

# DEI TO DAY

VOLUME 26 | ISSUE 2

## Volunteers Needed Soup Supper Hosts

Wednesday evenings at 4:30 pm  
February 18<sup>th</sup> - March 25<sup>th</sup>

## Living for the Glory of God

Light Meal & Worship Service  
February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026 | 5:30 pm

## Ash Wednesday Breakfast

February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026 | 8:30 am

## Women of Gloria Dei

General Meeting | Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> | 12 pm

### 2025 TAX STATEMENTS

**Your 2025 tax statements were emailed to you, unless you do not have a valid email address on file, in which case they were mailed to the physical address that we have on file. Contact the office with any questions. If you haven't received your email, please check your junk/spam folder.**

Youth Ministry  
Updates  
Page 2

## Gloria Dei Youth attend Faith Quake

Feb 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>

## "COUNCIL CORNER"

Get inspired by the vision  
and direction of the Church  
Council and stay in the  
know about new  
opportunities  
Page 6

2026



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# Youth Page

## Gloria Dei Youth to attend Faith Quake

Please keep our youth in your prayers as they travel to Wisconsin Dells on from Feb 13<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026 to attend Faith Quake. Quake events are weekend retreats created specifically for youth in grades 6-12. Since 1966, they have hosted Quake events at hotels and water parks across the country. Quake partners with youth leaders to encourage teens to become established in their faith, empowered for Christian living, and enabled to live a life of ministry and leadership.

## 6th Grade Confirmation

We ask that all 6<sup>th</sup> Grade students who wish to participate in future confirmation classes attend on Wednesday evenings at 6:45 pm from 2/18/26 - 3/25/26. Parents, if your child would like to participate, please contact our Education Director, Jackie Kiel, before February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade confirmation classes will continue with their normal schedule.







We held a general meeting on January 14th. The Officers provided a delicious meal of homemade tomato soup, sliders, vegetables & dip, cheese, and dessert. We had a wonderful turn out and a great business meeting.

The 2026 Women's Ministry booklets are available on the kiosk, look for the teal-colored cover. We also had a wrap up on the Bake Sale. We are looking into a few changes for future Bake Sales.

We will host a Lenten meal on February 18th. Each Circle will make a part of the Meal!

LWR Personal Care Kit items will be collected through March. The list of specific items to donate are:

- 1 light to medium weight bath-size towel (approximately 20"x40" to 52"x27"), dark color recommended.
- 2 bath size bars of soap in original packaging.
- One adult sized toothbrush in its original packaging (multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope (no plastic))
- One large-toothed comb, remove packaging
- One heavy-duty metal nail clippers, remove packaging
- Wrap all the small items in the towel and tie securely with ribbon or yarn, then put in the collection totes in the fellowship hall.

Glenna Rice will look into another Bus trip for this year.

Our Mission giving went to the following organizations: Families First, Faith in Action, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, The Caring Closet, and Bluff and Ridge Equine Assisted Therapies. Each will receive \$500.00. We also voted to give \$3,000 towards the kitchen project. We will donate to GD Youth trips or conference on an as needed basis.

Our next meeting will be a pot luck on February 10th at Noon. Esther/Ruth Circle will be hostess.

**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.**





***Missions Ministry Report***

Many thanks to all of our congregation members who contributed to our 2025 Giving Jar. We were able to donate \$8,969.00 to our chosen causes. Thank you all for your generosity!

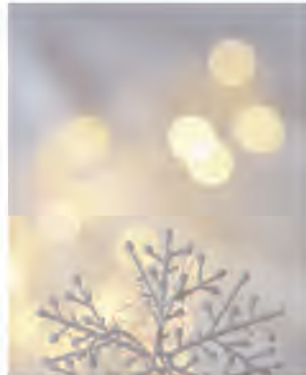
Our January Giving Jar recipient was Kirk and Sandy Brown's Bridges of Hope ministry for young people aging out of foster care. Their mission is "to build bridges of hope within the foster care community and to see lives and families restored". This ministry is based in Madison WI.

