



FROM THE TOWER

February/March 2025



Worship with Us!

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

Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- Matthew 28:18-20

The month of January was a month when many of our leaders took office. I was asked to do the benediction for our city's council meeting, inducting our new mayor, vice mayor, and councilmembers.

For multiple reasons, the event was held at the convention center rather than town hall. There were so many people in attendance, even after the meeting had started, they were adding more seats to the venue. I had the pleasure of sitting with judges from both Hampton and Norfolk.

As the meeting began to wind down, I was addressed to approach the microphone on the floor, at the foot of the dais. We bowed our heads and this was the prayer that I prayed:

Gracious and Most Holy Lord, we want to give you all honor and praise this day. First of all, thank you for Jesus and thank you for loving us. Thank you for this beautiful city that we get to call home. Thank you for this great Commonwealth of Virginia. Thank you for this prosperous nation. And thank you today, God, for all of these dedicated folks that want nothing but the very best for the people of Hampton.

In our time of celebration, we take time to lift up the homeless, hungry, lonely, and sick in our community. Also, we pray for the safety and wellbeing of all first responders and military personnel.

We are privileged, Lord. We are privileged, even if we do not recognize it, because we are seated in places of power. For our city leaders, we pray for the thing that King Solomon prayed for – Wisdom. Give them Wisdom to serve the low

class, middle class, high class, and those walking around here with no class. Give them Wisdom to serve both blue collar and white collar workers. Give them Wisdom to serve those who are democrats, republicans, independents, and those who think their vote doesn't matter. Give them Wisdom to serve this diverse city – help them to embrace not only those that think, look, and act like them – but to also embrace those that are quite the opposite. Help them to see the beauty found in each person of Hampton. Give them Wisdom to give voice to the voiceless.

We ask, God of the Nations, that you give these leaders courage. It is easy to do what has always been done. Give them courage to move our city towards the twenty-second century. Give them courage to speak up when they witness injustices and to then work diligently to rectify those injustices. Give them courage knowing that they have been elected for such a time as this. These leaders are here not by chance – they are here because the people of our great city saw them fit to serve and to serve well.

Stir up the power of your love in Mayor Gray, Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, and Councilmember Mugler. And may they go forth this day with both wisdom and courage.

We pray this through your Son, Jesus Christ and with the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I've never got a reaction from a prayer like I did that day. People sought me out to tell me how much that prayer gave them hope. One person said, "I'm so glad that when you prayed that you called on the name of Jesus, because often times we don't know what god they are calling on."

Our city is in a season where they want to hear and need to hear about Jesus. Please, join me in the work of sharing the power and love of Jesus with all that you meet. It is our calling as Christians to make sure that all know about Jesus.

Peace be the journey,
Pastor Dave

First Communion

First Communion classes will be offered at **6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, February 19 and February 26.** This class is open to all ages. You should plan for your child to attend both classes. Please note, that your child should have this class before they begin Confirmation. We will celebrate their First Communion during Sunday morning worship on Sunday, March 9. To sign up, please call, 757-851-2838, or email Peggy Sipes in the Church Office, psipes@gloriadei.net.

Wednesdays in Lent

March 5 – April 9
Unbroken, A Living Faith
WORSHIP at 7:00 p.m.

When so many people identify themselves as Christian, how can we spend some time thinking deeply about what we really believe? What is the what? What are the foundational beliefs, and how are they living and moving with us as we change and grow?

Faith is passed down from generation to generation - it's an unbroken line of ancestry that connects us all the way back to Jesus. The powers of the world wanted to break Jesus and yet this faith that we rest on is strong enough that they couldn't do it. We are a part of this great tradition that will not and cannot be broken.

Using the seven teachings from the emerging work of *A Living Catechism*, through worship and practice, this Lent we will explore how we are and always have been both/and people.

- We value both Wisdom and Innovation.
- We are Individuals with gifts and unique abilities and we are a part of a Community that is much larger than any one of us.
- We are Rooted and Growing.
- We are Grounded in Tradition and always Reforming.

The series begins with Ash Wednesday, continues with our five Wednesdays in Lent, and concludes on Maundy Thursday. On Ash Wednesday, we will have a pancake supper beginning at 6:00 p.m. until 6:45 p.m. Each of the following five Wednesdays, we will have a simple soup supper, beginning at 6:00 p.m. until 6:45 p.m. There is no meal on Maundy Thursday nor Good Friday.

