DEI TO DAY

VOLUME 26 | ISSUE 12

Salvation Army Red Kettle

December 3rd - 5th | Hansens IGA & Walmart

Advent Tea

December 6th | 1:00 PM

Children's Christmas Program

December 9th | 6:00 pm

Christmas Caroling

December 13th | 1:00 pm

Coffeehouse Worship

December 20th | 9:00 am

Advent Meals

Wednesdays at 4:30 pm through 12/16/26

Youth Ministry Updates
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"COUNCIL CORNER"
Get inspired by the vision and direction of the Church Council and stay informed about new opportunities
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From the Pastors
Pages 11-12

2026

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Gloria Dei Youth Page

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity."
-1 Timothy 4:12

If someone were to ask me to describe my time at Reality I would tell them: "Faith Building Experience", and the reason why I say that is because this conference truly dives into a whole other world of christianity that no one likes to talk about. In a little more than 24 hours we learn how to challenge ourselves to slow down, analyze competing world views, and respond through tough questions with clarity and grace. One of the big things we focused on with each session was the word THINK broken down by each letter, and this was super helpful because it really taught us how to challenge ourselves with answering those tough questions. This is my favorite church conference because it's heavy information in a short amount of time but they do an amazing job of keeping things real and being 100% straight up with you. I genuinely am so grateful I got to experience this conference with over 4,000 people wanting to learn more about the Lord!
-Ellie Tessman



Red Pen Thinker Tim Barnett taught "Stand to Reason" attendees to "THINK" through every challenge we face:
TEST the Claim: What is your evidence?
HOLD it up to Scripture: What does the Bible say?
IDENTIFY Assumptions: What is being assumed?
NAME the Flaws: What are the fallacies?
KNOW what you know: What do I need to learn?
*Warning: if you don't think for yourself, someone else will do it for you.

High School students should consider joining us for Stand to Reason: November 12-13, 2027



This 2-day conference has been a big part of my high school years. This year was my 3rd year going, and every year the Lord impresses me with so much that I don't know. Whether it's the breakout sessions, the speakers, or random conversations waiting in the out-the-door chipotle line, this conference is always so moving. One of the coolest things we talked about was vulnerability. Society has made the acceptable thing to not talk to anyone about your feeling and emotions. Vulnerability is hard but is crucial. God wants us to be vulnerable with him and our community, because it's a way to grow. I encourage everyone to go to that church camp, go to that conference, get out of your comfort zone, and let God teach you something new.
-Klara Hall

Women's Ministry

Our Advent Tea is set for December 6th at 1:00 pm. Please plan to join us for some Fellowship and bring a snack to share as we celebrate this beautiful Advent Season. We will install our Officers and enjoy a short program.

Our next general meeting will be January 12th at Noon. Join us for a short business meeting and meal. The Officers will provide the meal.

Thank you to everyone who donated towards our Kits and to the Quilting group for the quilts that were donated to LWR. What a beautiful impact on people whom we will never meet.

Starting in January we will start collection for LWR Personal Care Kits. See the specific list below.
-Submitted by Jane Tessmann

PERSONAL CARE KITS

- **One light to medium weight bath-size towel, dark color recommended**
- **Two bath-size bars of soap in original wrapping**
- **One adult-size toothbrush in original packaging**
- **One sturdy comb**
- **One metal nail clipper, remove packaging**

Wrap all items in the towel and tie securly with ribbon or yarn.

AS A COMMUNITY OF WOMEN, CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD, CALLED TO DISCIPLESHIP IN JESUS CHRIST, AND EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO GROWTH IN FAITH, AFFIRM OUR GIFTS, SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER IN OUR CALLINGS, ENGAGE IN MINISTRY AND ACTION, AND PROMOTE HEALING AND WHOLENESS IN THE CHURCH, THE SOCIETY, AND THE WORLD.



