



# FROM THE TOWER

## December 2023/January 2024



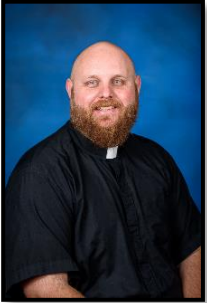
### Worship with Us!

*In person in the Nave, "Gloria Dei Live" on Facebook, or Zoom.*

**Sundays at 9:30 a.m.**

**Building Faith + Building Community + Building Lives**

### A Word from Our Pastor



**Pastor Dave Fox,  
Senior Pastor/  
Head of Staff**

#### The Fox's Trot

By now, you have heard Mariah Carey's *All I Want for Christmas* so many times that you are sick of it; and that was before the season of Advent started, still farther into the future yet – Christmas. As a side note, I absolutely despise the above mentioned song and do not believe it is the top Christmas song of all time. And to prove my point, ask anyone what their favorite Christmas song is; chances are if you ask one hundred, one or two may mention the song. Try it, and you'll see.

The first Sunday in December is our First Sunday of Advent. Is it really December already? Time has flown by, but we say that every year. We seem to be amazed every year that our family members are a year older and that we have to think about filing taxes in the near future. Many of us have just got the hang of writing 2023 on our checks, and in one month we will be putting 2024. Time is a thief.

The season of Advent is a time of patiently waiting on our Lord. Advent is, first and foremost, about the end of things or the now ever popular phrase, "the second coming." We often mistake Advent as only a time to prepare for the celebration of Christmas.<sup>1</sup>

Advent is the first season of the church year, and its readings take us to the end. By talking about the end, we get a sense of our direction as Christians. The end has us drawn to God. We must first understand where we are headed, with God's direction, before we bring Jesus' birth into the picture. Otherwise, we have a story of a baby being born and no context to place him. With Advent, we are given the context that Jesus comes to be our Savior.<sup>2</sup>

Then, the time we have all been waiting for... Christmas, which literally is the Christ's Mass. It is a celebration of Christ. Christ the savior is born. He came into the world as a poor peasant child and grows up to be the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Christmas is celebrated for twelve days in the church, and those twelve days start with December 25, not before. I know our television programs tell us different, but they are wrong. Christmas is December 25 through January 5. So, we as good Lutherans will start to sing our Christmas hymns just a hair early on Christmas Eve.

Remember, Advent is about waiting. We wait for the coming of our Lord with patience. We wait for Christ's second coming. We wait for the celebration of our Savior's birth.

"*Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart*<sup>3</sup>." I even like this song better than Mariah's Christmas song!

~Peace be the journey,

Pastor Dave

<sup>1</sup> Stookey, Laurence. Calendar: Christ's Time for the Church. Abingdon Press, Nashville: 1996.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> Taizè Community. Wait for the Lord. Lyrics.

## Worship Information

Join us Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. for worship. Our worship options are in person in the Nave, Facebook, or Zoom (online or telephone). To connect via Zoom, please find the appropriate link information below for December and January. If you want to watch worship at a different time or need to be at home for worship, you can follow our “*Gloria Dei Live*” profile on Facebook. To view our “*Livestream*,” we have a button at the top right on the main page of our website, [gloriadeilutheranchurch.net](http://gloriadeilutheranchurch.net). For further questions or more information, please call the Church office.

### **December Zoom Information:**

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Gloria Dei Worship for the Month of December

Join Zoom Meeting by clicking on the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84158802573?pwd=T0pIbmxNb3NlbnMxbkc5QU9ZZGE4QT09>

If you are not able to join by using the link above, the following are a few other options:

- Visit [zoom.us](http://zoom.us) on the web, click on “Join a Meeting,” and enter the Meeting ID (841 5880 2573) and Passcode (804730)
- Visit “*Gloria Dei Lutheran Church – Hampton*” on Facebook and click on the link attached for this meeting.
- Join via phone by calling 1-301-715-8592 and entering the Meeting ID (841 5880 2573) followed by the “#” key. You will then need to press the “#” key one more time, and then you will be prompted to enter the Passcode (804730). You will then be connected to the worship service. Please do not hang up if you hear a long silence. Please be patient and hang on the line.
- Please visit “*Gloria Dei Live*” on *Facebook* where our worship services are livestreamed.

Meeting ID: 841 5880 2573

Passcode: 804730

### **January Zoom Information:**

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Gloria Dei Worship for the Month of January

Join Zoom Meeting by clicking on the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84157945149?pwd=Q1hyVIBWYIBzdHJET0U1UkN2SWRKdz09>

If you are not able to join by using the link above, the following are a few other options:

- Visit [zoom.us](http://zoom.us) on the web, click on “Join a Meeting,” and enter the Meeting ID (841 5794 5149) and Passcode (888970).
- Visit “*Gloria Dei Lutheran Church – Hampton*” on Facebook and click on the link attached for this meeting.
- Join via phone by calling 1-301-715-8592 and entering the Meeting ID (841 5794 5149) followed by the “#” key. You will then need to press the “#” key one more time, and then you will be prompted to enter the Passcode (888970). You will then be connected to the worship service. Please do not hang up if you hear a long silence. Please be patient and hang on the line.
- Please visit “*Gloria Dei Live*” on *Facebook* where our worship services are livestreamed.

Meeting ID: 841 5794 5149

Passcode: 888970

## Gloria Dei Annual Coat Drive

### November 12 - December 31

Andrew Sutherland is kicking off his annual coat drive. He is collecting coats and many other **winter clothing** items for the homeless again this winter. There will be collection boxes at both the Fox Hill and Willow Oaks campuses. He collects items for men, women, and children. All items are distributed with H.E.L.P. at *A Night's Welcome* shelters in Hampton.

