

DEI TO DAY

VOLUME 25 | ISSUE 11

Advent Tea & Advent Fest

November 30th | 1:00 PM

Youth Ministry
Updates
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Christmas

Decorating

11.30.25 - 12.2.25 | 9:30 AM

"COUNCIL CORNER"

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

November 14th | 5:30 PM

Scandinavian Bake Sale

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

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2025

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www.gloriadeitomah.com

CONGRATS, CONFIRMANDS!

Christ-Centered motivation

Congrats!

We wish to congratulate Paityn Worden, Jackson Habeck, Lucy Hall, Brielle Voves, Olivia Conzemius, Seth Gordon, and Teagen Bailey on their Confirmation. We also wish to thank the parents, mentors, and congregation for supporting our youth in their next steps.

Youth Meeting on Sundays for 7th - 12th Grades

Youth in grades 7 - 12 are invited to join us in the Youth Room on the upper level on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am for a Youth Group that is student led and mentored by an adult. If you wish to be a mentor, please contact Jackie Kiel.

1st Annual Advent Fest!

On November 30th, 2025 from 1-2 pm, the children and youth are invited to attend Advent Fest (see page 9 for more information). We hope to see you there for fun and fellowship!





We held a general meeting on October 14th, 2025. We enjoyed a pot luck lunch and held a short meeting. Thank you to Rebekah-Ruth and Sarah Circles for being hostess. Thank you to Gloria & Bruce Aarness and Sandy Larson for loading and delivering our Lutheran World Relief kits and quilts to the drop off point in LaCrosse. We sent 108 quilts, 35 baby kits, 67 School Kits, and 12 personal care kits. That is a record for us! Thank you to everyone who so generously donated items throughout the year.

We held elections for Vice President and Treasurer. Congratulations and thank you to Linda Niebuhr and Glenna Rice for accepting officer positions (again) and for your commitment to the Women's Group.

The schedule is set for baking days for the Scandinavian Bake Sale. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. Please take time to look at it and help where you can. It takes many hands to get ready for this bi-annual sale. Jane will be contacting people to help provide meals and treats for the workers. We are reminding people that they can donate baked goods for the bake sale during the week of December 1st - 5th.

Donations can be dropped off at the church and packed in 6's or by the dozen, and we will price them for you. Our Annual Advent Tea will be held on Nov. 30th at 1 pm. Please plan to join us for an afternoon of treats, fellowship, and a short program as we prepare for the beautiful Advent season. Miriam circle will be hostess, and we ask that everyone bring their favorite treat to share.

Pastor Kay will install our officers.

-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.**





Another season of Operation Christmas Child is just around the corner! In a few weeks millions of people will be packing and praying over their Shoebox gifts that Samaritan's Purse will send to children across the world. Gloria Dei gives glory to God that in over three decades, Samaritan's Purse has reached more than 282 million children who live in 179 countries and territories.

Please return packed boxes to the marked place in the Pastors' hallway by November 12th. Thank you for participating in this very worthy cause. Let's try to reach our goal of 150 packed boxes!

Boxes are available in the narthex or feel free to bring a shoe box from home. If you don't want to pack a box but still want to participate by purchasing items for a box, please deposit these items in the donation box provided. Also, monetary contributions will be accepted as it costs about \$10 per box to ship them. Donations can be made using your giving envelopes. Please specify "Samaritan's Purse" in the 'other' box of your envelope.

MOVIE NIGHT 11.14.25

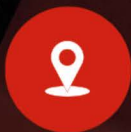


Join us for a cinematic experience!



11.14.25

MEAL
STARTING AT
5:30 PM,
MOVIE BEGINS
AT 6 PM



Location

310 W. ELIZABETH ST,
TOMAH, WI 54660



More Information At
<https://www.angel.com/movies/king-of-kings>



Thank you to everyone in the church family for the cards, prayers, and well wishes following the passing of my son, Jason. Thank you also to my Dorcas sisters for providing a light lunch after Jason's service. Monetary donations will go towards the church memorial fund.

-Sue Waege

A heartfelt thank you to the members of Gloria Dei for their continued support of Steppin' Out in Pink this past year! Between the three coffee hours, the Giving Jar, and other donations, you generously donated \$900 to Gundersen Foundation for the work they do in support of the Kabara Cancer Research Lab and breast cancer patients in our area. Thank you so very much!