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CHRISTMAS WORSHIP HOURS

Wednesday, Dec. 9th : Children's Christmas Program at 6 pm

Wednesday, Dec. 23rd: No Worship

Christmas Eve:
4 pm, 6 pm, and 8 pm

Christmas Day:
9 am

Sunday, Dec. 27th:
9 am

Wednesday, Dec. 30th:
No Worship

WALK THROUGH ADVENT

An Intergenerational Nativity Walk

Please join us on December 6th at 1:00 p.m. for our annual Advent Tea!
All are welcome, and we encourage you to bring a favorite snack to share as we gather for an afternoon of food, fellowship, and Christmas joy.
This year, we'll celebrate the season together with a special Advent Nativity Walk through the church, shared with the youth of Gloria Dei. Children and adults alike are invited to take part in this meaningful journey through the story of Jesus' birth.
Children are invited to gather at 1 pm in the big room on the lower level for their own special time of fun and fellowship, and following that, we will all gather together for an Advent Nativity Walk.
We look forward to sharing this festive afternoon with you. Bring a snack to share, bring a friend, and come celebrate Advent with us!

COUNCIL Corner

DEADLINE FAST APPROACHING!

The deadline for the annual meeting report submissions is fast approaching, and by the time you receive this newsletter, it will almost be here and gone, so if you haven't already provided yours to the office, please do so by DECEMBER 1st. This includes all committee or group reports, except budget requirements, which will be due right after the end of the year.

Christmas Eve Services will be held on December 24th at 4, 6, and 8 o'clock PM and we need 4 to 6 readers for each of these. If you are planning on attending any these and would be willing to read a small part, please let me know by contacting me at billreneau49@gmail.com.

Bill Reneau – Council President

thank you

October's Pastor Appreciation Month gave us another reminder of the special work Jesus Christ has accomplished and continues to do in all of you. Pr. Kay and I want to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who took the time to share a kind word, send a card, give flowers, bring candy, or offer any other expression of appreciation. And we know how many of you pray for us and for Gloria Dei as a whole. This makes a huge difference.

Your thoughtfulness, encouragement, and generosity mean more to us than you know. It is a blessing to serve alongside and among people who care so deeply about the mission of Gloria Dei, loving our neighbors, God's rescuing the human race and our part in it.

We are grateful that God has called us to be part of this family of faith and to share in the joys, challenges, and blessings of ministry with you. You are a very special congregation, and we are blessed to walk alongside of each of you! With grateful hearts and for the sake of service to Christ,
Pr. Kay Knight & Pr. Dave Dahl

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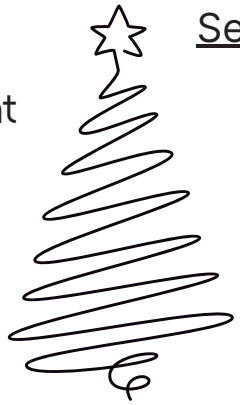
CONNECT.
GROW.
SERVE.

Treasurer's Report



September 2026 Income & Expenses

Income	$36,836.05
YTD Income	$374,409.76
Expenses	$41,030.58
YTD Expenses	$380,346.90

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Harvest Meal in October! The meal was well received and attended.

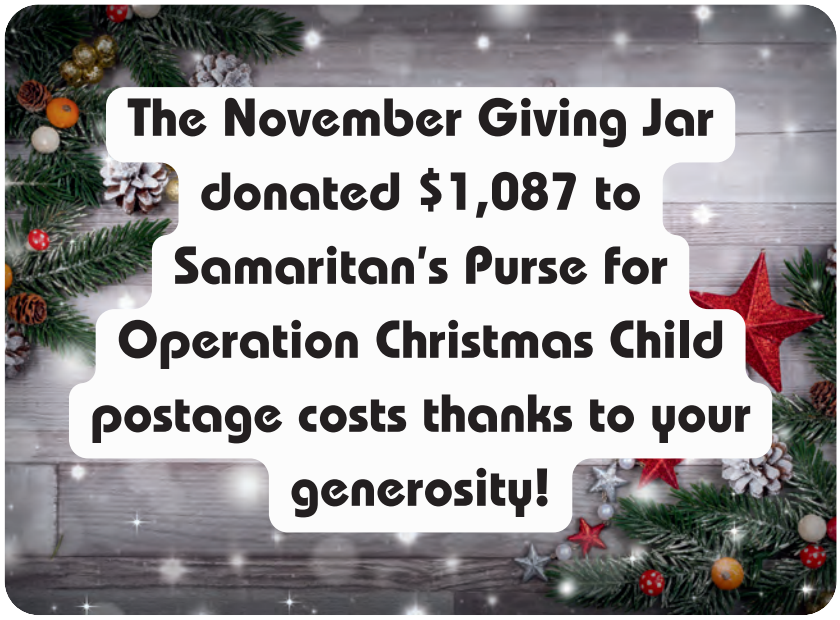
FAMILY CONNNECTIONS

We are keeping in contact with our recently graduated students and newly baptized members.
We will host a cookie and milk Social after the Kids Christmas program on December 9th.