#### **WINTER GEAR ONLY:**

- |                     |        |              |           |            |
|---------------------|--------|--------------|-----------|------------|
| *Coats              | *Hats  | *Belts       | *Sweaters | *Gloves    |
| *Long-sleeve shirts | *Socks | *Sweatshirts | *Scarves  | *Backpacks |

Please share the news with your family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors. Thank you for your support!!



**Lisa Dadez,  
Principal**

**From the Principal**

Our Middle School students have been busy with the S.C.A. election. Officers and room representatives were installed during Chapel on October 19, 2023. Congratulations to our 2023-2024 Student Council.

- President-** Gabriella Hale
- Vice-President-** Zachary Michalski
- Secretary-** Aaron Gaita
- Treasurer-** Peyton Walter
- Chaplain-** Jocelyn Irving
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Representative-** Peyton LaRoche
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Representatives-** Easton Harman and Zoe Zou
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Representatives-** Dominick Stilgebouer and Zachary Zou



We have completed our first quarter of the school year. Fall Festival Week, in conjunction with the Scholastic Book Fair were a great success! Many thanks to our librarians, Julie Allen, Donna Collins, and Rebecca Mahan, as well as Kelly Martin and Jeane Fullen. These events would not be possible without your passion and dedication.

On November 4, 2023, Gloria Dei Lutheran Preschool was presented the Innovative School in Environmental Education award by the Hampton Clean City Commission. This award was presented in recognition of Gloria Dei’s Earth Week Celebration. In addition to our new sign on the Fox Hill Campus, a River Birch tree and Gloria Dei Preschool plaque will be placed in our honor at Blue Bird Gap Farm.



Under the direction of Kathy Dermanis, one of Gloria Dei’s preschool teachers, and in celebration of Earth Week 2023, our preschool classes participated in many exciting activities. The students learned about recycling and reducing litter, as well as, conserving water and energy. Reading centers were stocked with books relating to Earth Day, and art projects were created with recyclable containers and recycled paper. Students and staff decorated the halls and classroom doors with Earth Day themes. Seeds were planted in biodegradable containers. At the end of the week, students and staff took a pledge to be good stewards of the Earth, by loving and protecting the earth and its inhabitants. Following the pledge, students celebrated with an Earth Day parade; they marched through the hallways chanting “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!” I am so very thankful for Ms. Dermanis and her gift of teaching. She is passionate about the care of our planet and the many gifts God has provided for us. Every day, not just during Earth Week, she shares this message with the students and staff of Gloria Dei.

I am pleased to announce that 128 Gloria Dei students in our first – eighth grades earned Honor Roll recognition for the first grading period of our 2023 - 2024 school year. In order to achieve Honor Roll recognition, middle school students must earn A and/or B averages in all classes, and elementary students must obtain A and/or B averages in all content subject areas, satisfactory or above in their resource classes, and satisfactory or above on all work/study habits. Not an easy accomplishment!! The following students have worked and put forth a tremendous amount of effort. Congratulations to you, and keep up the good work. We are proud of you and your efforts. I will look forward to listing your names again on the recognition for the second quarter. There were several students who came so very close and missed the Honor Roll by one grade. I hope to be able to list your names on our next recognition. Give second quarter your best!!

**First Grade****Nolte:**

Chandler Abbott  
 Bentley Birch  
 Owen Ferguson  
 Ronin Haas  
 Colton Hagwood

Abigail Hella  
 Sloane Howell  
 Londyn James  
 Titus Kipper  
 Taylor Michel

Zoey Morris  
 Elijah Paden  
 Carmelo Robinson  
 Giovanni Rocha  
 Aaliyah Simmons

Steven Sterne  
 Payton Teal  
 Ava Trull

**Menendez:**

Lilianna Beckford  
 Grace Garfoyle  
 Ezra Geisler  
 Maggie Griffith  
 Ava Kline  
 Rhodes Lomax

Patrick Malmgren  
 Zoe McAnuff  
 Ella Miller  
 Callan Murray  
 William Olwig

Atticus Paden  
 Ileana Pearson  
 Devin Rose  
 Kennedy Saloka  
 Sean Sheehan  
 Theo Stallard

James Sterne  
 Jackson Swicegood  
 Declan Willey

**Mrs. Maguire- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**

Scarlett Anthony  
 Lillian Bane  
 Jackson Higgins

Keller Korahaes  
 Addison McKain  
 Vy Nguyen

Adalynn Tuttle  
 Zachary Vander Stouwe  
 Carlos Wassef

Rebecca Wu  
 Damon Reynolds

**Mrs. Wiggins- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**

Phil Bailey  
 Tori Ford-Tinker  
 June Cote  
 Sayuri Hackel

Evan Martin  
 Sofia Hammitt  
 Elizabeth Rene  
 Madalyn Rew

Skyler Reynolds  
 Mila Robertson  
 Giana Rocha  
 Isla Samuelson-Cullen

Jolene Watkins  
 Tarrin Wills

**Mrs. Watterton- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**

Olivia Abel  
 Koi Abney  
 James Archambault  
 Mario Brown  
 Jacob Church

Cayden Cummings  
 Braxton Foster  
 Nolan Frazier  
 Kayla Grace Grant  
 Ella Gray

Ronald Hayford  
 Ashton Horton  
 Nixon Howell  
 King Oliver  
 Shella Schrum

John Wilhelm  
 Richard Wilhelm  
 Sanaii Williams-Lucky  
 John Henry Yohn

**Mrs. Zamora- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Benjamin Ferrante  
 Tylor Ford-Tinker  
 Gunnar Gibson  
 Christiana Grandberry

Briella Habecker  
 Addyson Houde  
 Nathanael Howell  
 Mia Kearney

Jaxon Kerrick  
 Tyler Kline  
 Nem Tan Lun  
 Naomi Menendez

Eva Prieto  
 Ava Richards  
 Meghan Willey  
 Jozef Zywna

**Mrs. Wallace- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Kylee Brewer  
 Gracie Finnegan  
 Oliver Fox

Jackson Grant  
 Avery Gray  
 Skylar Harris

Steven Mustard  
 Orlando Peters  
 Taylor Smith

Malachi Spinner  
 St. John Villar

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Ava Felder

Peyton LaRoche

Bryson Nichols

Kiley Seymour

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Lola Atkins  
 Alena Fortuna

