

DEI TO DAY

VOLUME 25 | ISSUE 12



Noel: Christ is Born
Cantata & Coffeehouse
Worship

Dec. 21st | 9:00 AM

Youth Ministry
Updates
Page 2

Holiday Worship
Hours

See Page 5

Christmas Eve
Worship

4 pm, 6 pm, & 8 pm

"COUNCIL CORNER"

Get inspired by the vision
and direction of the Church
Council and stay in the
know about new
opportunities

Page 6

Christmas Day
Worship

9:00 AM

Scandinavian Bake Sale

December 6th | 8 AM - 11 AM
See Page 7 for information

2025

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December 2025



GLORIA DEI YOUTH

Christ-Centered Learning

Stand to Reason

The youth of Gloria Dei (and their friends) attended the Stand to Reason conference on November 7th - 9th. They had a great time, packed with learning and deepening their faith. Thank you to the volunteers and participants, and to the parents for helping make this happen.

Bart the Shepherd

We just received word that Bart -our Shepherd on a Search is on his way back for the month of December. Discover the joy of finding Christ in Christmas! Following along with Bart (short for Bartholomew) is a fun way to engage as we countdown to Christmas and search for baby Jesus.

Children's Christmas Program

Please join us at 6 PM on December 10th, 2025 for the Children's Christmas Program! The Sunday School Kids will delight us with their joyful voices!



Stand To Reason 2025





It's been a busy month of baking as we are getting ready for the Scandinavian Bake Sale! We have had such wonderful help! Each day has been so organized and run smoothly. We prepped and made lefse for four days. Sandbakkels were completed in one day thanks to the Veteran's Day Holiday and people having the day off. Flatbread was baked in one day as well. We will finish with krumkaka, rosettes, and julekaga. The sale is on December 6th, 2025 from 8 - 11 am (or until we sell out!). If you would like to add your special treats to the Bake Sale, please have them to church (in the kitchen with a note on them) by December 4th. You are welcome to package and label your items, and we will price them. A huge thank you to those who provided items for the lunches for the bakers. This is also such an important part of the baking day.

The Advent Tea was on November 30th at 1 pm with Miriam Circle being program hostess. As always, we ask and thank you for bringing a treat to pass around and join as we celebrate the start of a beautiful Advent Season.

