

DEI TO DAY

VOLUME 26 | ISSUE 7

Christmas In July

June 29th - July 3rd | Page 7

Youth Ministry
Updates
Page 2

Vacation Bible School

August 3 - 5 | Page 4

"COUNCIL CORNER"

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

Volunteers Needed

Page 8

HUNGER HAVEN

Tomah Fairgrounds

July 22 - 26 | Sign up to Volunteer

From the Pastors

Pages 9 - 10

Church Directory

Photos taken 7/13 - 7/18

2026



www.gloriadeitomah.com



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

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Feed My Starving Children's Mobile Food Pack is returning to Tomah on August 14th - 15th, 2026. See Jackie Kiel or Pastor Kay for more information.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Save the date! Vacation Bible School will be held on August 2nd - 5th from 5:00 - 7:15 pm. A light meal will be served at 5 pm, with the program beginning at 5:30 pm. To register, please visit www.gloriadeitomah.com/events or contact the office.

We are searching for volunteers who would like to help with this exciting and rewarding event. If you think you can offer your time and talents, please contact Jackie Kiel or Pastor Kay Knight. See page 4 for more information on becoming a volunteer for VBS.



- For June 21st coffee hour, we served yummy cinnamon rolls to celebrate all the wonderful Dads in our lives!
- Our next General meeting will be on September 8th at noon with a potluck lunch and a short business meeting.
- We are in the process of collecting LWR School kit items. See the list below for the specific items.

LWR School Kits

- Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10.5", no loose leaf paper
- One 30 centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- One pencil sharpener
- One pair of blunt scissors
- Five unsharpened, #2 pencils with erasers; secure with a rubber band
- Five ballpoint pens (no gel ink), secure together with a rubber band
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One 2.5" eraser
- Pack all items in the specified backpack

**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.**



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

2-5
AUGUST



REGISTER AT
WWW.GLORIADEITOMAH.COM

310 W ELIZABETH STREET
TOMAH, WI 54660
608-372-4758



Calling All Big-Hearted Humans (Who Don't Mind Glitter and Snack Crumbs!)
Vacation Bible School is coming... and we need YOU!

Do you believe kids are real people—with big questions, boundless energy, and an impressive ability to find glitter in places you didn't know existed? Good. You're exactly who we're looking for.

This isn't just childcare—it's real ministry. It's teaching Truth, answering tough questions (like "Why is the sky blue?" and "Can I have another snack?"), and showing kids the love of Christ in ways they'll never forget.

We're searching for volunteers who:

- Have a heart for teaching biblical truth (even when interrupted mid-sentence)
- See kids as individuals—not just a group, but a room full of future world-changers
- Can commit their time, energy, and maybe a little patience
- Aren't afraid to get a little silly, a little messy, and a lot impactful

This is your chance to help shape a life, model Christ's love, and maybe learn all the VBS songs whether you meant to or not.

Warning: Side effects may include spontaneous singing, excessive smiling, and realizing you got just as much out of the week as the kids did.

Sign up today and join the fun, the chaos, and the calling!

Let's build a foundation for the future—one craft, one lesson, and one snack break at a time.

COUNCIL

Corner

Annual Audits – Our CONSTITUTION BYLAWS state “that the Audit Committee shall audit the financial books and procedures of the Church annually and report it findings to this church at the annual meeting”. In the past the audit committee only audited the books maintained by the church treasurer, but starting with this year’s audit the church council has voted to include all of the financial records, which will include the Treasure’s, Foundation’s, Women’s and Hunger Haven’s records. We are requesting that the audits be completed by October 31, 2026.

LCMC Annual Gathering – This gathering is scheduled for October 4-7 (Sunday – Wednesday) in Des Moines, Iowa, if any member of the church is interested in attending this please let Pastor Dave or Pastor Kay know. The early bird registration deadline is July 31st.

New Church Directory – Universal Church Directories will be taking the photos for our new church directory from July 13th – 18th , so if you haven’t already scheduled an appointment to have your photo taken please do so soon! We would love to have all of our church family represented in this new directory.