Isabella Little  
 Zachary Michalski

Bryson Rader  
 Cameron Reese

Matthew Wu  
 Zoe Zou

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Randolph Atkins  
 Aaron Gaita

Gabriella Hale  
 Andrew Schulenberg

Dominick Stilgebouer  
 Peyton Walter

Zachary Zou

As we move into the holiday season, the sounds of Christmas are already echoing through our hallways, as students prepare for their Christmas programs. Through songs, carols, and plays/programs, our students are learning the story of Jesus' birth. They are also sharing this message with family and friends. Please note the Christmas program schedule, and mark your calendars so you won't miss this special time.

## **Gloria Dei Lutheran School's 2023 Christmas Program Schedule**

*Tuesday, December 5 ~ 9:00 a.m. Toddler & Two-Year-Old Classes*

*Wednesday, December 6 ~ 9:00 a.m. Mrs. Waldmiller (Transitions) & Mrs. Watts (PS)*

*Wednesday, December 6 ~ 10:30 a.m. Mrs. Howard & Mrs. Smith (Preschool)*

*Thursday, December 7 ~ 9:00 a.m. Prekindergarten Classes (Bennett, Dermanis, & Nolder)*

*Thursday, December 7 ~ 10:30 a.m. Kindergarten Classes (Kittle & Yarrington)*

*Tuesday, December 12 ~ 9:00 a.m. Middle School Program*

*Tuesday, December 12 ~ 10:30 a.m. 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grades (Menendez, Nolte, Maguire & Wiggins)*

*Wednesday, December 13 ~ 9:00 a.m. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup> Grades (Watterton, Zamora, & Wallace)*

Our fourth annual Gloria Dei Christmas Parade is planned for Friday, December 15, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. In previous years we have had representatives from local businesses, Hampton Fire, Police, and SWAT, as well as decorated golf carts, a float honoring the Nativity, Kecoughtan's marching band, and of course, Santa. If you would like to participate in the parade, please contact Lisa Dadez, Jeanene Nolte, or Janet Cole at 757-851-6292.

Thank you for the trust you place in us to partner with you in educating and nurturing your child. What a winning combination for success – students, parents, teachers, and the administration working together!

Yours in Christ's service,  
Lisa S. Dadez

### **Child Care**

Gloria Dei Lutheran School offers child care for children ages 16 months to 12 years. This year, we have 153 students enrolled in our child care program.

- Hours are 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- Before and after-school care, parent/teacher conferences and staff work days, Christmas and Easter holidays, and snow days (unless conditions are severe).
- Breakfast served from 6:15 a.m. – 7:15 a.m.; lunch, morning and afternoon snacks.
- Variety of activities for children – crafts, movies, organized games, free play, and outdoor play.
- Afternoon study hall is available for students in grades 3<sup>rd</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup>, from 3:15 until 4:15 p.m.
- Additional after-school activities – gymnastics, Little Ninjas, Tumblebugz, art academy, and Master Singers
- *Summer Adventures*, our summer program for children 16 months to 12 years old, will begin in June.

Jeanene Nolte, Child Care Director

Janet Cole, Child Care Program Director

Jessica Nolte, Child Care Program Coordinator

### **Spanish Class**

Why take a foreign language? Beginning a foreign language at an early age contributes to brain development, and overall learning and foreign language study improves cognitive skills and academic performance. Learning a foreign language also opens doors to other cultures and makes an individual a better world citizen.

The students at Gloria Dei Lutheran School are fortunate to be able to take Spanish from an early age, and they learn about Spanish language and Hispanic culture using a variety of activities.

Each quarter the students learn vocabulary words from the “Let's Learn Spanish” series by Hayes School Publishing Company. The purpose of this series is to encourage children to learn a foreign language while having fun.

The Spanish library at Gloria Dei has excellent bilingual books including the Extreme Readers. This quarter the students will read *Animales del Día y del Noche* (Animals Day and Night), *Tiempo Salvaje* (Wild Weather), *Misterios del Espacio* (Space Mysteries), *Destrucción en la Tierra* (Destruction Earth) and *El Predador Ataca* (Predator Attack). The students enjoy learning interesting facts about the world as they learn Spanish.



The study of Hispanic culture and the geography of countries where Spanish is spoken is also an important element in the Spanish curriculum. Each Spanish-speaking country contributes its distinctive culture to the multifaceted Spanish-speaking world, and the Gloria Dei students learn about the individual countries and the children who live in them. Each elementary class concentrates on a different country each quarter.

During fall festival week, the children learned about the Day of the Dead. They viewed beautiful images of the holiday, listened to music regarding the holiday and colored drawings inspired by Mexican folklore. Taken from stained glass designs, the images depict animals, religious icons, and other images related to Day of the Dead traditions. Gloria Dei Book Fair funds purchased “Our Day of the Dead Celebration” book by Ana Aranda. The children enjoyed this book, and it is a wonderful addition to the Spanish library.

Spanish continues at Gloria Dei in the Middle School. The sixth grade Spanish class meets during the Spring Semester. This class introduces the students to Spanish with an interactive web-based curriculum. The seventh and eighth grade Spanish classes are elective core courses, and they are academically challenging. If the student completes Spanish 1A and 1B with success, he or she can earn high school credit. I am very proud of the students who have chosen to take these rigorous classes.

It is wonderful to see how each student learns and progresses from year to year. I strive to be a better teacher every day, and I am thankful to have the opportunity to teach and learn from the children. As Thanksgiving approaches, may we all be thankful for God’s many gifts.

