



# FROM THE TOWER

Worship with Us!

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

December 2025/

January 2026

Building Faith + Building Community + Building Lives



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

## A Word from Our Pastor

### The Fox's Trot

*"And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."*

(Hebrews 10:24-25, NRSV).

The writer of Hebrews understood that Christian faith isn't meant to be lived in isolation. When we gather intentionally with our community of faith, something powerful happens that goes far beyond what we can experience alone.

Regular gathering creates the soil where deep Christian relationships can grow. When we see each other week after week, we move beyond surface pleasantries to genuine care and concern. These relationships become lifelines during difficult seasons—the friend who notices when you're absent, the family that brings meals during illness, the prayer partner who walks with you through grief. Sunday morning worship is beautiful, but it's in the consistency of gathering that we build the trust and intimacy that makes Christian community truly transformative.

For the past two or three years, I've led a Bible study every Wednesday at noon at our local homeless day center. When I arrive, folks are usually eating lunch or waiting for their meal. It's been challenging to connect since the community rotates in and out, though we have several regulars who've become familiar faces. What I've discovered is that after spending consistent time with them, they participate more in our studies and become more attentive to God's Word. One Wednesday stands out in my memory. I arrived alone—none of our usual church members could make it that day. As I set up for our study, one of the regulars said out loud, "Look, he comes here when there ain't no one else from his church. He's really

here for us." That moment reminded me that showing up consistently, regardless of who else comes, is what builds authentic Christian community. We listen to their needs, provide winter hats and blankets, share hygiene kits and snacks they can take with them. We're truly building community at the homeless day center—proof that Hebrews 10:24-25 works wherever people gather in Christ's name.

When we gather regularly, we grow together in ways that individual study and prayer cannot provide alone. We hear how God is working in different lives, learn from each other's insights into Scripture, and witness faith lived out in various circumstances. Bible studies, small groups, and fellowship meals become opportunities where we practice loving our neighbor and bearing each other's burdens. This shared growth strengthens the entire community and helps each of us mature in faith.

Christian community creates practical support networks that sustain us through life's challenges. When we know each other well through regular fellowship, we're positioned to offer real help when it's needed most. The retired teacher who offers tutoring, the carpenter who helps with repairs, the cook who organizes meal trains—these gifts emerge naturally from relationships built through consistent gathering. During the holidays and winter months, when isolation can feel especially heavy, these support networks become even more vital.

As we enter the busy holiday season and winter months, the temptation to skip gatherings grows stronger. But this is precisely when we need Christian community most. Make worship a priority, even when other obligations compete for your time. Consider joining a small group or Bible study, attend fellowship events, and participate in seasonal celebrations. Remember, you're not just receiving from community; you're contributing to it, and your presence matters more than you know.

Peace be the journey,  
Pastor Dave

## 60th Anniversary Challenge

### *Gloria Dei 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Final Challenge!* **60 Days of GROWTH THROUGH CHANGE**

*"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." Psalm 51:10*

Gloria Dei Church, School, and community have been blessed by all your prayers, attitudes of gratefulness and your acts of kindness, during the previous three 60 Day Challenges.

The fourth and final challenge is meant to inspire you and/or your family to reflect through prayer to identify an area you can commit to change, resulting in growth for you, for others, for our church, school, and missions.

#### ***Some ideas for positive change:***

- Challenge yourself to daily prayer
- Challenge yourself to regular church attendance
- Challenge yourself to regularly read the Bible
- Challenge yourself to let go of anger or a grudge
- Challenge yourself to accept others with different opinions or ideas
- Challenge yourself to welcome others
- Challenge yourself to spend more time with loved ones
- How will you challenge yourself?

See the table and poster in the Tower of the Triumphant for more information on this challenge. Don't forget to pick up a cross penny to remind you of this challenge!

## First Light (Sunday School)



Our Sunday School program, First Light, is on Sunday mornings from 8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m., in the Simeon Center. This class is for all ages.

## Supper(s) at Capri

Join Pastor and others at Capri Pizza and Italian Restaurant, 227 Fox Hill Rd, on Tuesdays, December 16 and January 20, 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, December 9 and January 13;*** 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.

## 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.

\*Scan this QR code with your smartphone:



## Wonderful Wednesdays

# WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

5:45 PM - 7:30 PM

**BIBLE STUDY • FOOD • MUSIC • CRAFTS**

### **2nd Semester**

Dec. 3, 10

### **3rd Semester**

Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28

Feb. 4, 11

### **4th Semester**

Apr. 15, 22, 29

May 6, 13, 20

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



Please scan this QR Code to register your child.