7:00 p.m. begins our Evening Vespers, and the sermons will have the following topics:

Ash Wednesday	God Loves Us Eternally
Lent 1, March 12.....	God Speaks to Us Through Scripture and Spirit
Lent 2, March 19.....	God Becomes Human for Us in Jesus Christ
Lent 3, March 26.....	God Feels Our Pain and Suffering
Lent 4, April 2.....	God Compels Creation Toward Mercy
Lent 5, April 9.....	God Delights in Our Goodness and Judges Sin
Maundy Thursday, April 17.....	God Meets Us in Bread, Wine, and Water

Please sign up on the sheet in the Atrium or contact Kevin Morse at 757-288-0268, if you are interested in helping in the following areas: making soup, helping with setup, serving the soup, and cleaning up for our Wednesday evening Lenten Soup Suppers.

Suppers at Capri

Join Pastor and others at Capri Pizza and Italian Restaurant, 227 Fox Hill Rd, **Tuesdays, February 25 and March 25, at 6:00 p.m.** We will have a meal together and share in conversations around Scripture. At the end of our time together, we will share Holy Communion. Invite your friends and family. ***Please, RSVP by the Tuesday prior, February 18 and March 18;*** we want to make sure the restaurant is prepared for our group being there. You are responsible for the cost of your meal and a generous tip.

Become a Member



If you are interested in joining Gloria Dei in its mission and ministry in Hampton and beyond, please scan the QR code to sign up for our member class, which will be on **Sunday, March 9, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.** You may also sign up by calling Peggy in the church office at 757-851-2838. In this class, you will learn about what it means to be a Lutheran, the history of Gloria Dei, the ministry opportunities of Gloria Dei, and your role as a member. New Members will join on **Sunday, March 16, 2025, during our 9:30 a.m.** worship service.

Worship on YouTube

We are excited to make our worship more accessible to those who want to worship with us at Gloria Dei who are not physically able to be with us in the nave. YouTube is available to anyone with the internet to worship with us. To worship with us on YouTube, you will go to the link below or scan the QR code below with your smartphone. You can worship live or at a more convenient time.

**Scan this QR code with your smartphone:

OR

**Use this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/@gloriadeilutheranchurchhampton>



Minister of Music



Brandon Spence, DMA
Minister of Music

Psalm 98 exhorts us to "Sing to the Lord a New Song." Psalm 96 beckons us to "Sing to the Lord, all the earth." Christian worship has always valued sacred music, sacred song in particular. Scripture tells us that at the end of the Last Supper, Jesus and his disciples sang a hymn before leaving. Within a Christian context, a hymn is a song of praise to God.

In recent times, parishioners have come to me with good questions about why I play hymns the way I do. The next series of articles I produce will focus on the art of hymn playing (and the implications for the Gloria Dei faith community). Accomplished practitioners of sacred music of earlier times have addressed the role of the organist. Classical era German composer, organist and music professor Daniel Gottlob Turk (1750-1813) states that:

[In the sacred service] the organist should keep the congregation in tune, and through his playing help to encourage devotion and inspiration, or seek to heighten, in the hymn, the significant meaning.

Johann Christian Kittel (1732-1809), organist, composer and teacher of the Baroque era, and one of the last students of Johann Sebastian Bach, comments:

[The organist's] participation in the worship of God is not less important than that of the preacher. He, also, should persuade the hearts and minds of those present, not through words, but through musical sounds.

Eminent American professor of organ, lecturer, scholar and teacher of many organists today, the late Harold Gleason (1892-1980) instructs:

Playing for a church service has always been one of the organist's most important functions.

Future articles will expand on how today's organist, based on solid scholarship and musicianship will use certain considerations and techniques that encourage the faithful to sing joyfully to God!

Stay tuned.

Brandon D. Spence, DMA
Minister of Music

Thank You from the Staff

The Church Staff wishes to thank the
Congregation for their very generous gifts to us this Christmas.
The thoughtfulness of our members is very much appreciated.
Happy New Year!!

Rick

Brandon Peggy

Ruth

Jenny

Laura

Council Corner

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church will be celebrating 60 years of faithfully spreading the Word of God throughout our community. These past 60 years have seen many changes in both the world and our church.

Look at all the amazing things that happened in society in just the 1960s! The first laser is demonstrated (think of all the non-invasive surgeries we now have thanks to this invention). The first artificial heart is implanted in a human patient. Star Trek debuts (and is still going strong). Apollo astronaut Neil Armstrong is the first human to set foot on the moon. The first e-mail message is sent; to just name a few events during those years.

Throughout these past 60 years, society has experienced wars, frustrations, protests and growing pains, but there have also been those instances where we can see that God never stopped directing us towards His will for us. Sounds a little like Biblical times, right? There are times of stress and despair and times to rejoice and grow. The same is true of Gloria Dei's history. We have enjoyed times of great growth and involvement, but we also experience the realities of situations that are sometimes beyond our control. However, God is still with us!