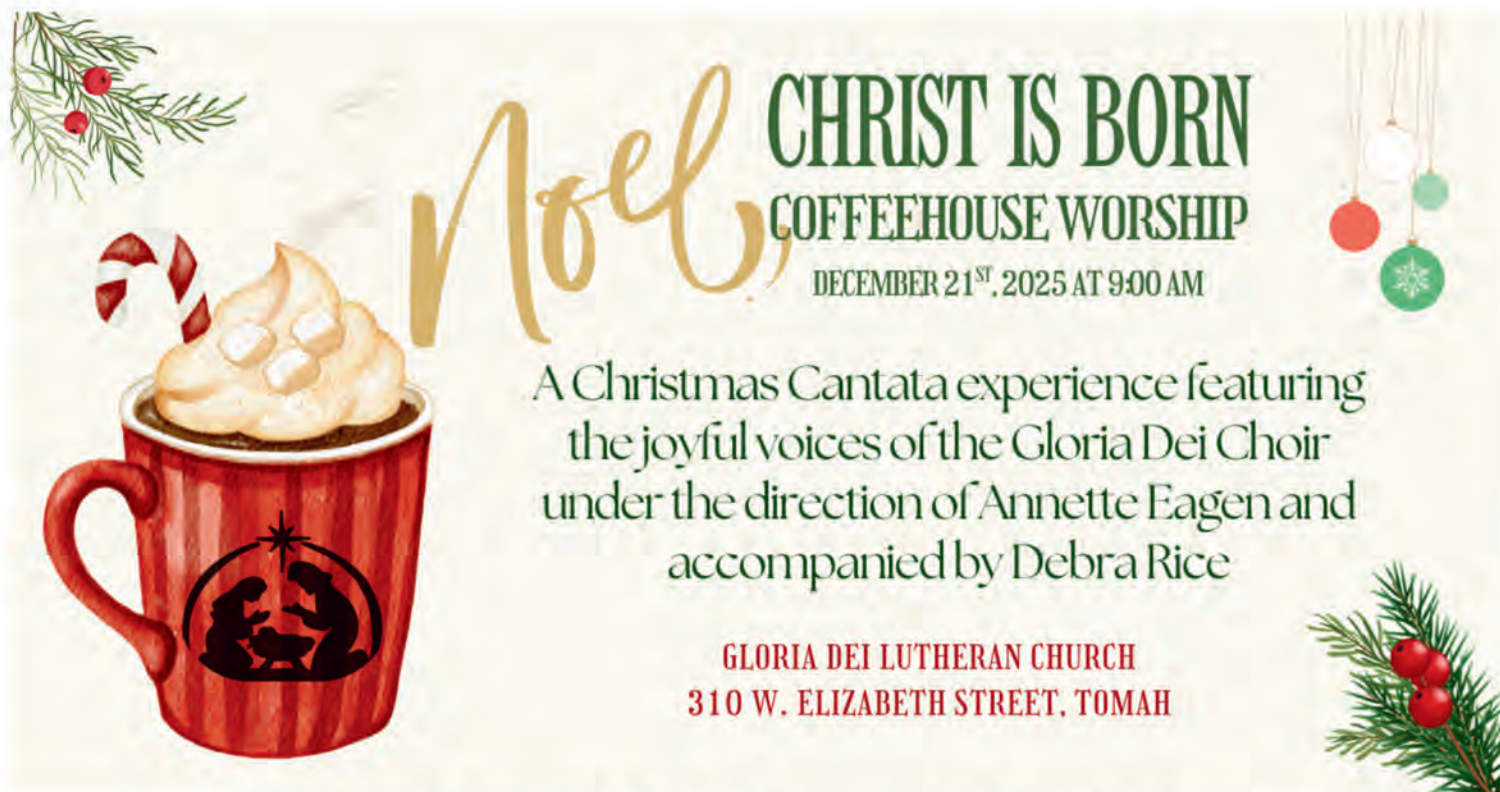
On January 13th, 2026 we will have the Women's General Meeting at noon. Please join us for a short business meeting and meal that is provided by the officers. We wish you all a Merry Christmas!

-Submitted by Jane Tessmann



**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.**





Join Us for the Christmas Cantata

The Christmas Cantata is set to delight us once more with the enchanting sounds of Christmas music. Join us on ****December 17th at 6 PM**** and again on ****December 21st**** for our Coffeehouse Worship at 9 AM. The choir, directed by Mrs. Annette Eagen and accompanied by Deb Rice on piano, promises a memorable experience.

We hope your Christmas season is filled with love, joy, and family blessings.

'tis the season

TO BE JOLLY





Christmas Caroling time is here! On December 7th, 2025, we will leave at 11:30 am from church and plan to spread joy through music until 1:30 pm. Sign up at the kiosk if you plan to join us.



The annual meeting is set for January 25th, 2026 at 9:15 am (between worship services). We will elect some new council and committee members and discuss the events of the past year. All eligible voters are encouraged to attend.

Holiday Worship Hours

- 12/03/25 @ 6 pm: Blue Christmas Service
- 12/10/25 @ 6 pm: Children's Christmas Program
- 12/17/21 @ 6 pm: Christmas Cantata
- 12/21/25 @ 9 am: Coffeehouse Worship featuring the Christmas Cantata
- 12/24/25: Worship at 4 pm (Family Service), 6 pm, and 8 pm
- 12/25/25: Worship at 9 am
- 12/28/25: Worship at 9 am
- 12/31/25: No Worship





Greetings,

We speak to you in a time of great need to build our Christian community, as faith in God is declining throughout the U.S., and you may wonder what you can do to change this. While many of you faithfully pray, read devotionals, and participate in small groups to build connections, our church provides many opportunities for active involvement in our mission to Connect, Grow, and Serve. The apostle Paul tells us in Romans 12:5, "Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves." Building community within the church is a vital step in growing faith in God in the greater Tomah area.