Bill Reneau, Council President

 *thank you*

To my church family of Gloria Dei: I want to thank you for all the concern, prayers, visits, flowers, gifts, cards, and phone calls during my Tomah Hospital and care center stay when I broke my pelvis, and since my return home. Thank you Pastor Dave for personal visits and a gift of a real “alive wood cross” which I will treasure forever. Thank you for all the visits from Pastor Kay and the beautiful yellow plant and also the visits and card from Linda Frye. It’s impossible to express all the gratitude that is in my heart. I’m still feeling the love when I return to church. God bless each and every one of you. -LouAnn Niebuhr

www.gloriadeitomah.com

**CONNECT.
GROW.
SERVE.**

Treasurer’s Report

May 2026 Income & Expenses

Income.....	\$28,337.23
YTD Income.....	\$196,343.84
Expenses	\$36,792.66
YTD Expenses.....	\$194,877.92

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

- *We assisted with the Baccalaureate service on May 20th by serving an ice cream sundae bar after the beautiful service. Please keep the 4 young graduates in your prayers.
- *We will Serve a Community Meal on August 3rd at the Masonic Lodge.

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

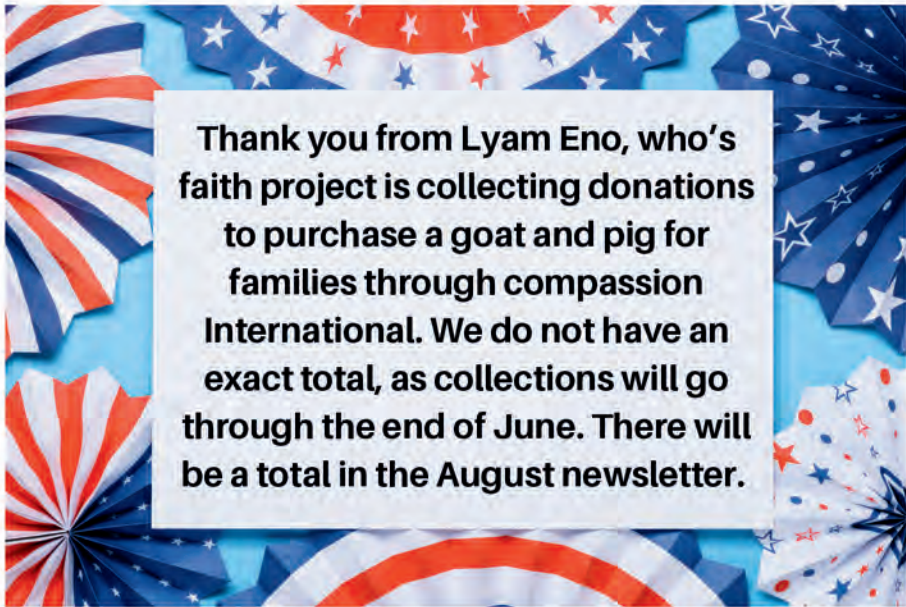
- *We are in the planning stages for our Heritage Meal, to Celebrate Gloria Dei's 80th Anniversary!
- *We had an awesome float in the July 4th parade!



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

**The May Giving Jar
donated \$794.50 to the
Freedom Flight Program
thanks to your generosity.**



Thank you from Lyam Eno, who's faith project is collecting donations to purchase a goat and pig for families through compassion International. We do not have an exact total, as collections will go through the end of June. There will be a total in the August newsletter.

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)**

Christmas In July!

In 5 months we will begin packing shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. We can use any shoeboxes. If you have any extra shoeboxes at home, please drop them off at the church and we will keep them and use them for this very worthy project. While you are doing your back to school shopping, please consider purchasing an extra item for a shoebox. For more information, visit

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child>

Speaking of Christmas, we are hosting Christmas In July from June 29th - July 3rd. We are asking for volunteers to ring the bells during a one-hour shift during these dates. Proceeds will support local community services that aid those in need of a hand up. Scan the QR code above to donate today, or call the office to volunteer 1 hour of your time. Watch for the Red Kettles all over town!



#TisTheSeasonToBeGenerous

Join us on July 1st at
"Music in the Park"
and on July 4th at the
Independence Day
Parade!



www.gloriadeitomah.com

Our Giving Jar recipient for July 2026 is Tomah Area School District lunch and milk money fund. As of June 3rd, per information received from the food service department, the balance in this fund is negative \$12,674.53.

Thank you to Jason Reiman for sharing a Temple Talk on the He Knows Your Name ministry, a recipient of our June Giving Jar.

In August, Feed My Starving Children ministry will have a mobile pack at Tomah Recreation Park on August 14th and 15th. Please consider volunteering for this event. It really makes a difference.