-Kathy Steinmetz

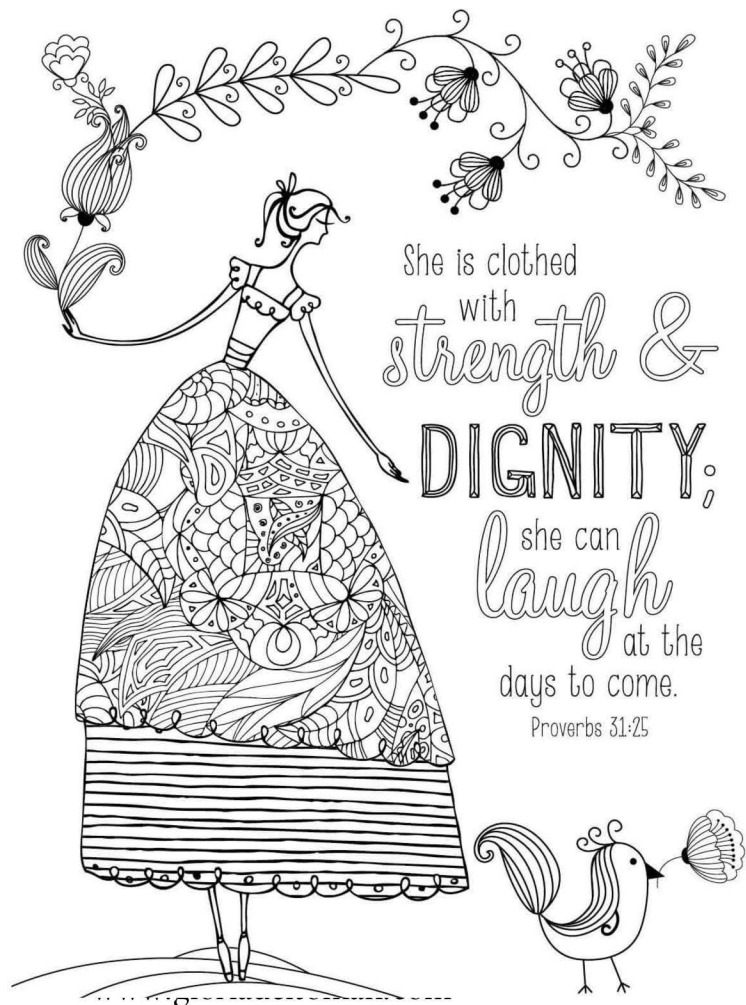
Join us from November 30th - December 2nd to decorate the sanctuary and fellowship hall for Advent! We will begin at 9:30 am each day. The more, the merrier! We hope to have you as part of this festive event!

Greetings,

Invigorated by the serve summer sermon series let us continue to embody our mission to Connect, Grow, and Serve, as there is much to be excited about as we close out October and go full swing into the fall season. With the new season upon us, prayerfully consider in what ways the Lord is continuing to call you to connect with members of the congregation, grow by taking on new opportunities, and demonstrate love by serving on groups or committees at the church. God has called us all to serve His mission, both young and old. He called David and Samuel in their youth, Moses as an adult, and Abraham turned from idols at the age of 75, devoting the next 100 years of his life to God. We need the fire and passion of our youth, the stability and leadership of our adults, and the wisdom and guidance of our elders to share the love of God with the world. Young or old, God has a purpose for all of us. "To the person who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness" Ecclesiastes 2:26.

God's Blessings

Scott Conzemius, Council President



**CONNECT.
GROW.
SERVE.**

Treasurer's Report

September 2025 Income & Expenses

Income.....	\$45,015.21
YTD Income.....	\$325,178.67
Expenses	\$13,019.32
YTD Expenses.....	\$317,167.01

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). To sign up to help bake, please see the sign-up sheets and baking schedule in the Narthex. We will be accepting donations of baked goods during the week of Dec. 1st – Dec. 5th



Advent Fest
11/30/25
1-2 pm

Kids 3 years old and up are welcome to join us for the 1st Annual Advent Fest. There will be cookie decorating, a cute Christmas countdown craft project, story time and Nativity Bingo. Parents, relax and enjoy while the kids do, too!

Children ages 3 years and up are welcome to join us for the 1st Annual Advent Fest. There will be cookie decorating, a cute Christmas countdown craft project, story time, and Nativity Bingo. Parents, relax and enjoy while the kids do, too! Advent Fest will take place from 1-2 pm. Children will meet on the lower level for Advent Fest.

CALL *for* VOLUNTEERS

Hospitality Volunteers, check out the sign-up sheet on the kiosk and watch your mail. Based on your generous commitment to serve on the Hospitality Team in the past and your requests to serve on certain months, I have put together a volunteer list for 2026. There are still months open and some months that could use a few more volunteers.