Our church committees and groups are the paths through which our church community connects with people and shares the love of Jesus with those who don't know Him. God has called all of us, from 4 years old to 94 years old and beyond, to serve His plan. We do this through fervent service and love of one another. "So faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

Romans 13:13.

Attending church activities, participating in groups, and serving on committees is an act of love through service. Proverbs 17:7, "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born from a time of adversity." While serving may be a challenge, it is what we have been called to do: "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ" - Galatians 6:2. Find a way to share your wisdom, use your energy, and impart your knowledge by working actively with one of our church committees.

Lastly, we still have two church council positions open. Service on the church council is an important aspect of fulfilling our mission statement of Connect, Grow, Serve. If you've had frustrations, passions, interests, or desires for the church to do something new or better, church council is the position for you. We have worked very hard over the past year to change church council to a collaborative group that works towards leading the church to serve God more faithfully, and we need voices both young and old, passionate and reserved.

Prayerfully consider and reach out.

Scott Conzemius, Council President

www.gloriadeitomah.com

**CONNECT.
GROW.
SERVE.**

Treasurer's Report

October 2025 Income & Expenses

Income.....	\$27,396.88
YTD Income.....	\$352,575.55
Expenses	\$35,302.47
YTD Expenses.....	\$352,469.48

GLORIA DEI

STAY IN THE KNOW



**OPT IN TO
RECEIVE TEXTS**



Use your smartphone camera to scan the QR code above and sign up to receive text messages and/or emails from Gloria Dei. Never miss an important message again!

WWW.GLORIADEITOMAH.COM



The Bi-Annual Scandinavian Bake Sale will take place on December 6th, 2025 from 8 am until 11 am (or until we sell out). We will be accepting donations of baked goods during the dates of Dec. 1st – Dec. 4th



Blue Christmas



Wednesday, December 3rd at 6:00 pm

For some, Christmas Day is the most difficult. For others, Christmas Eve, or New Year's Eve, or the beginning of another lonely New Year. For others the darkness of their lives may be an overwhelming sadness as a result of the violence in our world.

In this service, we will have some singing appropriate to the season, recognizing that this is not necessarily a season of joy. We will invite you to meditate on the pain and anguish you may bring and to offer your pain to the Christ child. And we trust that you will find hope and comfort in knowing that you are not alone.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

We will end our year by providing an Advent Meal on December 10th starting at 4:30 pm. This is also the day of the Children's Christmas Program (beginning at 6 pm). After the program, we will host our famous cookie social! Watch for more events from the Fellowship Committee in 2026.

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

We connected with our post-graduates in November with a Thanksgiving card and fun games. Please keep these 5 students in your prayers.