As we celebrate our anniversary, we need to challenge ourselves to continue to grow and spread the story of Jesus. With that, there will be "60 Day Challenges" throughout the year. Everyone - visitors, church members, school parents and staff, young and old are invited to participate in these challenges. A poster and small table are set up in the Tower of the Triumphant (main entrance) announcing these challenges. One benefit of participating is that many of these challenges can become habits that you continue doing to enrich your faith life.

Change is inevitable, good or bad. It is how we accept and adapt to change that makes us stronger and continue to grow. Growth looks different from the past. The past is wonderful and a joy to remember. However, the future is where we need to be headed and to be our focus. We need to challenge ourselves to create and find opportunities to make new memories now for those in our midst. God is with us, but we are His hands.

We hope you will step up to the current and future challenges that face Gloria Dei as we continue to be a community of welcoming believers who are open to God's work in our individual and communal lives. So, do you accept the challenge to do God's work and make these times a great memory for those in the future who look back on us?

Challenge accepted!

Vivian Griese

Church Council President

2025 Update on Stewardship for all Seasons

First, a big thank you to all who returned their pledge cards for this year's stewardship drive. If you have not yet returned your pledge but wish to do so, it is not too late. You can complete your pledge on the church website or request a pledge card from the church office. Now, for our progress report. Our stewardship goals for this year were to increase pledges and gain additional \$25,000 in pledged amount. Our 2024 baseline was 75 family/household pledges and \$421,600. As of January 10, 2025, we have received a total of 71 pledge cards and a total of \$410,550 pledged. While we have not yet met our goal, we are hopeful that, as in years past, support and pledges will continue to flow in. Together, we can make a positive impact on our church and our community as we continue to share the Good News. Again, thanks to all who continue to support the ministries of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church.

Gary Hess, Stewardship Chair

Thank You - Well Water Contributions

The Senior High Youth would like to thank everyone for their contributions to the ELCA Good Gifts Well. Because of your generosity, we raised nearly \$3,000 to provide safe water access to our ELCA-partnered communities in third world countries. This surpasses our goal of raising \$2,500!! Thank you, Gloria Dei, for your kindness and for supporting us in this mission!

Sincerely,

Adalelyn, Dallam, Elijah, Hayley, Lorelai, Ruth, Wade and their Advisors

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church is 60 years old this year!

Help us celebrate all year long by participating in our "60-Day Challenges." These challenges will be announced on a poster and small table set up in the Tower of the Triumphant (main entrance). Our first challenge is "60 Days of Prayer." Please stop by, and pick up a bookmark and challenge card to read more about this event.

It is easy! Short prayers, long prayers, prayers while you brush your teeth, prayers when you pick up your children, drive a car... you get the idea. We would like to count the total number of prayers offered during this 60-day period. You can drop your completed cards, tear off (below), sticky notes, etc. with the number of prayers each person in your family or group prayed that week into the provided basket.

God invites us to prayer. What a great way to kick off this anniversary year, by asking God to bless our church and school. Not once, but every day! Make prayer a part of your and your family's daily routine. We hope after 60 days it will become a permanent daily habit.

Will you accept this challenge to participate in praying daily for our church and school?
Challenge accepted!

Your Church Council

-----Tear here and drop this in the prayer basket in the Tower of the Triumphant.-----

Total prayers we prayed:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday

Wonderful Wednesdays

You are invited to

W O N D E R F U L

WEDNESDAYS

5:45 PM - 7:30 PM

BIBLE STUDY • FOOD • MUSIC • CRAFTS

3rd Session

Feb. 5 & 12

4th Session

Apr. 23, 30
May 7, 14, 21 & 28

We are excited to offer this program to all students in **Grades K-12.**



Please scan this QR Code to register your child.

Newsletter Deadline

April/May Newsletter deadline
Thursday, March 6, 2025
Please email articles to tbiak@gloriadei.net.

Calendar Request

Please email CalendarRequest@gloriadei.net for all facility usage requests.

2025 Flower Calendar

The 2025 flower calendar is located just outside the Nave for those wishing to give flowers for our Sunday worship services. These flowers cost approximately \$63.00. 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!

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:

- | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------------------|
| * Mac & Cheese | * Toilet Paper | * Peanut Butter |
| * Juice (individual size) | * Soap | * Shelf-stable milk |
| * Canned veggies—corn, beans, green beans | * Crackers | * Canned or Boxed Potatoes |

Community Bible Study

Our weekly Community Bible Study, held at H.E.L.P., 329 Buckroe Avenue, is **held on Wednesdays at noon**. All are invited to attend. This is a great opportunity for us to learn the needs of our community and help us to become more outreach-oriented. Please know that we will not be meeting on days when a holiday is being celebrated or when Pastor Dave is out of town

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 slpadula@gmail.com.