## Minister of Music



**Brandon Spence, DMA**  
**Minister of Music**

### **Registration: Giving Each Hymn Its Own Voice**

If you've ever noticed that some hymns sound grand and powerful while others seem delicate and prayerful, you've likely experienced the impact of registration. Registration is the organist's term for choosing which stops (or sounds) to use on the organ to suit the hymn.

The pipe organ is often called the "king of instruments" because of its vast range of voices. These voices come from different sets of pipes, each with its own character—some bright and trumpet-like, others soft and flute-like. The organist combines these voices by pulling stops, shaping the sound to fit the mood and message of each hymn.

Imagine the difference between "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" and "Be Still, My Soul." The first needs strong, bold sounds that affirm the hymn's message of strength and courage. The second calls for a gentler, more soothing tone. The organist's skill lies in finding just the right colors to paint the text musically.

Sometimes, the sound may change between verses to reflect different lines of the text. For instance, a quieter verse might be followed by one of triumph. A good organist will use registration changes to guide the congregation through these shifts, deepening the emotional and spiritual experience.

Choosing registrations isn't just about volume—it's about balance and clarity. The organ must be loud enough to support the singers but not so loud that it overwhelms them. It must blend with the congregation, allowing their voices to shine.

Even within one hymn, subtle shifts in sound can keep things fresh and engaging. A little variety can help draw attention to new ideas in the text or renew focus when attention might drift.

So next Sunday, pay attention to the organ's voice. Is it bold, bright, gentle, or warm? Chances are, the organist has thought carefully about how to support your singing—not just in words, but in sound. It's one more way the music of worship becomes both a personal and shared experience.

A festive poster for Christmas Eve Worship Services. The background is a deep red with white star-like sparkles. At the top and bottom are decorative borders of green holly leaves and red poinsettias. The title "Christmas Eve" is written in a large, elegant white script font, with "Worship Services" in a smaller, similar script below it. A thin white horizontal line separates the title from the service details. The details are listed in two rows, each with a time in bold white text followed by a description in white text.

**5:00 PM** A brief worship service with familiar Christmas carols and special music. Perfect for families with young children.

**7:30 PM** A candlelight worship service with Christmas carols and special music. Pre-service music begins at 7:15 p.m.

## Council Corner

The Council is excited about planning for the Advent and Christmas seasons at Gloria Dei. We will be kicking off the Advent season with the Hanging of the Greens on Friday, December 5, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. This event results in the church looking beautiful and ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

A report was made on the progress of the *Firstfruits*—2026 Stewardship Appeal with how our offerings continue to support our church. We appreciate the timely pledges from our members as it helps us to plan for the next year's budget. The Generosity Stories have been touching; each one highlights the writer's involvement in church activities, adding to their sense of belonging and spiritual growth. The Council encourages everyone to deepen their involvement, attend worship services weekly, support the church financially, invite people to church. Your participation makes a meaningful difference.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ and reflect on God's faithfulness, let us look forward with hope and readiness for what God will be doing through us. May your Advent be full of peace, your Christmas full of joy, and your year full of service and faith.

Peace be with you,  
Diane Washburn

## Nave Chrismon Tree Set-up

On **Tuesday, December 2**, we will start at 5:00 p.m. with tree set-up and fluffing. Pizza will be provided.

## Hanging of the Greens

Hanging of the Greens will be on **Friday, December 5, 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. All are invited to the transformation for Advent Season.

## Christmas Caroling

Christmas Caroling begins at 11:00 a.m. on **Sunday, December 21**. 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 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 Tree Sales



### *Christmas Tree Sales*

**BEGINNING SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29**

FRIDAYS ... .. 5PM-8PM  
SATURDAYS ... .. 9AM-7PM  
SUNDAYS ... .. 12PM-6PM

*All proceeds benefit the youth groups!*

## Newsletter Deadline

February/March Newsletter deadline  
**Thursday, January 8, 2026**  
Please email articles to [tbialk@gloriadei.net](mailto:tbialk@gloriadei.net).

## Calendar Request

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

## Blood Drive

Red Cross Blood Drive  
January 18  
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.





