

DEI TODAY

VOLUME 26 | ISSUE 11

The Salvation Army

Red Kettle Campaign begins Nov. 27th

Youth Ministry
Updates
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Operation Christmas Child

Deadline: November 15th

"COUNCIL CORNER"

Get inspired by the vision and
direction of the Church Council
and stay informed about new
opportunities
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Thanksgiving Day

Thursday, Nov. 26th | Church Closed

All Saints Sunday

November 1st, 2026 | Both Services

New Member Class

Sundays at 9:15 am from Oct. 25 - Nov. 15

2026

From the Pastors

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FEATURE ARTICLE

Samaritan's Purse

If you haven't picked up a shoebox yet, please do. Just remember you will be putting a smile on some child this year at Christmas. Also remember to smile for the camera when you donate your shoebox!

To date, we have packed 59 shoeboxes (more by the time this gets to your mailbox) and hopefully we can accomplish our goal of 150 boxes. We can do it! Deadline: November 15th, 2026.



Congrats, Confirmands!



Pictured (not in order): Lyam Eno, Khloe Habeck-Stepanski, Warren Spohn, Emilee Scholz, Fletcher Reiman, Kimberly Jenkins, Maya Eirschele, Jenna Steele, and Haylee Hart, Pastors Kay Knight and David Dahl.

Stand To Reason Conference

Youth from Gloria Dei will be attending "Stand to Reason", an annual youth conference held in Wisconsin Dells, WI from November 13th - 14th. Please keep them in your prayers as they embark on this Christ-Centered journey.



Congratulations, Students!

Confirmation 2026

We wish to sincerely thank all of the parents, mentors, and students that participated in our 2026 Confirmation Celebration on October 18th, 2026 at the 10:30 am service. This special service was almost entirely lead by the students, including the wonderful artwork that was on the bulletin cover. We pray that you continue to grow in your faith, and thank you for choosing Gloria Dei.

The kids planned the whole service and did an incredible job! Congratulations to you all!

-Congregation Member Comment

Get Involved!

The Holiday Parade will be held on November 27th. Please join us to walk through town and hand out candy! Contact Jackie Kiel with questions.

"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



On October 10th, Bruce & Gloria Aarness, Dan & Janet Hoag, and Sandy Larson transported quilts and kits to LaCrosse. The three packed vehicles contained:

*152 Quilts

*31 School Kits

*38 Baby Kits

*18 Personal Care Kits

This is the biggest number of LWR kits and quilts that we have taken to this organization. Thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to make this happen.

We held a general meeting/potluck lunch on October 13th. Congratulations and thank you to Ruth Stoner who accepted the nomination and was elected as our new secretary. Jane Tessmann was also re-elected as president. Installation will be at the Advent Tea.

Advent Tea will be on Dec. 6th at 1:30 pm. Please bring a snack to share and join us as we celebrate the start to this beautiful Advent Season. All are welcome to attend.

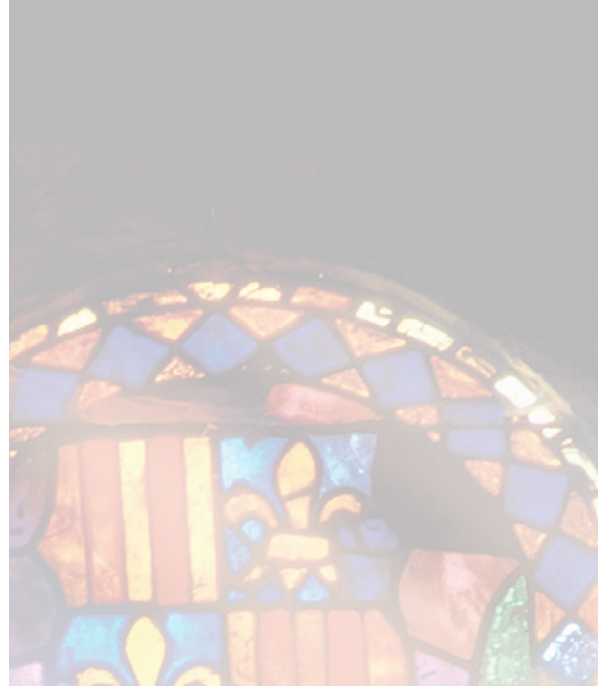
Thank you to everyone who attended the annual Harvest Meal on October 25th!