Vaya con Dios (Go with God)  
Maestra Vaught  
Spanish Teacher Grades 1-8

### School Employment Opportunities

Gloria Dei Lutheran School has the following positions available:

**\*Bus Drivers**                      **\*Middle School Aide**                      **\*Substitutes**

If you are interested in applying, you can find an application online at <http://www.gdlshamptonva.com/school-forms>. Once completed, you may turn it in to the School Office at 250 Fox Hill Rd., Hampton, VA 23669, attention: Lisa Dadez.

### #PrayFor400

We would like for you to use **#PrayFor400** anytime you are on a social media platform and talking about our Church or School. We want you to take time daily to pray for our School and to specifically pray for our students. We also ask you to pray for the staff and volunteer positions to support our students. Anytime you see available positions, pray specifically for that position to be filled. **#PrayFor400** is our prayer. Will you join us in prayer?

### Gloria Dei School 50th Anniversary Ornament and Coin Sale

We are selling 50th Anniversary coins and ornaments for \$10 apiece. If you would like to purchase one, please do so at the Information Desk during the week. We take cash (exact change please) or checks. We are working to fundraise for new playground equipment to celebrate our 50th school year. We appreciate your support!

### Harris Teeter School Fundraiser

**Harris Teeter**—You can help Gloria Dei Lutheran School raise funds by shopping at Harris Teeter. Once you ask for and receive your VIC card, you can go to <https://www.harristeeter.com/together-in-education>, click on “Link your school today,” log in or register, then go to “My Account,” and scroll down to “Together in Education,” and click to link a school. You will then enter our School code, 6528, and click on *Gloria Dei Lutheran School*. Thank you!

### Papa John’s School Fundraiser

**Papa Johns**—You can help Gloria Dei Lutheran School raise funds by shopping at [www.papajohns.com](http://www.papajohns.com) or on their mobile app. Simply apply the promo code “GDLS” and 20% of your order will benefit our school. This offer applies to delivery or carryout orders year round. All proceeds will be donated for the new playground equipment.

## Hangings of the Greens

Hangings of the Greens will be on **Friday, December 1**, at 6:00 p.m. Soup and hotdogs with chili will be served for dinner. We invite you to join us for singing, decorating, fellowship, and kids' activities. Nursery will be available.

## Christmas Caroling

Christmas Caroling begins at **11:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 17**. Carolers will travel by Gloria Dei bus. All are welcome to join in the singing. Following caroling, we will come back to the church to enjoy some more fellowship over a spaghetti lunch. **Please RSVP by signing up on the sheet provided on the table in the Narthex or you may call the Church Office, 757-851-2838, or email [tbialk@gloriadei.net](mailto:tbialk@gloriadei.net) or [psipes@gloriadei.net](mailto:psipes@gloriadei.net) so we can plan on enough food.**

## Christmas Eve Services

*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 5:00 p.m. CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE** is intended for families with young children as well as those who choose not to drive later in the evening. This brief worship includes familiar Christmas carols and special music.

**OUR 7:30 p.m. FESTIVAL CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION** includes the festive sounds of carols with brass and other special music.



## Council Corner

What is your legacy?

Recently, I attended a family wedding where us "early arrivals" went to dinner together that first evening. Once our food arrived, everyone held hands; and we prayed in unison our good Lutheran standby, "Come Lord Jesus." No asking, no looking around to see who was going to start, all 22 of us just prayed. Looking around at the family members, I thought what a beautiful legacy of faith my mother-in-law created in her seven children. I am grateful that my parents also continued to pass down the same legacy of faithfulness in our family.

What is Gloria Dei's legacy? You can learn what that legacy looks like by listening to those sharing their faith stories as part of our giving campaign for this year. If you just look at offerings as a bill-paying venture, you miss the glory of how God works through each of us using our gifts. Your offerings directly affect how Gloria Dei meets the needs of not only our members, school children and staff, but also our community at large.

Your commitment is but one strand woven into and around many others' commitments, slowly creating a legacy that enriches and makes visible God's love for His people. What is your legacy? How will your faith and commitment to the work of the church be realized? How will you allow God to work in your life to create a legacy for those who follow after us? Our faith is a wonderful gift that should be shared. What better legacy than that can one leave behind?

You are wonderfully made!

Vivian Griese

Church Council President

## A Pint with Pastor

Please join Pastor Dave on the following evenings from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the locations listed below:

**Tuesday, December 5**  
Bull Island Brewing Company  
758 Settlers Landing Road, Hampton

**Tuesday, January 16**  
St. George Brewing Company  
204 Challenger Way, Hampton

## Community Bible Study

Pastor Dave leads a weekly Bible study at H.E.L.P., 329 Buckroe Avenue. Beginning in January, this group will move to meeting on Wednesdays at noon. All are invited. This is a great opportunity for us to learn the needs of our community and help us to become more outreach-oriented. **Community Bible Study will not meet on December 25 and January 3.**

## Fellowship Bible Study

You are invited to join us in Bible study every Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m. We are meeting in the Simeon Center and using the Augsburg Adult Bible Study Series. This is a small group study, where you will find fellowship and a relaxed atmosphere. For information, email Sharon L. Padula at [slpadula1@gmail.com](mailto:slpadula1@gmail.com).

## JOY Fellowship

Just Older Youth (JOY) meets (September-May) on the third Wednesday of each month at 2:00-3:30 p.m. with light refreshments provided.

Upcoming plans are:

**December 20** – Sing Christmas carols with accompaniment and leadership by our own Dr. Spence.

**January 17** - Visit with a representative from Newport News Waterworks and learn how to read your bill.

Anita: 757-851-8398 [hamiltonanita731@gmail.com](mailto:hamiltonanita731@gmail.com)

Ann: 757-851-7315 [amyers21@cox.net](mailto:amyers21@cox.net)

## What is a Faith Group?

Your Gloria Dei Church Council is working to facilitate the formation of Faith Groups within the Gloria Dei Community. The Council believes that they can be very effective in helping the church community members come together and incorporate, more fully, the teachings of the church and the teachings of Jesus Christ into our personal lives and our interpersonal relationships.