HOMEBOUND

Care Center: Susan Kammerer
Close to Home: Sharon Jensen & Wanda Baker
Sunset Ridge: Laurie Olson
Liberty Village: P.T. Melby
Morrow Home: Cherlyn Moseley
LaCrosse, WI: TJ Waege
West Salem, WI: Flo Lloyd
Cranberry Court: Patricia Olson
At Home: Victor Burnstad





Have you ever wanted to be a part of the Praise & Worship team?
Meet us in the sanctuary on Wednesday evenings at 4:15 pm to join!

Thank You to Our Volunteer Leaders:

- **Ruth Stoner (Hospitality)**
- **Jim Grilley (Safety)**
- **Bill Reneau (Readers)**
- **Jane Tessmann (Communion)**
- **Linda Frye (Care Ministry)**
- **Jackie Kiel (Acolytes)**
- **Sue Waege (Coffee Hour)**
- **Rick & Annette Eagen (Tech)**
- **John Lawrence (Property)**
- **Linda Frye (Care Ministry)**

MISSIONS

At our November meeting, we discussed several budget line items. We had $973.97 undisbursed in the Miscellaneous Concerns line amount from our budget. Earlier we had discussed donating towards the Wisconsin tornado disaster relief programs, and Pastor Dave contacted both Samaritan's Purse and the Salvation Army. At this time, the Salvation Army remains in the area , working with the community in the ongoing effort of reconstruction and repairs as well as meeting basic needs for distressed families. Our Committee authorized disbursing the $973.97 to the Salvation Army for Appleton/Menasha tornado relief.

Also , we discussed the $500 in gas cards that are a budget line item. Pastor Dave informed us the church office does not "stock up" on gas cards because there's been a change in how they are processed , and now they mostly expire after 30 days. Other organizations in the community offer this assistance too. Our Committee authorized using $250.00 of the gas card budget to purchase toiletries & personal care items for Tomah Special Christmas.

We discussed and approved our 2027 Budget and our list of 2027 Giving Jar Recipients. Our meeting dates in 2027 will be February 3rd, April 7th, June 2nd, August 4th and November 3rd, at 1:00 in the library on the main level at Gloria Dei.

Pastor Dave reported that the Salvation Army Red Kettle campaign is up and running and doing well, with more churches signing up to ring bells. Reminder that 80% of the donations stay in Tomah and are disbursed to many nonprofit organizations. If possible, please share an hour of your time helping with this worthwhile cause.

We welcomed new committee member Marian Bloom!Thanks for joining us Marian!

Colleen Bolchen shared a thank you note from one of the recipients of Gloria Dei's generosity. Please see page 8 for more thank you notes.

"Dear Friends, thank you for your faithful prayers and support. I'm in Ethiopia all month teaching translation principles to seminary students. The 19 students come from 12 languages and some are already in Bible projects. Pray these added skills will increase their confidence and quality. Blessings, Becky Grossmann, Lutheran Bible Translators. 07/19/2026"



Thank You

Below are some thank you notes from organizations that have been recipients of Gloria Dei's generosity.