## Coat Drive



# Gloria Dei Annual Coat Drive



November 9 - December 28

Andrew Sutherland is kicking off his annual coat drive. He is collecting coats and many other items for the homeless this winter. There is a collection box in the Atrium, beginning Sunday, November 9. We will also have a drive-thru drop-off on Saturday, December 13, from 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. (rain or shine). He collects items for men, women, and children. All items are distributed with Hampton Roads Ecumenical Lodgings and Provisions (H.E.L.P.) at *A Night's Welcome* shelters in Hampton and the Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula.

### WINTER GEAR Items collected (PLEASE no spring and summer items):

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

Please share the news with your family, friends, coworkers and neighbors. Feel free to call with any questions, 757-513-4943.

Thank you for your support!!

## 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 |

## Bring a Friend to Church Sunday

Our next *Bring a Friend to Church Sunday* is on **Sunday, January 18, 2026**. Please, make it a priority to invite at least three people to church on this Sunday. Why should you invite folks to church? The number one reason is because it is our call as Christians. Second, 85% of people come to worship because a friend or family member asked them to come to church with them.

We are asking you to invite people you already have a relationship with and not complete strangers to join you on this Sunday. During your time together, ask them what they enjoyed about the worship service and what questions they might have. At the end of your time together, invite them to come back the following Sunday.

Please, ensure your friends that they will not be asked to stand up or be introduced in front of the congregation.

We look forward to seeing you and your friends and family at worship!

## School Employment Opportunities

Gloria Dei Lutheran School has the following positions available:

- \* **Director of Transportation**
- \* **Director of Food Service**
- \* **Part-time Bus Drivers**
- \* **Afternoon Child Care Aides**
- \* **Buildings and Grounds Assistant**
- \* **Substitute Teachers** (preschool, elementary, and middle school)

Part-time and full-time hours available. 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.

## Fellowship Bible Study

Fellowship Bible Study meets every Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. in the Simeon Center. We use a study called Daily Faith Practices published by the ELCA. For information, please email Sharon Padula at [slpadula1@gmail.com](mailto:slpadula1@gmail.com).

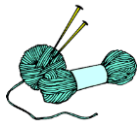
## Community Bible Study

**We will not meet on December 24, or December 31.** 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.

## Life Groups at Gloria Dei

Joining or creating a small group in your church offers a unique opportunity to grow deeper in your faith and build meaningful connections. In a small group, you can share your struggles, celebrate victories, and pray with others who understand your journey. It's a space where you can learn, ask questions, and support one another in ways that go beyond Sunday services. The relationships formed in small groups often become a source of encouragement and accountability, helping you live out your faith daily. As the early church gathered together in Acts, small groups are still a powerful way to experience fellowship, discipleship, and service. By connecting with others, you not only strengthen your own faith but also contribute to the growth and health of the church body. Together, we can grow in love, truth, and purpose—empowered by the Holy Spirit to live as Christ's hands and feet. If you feel the call to host a small group and/or to join a small group, please email Pastor at [pastordave@gloriadei.net](mailto:pastordave@gloriadei.net).

## Prayer Shawl Ministry



"She seeks wool and flax and works willingly with her hands"

Proverbs 31:13

### "God's Work. Our Hands"

This is exactly what the Prayer Shawl Ministry does. By creating, shawls and blankets to show God's love to members of the congregation, we are using our hands for God's work. Each time we meet, we work on creating a gift for someone that needs a gesture of love.

Please consider joining us on the second Sunday of the month to share in our ministry and fellowship. After putting our needles to work, we often head to Capri for lunch. You would be welcome to join us. If you have any questions, contact Rita Foringer at [rforinger@verizon.net](mailto:rforinger@verizon.net).

## Women of Gloria Dei WELCA

The Women of Gloria Dei are going to spend the holidays and the winter season enjoying family and friends and chilling out. We will once again get busy as a group in the spring in preparation of our annual Lenten Journey to prepare Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief.

We will, however, continue to get together on the fourth Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Pour Girls in downtown Hampton for a Glass with the Girls. The dates for the next few months are December 22, January 26, and February 23. Please come join us. And remember, glasses can hold a lot of different things! If you have any questions, contact Rita Foringer at [rforinger@verizon.net](mailto:rforinger@verizon.net).