Our February Giving Jar recipient is Bluff & Ridge Equine Assisted Therapies. Their mission is to "provide children, youth and adults the opportunity to grow and develop through therapeutic, educational and recreational activities with horses". The current horses involved in this mission are Generoso, Little Duke, Highness, Patrick, Owl, Johnny, Spyder, Ghost, Fuzzy and Jason. In 2025, this organization relocated to Tomah from Kendall. On February 8th, a representative from Bluff & Ridge will be joining us at both worship services to share about their work. Again, thank you all for your support.

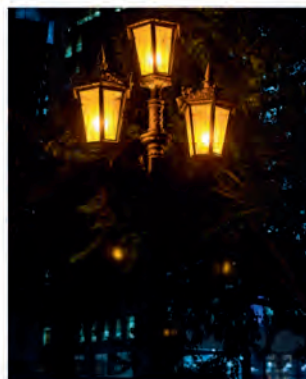
Submitted by: Colleen Bolchen, on behalf of the Missions Ministry Committee

***Thank You***

Thank you for the sympathy or prayers at the loss of Maila Kuhn. The family is appreciative of the support and designated donations you have given us in the memory of Maila.  
-Ken Kuhn & Family

***Operation Christmas Child***

Thank you to all who packed shoeboxes and those that donated items to be packed for this worthy cause. Gloria Dei sent 110 boxes in 2025, which put smiles on many children's faces.

***Care Ministry Report***

This wonderful ministry has been very busy visiting the homebound and those in nursing homes. In December, we made 114 contacts and 113 communions. Keeping these members in our hearts, prayers, and visiting is important! If you would like to be involved, please feel free to contact Linda Frye.





Greetings,

A new year has started, and with it comes the chance to reflect on our past year's effort and seek new opportunities to further our mission statement to serve God's greater purpose. The church council is excited about its plans to serve the church and its members by guiding us all to grow and learn. Part of this process is taking inventory of Gloria Dei's strengths and areas for growth. In the coming weeks, you'll receive a link to a survey regarding your talents and spiritual gifts. This is not an inventory of who is doing what or an opportunity to put your name on a list. The survey will be anonymous and is a chance for the council to know what strengths we can lean on and what areas need learning and growth. Jesus warned the church in Laodecia about being lukewarm in serving God's kingdom:

"I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth". ~ Revelation 3:15-16

Please take the time to complete the survey to help the council with its plans to move our church forward and continue to find unique ways to experience God's presence and answer His Call. I leave you with this thought and prayer, keep pursuing ways to connect with one another, pursue personal spiritual growth and opportunities to physically grow Gloria Dei's presence, continually serve one another and our community.

Blessings, Scott Conzemius



Scan the QR code above to opt in to receive emails or text messages from Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. You can opt out at any time.

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**CONNECT.  
GROW.  
SERVE.**

## **Treasurer's** *Report*

### December 2025 Income & Expenses

Income.....	\$52,380.25
YTD Income.....	\$434,554.53
Expenses .....	\$48,024.19
YTD Expenses.....	\$430,108.39



# Lent Begins

## **Soup Supper Hosts**

Soup Suppers will commence on Ash Wednesday, February 18th, 2026. We invite you to thoughtfully consider hosting a soup supper on one of the available Wednesday evenings. The meals begin at 4:30 pm. You can find the sign-up sheet at the kiosk in the Fellowship Hall.



## **Lent Worship Hours**

### **Wednesdays from 2/18 - 3/25**

4:30 pm Soup Supper

### **February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

8 am & 6 pm Worship

8:30 am Ash Wednesday Breakfast



### **March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (Palm Sunday)**

8 am & 10:30 am Worship

9:15 am Pancake Breakfast

### **April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 (Maundy Thursday)**

10:30 am Worship

6 pm Worship/Living Last Supper

### **April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 (Good Friday)**

1:30 pm Worship

6 pm Worship

### **April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (Easter Sunday)**

6 am, 8 am, & 10:30 am Worship

## **Care Ministry Appreciation**

The Care Ministry Annual Meeting will be held March 12th at 10:00 a.m. Please plan on attending as we will share ideas and information new to us.

If you are interested in joining the Team, this would be a great time to meet everyone and learn more about this wonderful ministry. Any questions, please contact Linda Frye.