We will prepare bagged lunches for volunteers at St. Claire's Mission on November 3rd and 17th.

Family Connections/Fellowship Committee:

We congratulated our 9 Confirmation Students with cards. Keep these Students in your prayers as they take their next steps in their faith journey.

We will be making a fun Halloween connection with our post-high school Young Adults.



**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.**



POINSETTIA ORDERS FOR CHRISTMAS

We will decorate the sanctuary with red poinsettias for Christmas. If you would like to order one in memory or in honor of a loved one, please fill this form out **fully and in legible writing** and return to the church office. The cost is \$18 for each poinsettia. Deadline for your orders is **December 11th**.

After the Christmas Day worship service, you may take the plant home or share it with someone special.

Name _____ Phone: _____

Number of plants (\$18 each) _____ Amount enclosed: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____



The Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign

The sign-up sheets will be out soon for The Red Kettle Campaign in December. Please watch for these and consider signing up to volunteer to ring the bells. We are calling for local businesses to be involved with this campaign by making contributions or asking their employees to ring the bells. If you would like to be involved, please contact the Monroe County Kettle Coordinator, Pr. Dave Dahl.

COUNCIL

Corner

I have to give a shout out to your Church Council. At our October meeting we had the best open discussions that we have had since I was elected President in February of this year. I think it was a very productive meeting and I appreciate everyone's participation.

What prompted these discussions were issues/concerns brought to our attention from the congregation. In accordance with our constitution the Church Council has "general oversight of the life and activities of this church and are responsible for maintaining and protecting its property and the management of its business and fiscal affairs".

We are very pleased that members are letting us know their concerns so that the council can follow up on them and take corrective measures when possible. I will be the first to admit that just because we are on council, we may not have the answer to your question or concern right away, but we will definitely research the issue and get back to you.

I will apologize and admit up front that I don't have the answers for everything and just because the council elected me President, that did not make me any smarter!

SO PLEASE CONTINUE TO BRING YOUR QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS TO OUR ATTENTION!!

Bill Reneau – Council President

Christmas Caroling!

Yes. Christmas Caroling!

Date: December 13th at 1:00 pm

Please sign up on the kiosk. If we get a large number, we can add to our list of stops and share the Christmas joy with more people by dividing into two or three groups.



www.gloriadeitomah.com

**CONNECT.
GROW.
SERVE.**

Treasurer's *Report*

September 2026 Income & Expenses

Income.....	\$40,987.98
YTD Income.....	\$337,573.71
Expenses	\$9,155.18
YTD Expenses.....	\$339,316.32

Join the praise team! We currently have openings on the praise team for musicians and singers alike! Please speak with a Pastor, Deb Rice, or Annette Eagen if you are interested!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Knit & Crochet time together! The 4th Wednesday each month at 1 PM. We meet in the kitchen at Gloria Dei - would be wonderful to have you come and enjoy the time making warmth for bodies and warm someone's heart with the gift of prayer shawl - If you work and can't make a gathering, but would like to share your talent by making one to give, that would also be very appreciated. Contact Sharon Anderson.

HOMEBOUND

Care Center: Susan Kammerer
Close to Home: Sharon Jensen & Wanda Baker
RBI Care: 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

**The September Giving
Jar donated \$485 to
Brighter Tomorrows
thanks to your
generosity!**



Hosts are needed for the Advent Meals beginning on Wednesday, December 2nd at 4:30 pm. Please contact the office if you are able to host an Advent Meal. Thank you!