Also please consider volunteering for, and donating to, Gloria Dei's Christmas in July campaign with Salvation Army to benefit our local community social services.

Our next meeting is August 5th at 1:00 PM. Please join us! Thank you everyone! -Colleen Bolchen, Missions Committee

Usher/Greeter
(Hospitality)

9:00 AM

Tom & Kari Curran



Acolytes

9:00 AM

7/5/26 - Jenna Steele

7/12/26 - Warren Spohn

7/19/26 - Andrew Hart

7/26/26 - Fletcher Reiman

Communion Assistants

9:00 AM

7/5/26 - Ellen & Bill Reaneau

7/19/26 - Shelly Pieper
Karen Rezin

Altar Guild

Ruth Stoner

Cyndy Hall



Readers

9:00 AM

7/5/26 - Bill Reneau

7/12/26 - Colleen Bolchen

7/19/26 - Kari Curran

7/26/26 - Sharon Anderson

Safety Team

9:00 AM

7/5/26 - Dave Lawrence

7/12/26 - Tom Curran

7/19/26 - Jim Grilley

7/26/26 - David C. Hall

Tech Booth

Sign Up to help in
the tech booth
today!

MESSAGE *for all* CONGREGANTS

Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31).

July is a special month for thanking God for those who gave of their lives for the fostering of a better world. And this year, we celebrate 250 years as a nation! Here's a piece of that history:

Fifty-six men representing 13 colonies signed the Declaration of Independence during the 2nd Continental Congress meeting at the Philadelphia State House (Independence Hall). They signed it, because the British Empire was abusing the colonies - harvesting their wealth and giving them no say in their own governance. Instead of "toughing it out," they chose to remedy the cause of their suffering by breaking political ties with the perpetrator of their suffering knowing full well that it was an act of treason against the British government.

They declared, "When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another . . ." What followed was a list of grievances. And this list began with one of the most famous sentences of freedom:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Yes, God has given every human being rights for which every government has an obligation to God to protect. And with their signatures, they pledged their lives to defend this truth.

And they bore the cost. Five signers were captured and imprisoned by the British. Twelve lost their homes in the war. Two lost their sons in the Revolutionary Army. Nine of the 56 died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War. One lost his shipping business to the war.

They pledged: "For the support of this declaration, with firm reliance on the protection of the divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor." . . . So, they did. And the just like our God-given immune system, they stood against evil "with firm reliance on the protection of the divine providence" willing to pay the price.

July 4th, we celebrate Independence Day as a national holiday. Make this a special time to celebrate a deeper sense of independence.

- God has created you in His image
- As people bearing God's image, we are free to treat our fellow human beings with dignity.
- As people bearing God's image, we are free to assemble and worship and raise our children to know their Creator.
- As people bearing God's image, we are free to deal justly with our neighbors in business and government affairs.
- As people bearing God's image, we are free to lay down our lives in the fight against evil knowing our future is secure in Christ.

There is no military power that can crush that kind of freedom. It's the truth of what Jesus says, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Keep and Live the Faith

Pastor Dave Dahl

SHINE BRIGHT

Let Your Light Shine Before Others

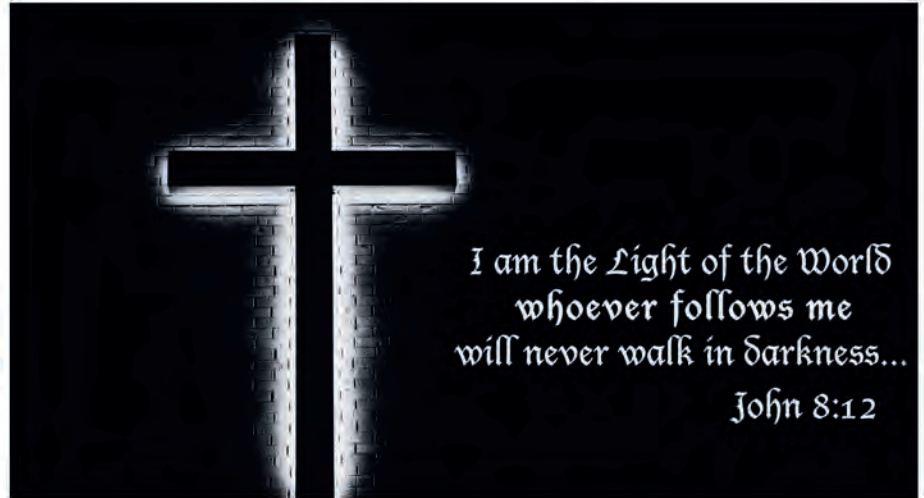
-Matthew 5:16

Summer is often a season when we spend more time outdoors, traveling, gathering with family and friends, and enjoying God's creation. Yet even amid the busyness of summer, God continues to provide opportunities for us to "Connect, Grow, Serve".