HOMEBOUND

Care Center: Susan Kammerer & Velma Lutz

Close to Home: Sharon Jensen

Sunset Ridge: Laurie Olson

Liberty Village: P.T. Melby

Morrow Home: Cherlyn Moseley

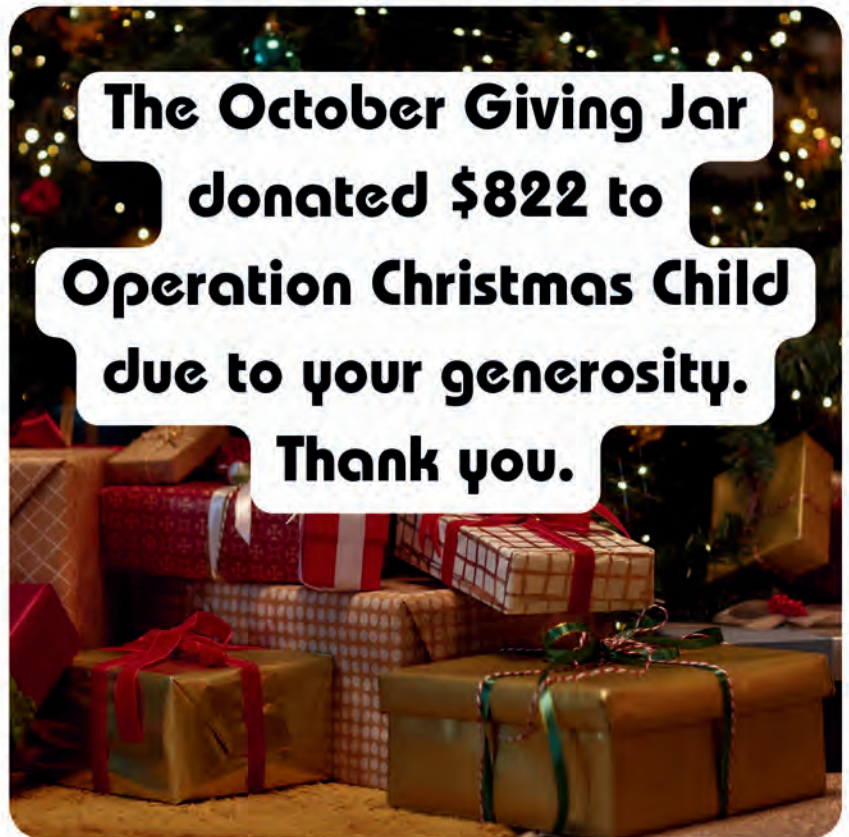
LaCrosse, WI: TJ Waeger

West Salem, WI: Flo Lloyd

Cranberry Court: Patricia Olson

Rolling Hills: Matt Grovesteen

At Home: Victor Burnstad



New Volunteer Opportunity – Tech Booth Team

Each week, we need people to serve at the 8:00 am and 10:30 am services. The main job is simply advancing worship slides during the service. Training will be provided, and no prior tech experience is needed.

 If you'd like to help create a smooth worship experience, speak with Annette Eagen or Pastor Dave. Even serving once a month makes a big difference!

Thank You to Our Volunteer Leaders:

- **Ruth Stoner (Hospitality)**
- **Jim Grilley (Safety)**
- **Bil Reneau (Readers)**
- **Jane Tessmann (Communion)**
- **Linda Frye (Care Ministry)**
- **Jackie Kiel (Acolytes)**
- **Sue Waeger (Coffee Hour)**

Usher/Greeter (Hospitality)

8:00 AM

Conzemius Family
Lyle & Linda Frye

10:30 AM

Bob & Karen Rezin
(OPEN)

Acolytes

8:00 AM

12/7 - Natalie Winchel
12/14 - Fletcher Reiman
12/21 (9 am) - Lyam Eno
12/28 (9 am) - Hadley Steele

Tech Booth

Sign Up to help in
the tech booth
today!

10:30 AM

12/7 - Silas Falk
12/14 - Emilee Scholz
12/21 & 12/28 (see
above, 9 am only)

Communion Assistants

8:00 AM

12/7 -
Joyce Thurow
Sue Waege

10:30 AM

Darlene Nelson
Shelly Pieper

12/21 - 9am only
Gloria Aarness
Shannon Boettcher

Karen Rezin
Glenna Rice

Altar Guild

Bill & Shelly Pieper
Glenna Rice
Jen Conzemius

Readers

8:00 AM

12/7 - Brian Knight
12/14 - Ken Kuhn
12/21 (9 am) - Scott
Conzemius
12/28 (9 am) - Sharon
Anderson

10:30 AM

12/7 - Ethan Habeck
12/14 - Colleen Bolchen

Safety Team

8:00 AM

12/7 - Bill Wright
12/14 - Bruce Aarness
12/21 - Clint Niebuhr ----->
12/28 - Jason Reiman ---->

10:30 AM

Louis Lawrence
David C. Hall
9 am ONLY
9 am ONLY

His Kingdom is Here

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food. . . (Isaiah 25:6a)

A meal shared together is an act of war.

It's a declaration that Satan's days are numbered.

This has become more real to me each passing day.

When I was little, family dinners were something I had to endure – putting up with a lot of people I didn't cross paths with very often. But as I grew older, they became fun—good food with people I loved. Somewhere in the course of the meal, one of the elders would get teary – and blurting out something to the effect of extolling God's blessings of family. I admit, I really didn't get it. It takes puppies 4 weeks to open their eyes and start seeing straight, and it probably took me 4 decades before I began to see that something far deeper than a mere meal was happening around our table.

Meals together are brief bursts of joy in the middle of the battlefield of life.