Lunch & Learn Seminars

You're invited to Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center's Lunch and Learn Series on the fourth Tuesday of every month. This is a free opportunity to learn more about the featured topics as we hope to raise awareness and improve resiliency in ourselves and our community. **All Lunch and Learn seminars will run from noon to 1:00 p.m.** and will be conducted at PPCC's main office at 707 Gum Rock Court in Newport News unless otherwise noted. Dates and topics are updated on the following website on an ongoing basis. The next Lunch and Learn is **on Tuesday, January 28, at noon**; its subject is "Bittersweet." Please visit the PPCC website to pre-register: https://peninsulapastoral.org/events/?blm_aid=18276

Girl Scout Cookies are Here!

Gloria Dei Girl Scouts Cookie Sales have started, and the Scouts are ready to satisfy your cookie cravings! You can secure your cookies ahead of time online or through a Girl Scout directly. When they arrive, we can deliver to your home like last year.

Cookie booths will be here at Gloria Dei on:

Sunday, Feb 23, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. inside, then outside until 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 1, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 2, 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 8, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 9, from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 15, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For more information, please contact troop leader, Vicki O'Neill, at vicki.oneill@ymail.com or by phone at 757-876-7066.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets 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.

Women of Gloria Dei WELCA

The Women of Gloria Dei meet periodically throughout the year for fellowship and to support various mission projects. Once again we will sponsor the creation of Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) as our Lenten Journey. These kits are distributed throughout the world during times of natural disasters and this year, some of our kits may be distributed in California. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5, so it's time to begin accumulating the needed items. They include:

1. Nail clippers (study heavy-duty ones)
2. Comb (a large sturdy comb—no rattails)
3. 2 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)

An area for donations will be set up on Wednesday, March 5.

A "Glass with the Girls" continues to get together at Pour Girls in downtown Hampton on the fourth Monday of the month. Join us at 7:00 p.m. on February 24 and on March 24. It's always an evening of fun and fellowship. Come join us!

Ideas for activities are always welcome. If you have any suggestions, please let me know. I'm always open to something new or different. Contact Rita Foringer at rforinger@verizon.net with your suggestions.

WELCA Book Group

The book group continues to meet on the 2nd Monday of each month. Our get together in February is at the home of Mary Mace. We will read the book before coming and discuss the book and its characters beginning at 7:00 p.m. The group is open to everyone and we would love to have you join us. We have some fascinating discussions, often if we liked to book or not!

Our book for February 10 is *The Nurse's Secret* by [Amanda Skenandore](#). Here is a brief synopsis.

The unflinching, spellbinding new book from the acclaimed author of The Second Life of Mirielle West. Based on the little-known story of America's first nursing school, a young female grifter in 1880s New York evades the police by conning her way into Bellevue Hospital's training school for nurses, while a spate of murders continues to follow her as she tries to leave the gritty streets of the city behind...

Based on Florence Nightingale's nursing principles, Bellevue is the first school of its kind in the country. Where once nurses were assumed to be ignorant and unskilled, Bellevue prizes discipline, intellect, and moral character, and only young women of good breeding need apply. At first, Una balks at her prim classmates and the doctors' endless commands. Yet life on the streets has prepared her for the horrors of injury and disease found on the wards, and she slowly gains friendship and self-respect.

Just as she finds her footing, Una's suspicions about a patient's death put her at risk of exposure, and will force her to choose between her instinct for self-preservation, and exposing her identity in order to save others.

Amanda Skenandore brings her medical expertise to a page-turning story that explores the evolution of modern nursing—including the grisly realities of nineteenth-century medicine—as seen through the eyes of an intriguing and dynamic heroine.

Final plans have not yet been made for March, do look for details in the future *Weekly's*. If you have any questions, contact Rita Foringer at rforinger@verizon.net.

EASTER EGG ORDER FORM

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church is selling chocolate covered Easter eggs. The eggs are available in two sizes and seven fabulous flavors. The large eggs weigh approximately 8 oz. and can be personalized. The small eggs can be ordered in an assortment with **one of each flavor or one flavor per box**. The weight of each small egg is approximately 1.5 oz. All eggs will be decorated with flowers. Please return completed order forms to the information desk in the atrium and place in the box labeled **Easter Egg Orders**.

Order taking will begin February 10.

Order deadline is Monday, March 31. **All orders must be pre-paid.** Make checks payable to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church.

Questions: Mary Mace (757) 826-5435

Orders may be picked up at Gloria Dei. Please circle or highlight your intended pick-up date.

