

# DEI TODAY

VOLUME 26 | ISSUE 1

## Notice of Annual Meeting

January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026 | 9:15 AM

See Page 4

## January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026

The Church will be closed  
in observance of the New  
Year Holiday

## December 31<sup>st</sup> 2025

No Worship or Confirmation on  
this day

## Women of Gloria Dei

See Page 3

## 2025 TAX STATEMENTS

Your 2025 tax statements will be  
emailed to you, unless you do not have  
a valid email address on file, in which  
case we will mail them no later than  
Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026. If you prefer a printed  
copy, please contact the office.

Youth Ministry  
Updates  
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Community News  
Page 4

## “COUNCIL CORNER”

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

2026



[www.gloriadeitomah.com](http://www.gloriadeitomah.com)

# GLORIA DEI YOUTH

## *Christ-Centered Learning*

### Faith Quake

Students in grades 6-12 are invited to attend Quake in WI Dells at the Wilderness Resort February 13-15. Cost is \$130/person. Please see Jackie for more information or to register. Deadline is Wednesday, January 7. For more information, visit <https://quakeevent.com/events/wisdells-feb/>

### Children's Christmas Program

Thank you to the parents and children of the Sunday School Program for providing us with wholesome entertainment on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> at the Children's Christmas Program. A great time was had by all.

### Inclement Weather Policy

In the event that Tomah Schools are cancelled for the day or released early due to inclement weather, Confirmation Classes will be canceled that day. To opt in to receive text messages or emails from Gloria Dei about cancellations, please see page 5.



[www.gloriadeitomah.com](http://www.gloriadeitomah.com)

**ANCHORED**  
HEBREWS 6:19



We had a very successful Scandinavian Bake Sale on December 6th, 2025!

A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone that helped us prepare for it. It takes many moving parts from the shopping, mixing ingredients, baking, and finally to the packaging! We had a great number of yummy treats donated for the sale also.

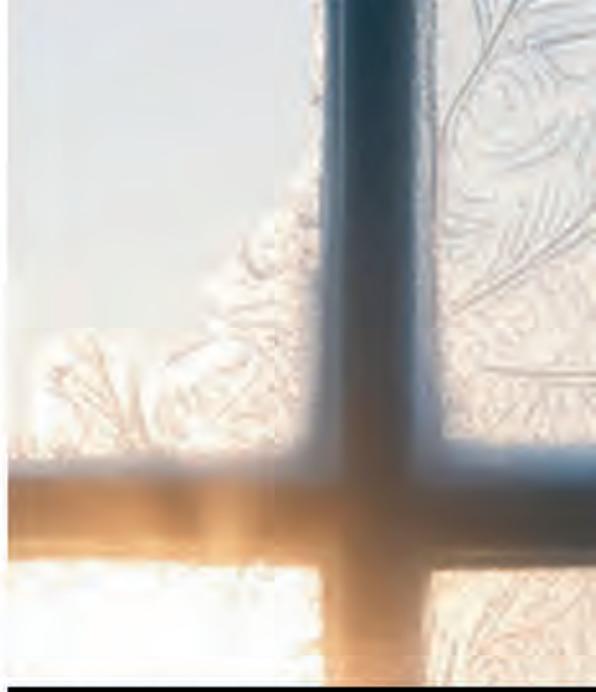
Thank you also to those who donated food items for the lunches and coffee time! It is such a relief to not have to worry about lunch when the kitchen is busy for the day!

Despite the cold weather, we had a lovely Advent Tea on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Miriam Circle for being Hostess.

The 2026 Women's Ministry booklets are available on the kiosk in the Fellowship hall.

Our next General meeting will be January 13<sup>th</sup> at 12:00. Please join us for lunch, (provided by the Officers) and a short business meeting.

-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.





# COMMUNITY NOTICES



## Annual Meeting

The annual meeting is set for January 25<sup>th</sup>, 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. “Eligible Voters” are members who are ages 16+ and who have attended at least 10 times in the past 12 months. To ensure that your name is recorded as being an eligible voter, please ensure that you sign the welcome pad every time you visit. Thank you.

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### ★ Faith in Action of Monroe County Is Looking for YOU! ★

Need a little help getting to your doctor’s appointments? Could you use a hand picking up groceries or tackling small projects at home?

Have some yard work that needs doing? Or maybe you’d simply enjoy a friendly conversation with someone who cares?

Faith in Action of Monroe County is here for you! Our volunteers are ready to lend a hand, brighten your day, and make life a little easier—one caring connection at a time. If you or someone you know could use a helping hand, we’d love to hear from you!