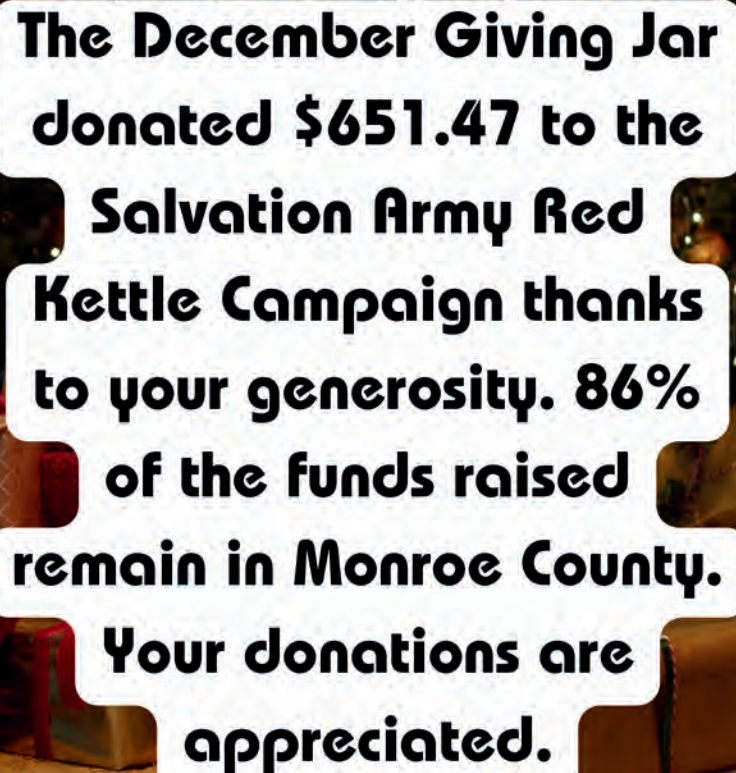
## FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Watch for the 2026  
Fellowship events coming  
up!

This year our Congregation  
is turning 80 Years old!

Watch for some fun  
celebrations throughout the  
year!

Our first event will be  
hosting a Lenten Meal on  
March 18<sup>th</sup>.



**The December Giving Jar  
donated \$651.47 to the  
Salvation Army Red  
Kettle Campaign thanks  
to your generosity. 86%  
of the funds raised  
remain in Monroe County.  
Your donations are  
appreciated.**

## FAMILY CONNECTIONS

We connected with our Post  
High School graduates with a  
little package of hot chocolate  
and hand warmers.

## HOMEBOUND

**Care Center:** Susan Kammerer &  
Velma Lutz

**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

**New Volunteer Opportunity –  
The History Committee will be  
meeting on the third Monday of  
each month at 10am. If you are  
interested in joining, please  
contact Cyndy Hall or Barb  
Hansen.**

## **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)**



## Usher/Greeter (Hospitality)

8:00 AM

Greg & Greta Rice

Travis & Shannon  
Boettcher

10:30 AM

Brian & Glenna Rice

Ruth & Larry Stoner

## Acolytes

8:00 AM

2/1 - Cayden Conzemius

2/8 - Andrew Hart

2/15 - Natalie Winchel

2/22 - Maya Eirschele

10:30 AM

2/1 - Khloe Habeck-  
Stepanski

2/8 - Jenna Steele

2/15 - Blair Bailey

2/22 - Hadley Steele

## Communion Assistants

8:00 AM

2/1/26

Louis Lawrence  
Linda Niebuhr

10:30 AM

Kelly Gordon  
Becky Grilley

2/15/26

Mandi Reiman  
Sarah Rezin

Kristen Gerke  
Laura Clay

## Tech Booth

Sign Up to help in  
the tech booth  
today!