Friday, April 11 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 13 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Purchaser's Name _____ Phone #: _____

Purchaser's email _____

Large Personalized 8 oz. eggs	\$6.00 each egg							
<i>Please print clearly the names for each egg 10 letters maximum or "Happy Easter"</i>	Peanut Butter	Butter Cream	Coconut Cream	Crème de Menthe	Raspberry Cream	Chocolate Cream	Orange Cream	
								TOTAL
QUANTITY								
\$ SUBTOTAL								\$

Small 1.5 oz. eggs – six per box		\$7.00 each box							
No Personalization or Substitutions	Assortment (1 of each flavor except crème de menthe)	Box of 6 Peanut Butter	Box of 6 Butter Cream	Box of 6 Coconut Cream	Box of 6 Crème de Menthe	Box of 6 Raspberry Cream	Box of 6 Chocolate Cream	Box of 6 Orange Cream	TOTAL
QUANTITY									
\$ SUBTOTAL									\$

...

Subtotal large eggs \$ _____
 Subtotal small eggs \$ _____
 Grand Total \$ _____

Cash _____ Check # _____ Order taken by _____

Want to be a STEWARD?

Lurking thru the halls when School, Childcare, and Church Office 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, plumbing, throw playground stone, 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 an 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

Mike Riley -email: m.f.riley@cox.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.

Watterton Fund

Kevin Watterton, spouse of Amy Watterton (long-time teacher at Gloria Dei), has been diagnosed with a rare and terminal cancer. If you would like to support the Watterton family, you may send a contribution to the church office through one of our payment methods. Please add "Watterton Fund" to the memo area of your chosen payment method.

Thank You-Winter Gear Drive

We would like to thank everyone for all their support in our winter gear drive for 2024. During this year's collection, we have received a total of 1631 items. Donations come from our amazing congregation and parents of our school with drop off bins around the campus. Also, our local community was a large contributor with our drive-thru drop-off. The new signage and post on Next Door Neighbor app, Facebook, and good old fashion word of mouth have grown this ministry outside of our building. All adult items have been given to H.E.L.P. where they will be distributed through "A Nights Welcome" evening shelter. The Boys and Girls Club of the Virginia Peninsula was very happy to receive the children's donations again this year.

Categorized Donations Amounts

Men's items: 289	Boy's items: 84
Women's items: 450	Girl's Items: 52
Socks/shoes: 120	Pants: 124
Hats: 114	Scarves: 43
Gloves: 60	Blankets: 5
Bags/Belts: 34	Toiletries: 256

Total: 1,631 items

A special thank you to the Sr. and Jr. High Youth and leaders for helping us sort the donated items as their helping hands make distribution so much easier. Thank you, Gloria Dei for everything you do to continue to support our community by doing God's work!





**Lisa Dadez,
Principal**

From the Principal

Happy New Year! It is hard to believe we are moving into the second semester of the school year. The Christmas season was very busy at Gloria Dei, and the classes did an amazing job during their Christmas programs. All students, from our toddlers to our teens, blessed family, friends, and staff with the true meaning of Christmas through their sweet songs. A heartfelt thanks to our music team, Dr. Spence, Ms. Schubert, and Mrs. Barefoot. You continue to share your gifts and guidance, and I am especially grateful for each of you.

Since October, our maintenance team, under the direction of Mike Riley, has tackled “Operation Playground.” The Gloria Dei Stewards have spent countless hours assisting with the disassembly of our Fox Hill playground structures. By the time this newsletter arrives in your mailbox, most of the new structures will be installed. Once the weather warms up a bit, we will plan a dedication for our new equipment on both the Fox Hill and Willow Oaks Campuses. I am truly thankful for the many donations we have received towards this playground improvement fund, as well as the gifts of time and energy to bring this project to life.

Soon we will begin registration for the 2025-2026 school year. By the end of the first week of March, you should have received your registration packet for next year. If you have not received registration information, please call our school office at (757) 851-6292, and we will be happy to mail you a packet. Registration for current school students and our congregation members begins on Monday, March 10. Registration opens to the public on Monday, March 17. If your child currently attends and you plan for your child to return next year, I strongly encourage you to take advantage of the advance registration during the week of March 10 – 14, to reserve placement for your child. Students who are returning to Gloria Dei for the 2025- 2026 school year need to re-register, as this is a yearly process.

Each year’s program builds a foundation to enable students to grow with sequential skill development to the next grade level. As a child moves from one grade level to another, the programs expand to offer a broader base of activities and enriching experiences.

Children in our Toddler/2-year-old classes are able to enroll for a full-day program beginning with the summer program. Children have a positive, first-school experience while enjoying activities, art projects, games, music, library, and chapel. Students must be at least 16 months old on their entrance date to attend.