Faith Groups have a rich history in the New Testament. As the Christian Church grew in its early years, these groups helped support the church through intimate gatherings that spread the Word of God through teaching and discussion, while sowing the seeds for new communities of believers. They are still important in today's church!

**So, what does a Faith Group look like at Gloria Dei?** These groups are intentional (not haphazard), led by individuals within the congregation and include prayer, a Bible verse or reading, and group fellowship. Groups are typically less than eight individuals to facilitate meaningful conversations.

**How does a Faith Group form?** Have a group of friends that already meet? Know others that share a common passion with you? Then you have the makings of a Faith Group. It can, but does not have to be, a group of individuals that currently meet together.

**Who can lead a Faith Group?** Anyone! No special training required! Just a desire to interact with others. As the leader, you can decide how to structure the group.

**What do I have to do?** Just ask other individuals who share your interest or ask other people you would like to get to know better to join your group.

**What do we do in a Faith Group?** Start with a quick prayer that you feel comfortable saying. Depending on the type of group you want to lead, you can use the Bible to explore lessons or Biblical themes. You could even let the Bible fall up and read the first verse(s) you see. Then you ask the group to discuss what was read and what meaning it imparts. It can be as formal or informal as you feel comfortable with. It can evolve as you and your group grow more comfortable together.

**How often do we have to meet and where?** You get to decide when, where, and how often the group meets. You also decide how long each meeting lasts.

**Then what do we do after prayer and Bible study?** You have fellowship! If your group is a walking, hiking, exercise, etc. group, then you continue as you usually do. When your activity is finished, end with a quick prayer. Any group that meets can be a faith group, as long as you incorporate prayer, the Bible, and discussion. Fishing, no problem; like to visit museums, great; sit at the beach with some friends, perfect; you get the idea! But, you can also start a group with people you know and just meet at a coffee shop or someone's home.

**What do I do now?** It does not matter if you want to join a group or lead one, come and hear more by attending an **information session on Sunday, Dec. 10, 11:00 a.m. in the Simeon Center**. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Vivian Griese or any church council member.



## WELCA (Women of the ELCA)

*“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 grow 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”*

Mission Statement of the Women of the ELCA  
(WELCA)

The Women of Gloria Dei have been meeting on the fourth Monday of the month. That has evolved into “A Glass with the Girls.” We meet at Pour Girls at 7:00 p.m. for fellowship. Other programs will be held on various Sunday afternoons throughout the year. Plans for January are still to be determined. However, you can plan on an evening with friends on Monday, January 22, at Pour Girls, 17 E Queens Way, Hampton, Virginia 23669.

Since we won't be getting together over the holidays, here's an opportunity for you. Hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, wars, and all forms of natural disasters continue to occur despite the season. Lutheran World Relief will



be where needed, regardless of the holiday. With that in mind, while doing your Christmas shopping, this can be a great time to pick up items for the Personal Care Kits. Once again, the Women of Gloria Dei and the Girl Scouts in Troop 1041 will be sponsoring the creation of the kits as part of our Lenten Journey. The items needed are:

1. Nail clippers (sturdy heavy-duty ones)
2. Large combs
3. Full-sized bath soap bars (no hotel sizes or travel sizes)
4. Medium-weight bath towel, about 20x40” to 52x28” in a medium to dark color
5. Full-sized adult toothbrush (no travel sizes; leave in packaging)

Having done this for several years, I have learned locations for some of the best deals, so if you want a suggestion, let me know. And as always, if you have any questions or suggestions for the Women of Gloria Dei, let me know.

Have a wonderful Christmas season,  
Rita Foringer

## WELCA Book Club

The Women's Book Group meets regularly on the second Monday of the month. The group is hosted in various homes or in the Luther Library. The book is selected by the host for the evening.

On December 11, we will be getting together at the home of Mary Mace. For our December read, the book *"Comfort & Joy,"* by Kristin Hannah, was selected. Mary Mace will be our host. Here's a short synopsis of the book:

Joy Candellaro once loved Christmas more than any other time of the year. Now, as the holiday approaches, she is at a crossroads in her life; recently divorced and alone, she can't summon the old enthusiasm for celebrating. So, without telling anyone, she buys a ticket and boards a plane bound for the beautiful Pacific Northwest. When an unexpected detour takes her deep into the woods of the Olympic rainforest, Joy makes a bold decision to leave her ordinary life behind--to just walk away--and thus begins an adventure unlike any she could have imagined.

Then, on January 8, we will gather in the Luther Library for our annual “Leftover Party.” We all bring our Christmas leftovers to share. That partial cheeseball that didn't get finished, or the Chex mix that your family is tired of, or perhaps the fruitcake that just doesn't taste as good in January as it did at Christmas. The book group is always open to everyone, however, our January gathering is a great time to check out what we've read and our plans for the future. Come join us.

If you have any questions or comments, contact Rita Foringer at [rforinger@verizon.net](mailto:rforinger@verizon.net).

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is once again working its needles on the second Sunday of the month following worship services. We will meet in the Koinonia Atrium, near the fireplace. After an hour or so of creating shawls and lap robes, we head off to lunch.

If you have any questions or want more information, please contact Rita Foringer at [rforinger@verizon.net](mailto:rforinger@verizon.net).

## Newsletter Deadline

February/March Newsletter deadline

**Thursday, January 11, 2024.**

Please email articles to [tbialk@gloriadei.net](mailto:tbialk@gloriadei.net).

## Estate Planning

You're not going to need your money when you're gone. However, you are responsible for what happens to it after you are gone. Making out a will is very important for everyone to do, both young and old. It is also important to update your will as things change and at least every ten years. If you are creating a will or updating your will consider one of two options to help in the mission of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church:

1. In your will you can state, "After all my bills are paid, I want 10 percent of my estate (a tithe) to go to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church."
2. You can make Gloria Dei Lutheran Church one of your children. By making the Church a beneficiary, meaning if you have two biological children, your estate would be split equally to your now three children – one-third to Harvely, one-third to Marvely, and one-third to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church.