"Dear Friends, Shalom, and thank you for your faithful prayers and generous support of Chosen People Ministries as we are now in our 132nd year. Our growing Host Israelis hospitality ministry continues to open doors to the gospel for Israeli travelers in remarkable ways. One of our staff missionaries in Tel Aviv recently shared that she had been sleeping overnight in an underground shelter due to ongoing bombing, and one morning, while conversing with a nearby family, she discovered they had spent the past year traveling in Japan and had stayed at the chosen People Ministries guesthouse in Tokyo. The father shared that he first heard about Jewish people who believe in Jesus while staying at that guesthouse and it deeply impacted him. "If I had lived in the time of Jesus," he reflected, "I would have followed him". Please pray that those who hear the gospel at our hostels come to know the Lord. With gratitude, Mitch Glaser, President of Chosen People Ministries. 05/04/2026"

"Dear Friends at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church,On a reent trip with Mission Aviation Fellowship's long-term partner MozMed, the Mozambique team flew into an isolated village to find the medical clinic locked. Rather than leave, MAF's pilot and doctors decided to stay and offer prayer in Jesus' name for the patients. And the people came... Without the generosity of people like you, opportunities to care for the physical and spiritual well-being of isolated people wouldn't be possible. Thank you for your church's recent gift to MAF. Serving together, David Holsten, President and CEO 10/09/2026"



"Dear Gloria Dei, Thank you for giving gifts in Jesus' name through Compassion Gifts. You generously helped meet real needs, changing the lives of children and families in poverty. And you reminded them that they are known, loved and protected. Your gifts totaling $710.00 will provide chickens to produce eggs for food and for selling at the market, cows to help a family with farming and to give nutritious milk , and goats to give a family nutritious food and a source of income... Thank you for giving hope to children and families in poverty . Your gifts will create stories of light and transformation around the world. In Christ, Steven Marble, Sr. Director of Supporter Care, Compassion International 08/05/2026"



Usher/Greeter (Hospitality)

8 am

Lyle & Linda Frye
Conzemius Family

10:30 am

Greeters Needed!
Please contact Ruth Stoner.

Acolytes

8 am

12/6: Dylan Hart
12/13: Daphne Burnstad
12/20: (9 am) Andrew Hart
12/27: (9 am) Hadley Steele

10:30 am

12/6: Nolan Steen
12/13:Natalie Winchel

Tech Booth

Sign Up to help in the tech booth today!

Communion Assistants

8 am

12/6/26
Shannon Boettcher
Gloria Aarness

10:30 am

Glenna Rice
Karen Rezin

12/20/26
COFFEEHOUSE WORSHIP:
9 am Worship in the Fellowship Hall

Altar Guild

Bill & Shelly Pieper
Glenna Rice
Jen Conzemius

Readers

8 am

12/6: John Tessmann
12/13: Sharon Anderson
12/20: (9 am) Brian Knight
12/25: (9 am) Colleen Bolchen
12/27: (9 am) Bill Reneau

10:30 am

12/6: Kate Mathison
12/13: Colleen Bolchen

Please see the sign-up sheet on the kiosk for special worship service assignments.

Safety Team

8 am

12/6: Fletcher Reiman
12/13: Clint Niebuhr
12/20: (9 am) Tom Curran
12/27: (9 am) Bruce Aarness

10:30 am

Jay Gerke
Lenny Bakken

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

A big THANK YOU to all who participated in this worthy project. Gloria Dei packed 130 boxes (last year was 115) that will certainly put a smile on someone's face. This project was successful because members stepped up in many ways. Members of Gloria Dei donated items for the shoeboxes, others packed shoeboxes, an anonymous donor left bags of items in the donation box, Cyndy Hall helped with the display, Darryl Urban delivered the shoeboxes to the drop off point, Oasis Church, Heather directed and answered questions, and last but not least, Lyle Frye for helping us to successfully complete this project.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

P.S. Also to those that had their picture taken for the display to promote our packing – you all looked good!

-Submitted by Linda Frye



GLORIA DEI

Keep and Live the Faith! -Pr Dave Dahl

The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14b

Life is complicated, and the older I get, the more frustrated I become concerning the state of humanity . . . how very smart people can, on one hand, lead us to do amazing things, and on the other, endorse such destructive things. And that is why we read so much of Isaiah this time of year.

In Isaiah's day, the people of Israel wrestled with the same things we do. They wrestled with ambitious leaders whose foreign policy was bent on world domination and who hawked their own ideas of economic and social engineering. What did God have to do with the course of building a nation anyway? The ruling class rose. The common people we pressed down. And the country slowly rotted from within. The saying is true then as it is now: There was no blessing that well-meaning human beings and good government can't mess up. And that is what it was – a mess.

In comes the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah's name means "the Lord saves." That alone would give you an indication of the course of this story.