At the preschool level, we offer a half-day school program with the option of hourly or full-time childcare before and/or after school if needed. Preschoolers enjoy weekly themed units, introduction to the alphabet and phonics, counting and numbers, art, children’s literature, learning games, music, chapel, physical education, and library. Preschool gives children the opportunity to develop friendships, to learn to resolve conflicts, and to grow socially as well as academically. Preschoolers need to be potty-trained to attend and three years old by November 30, 2025.

Students moving from preschool to prekindergarten experience pre-reading activities with *Handwriting Without Tears, Word* - a language development program, *Scholastic News, Mortimer Moose* - an alphabet and phonics program, and *Handwriting Without Tears, Math*. Along with many classroom activities and games, children enjoy weekly P.E., music, chapel, library and participate in a hands-on science experience in their science class. Every other week, prekindergarten students learn about nutrition with Chef Combo and visit the computer lab to work with educational software.

Kick Start Kindergarten is geared for students who are age appropriate for kindergarten but who are not quite ready, for children who are repeating prekindergarten, or for advanced children entering prekindergarten. In order for preschool students to be eligible for this program, they need to pass a screening and have a teacher recommendation.

The Willow Oaks campus has all the essentials needed for elementary age students - computer lab, library, art/music room, science room, P.E. athletic field, playground, infirmary, and offices. The grades’ program builds strong academic skills in phonetics and reading comprehension, spelling, math, and writing while offering an enriching resource schedule - weekly art classes, extended computer time, P.E., Spanish, along with chapel, library, music, chorus, and S.T.E.M. science lab.

Our middle school is also located at our Willow Oaks Campus. We continue with our strong tradition of academic excellence in a Christian environment with an emphasis on the mental, spiritual, physical, emotional, and social needs of students. Students change classes for the core subjects of literature, grammar, composition, math, science, and social studies. In addition, a well-rounded program of resources will provide enrichment. Resources, depending on grade level, include health, study skills, conflict resolution, physical education, art, project design, CSI, geography, computers, photography, Lego Robotics, Stop Motion Animation, woodworking, sewing, chapel, library, music, and MORE. Algebra I, Geometry, and Spanish I are offered for high school credits.

It is amazing what our students can accomplish with a strong academic curriculum, enriching resource classes, a spiritual foundation which reinforces values and morals, a nurturing, caring environment, and a partnership between home and school. Today, more than ever before, it is vital for students to not only have a solid, firm, educational foundation, but also a foundation for moral and ethical standards. Children learn and practice values and standards by example and guidance. The experiences and environment that you are providing for your child now will influence your child for a lifetime. We welcome the opportunity to be a part of your child's life journey.

Yours in Christ's service,

Lisa S. Dadez
Principal

Art Class

What's Happening in Art Class?

Welcome to Art where making messes and being creative is how we have fun!

Throughout the first and second quarter, we have been creating a lot of projects and learning all new techniques. Kindergarten focused on the first three Elements of Art which are Line, Shape and Color. Their Christmas project was a large Christmas tree made up of individual evergreen trees. First grade learned all about rhythm in art, Matisse, and 3-dimensional shapes. Their Christmas project was a pop-up snow globe. Second grade focused on how to create cityscapes, mixing colors, and weaving paper. After creating apple or pumpkin pies while paper weaving, their Christmas project was the creation of woven Christmas trees. Third grade worked on their oil pastel skills, color theory, and creating 3-dimensional drawings. Each third grader created a paper wreath with a paper candle for Christmas. Fourth grade learned how to weave pouches, how to paint landscapes, and to create 3-dimensional drawings with shadows. Like third grade, their Christmas project was paper wreaths with a paper candle. Fifth grade has been focusing on self-portraits, symmetry, and clay architecture. Their Christmas project was 3-dimensional stars. They worked in collaboration with the eighth grade. Middle School learned collaboration, paper mache, stylized portraits, and clay. Sixth and seventh grade classes created snowflakes for Christmas, and eighth grade created stars.

As we look to our Art projects for the new year, I am excited to see all the new art we create!

Art Academy

What is Happening in Art Academy?

In December, we wrapped up our second session of Art Academy. In the first session, we focused on how to paint using watercolor and acrylic paint. Some of our projects included learning how to watercolor koi fish and painting flowers with acrylic paint. Each student created a final painting in either acrylic or watercolor paint.

For the second session, we focused on sculpture and clay. Students learned about Chihuly and either made Chihuly bowls or sculptures. Then we learned all about clay and made either coil trees or pinch bowl snowmen. We had so much fun, and I am excited for Art Academy in 2025!