## WELCA Book Group



The book group is getting together at the home of Mary Mace on December 8 at 7:00 p.m. The book selected is "**Catching Christmas**," by Terri Blackstock. The book is a perfect read to prepare us for the holidays. Please consider joining us. Here is a synopsis of the story:

*This Year, Christmas Comes Just in Time.*

*As a first-year law associate, Sydney Batson knows she will be updating her resume by New Year's if she loses her current court case. So when her grandmother gets inexplicably ill while she's in court, Sydney arranges for a cab to get her to the clinic.*

*The last thing cab driver Finn Parrish wants is to be saddled with a wheelchair-bound old lady with dementia. But because Miss Callie reminds him of his own mother, whom he failed miserably in her last days, he can't say no when she keeps calling him for rides. Once a successful gourmet chef, Finn's biggest concern now is making his rent, but half the time Callie doesn't remember to pay him. And as she starts to feel better, she leads him on wild goose chases to find a Christmas date for her granddaughter.*

*When Finn meets Sydney, he's quite sure she's never needed help finding a date. Does Miss Callie have an ulterior motive, or is this just a mission driven by delusions? He's willing to do whatever he can to help fulfill Callie's Christmas wish. He just never expected to be a vital part of it.*

Then in January we are resurrecting our "Chill Out and Catch Up" get together. That's when we bring our Christmas leftovers, (cookies, partial cheese balls, half burned candles, etc.) and just visit. The location has not been determined, so stay tuned and watch the Weekly.

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



**Lisa Dadez,  
Principal**

### From the Principal

#### **First Quarter Wrap-Up & Fall Festival Fun**

As we wrap up the first quarter of the 2025–2026 school year, we're excited to reflect on a season full of learning, celebration, and community spirit. Our **Fall Festival Week**, held in conjunction with the **Scholastic Book Fair**, was a tremendous success! Students enjoyed a variety of festive activities, including a **pumpkin decorating contest**, a **counting contest**, themed **classroom parties**, and **daily dress-up days** that brought joy and creativity to our halls. In the spirit of giving, we also supported our local community through the **Fall Food Pantry Drive** benefiting **H.E.L.P.** Thank you to all who contributed!

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to our dedicated librarians, **Julie Allen** and **Donna Collins**, as well as **Kelly Martin** and **Jeane Fullen**, for their passion and hard work in making these events possible. Your efforts truly make Gloria Dei a special place to learn and grow.

#### **Gloria Dei Students Shine on First Quarter Honor Roll**

We are thrilled to recognize the outstanding academic achievements of **96 Gloria Dei students** in grades 1 through 8 who earned **Honor Roll distinction** for the first grading period of the 2025–2026 school year! To qualify, **middle school students** must maintain **A and/or B averages in all classes**, while **elementary students** must achieve **A and/or B averages in all core subjects**, along with **satisfactory or above** marks in resource classes and work/study habits. This is no small feat, and we commend each student for their dedication and hard work.

To all our Honor Roll recipients—**congratulations!** Your commitment to excellence is inspiring, and we are incredibly proud of your efforts. We look forward to celebrating your continued success in the second quarter.

To those who came close—don't give up! Keep striving, and we hope to see your names on the next Honor Roll list. **Give the second quarter your best!**

#### Nolte

Charleigh Al-Deen	Reid Darden	Joseph Ellard	Alacey Ellington
Josiah Evans	Katelyn Fatkin	Tulsi Ford	Benji Garrett
Elizabeth Haas	Layla Hall	Wayne Harding	Maya Jackson
Everly Kirkley	Avaly Miller	Holly Sager	Monroe Saloka
Peyton Travis	Elliott Tuttle	Corey Waldron	Tyler Whitehouse
Sabrina Zameito			

#### Maguire

Journi Banks	Elijah Charles	Quinn Garrett	Abigail Martin
Audrey Mathews	Adelynn Tice	Annabelle Zember	

#### Wiggins

Case Abney	Omnia Abney	Caleb Bacallao	Riley Clark
Savannah Cullipher	Lily Double	Evelyn McDonald	Kai Montgomery
Piper Olwig	Reagan Watkins	Joanna Yohn	

#### Watterton

Chandler Abbott	Robert Fenwick	Rhodes Lomax	Taylor Michel
Ella Miller	Zoey Morris	William Olwig	Ileana Pearson
Aaliyah Simmons	Steven Sterne		

#### Menendez

Owen Ferguson	Ezra Geisler	Abigail Hella	Sloane Howell
Londyn James	Zoe McAnuff	Callan Murray	Carmelo Robinson
Devin Rose	Kennedy Saloka	James Sterne	Payton Teal