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)**

MISSIONS

On September 27th, Craig and Cherry Talsma from Mission Aviation Fellowship gave messages about the Mission at both services. Craig is the Church Engagement/Advocate Manager for MAF. MAF partners with about 300 non-profit organizations to deliver supplies and provide services, including delivering Shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse to isolated areas of the world. The first MAF pilot was Betty Greene, a WASP in WWII, and her first mission was to Mexico. For over 75 years, MAF has used planes to bring help and hope. Every 16 minutes, an MAF plane takes off or lands in some of the most remote places on earth. MAF currently serves 12 countries, but is in the process of adding a 13th because Samaritan's Purse asked MAF to assist in Nigeria, so they are preparing for that. Craig emphasized that Jesus cares about the whole person, and MAF follows that, too, by searching for new disciples, supporting kingdom workers, strengthening the capacity and talent of national staff, and providing access to medical care. MAF's vision is to see isolated people changed by the love of Christ. One major way MAF is helping to do that is by bringing the "Jesus" film and showing it in isolated villages; it's been translated into 2,223 languages and billions of people have seen it. Craig showed a video of a village which built an airstrip over 2+ years and then showed the first MAF plane landing and the villagers celebrating. The missionary family helped with the airstrip construction but the villagers were in charge. MAF needs to be invited by the local population before they go to a community. Craig recommended reading the book "Jungle Pilot" by Nate Saint. Craig said MAF is thankful to partner with churches like Gloria Dei who support the mission of spreading God's word.

Reminder that the Salvation Army Red Kettle campaign is just a few weeks away. Please consider volunteering for this very worthwhile cause.

Our November Giving Jar project is Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries Inc. This is a Christian non-profit faith-based ministry dedicated to serving military veterans and contractors and their families in need of care and assistance, regardless of their faith or religious affiliation. The organization provides free Christ-centered counseling and care and offers resources, assistance, and training to congregations and other care providers to assist veterans, contractors, and their family members. In order to keep Christ at the center of this mission, LMVFM does not solicit or accept government funding. While providing compassionate pastoral care, members of LMVFM remind veterans that through Christ they are never alone. More information can be found on the website, www.lmvfm.org

-Submitted by Colleen Bolchen, Missions Leader

Usher/Greeter (Hospitality)

8 am

Jeff & Tina
Francis

10:30 am

Bob & Karen
Rezin

Tech Booth

Sign Up to help in
the tech booth
today!

Communion Assistants

8 am

11/1:
Lisa Stefanski
Jane Tessmann
11/15:
Joyce Thurow
Sue Waege

10:30 am

11/1:
Kristen Gerke
Shelly Griffin
11/15:
Darlene Nelson
Shelly Pieper

Altar Guild

Ellen & Bill
Reneau

Karen Rezin

Acolytes

8 am

11/1: Andrew Hart
11/8: Cayden Conzemius
11/15: Hadley Steele
11/22: Brielle Potter
11/29: Sam Grilley

10:30 am

11/1: Allison Habeck-
Stepanski
11/8: Blair Bailey
11/15: Karter Nelson
11/22: Konnor Hall
11/29: Mark Hall

Readers

8 am

11/1: Brian Knight
11/8: Scott Conzemius
11/15: John Tessmann
11/22: Bill Reneau
11/29: Bill Reneau

10:30 am

11/1: Brian Knight
11/8: Nancy VanderMeer
11/15: Colleen Bolchen
11/22: Lenny Bakken
11/29: Sharon Anderson

Safety Team

8 am

11/1: Brian Knight
11/8: John Lawrence
11/15: Jim Stefanski
11/22: Dave Lawrence
11/29: Jason Reiman

10:30 am

Brett Cornett
Lenny Bakken
Jim Grilley
Brock Brown
Kyle Burnstad

Keep and Live the Faith! -Fr Dave Dahl

“Lord, break my heart for what breaks yours.”