School Employment Opportunities

Gloria Dei Lutheran School has the following positions available:

***School Secretary (12 Month-FT)**

***Bus Drivers (PT-we provide training)**

***Kitchen Staff (PT)**

***Substitute Teacher/Aides**

***Instructional Aides (10 or 12 Month-FT)**

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 into the School Office at 250 Fox Hill Rd., Hampton, VA 23669, attention: Lisa Dadez.

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 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.

Little Library

Our Little Library, located at the middle set of doors, gets a lot of action from parents as they are dropping off or picking up their children. We are asking that you please consider donating any children’s books by placing them on the back counter at the Information Desk. These books will be used to refill when the Little Library gets low on books. Thank you for your generosity.

NexTrex Recycling Challenge--Round Three!

Gloria Dei is participating in the NexTrex Recycling Challenge...**again!** We will collect a minimum of 1000 lbs. of plastic film, which will be exchanged for a **third** NexTrex bench for our school. Please use **clear trash bags** for bringing in all of your plastic donations. A donation bin is located in the Atrium for your clean, dry plastic. Many thanks to ALL who have donated!

The following are examples of items that can be recycled and should be clean, dry, and free of food.



Trex Bench



Grocery bags



Bread bags



Bubble wrap



Dry cleaning bags



Newspaper sleeves



Ice bags



Plastic shipping envelopes



Ziploc & other reclosable food storage bags



Cereal bags



Case overwrap



Salt bags



Pallet wrap & stretch film



Wood pellet bags



Produce bags

Pastoral Record

February Birthdays

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 Luke Phillips | 15 Emory Hart | 23 Bill Swanson |
| 3 Ann Riley, Anika Hella | 17 Michelle Robertson, Ruth Hutchison | 24 Bruce Thomas, Kristina Robinson |
| 4 Virginia Lyeth, Sally Miller,
Easton Etheridge, Doran Cole | 18 Aaron Sutherland, Gabby Hella,
Judy Wagner St. Pierre | 26 Gideon Souder |
| 6 David Hudgins | 20 Isabella Zamora, Sandra Dunn | 27 Frank Dickseski, Jr. |
| 11 Joshua Green | 21 Joe Capone, David Mulpur | 28 Jerri Dickseski, Audrey Engelund,
Sherri Gretka |
| 12 Jennifer Robinson | 22 Jill Ruhl, Austin Honyoust,
Brown Cornwell | |
| 14 Sharon Padula | | |

February Anniversaries

- | | | |
|--|--|-------------------------|
| 8 Tad and Rita Foringer
Chris and Jennifer Robinson | 14 John and Carolyn Campbell | 23 Bill and Pat Roscofp |
| 10 Ron and Joanne Aheimer | 17 Ernie and Tami Atkins | |
| 12 Russ and Joann Morrison | 19 Jason and Jessica Green
Tom and Donna Vanorsdale | |

March Birthdays

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| 2 Aaliyah Urban | 14 Kristy Fyfe | 25 MacKenzie Grimm |
| 3 Craig Whitney | 16 Hayley O'Neill | 26 Reed Dugger, Deacon Liz Fox |
| 4 Marna Mayo, Julia Engelund | 17 Anita Hamilton | 27 Conner Smith, Maribel Fox |
| 5 Jack Robinson | 18 Rachel Lomax, Christopher Via,
Amanda Wells | 28 J.P. Venable, III |
| 6 Buzz Hamilton | 19 Eric Olsen, Ollie Fox | 29 Dean Epps |
| 7 Bob Sipes | 20 Matthew Werner, Robert Miller | 30 Rhodes Lomax, Susan Krebs,
Gabby Newsome |
| 8 Maddi Etheridge, Vangie Miller | 22 Chelsea Souder | |
| 10 Renee Wells, Andrew Moore | 24 Shannon Mace | |
| 13 Spencer Urban | | |

March Anniversaries

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 25 Danny and Vickie Roark | 28 Bill and Nancy Monroe | 31 Jay and Jackie Hart |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|