C. S. Lewis understood this. I'm a big Lewis fan—he died the year I was born. In *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* he gives a powerful picture of why meals matter. Narnia is locked in an icy spell where it's "always winter but never Christmas." The White Witch, the usurper queen, stumbles upon a group of animals feasting in the woods—enjoying plum pudding and celebrating news brought by Father Christmas (Lewis's John-the-Baptist figure) that Aslan, the lion (the Jesus figure) has arrived.

That little feast was an act of rebellion. It dared to celebrate that the Witch's reign was ending, that endless winter was about to break. The Witch demanded the animals deny the news. When they refused, she turned them all into stone.

That meal was an act of war. And she wasn't wrong.

When God's people gather around a table—whether its Dad's turkey or Grandma's casserole – the one with the crunchy stuff on top and baked to perfection—we also make a declaration. No matter how dark the world becomes, we are the people of the Risen King. God's goodness has triumphed. Our Savior's tomb is empty. How could we not gather and celebrate?

But there's more. We don't just celebrate what God has done; we also celebrate what He will do. And that makes every family meal a rehearsal for eternity.

The prophet Isaiah gives us a glimpse of our future feast: "On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine... He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces." (Isaiah 25:6–8)

And John gives us another glimpse in Revelation 19: "Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb... These are the true words of God."

Read the whole chapter in Revelation and you'll notice something remarkable: the Marriage Supper of the Lamb is held in the midst of war. This banquet is spread for God's redeemed children while the powers of darkness make their last stand against the Lamb. This Marriage Supper is a feast of victory. (You Sunday 8:00 a.m. people may hear echoes of one of our communion hymns: "This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia!"— Now you know where it comes from.)

It's no wonder that during His earthly ministry Jesus came "eating and drinking" with sinners and Pharisees alike, and why He was accused of being "a glutton and a drunkard" (Matthew 11:19). That accusation says something. In the middle of life's battles, Jesus revealed that God is far more joy-filled than people expected Him to be.

So, as you gather around tables this Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day—invite someone to your table or accept someone's invitation to theirs. Taste and see that the Lord is good. Christ has come because He loves you.

Take in every flavor. Let the joy around the table swallow up the heartaches and struggles that cling to your days. Listen closely, and you might faintly hear the hymn we sing at communion: "This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia!"

Remember that you are a child of the Risen King.

Remember that every meal is a small rehearsal for heaven.

Remember that Satan's days—and your days of tears—are numbered.

Christ has come. His Kingdom is here.



TIS THE SEASON

Tis the season...to be overwhelmed? Just looking at our Gloria Dei calendar shows many opportunities for service, learning, community, and growth. But I caution: Watch out for overload during the Christmas season.

Culturally, December is a smorgasbord of festivities: freshly-strung Christmas lights, holiday parties, trips to the tree farm, and more! Here at Gloria Dei, too, there is much to do, like our Advent Tea and Advent Fest, Blue Christmas, our children's program, and Cantata event.

Frankly, I love this season for all that is happening--and how fun much of it is!

But how do we keep from getting so depleted? The idea isn't to refrain from doing what you love; the aim is to invest your time and energy intentionally, into things that nourish and encourage you, so you wake up Christmas morning feeling renewed and fully present.

I'll share with you some of the goals I'm working toward this season:

- Seek God in a new way. Ready to start a new morning quiet time with scripture by candlelight? Want to start an evening walk with God, savoring the changing sky overhead? Feeling the nudge to find a prayer partner for accountability? Try it!
- When you say you don't have time to do something, pause and consider. Sometimes, when I think, "Oh, I don't have time for this," it means I have neither time nor interest. I'm not feeling within it an invitation from God. I pray we'll make time for what may be the powerful moments of connection and politely skip the others.
- Choose a way to give back that feeds your soul. There are many, many causes in the community worthy of your investment of time or resources--places where God's love is being shared abundantly and tangibly. Ring bells for the Salvation Army, support Neighbor for Neighbor, volunteer to drive for Faith in Action, call someone who is alone.
- In the midst of the busy-ness, hold fast to spiritual rhythms that keep you whole. These might include prayer, worship, and time in small groups. Do you really want to make Sunday worship? What does it look like for you? How can you safeguard it as things get busier?