## Altar Guild

Glenna Rice  
Diane Kincannon  
Greta Rice

## Readers

8:00 AM

2/1 - Bill Reneau

2/8 - John Tessmann

2/15 - Conzemius Family

2/22 - Reiman Family

10:30 AM

2/1 - Brian Knight

2/8 - Colleen Bolchen

2/15 - Sharon Anderson

2/22 - Nancy VanderMeer

## Safety Team

8:00 AM

2/1 - John Lawrence

2/8 - Jim Stefanski

2/15 - Bill Wright

2/22 - Bruce Aarness

10:30 AM

David C. Hall

Brian Knight

Clint Niebuhr

Louis Lawrence



A stained glass window featuring five figures, likely saints or biblical figures, in various poses and robes. The figures are set against a background of colorful glass panes. The text "GLORIA DEI" is visible in the upper left portion of the window.

GLORIA DEI

# MESSAGE *for all* CONGREGANTS

This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "He took our illnesses and bore our diseases." Matthew 8:17  
We're in the season of sore throats, coughs, colds and flu. Many of us are reminded of just how fragile our bodies are. It is amazing to me that a microscopic virus can silence our voice and sap our strength to the point we aren't able to do anything.

One of the gifts Jesus brings is healing. One of the Christian martyrs commemorated in the month of February is a man God graced with healing, a man named Blasius or Blaise. Blaise was an Armenian who lived back in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century. He was born into a rich household to parents who followed Jesus – a rarity of that day. So, as you would expect, he received a first-rate education given by Christian teachers. His ambition was to become a physician. In this Roman territory – now present-day Turkey – Blaise began practicing medicine. He was good at it. Even more so, he became known as a Christian with healing hands.

As often happens in church families, Blaise was quickly promoted as a Christian teacher and healer. He was elevated to the office of bishop at a young age. I can't imagine the responsibility – running a medical practice and being a chief shepherd of a number of churches – all of this in the community of Sebaste in Armenia which is modern-day Sivas, Turkey.

Here's where the story gets interesting. . .

The Roman Empire was divided into smaller sections to ensure stability. It didn't work so well. Valerius Licinius and Flavius Valerius Constantinus (Constantine) were co-emperors. Licinius ruled the eastern Roman Empire and Constantine ruled the west. A rivalry deepened between them causing civil war. Constantine was a Christian convert. Licinius was a loyal Roman pagan. Blaise – the doctor and bishop – lived in the territory ruled by Licinius.

Licinius began to view Christians as a threat to his authority. In order to consolidate his power and to punish his chief rival (Constantine was a Christian), he began a state-sponsored campaign to persecute Christians. He rewarded people to hunt them and bring them in to face torture and death if they refused to renounce Jesus and bow to the Roman gods.

During this time, Blaise left his comfortable home to live life as a hermit in a cave. He was eventually discovered by hunters and taken to the governor.

The governor was impressed with Blaise's ability to heal and serve, unapologetically, in Jesus' name. One story included a boy who was near death from choking on a fishbone lodged in his throat. Blaise prayed and went to work and saved his life. As impressed as the governor was, it didn't stop him from insisting that the Blaise renounce his faith. When he wouldn't, the governor had him beaten, tortured with an iron comb (a tool used for combing wool), and eventually beheaded. In the Roman Catholic world, Blaise became the Saint to those suffering from sore throats.

Why do such stories come to mind? Jesus is the true physician. Blaise was faithful to follow Jesus in that task. Blaise knew that God does not stand far off from our coughing, aching and fevered bodies. He comes close. He touches, and He speaks life. Blaise could not turn away from such a Savior.

So as you nurse a sore throat, or care for a sick child or spouse, do it unapologetically in Jesus' name. Know that this is holy work, and God is deeply invested in your humanity.

Even more so, tell the stories of how God empowers our simple acts of love and service to bring life. Just as He did in the days of Blaise, so may we see Him meet us as our Great Physician who came to "take our illnesses and heal our diseases." Keep and live the faith!

*Pastor Dave Dahl*

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# The Light of Epiphany:

## Shining all the way into Lent

By the time February rolls around, the days are getting a little longer...thankfully. The light lingers just a bit more in the evenings, and we begin to notice what winter has been quietly preparing beneath the surface. It's a fitting time for us to still be living in the Season of Epiphany—a season all about light, revelation, and seeing Jesus more clearly.