Isaiah was married and was the father of at least two children. He was also well-educated. He served as an adviser to a number of kings.

From the beginning, God gave Isaiah the eyes to see the mess for what it was. He educated his king as to what was right and what was wrong – about the God who is the author of everything good and right and true, about the necessity of listening to and honoring God. This included learning justice, defending the sacredness of life, and marriage, encouraged honesty in business and encouraged benevolence on behalf of fatherless families and orphan children. All of this would lead the country to a place of being a blessing, not just to themselves, but to the world.

These matters were large, and Isaiah pointed toward the need of God's assistance. But the leaders of the country of Judah would not listen. They insisted on following their own wisdom to their peril.

Can you imagine how frustrated Isaiah felt? Isaiah then pointed to the Savior who was to come from God Himself.

"The Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel (God with us)." (Isaiah 7:14)

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

The child of whom Isaiah spoke was not to come for a number of centuries. In the meantime, what was in Judah's immediate future was war with Babylon – a war she would lose. Her survivors were rounded up and marched to Babylon. Even in this faith-testing wait, the words of Isaiah were remembered, and the hope of a Savior who is "God With Us" became more real with each passing generation. That hope was birthed in flesh in Bethlehem.

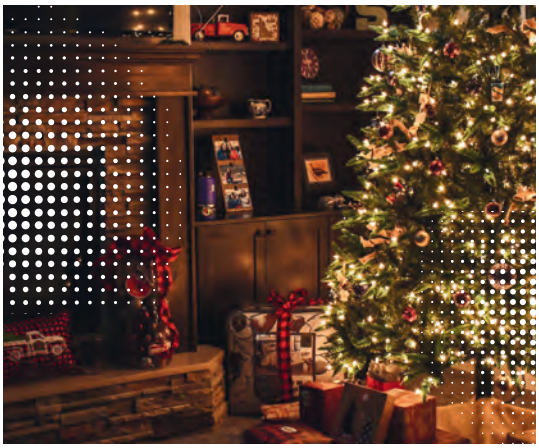
During this Advent, we're going to journey to Bethlehem. We will explore the meaning of our Savior who is Immanuel – God with us. We will encourage each other to keep hope alive regarding His coming again – to Wake up! Make Room! And Rejoice, for God is with us!

Come to worship every Sunday morning and Wednesday night. On Wednesdays, come straight from work. You don't even need to cook! A meal will be served at 4:30 pm, and then we will gather for worship.

"For to us a child is born," Isaiah says. Tune your ears to the amazing sounds that remind us that God is with you and for you. Let's take this journey together.

Keep and Live the Faith

-Pr. Dave Dahl



FROM PR. KAY:

"It's a major award!" If you've ever watched A Christmas Story, you can probably hear Ralphie's excitement as his dad proudly displays that infamous leg lamp in the front window. And who can forget the repeated warning from just about every adult in the movie: "You'll shoot your eye out!"

Christmas movies have a way of becoming part of our own Christmas traditions. Maybe it's A Christmas Story, It's a Wonderful Life, Elf, Home Alone, or one of those Hallmark movies where somehow everyone finds true love before the snow melts. We watch them year after year, even though we know exactly what's coming. And around here, December has its own familiar scenes: driving down to Winnebago Park to see the Christmas lights, finding time for the local holiday happenings, squeezing in one more shopping trip, watching the weather forecast (because in Wisconsin, that's practically a Christmas tradition of its own!), and trying to fit one more gathering into an already full calendar. There's a lot happening, and sometimes it feels like we need a little Christmas miracle just to get everything done!

But here's something I love about a community like Tomah: in the middle of all that busyness, people still find ways to show up for one another. Neighbors help neighbors, people give their time and talents, local organizations lend a hand, and churches gather to worship and serve. Those little acts of kindness may not make the evening news, but they reflect something much bigger. They remind me of that first Christmas night, when God chose ordinary people—shepherds out in a field—to be among the very first to hear the extraordinary news of Jesus' birth. God has always had a way of showing up in ordinary places and ordinary lives.

Think about that for a moment. God didn't send the angels to a palace or to the important people of the world. He sent them to shepherds. Ordinary people who were out working, probably tired, maybe thinking about what tomorrow would bring, and certainly not expecting anything extraordinary to happen that night.