I have spoken to some of you to confirm your commitment. I will be mailing this list to our volunteers and a copy will be posted on the kiosk. Please let me know if you find any errors and/or if you wish to change months. Call or text me with any concerns, changes or questions. My phone number is 262-308-7980. Greeting and ushering are small, easy tasks but they really do mean so much. A joyful greeting as members or visitors enter our sanctuary could change someone's day. Your service is very much appreciated!

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Keep our 7 confirmand students in your prayers. They are moving into the next important step on their faith journey.

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Connection was made with our recent grads with a fun Halloween surprise! We are in final preparations for our Fall Harvest Meal, October 26th at 11:45 am in the Fellowship Hall.

The September Giving Jar donated \$757 to Brighter Tomorrows, and \$1100 to the Scholarship Fund from Cranfest Parking due to your generosity. Thank you.

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

Rolling Hills: Matt Grovesteen

At Home: Victor Burnstad

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The hospitality team is in need of volunteers to greet and usher at the 10:30 am services in December. Please sign up on the Hospitality volunteer sheet on the kiosk if you are able to help, even if only for select Sundays.

Your service is much appreciated. Contact Ruth Stoner with any questions. See the next page for volunteer schedules.

Usher/Greeter (Hospitality)

8:00 AM

Tom & Kari Curran
Jeff & Tina Francis
Clint & Linda Niebuhr

10:30 AM

Bob & Karen Rezin

OPEN - Help
Needed

Acolytes

8:00 AM

11/2/25 - Cayden Conzemius
11/9/25 - Fletcher Reiman
11/16/25 - Sam Grilley
11/23/25 - Maya Eirschele
11/30/25 - Lyam Eno

10:30 AM

11/2/25 - Blair Bailey
11/9/25 - Emilee Scholz
11/16/25 - Khloe Habeck
11/23/25 - Kimberly Jenkins
11/30/25 - Warren Spohn

Communion Assistants

8:00 AM

11/2/25
Karen Sheets
Cheryl Schuster

10:30 AM

11/2/25
Laura Clay
Becky Grilley

11/16/25
Jane Tessmann
Lisa Stefanski

11/16/25
Shelly Griffin
Kristen Gerke

Tech Booth

Sign Up to help in
the tech booth
today!

Altar Guild

Ellen & Bill Reneau
Karen Rezin

Readers

8:00 AM

11/2/25 - Ken Kuhn
11/9/25 - Bill Reneau
11/16/25 - Reiman Family
11/23/25 - John Tessmann
11/30/25 - Reiman Family

10:30 AM

11/2/25 - Edith Wagner
11/9/25 - Sharon Anderson
11/16/25 - Brian Knight
11/23/25 - Colleen Bolchen
11/30/25 - OPEN

Safety Team

8:00 AM

11/2/25 - Marshall Reiman
11/9/25 - David E. Olson
11/16/25 - David Lawrence
11/23/25 - John Lawrence
11/30/25 - Jim Stefanski

10:30 AM

Jay Gerke
Tom Curran
Brian Knight
Jim Grilley
Lenny Bakken

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Yes, it is time to get organized. It was very obvious to those who caroled last year the joy they brought to many as well as the fellowship in our travels from place to place. We would like to add to our voices this year. We are asking you to contact Sharon Anderson and have her put your name on the list for this community sharing event. We plan to go caroling on December 7th. No practice needed: only the joy of Christmas carols shared with many voices. If you know of a location we do not have on our list please let Sharon know and we will make every attempt to add that to our traveling. Maybe we will have such a large group that we can divide into two groups and do more door to door.

Additionally, we will be having our annual Christmas Cantata on December 17th and 21st. Please join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:45 pm in the sanctuary if you would like to participate.

New Volunteer Opportunity – Tech Booth Team

We are forming a Tech Booth volunteer 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, sign up just like our other volunteer roles. 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)

One beef I have with the Bible is that Jesus' encounters with many of our favorite people were short. I'm left wondering, "What next?"

- How did the formerly demon-possessed man live after Jesus removed his demons and he moved out of the cemetery, and returned to his family and his town?
- How did Lazarus live once Jesus raised him to life?
- What was Zacchaeus's life like after he became a follower of Jesus and, against the advice of his friends and started giving back money to those he'd robbed? What happened to his business?
- What happened after the woman at the well confessed Jesus as the Messiah? What did her live-in boyfriend think? What happened next?

We know that something happened next, because Jesus changes people. They become disciples.

Pr. Kay and I were privileged to attend the 25th Annual Gathering of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC). We revisited the history of the past 25 years. We heard from some of the "founders" of LCMC. Many of you remember Pr. Mark Vander Tuig – a man to whom God gave a lot of personality. He shared the struggles of the struggles in defining the focus of what would become our shared vision to be "in Mission" for Jesus. LCMC holds true to its founding principles that the local congregation, not a central office, is the front line of mission. God's purpose is to save the human race. And His strength accompanies all who embrace their part in His purpose.