The word Epiphany means “to reveal” or “to make known.” In this season, we have been hearing again and again how God’s light shows up in unexpected places: at the Jordan River during Jesus’ baptism, on a hillside as He teaches, in the calling of ordinary people to follow Him. As Isaiah proclaims, “Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you” (Isaiah 60:1).

What’s important to remember is this: the light comes to us first. We do not create it. We do not earn it. We receive it. Jesus Himself says, “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12). Before we ever reflect God’s light, it is already shining on us—into our doubts, our weariness, and our everyday lives.

Only then, having been lit by Christ, do we hear His words to us: “You are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14). Not because we are perfect or especially bright on our own, but because Christ’s light now lives in us. Like the moon reflecting the sun, we shine only because we are held in His grace.

February can feel like a long, gray month. But Epiphany reminds us that God is still at work, still revealing Himself, still shining light where we least expect it. As Paul writes, “For it is God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ who has shone in our hearts” (2 Corinthians 4:6).



So this month as we move from Epiphany to Lent, may you notice the light—both the lengthening daylight outside and the steady, faithful light of Christ within. And may that light gently spill over into the world through kindness, patience, and love.

Blessings to you in this month where the Light grows brighter with every day.

—Pastor Kay

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# February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8 am Worship & 10:30 am Worship (Communion) 9:15 am Coffee Hour & Education Hour 9:30 am Deepening Roots 12:30 pm Liberty Village Worship	2 <b>GROUNDHOG DAY</b>	3 8 am Quilting Group 9 am EBS & Prayer Meeting 6:30 pm Small Group with Dave & Cyndy Hall	4 1 pm Missions Meeting & Book Club 6 pm Worship 6:45 pm Confirmation Class	5 1:30 pm Miriam Circle	6	7
8 8 am Worship & 10:30 am Worship with Guest Speaker 9:15 am Coffee Hour & Education Hour 9:30 am Deepening Roots 12:30 pm Liberty Village Worship	9 9 am Rebekah-Ruth Circle	10 8 am Quilting Group 9 am EBS & Prayer Meeting 12 pm Women's Meeting 6:30 pm Small Group with Dave & Cyndy Hall 7 pm Council Meeting	11 5:30 pm Light Meal 6 pm "Living for the Glory of God" Prayer Worship Service 6:45 pm Confirmation Class 7 pm Dorcas Circle	12 1 pm Esther-Rachel and Sarah Circles	13 <div>             Gloria Dei Youth will be attending Faith Quake in WI Dells, WI. Please keep them in your prayers.           </div>	14 
15 8 am Worship & 10:30 am Worship (Communion) 9:15 am Coffee Hour & Education Hour 9:30 am Deepening Roots 12:30 pm Liberty Village Worship	16 10 am History Committee: <i>Please contact Cyndy Hall or Barb Hansen if you are interested in joining.</i> <b>PRESIDENTS DAY</b>	17 8 am Quilting Group 9 am EBS & Prayer Meeting 6:30 pm Small Group with Dave & Cyndy Hall	18 8 am Ash Wednesday Worship 8:30 am Breakfast 4:30 pm Soup Supper 6 pm Worship 6:45 pm Confirmation Class <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	19	20	21
22 8 am Worship & 10:30 am Worship 9:15 am Coffee Hour & Education Hour 9:30 am Deepening Roots 12:30 pm Liberty Village Worship	23 9 am Small Group with Pastor Dave 6 pm Small Group with Bill & Deb Rice	24 8 am Quilting Group 9 am EBS & Prayer Meeting 6:30 pm Small Group with Dave & Cyndy Hall	25 1 pm Knit/Crochet Prayer Shawl Group 4:30 pm Soup Supper 6 pm Worship 6:45 pm Confirmation Class	26	27	28



### GLORIA DEI STAFF

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Heather Davis, Office Manager	608-372-4758	office@gloriadeitomah.com
Jody Kiel, Treasurer		treasurer@gloriadeitomah.com
Deb Rice, Worship Leader		

### GLORIA DEI COUNCIL

The Annual General Meeting was held on January 25th, 2026 at 9:15 am. A new council was elected, with some outgoing council members. Thank you to everyone who served on the council in 2025. An updated council member list will be included with next month's newsletter.



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Gloria Dei Tomah

