Offering Total	\$661,273
YTD Budget	\$642,400
Please note: Our fiscal year runs mid-year (July-June)	

\* Communion is in the Sanctuary the 1st and 3rd weekend and in the FLC the 2nd and 4th weekend.

We are glad that you are worshipping with us today. We encourage families to worship together before children are invited to Grace Place on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 9:50 a.m. and 11:20 a.m.

### Children:

(Infant to age 4):

**Nursery:** Located on the lower level, the nursery is staffed during all worship services for children ages 3 and under at no cost to the parent. The nursery can be accessed through the door on the southwest side of the Connection Center.

### Communion:

The Lord's Supper or Communion is a Biblical event, given by Jesus for the strengthening of our faith and the forgiveness of our sins (Matthew 26). God's Word is very clear that when we receive the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper we also literally/physically receive the actual body and blood of Jesus (1 Corinthians 10:16 and 1 Corinthians 11:23-30). If you are a baptized Christian who trusts in Christ's presence, recognizes your sinfulness, and desires not only to be forgiven of those sins, but also needs strength from Jesus to amend your daily life, then you are welcome to join us! If you do not believe Christ is present, or are unsure of what you believe and want further explanation, then please feel free to speak with one of our Pastors at a convenient time. (We provide both non-alcoholic wine in the center of the tray and gluten-free wafers in containers.)