#### Zamora

Maxwell Bailey	Phil Bailey	Kingston Edwards	Keller Korahaes
Jonathan Murray	Elizabeth Rene	Damon Reynolds	Skyler Reynolds
Carlos Wassef	Jolene Watkins		

#### Wallace

Olivia Abel	Koi Abney	M.J. Brown	Cayden Cummings
Braxton Foster	Nolan Frazier	Kayla Grace Grant	Ronald Hayford
Nixon Howell	King Oliver	Shella Schrum	John Wilhelm
Richard Wilhelm	Sanai Williams Lucky	John Henry Yohn	

#### Middle School

Avery Fisher	Bryson Nichols	Gracie Finnegan	Malachi Spinner
Orlando Peters	Peyton LaRoche	Sofia Kearney	St. John Villar
Steven Mustard	Tucker Cook		

### **The Sounds of Christmas are in the Air!**

As we enter the holiday season, the joyful sounds of Christmas are already filling our hallways. Students are busy preparing for their upcoming Christmas programs, learning and sharing the beautiful story of Jesus' birth through songs, carols, and performances. These special presentations are a meaningful way for our students to express their faith and creativity while bringing the message of Christmas to life for family and friends.

Please take a moment to review the **Christmas program schedule** and mark your calendars—we don't want you to miss this heartwarming celebration of the season!

#### *Gloria Dei Lutheran School's 2025 Christmas Program Schedule*

*Tuesday, December 9 ~ Toddler & Two-Year-Old Classes (Recording Only)*

*Wednesday, December 10 ~ 9:00 a.m. Transitions and Preschool Classes (Waldmiller, Cole, Smith, & Watts)*

*Thursday, December 11 ~ 9:00 a.m. Prekindergarten Classes (Bennett, Dermanis, & Marshall)*

*Thursday, December 12 ~ 10:30 a.m. Kindergarten Classes (Kittle & Tucker)*

*Tuesday, December 17 ~ 9:00 a.m. Middle School Program*

*Tuesday, December 17 ~ 10:30 a.m. 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grades (Nolte, Maguire & Wiggins)*

*Wednesday, December 18 ~ 9:00 a.m. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup> Grades (Menendez, Watterton, Zamora, & Wallace)*

Yours in Christ's service,  
Lisa S. Dadez

## **Gloria Dei Lutheran School Child Care Program**

Gloria Dei Lutheran School is proud to offer quality child care for children ages 16 months through 12 years. This year, we are delighted to have 203 students enrolled in our program!

Our child care operates Monday through Friday, from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and is available during before- and after-school hours, parent/teacher conferences, staff workdays, and Christmas and Easter holidays. We also provide care on snow days (unless weather conditions are severe).

Children enjoy breakfast (served 6:15–7:15 a.m.), lunch, and both morning and afternoon snacks daily. Our program offers a variety of fun and engaging activities, including arts and crafts, movies, organized games, free play, and outdoor playtime.

For our older students, study hall is available for grades 3rd through 7th from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. We also offer exciting after-school enrichment activities, such as gymnastics, Little Ninjas, Tumblebugz, Ninja Zone, art academy, and Lego Club.

Looking ahead, we're already preparing for Summer Adventures, our popular summer program for children ages 16 months to 12 years, beginning in June.

Our dedicated team works hard to provide a safe, nurturing, and engaging environment for all children in our care.

Child Care Leadership Team  
Jeanene Nolte – Child Care Director  
Janet Cole – Child Care Program Director  
Jessica Nolte – Child Care Program Coordinator

## **First Grade**



We are having a wonderful year in First Grade! Over the past few months, our students have been busy learning new routines and building their independence—and the progress they've made is truly impressive.

We began the year focusing on sight words and phonics skills, laying the foundation for reading sentences and stories independently. In writing, students are learning to craft complete sentences and express their creativity. They're even sounding out words on their own to spell what they want to write—an exciting milestone!

In math, our First Graders have been hard at work developing essential skills. They've learned to count money, add and subtract, and follow multi-step directions. These skills are preparing them for upcoming challenges like telling time, double-digit math, and our newly introduced timed math drills.

We've also introduced grammar concepts that students will continue to build on throughout the year. And for the first time, they're learning what it means to receive grades for their work—an important step in their academic journey.

In early November, we took our first field trip to Holly Forks Farm. What an exciting way to celebrate the start of our second quarter.

We're off to a great start, and we're determined to make this year our best one yet!