Thank you for thinking and planning long-term for our church's future. Ensuring this is in your will, ensures that a plan is in place to help spread the gospel of Jesus to those that come after you.

## Coffee Creators Needed

If you enjoy drinking a cup of coffee on Sunday mornings, please consider helping serve on Sunday mornings as a Coffee Creator. Please contact Vicki Venable if you are interested, at 757-846-1814, or [vlvenable@gmail.com](mailto:vlvenable@gmail.com).

## Altar Guild

Have you ever wondered what it is that we do to prepare the church for weekly services and special events? If you are interested in being a part of the Altar Guild or if you would like to be the Lead Sacristan, please contact Renee Wells, at 757-749-4425. Training will be provided.

## The 2024 Flower Calendar

The 2024 flower calendar is posted in the Atrium for those wishing to give the flowers for our Sunday worship services. These flowers cost approximately \$50.00 plus a delivery fee. You may designate your flowers in celebration of something, in memory of someone, in honor of someone, to the glory of God, etc. You will be billed directly by Jeff's Flowers, Of Course. Thank you!

## Want to be a STEWARD?

Lurking through the halls when School, Childcare, and Church Offices are closed, are your Gloria Dei Stewards. To help keep maintenance costs down; this group of individuals repair; paint; move items; change lights; rip up carpet; and plumbing; throw playground stones; etc., etc., etc. They accept no money for their talents; instead, they graciously accept sore muscles, splinters, and blisters all for the love of supporting their Church and School. They are a society called together by email and show up to work with fellowship from other Stewards who have answered the email call. So if you enjoy manual labor sore muscles and an occasional blister, then the Stewards of Gloria Dei is the place for you. For more information or to sign up please contact:

John Campbell - email: [johnbigfootcampbell@gmail.com](mailto:johnbigfootcampbell@gmail.com)  
Mike Riley - email: [m.f.riley@cox.net](mailto:m.f.riley@cox.net)

## Nursery Reservations

Our Nursery Staff is ready to take care of your little ones while you are attending worship on Sunday mornings. We ask that you please notify the Church Office ([tbialk@gloriadei.net](mailto:tbialk@gloriadei.net) or [psipes@gloriadei.net](mailto:psipes@gloriadei.net)) each week if you will be needing this service. The deadline for RSVPs is the Wednesday prior. Please know that the Nursery staff has had their First Aid/CPR certifications updated. If you have any questions, please call the Church Office, at 757-851-2838.

## Nursery Workers Needed

Our Nursery is available on an RSVP basis for our Sunday worship services. If you are interested in working with children four years and younger, please contact Laura Lopez, at 757-768-3621 or [laura.venable13@gmail.com](mailto:laura.venable13@gmail.com).

## Calendar Request

Please email [CalendarRequest@gloriadei.net](mailto:CalendarRequest@gloriadei.net) for all facility usage requests.

## H.E.L.P. Donations

Please, join us in filling up the red wagon to feed the hungry in our community. They have an immediate need for paper grocery bags. The following are items on their most needed list:

- \* Dry cereal in boxes
- \* Spaghetti sauce
- \* Shelf-stable milk-single-serve pkgs.
- \* Canned meat—Spam, corned beef
- \* Rice-a-Roni-flavored rice packets
- \* Individually wrapped bars of soap
- \* Paper grocery bags
- \* Pork and beans
- \* Jell-O
- \* Tomato sauce
- \* Toilet paper



**Blood Drive**  
**Gloria Dei Lutheran Church**  
Fellowship Hall  
250 Fox Hill Rd  
Hampton, VA 23669



Sunday, January 21, 2024  
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Please register to donate by visiting the following link: [redcrossblood.org](https://redcrossblood.org).  
Schedule Your Blood Donation with the Red Cross  
Hover over DONATE BLOOD, and then click “Find a Blood Drive”  
Use the sponsor code **GloriaDei**.

## CHRISTMAS TREE SALES

*Friday* 5:00 p.m.~8:00 p.m.

*Saturday* 9:00 a.m.~7:00 p.m.

*Sunday* 12:00 p.m.~6:00 p.m.



6~7 ft trees ~ \$65

7~8 ft trees ~ \$80

— Sponsored by the Gloria Dei Youth Groups—  
**ALL proceeds support three Synod Youth Retreats!**

## Wonderful Wednesday Registration



**Wonderful Wednesdays is a program for children in grades Kindergarten-High School.**

Children in grades K-4 are invited to share in Bible Study, Dinner, Music, and Crafts.

Youth in grades 5-12 are invited to share in Music, Dinner, and Bible Study.

### Wonderful Wednesday's Schedule

TIME	LOCATION	GROUP
5:45 - 6:15 p.m.	Simeon Center Nave	Growing with Jesus ( <i>Children in grades K-4</i> ) Junior & Senior High Youth Music
6:15 - 6:45 p.m.	Coffee Bar/Simeon Center	Dinner
6:45 - 7:45 p.m.	Conference Room, 103	Adult Class
6:45 - 7:30 p.m.	Rotunda (Nave entrance) Simeon Center Luther Library	5th & 6th Grade Bible Study Confirmation ( <i>Youth in grades 7-8</i> ) Sr. High Discipleship ( <i>Youth in grades 9-12</i> )
6:45 - 7:10 p.m.	Nave	K-4th Grades - Music
7:10 - 7:30 p.m.	Coffee Bar	K-4th Grades - Crafts

Please scan this QR code to register your child for Wonderful Wednesday. Each child must have a completed registration prior to attending Wonderful Wednesday.