I hope you give yourself permission to choose well how you spend yourself this season. Whatever you choose, may it give you life--and may you show up fully within it. These two things--life and presence--are vital pieces of "preparing the way" for love to be born, right here and now.

Psalm 5:11 ~ Oh Lord, let all of us who take refuge in you be glad, let us sing for joy, protect us that we may rejoice in You.

Have a very blessed Advent season and Merry Christmas! ~Pastor Kay

By Pastor Kay Knight



December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9 am Small Group with Pastor Dave 6 pm Small Group with Bill & Deb Rice	2 8 am Quilting Group 9 am Prayer Meeting & EBS 6:30 pm Small Group with Dave & Cyndy Hall	3 4:15 pm Praise Team 4:30 pm Advent Meal Hosted by Faith in Action 6 pm Blue Christmas Worship Service & Communion	4 Salvation Army Bell Ringing	5 	6
7 8 am & 10:30 am Worship/Communion "Awake to His Call" 9:15 am Education Hour, Coffee Hour, Deepening Roots 12:30 pm Liberty Village Worship	8 9 am Small Group with Pastor Dave 9 am Rebekah-Ruth Circle 6 pm Small Group with Bill & Deb Rice	9 8 am Quilting Group 9 am Prayer Meeting & EBS 6:30 pm Small Group with Dave & Cyndy Hall	10 4:15 pm Praise Team 4:30 pm Advent Meal hosted by Fellowship Committee 6 pm Children's Christmas Program & Cookie Social 6:45 pm Confirmation Class	11 1 pm Sarah & Esther-Rachel Circles Salvation Army Bell Ringing	12 	13
14 8 am & 10:30 am Worship "Awake to His Joy" 9:15 am Education Hour, Coffee Hour, Deepening Roots 12:30 pm Liberty Village Worship	15 9 am Small Group with Pastor Dave 6 pm Small Group with Bill & Deb Rice	16 8 am Quilting Group 9 am Prayer Meeting & EBS 6:30 pm Small Group with Dave & Cyndy Hall	17 4:15 pm Praise Team 4:30 pm Advent Meal hosted by Rice Bible Study Group 6 pm Worship & Cantata w/ Communion	18 	19 	20
21 9 am Coffeehouse Worship & Cantata "Noel: Christ is Born" & Communion 10:15 am Coffee Hour 12:30 pm Liberty Village Worship	22 9 am Small Group with Pastor Dave 6 pm Small Group with Bill & Deb Rice	23 8 am Quilting Group 9 am Prayer Meeting & EBS 1 pm Prayer Shawl Group 6:30 pm Small Group with Dave & Cyndy Hall	24 4 pm *Family Service 6 pm *Worship 8 pm *Worship *Holy Communion No Confirmation Class	25 9 am Christmas Day Worship 	26 	27
28 9 am Worship "Awake to God's Steadfast Love in the midst of chaos" 10:15 am Coffee Hour 12:30 pm Liberty Village Worship	29 9 am Small Group with Pastor Dave 6 pm Small Group with Bill & Deb Rice	30 8 am Quilting Group 9 am Prayer Meeting & EBS 6:30 pm Small Group with Dave & Cyndy Hall	31 No Worship This Evening			

GLORIA DEI STAFF

David Dahl, Senior Pastor	608-387-5451	Pastordave@gloriadeitomah.com
Kay Knight, Associate Pastor	715-460-2131	pastorkay@gloriadeitomah.com
Jackie Kiel, Education Director		education@gloriadeitomah.com
Heather Davis, Office Manager	608-372-4758	office@gloriadeitomah.com
Jody Kiel, Treasurer		treasurer@gloriadeitomah.com
Deb Rice, Worship Leader		

GLORIA DEI COUNCIL

- *Scott Conzemius (President)*
- *Jim Grilley (Vice-President)*
- *Ruth Stoner (Secretary)*
- *David O. Hall*
- *Erin Moseley*
- *Karen Rezin*
- *Greta Rice*
- *Jane Tessmann*
- *Bill Reneau*
- *Jody Kiel (Treasurer)*



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