I don't know who first prayed that prayer. I know it's an old one. I believe it was an ache deep in the heart of Martin Luther and the push behind his writing a little book called The Small Catechism. As we begin a new season of discipling our kids, it's good to remember a little piece of Lutheran history.

For Luther, what we know as the Small Catechism was developing for over 10 years. Why did it take so long?

Luther didn't want to muddy the water with one more book. There were a number of “Catechism” books floating around. But Luther thought that many of them served to destroy faith rather than nourish it. Luther said of them: “Here was neither faith nor Christ, and the communicant could not be directed to the strength of the absolution, but was rather trained to count his sins and trust in the intensity of his [own] repentance.” In other words, people were taught that, if they worked hard enough, they could get what they wanted from God. Life would be good as long as you paid for your sins.

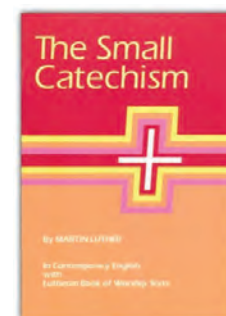
And there is the lie. We owe a debt far too great to repay. That is why Jesus went to the cross.

Luther saw the need for a simple catechism – a little book that would explain the whole Gospel – small enough that anyone could memorize – a work that pastors could learn from – a work that every parent could teach to their own children – brief enough that even those who could not read (of which there were many) could memorize it and take it to heart. But Luther was a busy man. His other responsibilities got in the way.

So what do you do when you don't have the time? You ask those who do. During the passage of nearly 10 years Luther commissioned Justus Jonas and a man by the name of Agricola to prepare a catechism. They didn't get the job done. Why? Between those two men and Phillip Melanchthon, they couldn't agree about what should be in it! This is what happens when you entrust some things to a committee!

But the urgency to get this job done overwhelmed Luther. It hit him hard when he personally visited the churches around Saxony – in Germany – in 1528. He was shocked to find that people – even pastors – did not know so much as the Lord's Prayer.

Luther sat down and penned a simple book that included the 10 Commandments, the Apostle's Creed, the Lord's Prayer with simple meanings for each part. The Small Catechism has since become an amazing little book that has affected lives the world over. In Luther's Day it was called, “The Layman's Bible” because it was so small and could be easily memorized. And for such a small book, it contained the breadth of God's Word – the whole story.





BEYOND THE TURKEY Deeper Gratitude

By the time Thanksgiving rolls around, most of us know the drill. We gather around the table, enjoy enough food to feed a small army, and take turns naming what we're thankful for. Family, friends, health, home, and, of course, pumpkin pie. (Let's be honest: someone is always thankful for the pie!)

There's nothing wrong with counting our blessings. But what if gratitude is more than a warm seasonal feeling? What if it's a response to something much deeper?

In Luke 17:11-19, Jesus heals ten men suffering from leprosy. All ten cry out for mercy, and all ten are healed. Imagine their joy! They can return to their families and communities and begin living again. Yet only one turns around to thank Jesus. And that man is a Samaritan, an outsider in the eyes of many.

Ten received an incredible gift, but only one stopped to acknowledge the gift they were given.

I think about how often we do the same thing. We pray when we need help, and we're not shy about giving God our wish lists. We ask for healing, guidance, protection, and strength. Then life gets busy. The laundry piles up, the calendar fills, and the car needs repairs.



Before long, we're off to the next thing, enjoying God's gifts without pausing to recognize His generosity. Biblical gratitude is a response to grace. We recognize that life is a gift, and God's love is not something we earn. Pay attention: Jesus healed all ten men before any of them returned to say thank you. His mercy wasn't a reward for their gratitude. He gave freely. That's grace! We don't thank God to persuade Him to love us. We thank Him because He already does. So what does that kind of gratitude look like beyond Thanksgiving dinner? It means noticing God's presence in ordinary moments, trusting His faithfulness in difficult seasons, and extending His mercy to the people around us.