### Semesters

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Six Weeks

- December 6 – *Tie quilts*
  - December 13 – *Christmas Lights*
- \*\*December 20 and 27 – Christmas and New Year Break\*\*

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Six Weeks

- January 3– *Coat Drive sorting*
  - January 10
  - January 17
  - January 24
  - January 31-1<sup>st</sup> Communion Class #1
  - February 7-1<sup>st</sup> Communion Class #2
- \*\*February 14 (Ash Wednesday) – April 3 – Lent thru Easter Break\*\*

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Six Weeks

- April 10 – *Beach clean-up*
  - April 17
  - April 24
  - May 1
  - May 8
  - May 15 – *Bowling*
- \*\*May 19—Pentecost/Confirmation Sunday\*\*

## Pastoral Record

### December Birthdays

- |   |                                       |                                    |
|---|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 Jacob Zamora, Joy Hough,<br>Jenny Sutherland, Amy Etheridge | 9 Braden Shiamone                     | Miranda Venable                    |
| 2 Gabe Hutchison  | 10 Jack Adams, Bill Karlson           | 18 Vivian Griese                   |
| 4 Dean Grimm  | 11 Keegan St. Laurent, Amanda Jackson | 19 Pam Hess, Tom Hooks             |
| 5 Crystal Via   | 13 Nancy Monroe, Alan Zorumski        | 21 Zachary Via                     |
| 6 Ann Myers   | 14 Krista Hester, Fred Bradley, Jr.   | 22 Lucas Lopez Venable             |
| 8 Josh Lowman   | 15 Fred Bound, Jr.                    | 27 Leann Waters, Sarah Jackson     |
|   | 17 Kristin Wallis-Thomas,             | 30 Laura Engelund, Chip Lomax, III |

### December Anniversaries

- |                                 |                                 |                                   |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 4 Gordon and Michelle Robertson | 21 Russell and Virginia Lyeth   | 30 Richard and Stephanie Williams |
| 5 Joe and Mary Capone           | 22 James and Yvonne Roberts     | 31 Buzz and Anita Hamilton        |
| 18 Bob and Joan Hudgins         | 23 Brown and Rowena Cornwell    | David and Anne Perry              |
| Bob and Vivian Reynolds         | 28 Keith and Mary Jane Leckrone |                                   |

### January Birthdays

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 2 Vicki O'Neill   | 15 James Roberts   | 26 Mike Via   |
| 3 Karen Igel  | 18 Justin Hart, Kyle Leckrone,<br>Kerri Masters                                | 27 Stephanie Williams, Amber Via,<br>Miles Campbell |
| 4 Nan Jordan, Ashley Zamora                               | 19 Shannon Schubert, Pastor Dave Fox   | 29 Maddie Tatum-Harper,<br>Dawn Montgomery          |
| 5 Aceson Wright   | 20 Sharon Rose   | 30 Bonnie Morelen, Michael Murphy                   |
| 6 Paula Jones, Lyla Wright                                | 21 Fran Vanpelt, Jessi Lowman  | 31 Susan Canny, Jeremiah Green,<br>Matthew Cole     |
| 7 Kevin Fyfe, Lily Hess, Alexis Pfahl,<br>Charlie Venable | 22 Frank Saloka, Jr; Rich Fox, III   |   |
| 8 Will Hess, Josh Glaab, Debbie Dunn                      | 24 Remi Keough   |   |
| 9 Dorie Scherer, Allison Hudgins                          | 25 James Williams, Micaela Ruhl,<br>Kelly Werner, Megan Jacobs,<br>Daniel Wood |   |
| 12 Marlene Saloka   |  |   |
| 13 Will Hackworth   |  |   |

### January Anniversaries

- |                           |                         |                     |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Jack and Jenny Robinson | 2 Dana and Cheryl Smith | 31 Bob and Pam Hess |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|

### Changes of Address

Paula Jones  
10046 Rinker Road  
Mechanicsville, VA 231163

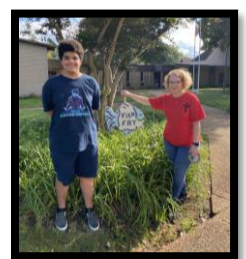
Richard and Stephanie Williams  
8966 Autumn Brooke Way  
Montgomery, AL 36117

Laura Fox  
CMR 410 Box 598  
APO AE 09049


## Fish Fry Update

On Saturday, October 7, our Gloria Dei Fish Fry returned after a three-year layoff due to COVID. Our annual Community outreach event served over 250 fish or hotdog dinners and received 88 cans of tuna for the H.E.L.P. Food Pantry. With a little help from upstairs, Mother Nature broke open the skies with sunshine just in time to start the event. Many thanks to all who helped and attended to make the Fish Fry a successful event.