Wedding

Jacob Hutchison and Miranda Venable
November 19, 2024

February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:30 AM- WORSHIP 11 AM Choir Rehearsal	3 6:30 PM Pack 27 Meeting 7PM Troop 10	4 10 AM Fellowship Bible Study	5 12 PM Community Bible Study – H.E.L.P. 5:45 PM-Growing with Jesus (K-4th Gr.), Jr. & Sr. Youth Music 6:15 PM Dinner 6:45 PM Adult Bible Study 6:45 PM 5th & 6th Gr. Bible Study, Confirmation, Sr. High Discipleship, Music, Crafts	6	7	8 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"><i>Junior Youth Lock-In</i></div>
9 9:30 AM- WORSHIP 11 AM Choir Rehearsal; Prayer Shawl Ministry	10 6:30 PM Pack 27 Meeting; Girl Scout Meeting 7PM Troop 10; WELCA Book Club	11 10 AM Fellowship Bible Study	12 12 PM Community Bible Study – H.E.L.P. 5:45 PM-Growing with Jesus (K-4th Gr.), Jr. & Sr. Youth Music 6:15 PM Dinner 6:45 PM Adult Bible Study 6:45 PM 5th & 6th Gr. Bible Study, Confirmation, Sr. High Discipleship, Music, Crafts	13	14 ♥ Valentine's Day	15
16 9:30 AM- WORSHIP 11 AM Choir Rehearsal; ExAdCom	17 <i>Presidents' Day Church Office Closed</i> 6:30 PM Pack 27 Meeting 7PM Troop 10	18 10 AM Fellowship Bible Study <i>RSVP Deadline for Suppers at Capri</i>	19 12 PM Community Bible Study – H.E.L.P. 6:30 PM First Communion Class 6 PM Puppet Show	20	21	22 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"><i>Council Retreat</i></div>
23 9:30 AM- WORSHIP 11 AM Choir Rehearsal; Council Meeting 11:30 AM Girl Scout Cookie Booth	24 6:30 PM Pack 27 Meeting; Girl Scout Meeting 7PM Troop 10	25 10 AM Fellowship Bible Study 6 PM Suppers at Capri – Reservation Required	26 12 PM Community Bible Study – H.E.L.P. 6:30 PM First Communion Class	27	28	

March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10 AM Girl Scout Cookie Booth <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 5px;"> Seventh Day Youth Retreat March 1-2 </div>
2 9:30 AM-WORSHIP 11 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:30 AM Girl Scout Cookie Booth	3 6:30 PM Pack 27 Meeting 7PM Troop 10	4 10 AM Fellowship Bible Study	5 12 PM Community Bible Study – H.E.L.P. 6:00 PM Pancake Supper 7 PM Ash Wednesday Worship	6	7	8 10 AM Girl Scout Cookie Booth
9 9:30 AM-WORSHIP First Communion 11 AM New Member Class, Choir Rehearsal; Prayer Shawl Ministry 11:30 AM Girl Scout Cookie Booth	10 3 PM Peninsula Conf. Gathering 6:30 PM Pack 27 Meeting; Girl Scout Meeting 7PM Troop 10; WELCA Book Club	11 10 AM Fellowship Bible Study	12 12 PM Community Bible Study – H.E.L.P. 6:00 PM Soup Supper 7 PM Lenten Worship	13	14	15 10 AM Girl Scout Cookie Booth
16 9:30 AM-WORSHIP New Member Installation 11 AM Choir Rehearsal; ExAdCom	17 6:30 PM Pack 27 Meeting 7PM Troop 10 School Registration Open	18 10 AM Fellowship Bible Study <i>RSVP Deadline for Suppers at Capri</i>	19 12 PM Community Bible Study – H.E.L.P. 6:00 PM Soup Supper 7 PM Lenten Worship	20	21	22
23 9:30 AM-WORSHIP 11 AM Choir Rehearsal; Council Meeting	24 6:30 PM Pack 27 Meeting; Girl Scout Meeting 7PM Troop 10	25 10 AM Fellowship Bible Study 6 PM Suppers at Capri – Reservation Required	26 12 PM Community Bible Study – H.E.L.P. 6:00 PM Soup Supper 7 PM Lenten Worship	27	28	29
30 9:30 AM-WORSHIP 11 AM Choir Rehearsal	31 6:30 PM Pack 27 Meeting; Girl Scout Meeting 7PM Troop 10					

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

250 Fox Hill Road, Hampton, Virginia 23669-1793


Telephone (757) 851-2838

www.gloriadelutheranchurch.net, GDLC@gloriadei.net

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Dated Material

	<p><u>Worship with us!</u> In-person in the Nave or YouTube Sundays at 9:30 a.m.</p>
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Ash Wednesday through Easter

March 5	6:00 p.m.	Pancake Supper
	7:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Worship
March 12-April 9	6:00 p.m.	Wednesdays Lenten Soup Suppers
	7:00 p.m.	Wednesdays Lenten Worships
April 13	9:30 a.m.	Palm Sunday Worship
April 17	7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Worship
April 18	7:00 p.m.	Good Friday Tenebrae Worship
April 20	9:30 a.m.	Easter Sunday Worship

Online Giving

If you would like to give electronically, you can do so by scanning one of the QR codes below.

Tithe.ly



PayPal



Venmo