And isn't that still how God works? God shows up right in the middle of our everyday lives. In the middle of busy schedules, long workdays, kids' activities, community events, grocery runs, and all the things that seem to fill our calendars. God doesn't wait until we've checked everything off our to-do lists, finished decorating the house, baked every last Christmas cookie, or finally found time to sit down and catch our breath. God comes to us right where we are—in the middle of the ordinary, the imperfect, and sometimes downright chaotic parts of life. And that's really good news, because that's exactly where most of us live!

In fact, that's the whole point of Christmas. In Jesus, God comes close. John tells us, "The Word became flesh and lived among us." (John 1:14) God didn't send us a list of instructions or simply wish us well from a distance. God came to live among us.

I think that's worth celebrating!

So, as we make our way through December, I hope you'll enjoy the traditions, the Christmas movies, the family gatherings, the cookies, the lights, and maybe even a little friendly chaos.

And when you hear someone say, "You'll shoot your eye out!" or find yourself singing along with a familiar Christmas song, remember that the real Christmas story is even better than anything Hollywood could dream up.

The baby in the manger is God's gift to the world. A gift that doesn't need batteries, doesn't need wrapping paper, and never goes out of style. May the good news of great joy fill your hearts and homes this Christmas. And may we never lose the wonder of what happened that first Christmas night. Have a Merry and blessed Christmas! -Pr. Kay Knight

December 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 8 am Quilting Group 9 am EBS 6:30 pm Small Group with David & Cyndy Hall	2 1 pm Book Club 4:30 pm Advent Meal 6 pm Worship 6:45 pm Confirmation Class	3 1:30 pm Miriam Circle	4	5
6 8 am Worship & Communion 9:15 am Coffee & Education Hour 10:30 am Worship & Communion 12:15 pm Liberty Village Worship 1 pm Advent Tea	7 9 am Small Group with Pastor Dave 6 pm Small Group with Bill & Deb Rice	8 8 am Quilting Group 9 am EBS 6:30 pm Small Group with David & Cyndy Hall	9 4:30 pm Advent Meal 6 pm Children's Christmas Program 6:45 pm Confirmation Class 7 pm Dorcas	10 1 pm Esther-Rachel & Sarah Circles	11	12
13 8 am Worship 9:15 am Coffee & Education Hour 10:30 am Worship 12:15 pm Liberty Village Worship 1 pm Christmas Caroling	14 9 am Small Group with Pastor Dave & Rebekah-Ruth Circle 6 pm Small Group with Bill & Deb Rice	15 8 am Quilting Group 9 am EBS 6:30 pm Small Group with David & Cyndy Hall	16 4:30 pm Advent Meal 6 pm Worship 6:45 pm Confirmation Class	17	18	19
20 9 am Coffeehouse Worship	21 9 am Small Group with Pastor Dave 10 am History Committee 6 pm Small Group with Bill & Deb Rice	22 8 am Quilting Group 9 am EBS 6:30 pm Small Group with David & Cyndy Hall	23 **No Worship, Confirmation Class, or Prayer Shawl Meeting**	24 4 pm Worship 6 pm Worship 8 pm Worship	25 9 am Christmas Day Worship MERRY Christmas	26
27 9 am Worship	28 9 am Small Group with Pastor Dave 6 pm Small Group with Bill & Deb Rice	29 8 am Quilting Group 9 am EBS 6:30 pm Small Group with David & Cyndy Hall	30 **NO WORSHIP**	31	Jan. 1st, 2027 **HAPPY NEW YEAR!** **CHURCH CLOSED TODAY**	Jan. 2nd, 2027

GLORIA DEI STAFF

David Dahl, Senior Pastor	608-387-5451	Pastordave@gloriadeitomah.com
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Jody Kiel, Treasurer		treasurer@gloriadeitomah.com
Deb Rice, Worship Leader		

GLORIA DEI COUNCIL

- *Bill Reneau (President)*
- *Jim Grilley (Vice-President)*
- *Jane Tessmann (Secretary)*
- *David O. Hall*
- *Glenna Rice*
- *Karen Rezin*
- *Greta Rice*
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