Call Lori: (608) 372-0939

Email: [faithinaction0939@gmail.com](mailto:faithinaction0939@gmail.com)

Greetings,

We are fully into the Christmas season! Decorations are hung, and the church and our homes are looking more festive as Christmas Day approaches. This is a wonderful time of year when we share the love of God by spending time with family and giving gifts to show our love. It is so easy for all of us to get "wrapped" up in this joyous time, spending time with our friends and families. This is also a perfect time of year to continue to embody our mission. Sharing the birth of Jesus with others is a great way to connect and grow in faith. Countless organizations and people need help with donations, sorting things, and providing services. While it's important for us to celebrate, remember that God had the angels appear to the shepherds in the darkness of night. Not simply to surprise, but so that Jesus' birth would shine bright in a dark world and the news of his birth would spread! "And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people" Luke 2:10.

Finally, some reminders. On January 25th, our annual meeting will take place; your attendance is important in ensuring we have a quorum to vote on various items. Our voting member list is generated through attendance records, so please continue to sign in when you attend church. Further, we still have a need for members to serve on the Church Council. Serving on Church Council is a great opportunity to serve the church and congregation from a unique standpoint. Your role is to guide the church to work on our mission statement, Connect. Grow. Serve. Please contact a council member or pastor if interested.

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.

[www.gloriadeitomah.com](http://www.gloriadeitomah.com)

**CONNECT.  
GROW.  
SERVE.**

## *Treasurer's Report*

### November 2025 Income & Expenses

Income.....	\$29,598.73
YTD Income.....	\$382,174.28
Expenses .....	\$29,614.72
YTD Expenses.....	\$382,084.20

# Epiphany Series: Search Light

**Jan 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026 – Baptism of Our Lord – “Behold My Servant”**

Isaiah 42:1-9 and Matthew 3:13-17

**Jan 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026 – Second Sunday after the Epiphany – “Called and Destined”**

Isaiah 49:1-7 and John 1:29-42

**Jan 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026 – Third Sunday after the Epiphany – “Light has Dawned”**

Isaiah 9:1-4 and Matthew 4:12-25

**Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 – Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany – “The Blessing Light”**

Micah 6:1-8 and Matthew 5:1-12

**Feb 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026 – Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany – “The Full Light”**

Isaiah 58:3-9 and Matthew 5:13-20

**Feb 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026 – Transfiguration of Our Lord – “From Glory to Glory”**

Exodus 24:8-18 and Matthew 17:1-9



## BAKE SALE TOTALS

The Bi-Annual Scandinavian Bake Sale raised a total of \$4825.75. The proceeds go to the Women of Gloria Dei, and they vote on how to disperse the funds at their January meeting. Thank you everyone for your help in making this another successful Bake Sale!

## OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2026 offering envelopes are now available for pickup in the Fellowship Hall. Please recycle your 2025 envelopes, as giving numbers change each year, and using an old one could mean that your offering does not get recorded properly. If you do not wish to receive offering envelopes for 2027, please contact the office.

## FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

\*Despite the cold and snowy day, we provided an Advent Meal on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

\*We had a successful Cookie and Milk Social after the Sunday School Christmas program!

Thank you to all the cookie bakers.

\*Watch for upcoming fun Fellowship events in 2026!

## FAMILY CONNECTIONS

We connected with our Post HS grads with a Christmas card and gas card. Keep these young adults in your prayers.

