



**THIS BROCHURE** guides you through Gloria Dei's preparation for and celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

*The church season is called Advent, which means "coming." Advent is a four-week period of preparation for the Nativity—Jesus Christ's birth. It is a season marked by joyful anticipation and hope.*

**HANGING OF THE GREENS** is a time for the Gloria Dei congregation to decorate for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Dinner is served by the men of the congregation on Friday, December 1, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Decorating and caroling follow with crafts and activities for children. A nursery is provided.

During Hanging of the Greens, the Junior and Senior High Youth will meet in the Luther Library to stuff stockings for young children for the Salvation Army.

**FESTIVAL OF CAROLS AND LIGHTS** on Sunday, December 3, at 9:30 a.m. is a worship service to anticipate the celebration of our Savior's birth. This service includes carols, lessons, and special music by our choirs. A nursery is provided.

**CHRISTMAS TREES** will once again be sold by the Gloria Dei youth groups to help defray the cost of the Virginia Synod youth retreats. If your family purchases a live tree, please consider us!



**SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** will be presented Sunday, December 10, at the 10:30 a.m. service. Come and share in this telling of the Savior's birth. This is a traditional service with Holy Communion. For those who do not wish to attend the Christmas Program, Pastor Milton will have a sermon at the 8:00 service.

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING** begins at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 17. Carolers will travel by Gloria Dei bus. All are welcome to join in the singing.

**CHRISTMAS EVE BREAKFAST WITH TABLE BLESSING** will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Christmas Eve, December 24. This event is sponsored by the Men's Breakfast Bible Study.



*The Christmas season, beginning with Christmas Eve, is the occasion for telling the story of Christ's birth. This joyful season lasts for 12 days.*



**OUR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE FOR YOUNG FAMILIES is at 5:00 p.m.** This service is intended for families with Preschool through Kindergarten age children. The worship includes familiar Christmas carols and special music. This is a 45-minute service and includes a family Christmas blessing. A nursery is provided.

**OUR EARLY CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION begins at 7:00 p.m.** This service is for families and those who desire an early evening service. It includes the festive sounds of carols with special music. A nursery is provided.

**OUR FESTIVAL CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION is at 11:00 p.m.** Prelude music Handbell Choir will provide special music. There is no nursery.

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT A GLANCE

### **Friday, December 1**

6:00 p.m. Hanging of the Greens and Fellowship Dinner



### **Sunday, December 3**

Service of Holy Communion and  
Festival of Carols and Lights, 9:30 a.m.



### **Sunday, December 10**

Service of Holy Communion, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday School Pageant Rehearsal, 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday School Christmas Program, 10:30 a.m.



### **Sunday, December 17**

Service of Holy Communion, 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.  
Christmas Caroling, 6:00 p.m.



### **Sunday, December 24**

Christmas Eve Breakfast with Table Blessing, 9:30 a.m.

### **Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24**

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship (Families with Preschool  
through Kindergarten age children)  
7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship (Holy Communion)  
11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship (Holy Communion)

### **Sunday, December 31**

9:30 a.m. One Worship Service of Lessons and Carols



### December 5-14 - School Christmas Programs

<b>Tuesday, December 5</b>	9:00 a.m. Two-Year-Old and Transition Classes 10:30 a.m. Kindergarten Classes
<b>Wednesday, December 6</b>	9:00 a.m. Preschool Classes 10:30 a.m. Prekindergarten Classes (Mrs. Finch and Mrs. Hansen)
<b>Thursday, December 7</b>	9:00 a.m. Prekindergarten Classes (Mrs. Scherrer and Mrs. Mitchell) 10:30 a.m. First and Second Grade Classes
<b>Wednesday, December 13</b>	9:00 a.m. Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grade Classes 1:00 p.m. Third, Fourth, and Fifth Grade Classes
<b>Thursday, December 14</b>	9:00 a.m. All School Chapel

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*Celebrate  
Advent and Christmas  
with  
The People of Gloria Dei*



**2017**