Over the past month, our congregation has been blessed with many such opportunities. We began our summer sermon series on the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus reminds us what it means to live as His disciples in a world that desperately needs His grace, mercy, and truth. I encourage you to join us throughout the summer as we explore these familiar yet ever-challenging words of Jesus.

Many of us also enjoyed our annual bus trip. Beyond the fellowship and entertainment, we were reminded of God's incredible creativity. Whether through the beauty of the Ozarks, the talents of performers, or the relationships we shared along the way, we witnessed the many ways our Creator continues to bless His people.

Closer to home, the Truck and Tractor Pull once again brought hundreds of visitors to our community. Through our very own Hunger Haven, we had the privilege of serving our guests from near and far. While it may seem like a simple act, serving food and sharing smiles can be a small light to many.



Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and energy to make this outreach effort possible.

We are also in the midst of our Christmas in July Salvation Army fundraising campaign. At a time of year when Christmas may seem far away, we remember that Christ's love is never out of season. Your generosity helps support those in need and serves as a tangible reminder that God's people are called to care for their neighbors throughout the year.

As we look ahead, July will offer even more opportunities to be a shining light in our community. We look forward to participating in the Fourth of July parade, celebrating the blessings of our nation while sharing the joy we have in Christ. We will also be holding photo sessions for our new church directory. These pictures are more than photographs; they help tell the story of our congregation and remind us that the Church is not merely a building but a family of believers gathered around God's Word and Sacraments.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells His followers, "You are the light of the world." Whether traveling, volunteering, giving, marching in a parade, or simply encouraging a neighbor, God uses ordinary people to reflect His extraordinary love.

May the Lord bless your summer with safe travels, meaningful fellowship, and many opportunities to shine the light of Christ wherever He places you. -Pr. Kay

July 2026

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Sun

Mon


Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1 1 pm Missions Meeting & Book Club Meeting 6 pm Worship & Communion 6-8 pm Music in the Park. Please join us!	2 1:30 pm Miriam Circle	3 CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF INDEPENDENCE DAY	4 Prepare Your Hearts for Worship. Read Matthew 5:21-30 Join us at the parade today!
5 9 am Worship & Communion 10:45 am Liberty Village Worship	6 9 am Small Group with Pastor Dave 6 pm Small Group with Bill & Deb Rice	7 9 am Prayer Meeting 6:30 pm Small Group with David & Cyndy Hall	8 6 pm Worship	9 1 pm Sarah & Esther-Rachel Circles	10	11 Prepare Your Hearts for Worship. Read Matthew 5:21-30 and Matthew 19:3-9
12 9 am Worship 10:45 am Liberty Village Worship	13 9 am Small Group with Pastor Dave & Rebekah-Ruth Circle 6 pm Small Group with Bill & Deb Rice	14 9 am Prayer Meeting 6:30 pm Small Group with David & Cyndy Hall 7 pm Council Meeting	15 6 pm Worship	16	17 12 pm Newsletter Deadline	18 Prepare Your Hearts for Worship. Read Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18
						
CHURCH DIRECTORY PHOTO SESSIONS						
19 9 am Worship & Communion 10:45 am Liberty Village Worship	20 9 am Small Group with Pastor Dave 10 am History Committee 6 pm Small Group with Bill & Deb Rice	21 9 am Prayer Meeting 6:30 pm Small Group with David & Cyndy Hall	22 1 pm Prayer Shawl Meeting 6 pm Worship	23	24	25 Prepare Your Hearts for Worship. Read Matthew 6:19-34
Hunger Haven at the Monroe County Fair. Sign up to volunteer!						
26 9 am Worship & Blessing of the Prayer Shawls 10:45 am Liberty Village Worship	27 9 am Small Group with Pastor Dave 6 pm Small Group with Bill & Deb Rice	28 9 am Prayer Meeting 6:30 pm Small Group with David & Cyndy Hall	29 6 pm Worship	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

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



**Follow us on Instagram & Facebook & the Web:
Gloria Dei Tomah**