## HOMEBOUND

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

**Close to Home:** Sharon Jensen

**Sunset Ridge:** Laurie Olson

**Liberty Village:** P.T. Melby

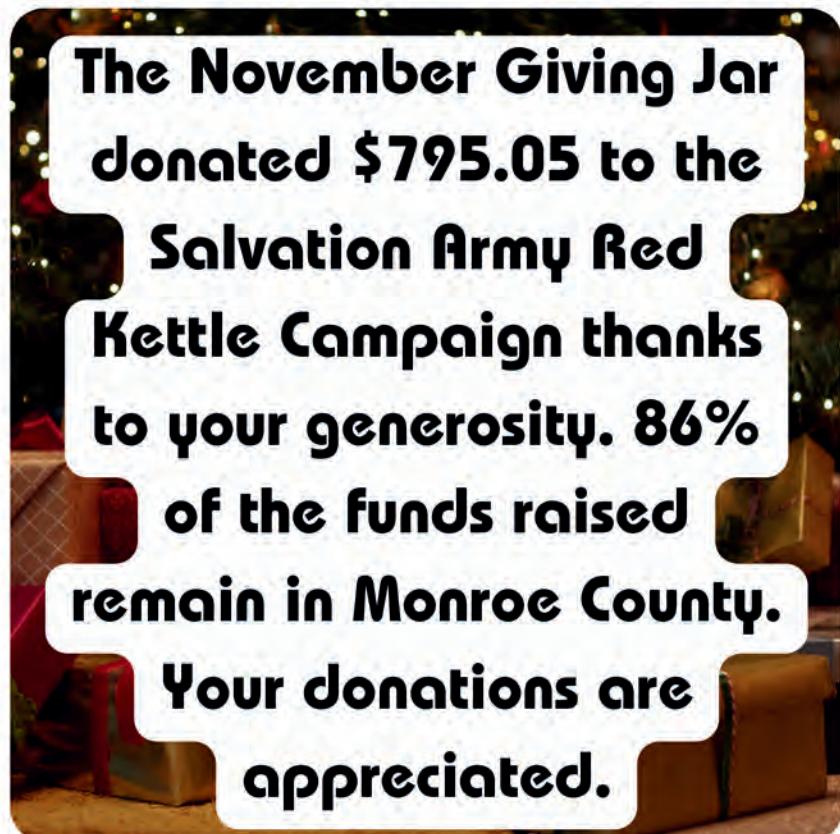
**Morrow Home:** Cherlyn Moseley

**LaCrosse, WI:** TJ Waege

**West Salem, WI:** Flo Lloyd

**Cranberry Court:** Patricia Olson

**At Home:** Victor Burnstad



**The November Giving Jar donated \$795.05 to the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign thanks to your generosity. 86% of the funds raised remain in Monroe County. Your donations are appreciated.**

**💡 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

Bill & Ellen Reneau

### 10:30 AM

1/4/26 & 1/11/26:

David & Cyndy Hall

Help Needed for 1/19  
& 1/26

## Acolytes

### 8:00 AM

1/4/26 - Haylee Hart

1/11/26 - Maya Eirschele

1/18/26 - Dylan Hart

1/25/26 - Sam Grilley

## Tech Booth

Sign Up to help in  
the tech booth  
today!

## Communion Assistants

### 8:00 AM

1/4/26 -  
Gloria Aarness  
Shannon Boettcher

### 10:30 AM

1/4/26 -  
Sharon Anderson  
Trina Bakken

1/18/26 -  
Kari Curran  
Deb Johnson

## Altar Guild

Linda Niebuhr  
Marian Bloom  
Barb Eirschele

## Readers

### 8:00 AM

1/4/26 - Bill Reneau  
1/11/26 - John Tessmann  
1/18/26 - Jason Reiman  
1/25/26 - Scott Conzemius

## Safety Team

### 8:00 AM

1/4/26 - Bill Reneau  
1/11/26 - Marshall Reiman  
1/18/26 - Dave E. Olson  
1/25/26 - Dave Lawrence

### 10:30 AM

Tom Curran  
Jay Gerke  
Jim Grilley  
Lenny Bakken

### 10:30 AM

1/4/26 - Brian Knight  
1/11/26 - Colleen Bolchen  
1/18/26 - Sharon Anderson  
1/25/26 - Ethan Habeck

# Anything But Convenient

"After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.'"

(Matthew 2:1)

It's January. With the shortest day of the year behind us, some find this stretch of the calendar cold and dark. Yet Scripture repeatedly reminds us that God often does His boldest work in unlikely seasons and less-than-ideal circumstances.

This is the time of year when the Church remembers the Magi—wise men who followed a star to Bethlehem. Their journey was anything but convenient. It would have been costly, time-consuming, and dangerous. One can't help but ask: what kind of people would leave comfort and security behind to chase a mysterious light across unfamiliar terrain?

Interestingly, no other historical records from the time of Jesus' birth mention a star like the one Matthew describes. Astronomers (not astrologers) have suggested several possibilities near the time of Jesus' birth: a supernova, Halley's Comet, or a rare conjunction of Jupiter, Saturn, and Mars that would have appeared as a single, brilliant light. Whether the star was one of these phenomena or a uniquely supernatural sign, we cannot say for certain. What we do know is this: God used it to draw the Magi to His Son. Matthew does not describe these travelers as kings, but as magi—a Greek term referring to learned men or oriental scholars. Over time, the Church came to view them as kings, largely because of the gifts they brought: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These gifts echo Psalm 72, a royal psalm that proclaims, "May the kings of Sheba and Saba bring gifts; may all kings pay him homage" (Psalm 72:10–11).