Chip, Dan, Mike



# December 2023

<u>Sun</u>	<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tue</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thu</u>	<u>Fri</u>	<u>Sat</u>
					<b>1</b> 6 PM Hanging of the Greens  7 PM Senior High Lock-In	<b>2</b> 3 PM Girl Scout Event
<b>3</b> <b>9:30 AM- WORSHIP</b> Stewardship Celebration Sunday with reception following	<b>4</b> 12 PM Community Bible Study – H.E.L.P.  6:30 PM Girl Scouts, Pack 27 Pack Meeting  7PM Troop 10	<b>5</b> 7 PM Boy Scouts  7 PM A Pint with Pastor- Bull Island	<b>6</b> 2:30 PM The Master's Singers 5:45 PM- Wonderful Wednesday Dinner Tie Quilts	<b>7</b> 2:30 PM Chorister Choir  7 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 6:30 PM Parents Meeting – Cub Scouts
<i>School Christmas Programs-see inside for more information.</i>						
<b>10</b> <b>9:30 AM- WORSHIP</b>  10:45 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>11</b> 12 PM Community Bible Study – H.E.L.P. 6 PM Pack Meeting/Christmas Party 7 PM WELCA Book Club 7PM Troop 10	<b>12</b> 10 AM Fellowship Bible Study  7 PM Boy Scouts	<b>13</b> 2:30 PM The Master's Singers 5:45 PM- Wonderful Wednesday Dinner Lights	<b>14</b> 2:30 PM Chorister Choir  7 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Cub Scout - Wreaths Across America, Lunch, and Caroling
<i>School Christmas Programs-see inside for more information.</i>						
<b>17</b> <b>9:30 AM- WORSHIP</b>  11 AM Christmas Caroling 1 PM Spaghetti Lunch	<b>18</b> 12 PM Community Bible Study – H.E.L.P. 6:30 PM Girl Scouts 6:30 PM Pack 27 Den Meeting 7PM Troop 10	<b>19</b> 10 AM Fellowship Bible Study  7 PM Boy Scouts	<b>20</b> 2 PM JOY Fellowship  2:30 PM The Master's Singers  No Wonderful Wednesday	<b>21</b> 2:30 PM Chorister Choir  7 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>22</b>  Church Office Closed	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <b>9:30 AM- WORSHIP/</b> 10:30 AM Altar Guild and Cross and Crown Rehearsal  <b>5 PM Worship</b> <b>7:30 PM Worship</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day</b>    <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"><i>School, Child Care, and Church Office - Closed</i></div>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> No Wonderful Wednesday	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  Church Office Closed	<b>30</b>
<i>School, Child Care, and Church Office - Closed</i>			<i>School Closed, Child Care Only</i>			
<b>31</b> <b>9:30 AM- WORSHIP</b>						



# January 2024

<u>Sun.</u>	<u>Mon.</u>	<u>Tues.</u>	<u>Wed.</u>	<u>Thurs.</u>	<u>Fri.</u>	<u>Sat.</u>
	<b>1</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"><i>School, Child Care, and Church Office Closed</i></div>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 2:30 PM The Master's Singers  5:45 PM- Wonderful Wednesday Dinner - Sort Clothing Donations	<b>4</b> 2:30 PM Chorister Choir  7 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <b>9:30 AM- WORSHIP</b> Epiphany Sunday  Unhanging of the Greens	<b>8</b> 6:30 PM Girl Scouts, Pack 27 Den Meeting  7 PM WELCA Book Club 7 PM Troop 10	<b>9</b> 10 AM Fellowship Bible Study	<b>10</b> 12 PM Community Bible Study – H.E.L.P. 2:30 PM The Master's Singers 5:45 PM-Growing with Jesus (K- 4th Gr.), Jr. & Sr. Youth Music 6:15 Dinner 6:45 PM Adult Bible Study 6:45 5th & 6th Gr. Bible Study, Confirmation, Sr. High Discipleship, Music, Crafts	<b>11</b> 2:30 PM Chorister Choir  7 PM Choir Rehearsal  <i>Deadline for February/March Newsletter Articles</i>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"><i>Chrysalis Retreat January 12-15</i></div>
<b>14</b> <b>9:30 AM- WORSHIP</b>  10:45 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>15</b> 6:30 PM Girl Scouts  6:30 PM Pack 27 Den Meeting 7PM Troop 10  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"><i>MLK Day School, Child Care, and Church Office Closed</i></div>	<b>16</b> 10 AM Fellowship Bible Study  7 PM A Pint with Pastor- St. George	<b>17</b> 12 PM Community Bible Study – H.E.L.P. 2PM JOY Fellowship 2:30 PM The Master's Singers 5:45 PM-Growing with Jesus (K- 4th Gr.), Jr. & Sr. Youth Music 6:15 Dinner 6:45 PM Adult Bible Study 6:45 5th & 6th Gr. Bible Study, Confirmation, Sr. High Discipleship, Music, Crafts	<b>18</b> 2:30 PM Chorister Choir  7 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <b>9:30 AM- WORSHIP</b> Bring a Friend/Pot Luck  9 AM Blood Drive 11 AM ExAdCom Meeting	<b>22</b> Pack 27 Den Meeting 7PM Troop 10  7 PM WELCA at Pour Girls	<b>23</b> 10 AM Fellowship Bible Study	<b>24</b> 12 PM Community Bible Study – H.E.L.P. 2:30 PM The Master's Singers 5:45 PM-Growing with Jesus (K- 4th Gr.), Jr. & Sr. Youth Music 6:15 Dinner 6:45 PM Adult Bible Study 6:45 5th & 6th Gr. Bible Study, Confirmation, Sr. High Discipleship, Music, Crafts	<b>25</b> 2:30 PM Chorister Choir  7 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <b>9:30 AM- WORSHIP</b>  11 AM Church Council Meeting	<b>29</b> 6 PM Pack 27 Pack Mtg/ Pack Committee Mtg 7PM Troop 10	<b>30</b> 10 AM Fellowship Bible Study	<b>31</b> 12 PM Community Bible Study – H.E.L.P. 2:30 PM The Master's Singers 5:45 PM-Growing with Jesus (K- 4th Gr.), Jr. & Sr. Youth Music 6:15 Dinner 6:45 PM Adult Bible Study 6:45 5th & 6th Gr. Bible Study, Confirmation, Sr. High Discipleship, Music, Crafts			

# Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

250 Fox Hill Road, Hampton, Virginia 23669-1793

Telephone (757) 851-2838

[www.gloriadeilutheranchurch.net](http://www.gloriadeilutheranchurch.net), [GDLC@gloriadei.net](mailto:GDLC@gloriadei.net)

Gloria Dei is a congregation of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Hampton, Virginia  
Permit NO. 216

## Dated Material



### Worship with us!

*In person in the Nave,*

*"Gloria Dei Live" on Facebook, or Zoom*

**Sundays at 9:30 a.m.**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Christmas Eve Services

*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 5:00 p.m. CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE** is intended for families with young children as well as those who choose not to drive later in the evening. This brief worship includes familiar Christmas carols and special music.

**OUR 7:30 p.m. FESTIVAL CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION** includes the festive sounds of carols with brass and other special music.