Perhaps the best question this Thanksgiving isn't simply, "What am I thankful for?" but "How do I respond to the grace I've received?"

Will we forgive someone, encourage a neighbor, serve a person in need, or trust God when life doesn't go according to plan? Like the Samaritan who turned back, we can let God's goodness change not only what we notice, but how we live.

So enjoy the turkey, the stuffing, the pie, and the family traditions. Give thanks for blessings both big and small. But don't let Thanksgiving end when the dishes are done and the leftovers are packed away.

The deepest gratitude turns us toward Jesus who blesses us and sends us into the world to share His grace. And may your gratitude last a whole lot longer than your leftover turkey!

Blessings,
Pastor Kay



November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1—All Saints Day 8 am Worship & Communion 9:15 am Education & Coffee Hour, New Member Class 10:30 am Worship & Communion 12:15 pm Liberty Village Worship	2 9 am Small Group with Pastor Dave 6 pm Small Group with Bill & Deb Rice	3 - Election Day 8 am Quilting Group 9 am EBS 6:30 pm Small Group with David & Cyndy Hall	4 1 pm Book Club & Missions 4:15 pm Praise Team 6 pm Worship & Communion 6:45 pm Confirmation Class & Bible Study 101	5 1:30 pm Miriam Circle	VIA DE CRISTO WEEKEND - See a Pastor with interest	
8 8 am Worship 9:15 am Education & Coffee Hour, New Member Class 10:30 am Worship 12:15 pm Liberty Village Worship	9 9 am Small Group with Pastor Dave & Rebekah-Ruth Circle 6 pm Small Group with Bill & Deb Rice	10 8 am Quilting Group 9 am EBS 6:30 pm Small Group with David & Cyndy Hall	11 - Veteran's Day 4:15 pm Praise Team 6 pm Worship 6:45 pm Confirmation Class 7 pm Dorcas Circle	12 1 pm Esther-Rachel & Sarah Circle	Stand To Reason Youth Conference	
15 8 am Worship & Communion 9:15 am Education & Coffee Hour, New Member Class 10:30 am Worship & Communion 12:15 pm Liberty Village Worship	16 9 am Small Group with Pastor Dave 10 am History Committee 6 pm Small Group with Bill & Deb Rice	17 8 am Quilting Group 9 am EBS 6:30 pm Small Group with David & Cyndy Hall	18 4:15 pm Praise Team 6 pm Worship 6:45 pm Confirmation Class	19	20	21
22 - New Member Sunday 8 am Worship 9:15 am Education Hour & Coffee Hour 10:30 am Worship 12:15 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 6:30 pm Small Group with David & Cyndy Hall	25 1 pm Knit/Crochet Group 4:15 pm Praise Team 6 pm Worship 6:45 pm Confirmation Class	26 THANKSGIVING DAY The Church will be closed in observance of the holiday	27 HOLIDAY PARADE Come join us to walk in the parade and hand out candy and flyers!	28
29 8 am Worship 9:15 am Education Hour & Coffee Hour 10:30 am Worship 12:15 pm Liberty Village Worship FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	30 9 am Small Group with Pastor Dave 6 pm Small Group with Bill & Deb Rice	Dec. 1st 8 am Quilting Group 9 am EBS 6:30 pm Small Group with David & Cyndy Hall	Dec. 2nd 1 pm Book Club 4:15 pm Praise Team 4:30 pm - Advent Meal 6 pm Worship 6:45 pm Confirmation Class	Dec. 3rd 1:30 pm Miriam Circle	Dec. 4th	Dec. 5th

GLORIA DEI STAFF

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Deb Rice, Worship Leader		

GLORIA DEI COUNCIL

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- *Jim Grilley (Vice-President)*
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- *Glenna Rice*
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