Their titles matter far less than their obedience. At great personal cost, the Magi followed the light they were given. And though their understanding may have been incomplete, their gifts demonstrated remarkable insight. Gold honored a king. Frankincense acknowledged divinity. Myrrh—used for burial—hinted at suffering and sacrifice. Somehow, they grasped that this child was more than a ruler; He was the Redeemer the world had long awaited. Here's the challenge of this story: How willing are we to follow the Son of God? Have we quietly set boundaries on how far we are willing to go, or what we are willing to risk, in response to His call?

New opportunities are before us. I invite—and challenge—you to join in. As we enter this new year, may God find us faithful to reflect His light here in Tomah.

Keep and Live the Faith  
Pastor David Dahl

# RESOLUTIONS IN CHRIST

A blessed New Year to you! As the calendar flips and we all pretend we're absolutely going to stick to our resolutions this time, I thought it might be good to talk about some Christian resolutions—those small, habits of faith that help us grow, even if we occasionally trip over our good intentions on the way to the refrigerator.

January always feels like a fresh sheet of paper. It's a natural time to ask: What habits help me stay rooted in His grace? Not "What would make me a perfect Christian?"—That list would be unmanageably long, and Jesus has already taken care of perfection for us. I mean what are some simple practices that give God just a little more room to shape our days.

As Paul writes, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come." (2 Corinthians 5:17). A new year doesn't magically make us new people—but Christ does. So...

## 1. Dust off your Bible—literally or figuratively.

Try reading a short daily passage, maybe from a Gospel. If the Bible feels intimidating, start small. God doesn't hand out gold stars for reading Leviticus at 6 a.m. without coffee.

## 2. Pray for one thing each day.

Just one. That's it. A person, a joy, a worry, your neighbor's noisy dog—whatever's on your heart. You might be surprised how that one moment of honesty with God steadies the rest of the day.

## 3. Come to worship even on the "I'd rather stay in my pajamas" Sundays.

Gathering as God's people strengthens us in ways we rarely expect.

## 4. Practice small mercies.

Forgive quickly. Speak kindly. Hold a door. Send a note. Luther said our daily vocations are holy callings, even the ordinary ones. God does beautiful things with small acts of grace.

## 5. Remember the Gospel is not a self-improvement program.

Resolutions are good, but they don't save us. Christ has already claimed us, loved us, forgiven us, and renewed us—long before our January motivation fades by February. If you fail at your resolutions, welcome to the club. God's mercies are new every morning, not just on January 1st. And if you do keep one or two habits that draw you closer to Christ and neighbor, thanks be to God for that, too.

May your new year be full of grace and a few holy habits that help you recognize God's presence in the everyday.

Blessings on the new year.

Pastor Kay

# JANUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Happy New Year! The church will be closed today.	2	3
4 8 am & 10:30 am Worship & Communion 9:15 am Education Hour & Coffee Hour 9:30 am Deepening Roots Class 12:30 pm Liberty Village Worship	5 *There will be no small groups during the month of January on Mondays.	6 9 am Prayer Meeting & Explorers Bible Study 6:30 pm Small Group with David & Cyndy Hall	7 1 pm Missions Meeting 1 pm Book Club 1:30 pm Miriam Circle 6 pm Worship 6:45 pm Confirmation Class	8 1 pm Esther Rachel & Sarah Circles	9	10
11 8 am & 10:30 am Worship 9:15 am Education Hour & Coffee Hour 9:30 am Deepening Roots Class 12:30 pm Liberty Village Worship	12 9 am Rebekah Ruth Circle * 5 pm Foundation Meeting	13 8 am Quilting Group 9 am Prayer Meeting & Explorers Bible Study 6:30 pm Small Group with David & Cyndy Hall 7 pm Council Meeting	14 6 pm Worship 6:45 pm Confirmation Class 7 pm Dorcas Circle	15	16	17
18 8 am & 10:30 am Worship & Communion 9:15 am Education Hour & Coffee Hour 9:30 am Deepening Roots Class 12:30 pm Liberty Village Worship	19 *	20 8 am Quilting Group 9 am Prayer Meeting & Explorers Bible Study 6:30 pm Small Group with David & Cyndy Hall	21 6 pm Worship 6:45 pm Confirmation Class	22	23	24
25 8 am & 10:30 am Worship <b>9:00 am Annual Meeting</b> 9:15 Education Hour 9:30 am Deepening Roots Class 12:30 pm Liberty Village Worship	26 *	27 8 am Quilting Group 9 am Prayer Meeting & Explorers Bible Study 6:30 pm Small Group with David & Cyndy Hall	28 1 pm Knit & Crochet Prayer Shawl Group 6 pm Worship 6:45 pm Confirmation Class	29	30	31



#### 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)*

*get* CONNECTED

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