- We were encouraged to "chase failure." We accomplish more when we're not afraid to fail – when we're willing to break out of the way we've always done things to pursue a new approach.
- We were challenged in workshops on how to "neighbor", as our culture tends to encourage rigorous independence which leads to isolation and often fosters loneliness.
- We were reminded that "busyness" in our culture is killing us, and that we need to take steps to reclaim the Third Commandment to keep the Sabbath. This keeps us in tune with God's purposes at work especially when everything around us may seem dark and forbidding.

The mission focus of LCMC continues to captivate followers of Jesus around the world as LCMC surpasses the benchmark of 1,000 member congregations. What next? The mission focus of making disciples is alive and well.

That brings us to the "what next" of Gloria Dei. We're celebrating our 80th year of God's blessing. I invite you to take note of a particular feature to our building:

When you enter the church building, you'll discover a tree. That tree is a joint work of several people. It demonstrates our longstanding rootedness in God's Story and in the "what next" of God's purpose. This tree is made up of a slab of redwood that is estimated to be 1,200 to 2,000 years old. The metalwork demonstrates a variety of textures and cloudlike shapes that illustrate the amazing variety of the branches of God's people. If you look closely, you'll find the face of Jesus embedded in the trunk (Yes, it's really there! Look for it!) Beside it is a Bible passage from Paul's letter to the Ephesians – which is also so appropriate to us.

The whole passage had to be shortened, so I've bolded the excerpt on our wall and have included the full context of what Paul wrote: "For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. 16 I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, 17 and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. 18 I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." (Ephesians 3:14b-19)

Note all the references to growth in his words: "Rooted and grounded", "to comprehend", "to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge", "be filled with all the fullness of God." These words describe the constant change that happens in those who follow Christ.

So, "What's next?" It is rewarding to see so many of you digging into the Bible. It's rewarding to see teachers involved in teaching our kids and adults mentoring our Confirmation students. This year, we sent more quilts, school kits, baby kits and personal care kits than ever! And we have room to develop more women's circles and small groups.

This leads to an open invitation to the "what next" of our neighbor: We have so many opportunities to bring someone with us. When you come to worship, when you're working, helping, teaching, quilting, cooking, praying, bring someone with you. You have no idea what doors a little connection might open. You and they will grow in ways not possible by any other activity. And you'll have the amazing experience of seeing others grow as well.

Remember, God's purpose is to save the human race. He's given you a part in it. This church is rooted in it. So, "what next?" I can't wait.

Keep and Live the Faith. -Pr. Dave Dahl

Give thanks IN all...

November is a month where people tend to list out the things we are thankful for. Some even will list something each and every day on Facebook -which is not something you will find me doing. Don't get me wrong, it is good to be thankful, and I am thankful for many different things ... I just struggle, because a lot of times the things listed after family and friends are so many material things which will eventually break and get replaced. Is that really what I'm thankful for?

I am NOT against Thanksgiving in any way; it is good to be thankful. The Bible even tells us that. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says, "give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Wait a second! Look at the verse again! Did you notice what that verse says? "Give thanks in ALL circumstances." So ... does this mean I have to give thanks in those times when life isn't going like I planned it or when something bad happens? Hate to be the bearer of bad news but ... yup, that is exactly what it means.

We all know that bad things are going to happen. People will get sick, things will break or be taken away or used up, feelings will be hurt by those we call our friends, and relationships are going to go through tough times and may even lead to a break-up. It may be hard to see these as times to give thanks ... but they are.

Take a breath...

Notice the word before that bold, italicized, and underlined ALL? What is it? It's the word in. We are told to give thanks in all circumstances, not for all circumstances. The evil, the bad things of life do not come from God, those are a result of sin being in the world. This is why we are not thankful for all circumstances. We are thankful in all circumstances because no matter what we are facing in life ... God is still in control, and God's presence is still with you. This means that His love, His mercy, His compassion, and all the other wonderful things God is and does are still with you. They are with you because you are His dearly loved child. And to prove that, God sent Jesus, His only Son, so that anyone who believes in Him may have eternal life.

So in this month of reflection on what it is we are thankful for ... the thing I'm most thankful for is the precious blood shed by Jesus and His victorious resurrection! For it is through this that you are claimed as one of His dear children. I'm thankful that God continues to go with you wherever it is that you go. It is my constant prayer that no matter what you experience in your life, that you remember that He is there with you and that you can lean on Him all the time. Give thanks!

May you have a blessed and thankful Thanksgiving!

By Pastor Kay Knight