Miss Nolte

## **Spanish Class**

The students who attend Gloria Dei Lutheran School are fortunate to have the opportunity to take Spanish, and they will benefit from the many rewards that come from studying a foreign language. Spanish at Gloria Dei is taught to the elementary and the middle school students.

Spanish for the elementary students is an exposure class and they have it once a week. The students have been working very hard to learn Spanish and also to learn about Hispanic culture. Gloria Dei Lutheran School provides the Spanish classes with exciting learning materials enabling the Spanish curriculum to be rich and varied. This year, multiple books were purchased including *Me encantan las crías de animales* (I Love Baby Animals), *¡Soy más grande que tú!* (I'm Bigger than You), *El gran libro de cuentos para ir a dormir* (The Big Book of bedtime stories).

The elementary students learned 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.

In addition to learning vocabulary, the elementary students play games, listen to Hispanic music and dance, learn about Hispanic art, and study Hispanic culture and the geography of countries where Spanish is spoken.

Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) honors and remembers deceased friends and family. During fall festival week, the students learned about Day of the Dead. They viewed beautiful images of the holiday, listened to music regarding the holiday, and colored drawings inspired by Mexican folklore.

Spanish continues at Gloria Dei in the Middle School. 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.

The middle school students also attended the festive Hispanic Flamenco Ballet performance of *Hispania*. This multicultural music and dance show was very colorful and entertaining.

All of the Spanish students will be learning more about Spanish language and culture, and I am fortunate to have the privilege of helping them to learn. As we approach Thanksgiving, let us be thankful for our many blessings, especially for the children in our lives.

Vaya con Dios (Go with God)  
Vanessa S. Vaught  
Spanish Teacher K-8



## **Pastoral Record**

### **December Birthdays**

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

### **December Anniversaries**

- |                                 |                                   |                            |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 4 Gordon and Michelle Robertson | 23 Brown and Rowena Cornwell      | 31 Buzz and Anita Hamilton |
| 18 Bob and Vivian Reynolds      | 28 Keith and Mary Jane Leckrone   | David and Anne Perry       |
| 22 James and Yvonne Roberts     | 30 Richard and Stephanie Williams |                            |

### **January Birthdays**

- |                              |  |                                   |
|------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Brody Robertson            | 19 Shannon Schubert,<br>Pastor Dave Fox          | 27 Stephanie Williams, Amber Via  |
| 2 Vicki O'Neill              | 20 Sharon Rose                                   | 29 Maddie Tatum-Harper            |
| 3 Karen Igel                 | 21 Fran Vanpelt                                  | 30 Bonnie Morelen, Michael Murphy |
| 4 Nan Jordan, Ashley Zamora  | 22 Frank Saloka, Jr., Rich Fox, III              | 31 Susan Canny, Jeremiah Green    |
| 7 Lily Hess, Charlie Venable | 24 Remi Keough                                   |                                   |
| 8 Will Hess, Debbie Dunn     | 25 James Williams, Micaela Ruhl,<br>Kelly Werner |                                   |
| 9 Dorie Scherer              | 26 Mike Via                                      |                                   |
| 12 Marlene Saloka            |  |                                   |
| 15 James Roberts             |  |                                   |

### **January Anniversaries**

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

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### **Address Changes**

Leonard and Marna Mayo  
955 Harpersville Road, #1043  
Newport News, VA 23601

Fred Bradley  
1030 Topping Lane, Room #112  
Hampton, VA 23666

Joann Morrison  
20 Fenwick Road, Apt. 105  
Hampton, VA 23651

Ron Aheimer  
2220 Executive Drive  
Room 139B  
Hampton, VA 23666

Bonnie Morelen  
13030 Warwick Boulevard  
#204  
Newport News, VA 23602

Melvin and Donna Lanning  
2220 Executive Drive  
Apt. 126  
Hampton, VA 23666


### **New Members**

Hunter Wheatcroft

### **Deaths**

Joanne Aheimer  
November 20, 2025

# December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 11:30 AM Aheimer Funeral  6:30 PM Girl Scout Meeting; Pack 27 Meeting	<b>2</b> 10 AM Fellowship Bible Study  4 PM Senior Staff Meeting  5 PM Chrismon Tree Setup	<b>3</b> 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 5th & 6th Gr. Bible Study, Confirmation, Sr. High Discipleship, Music, Crafts	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 6 PM Hanging of the Greens  8 PM Senior High Lock-in	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 8:30 AM First Light (Sunday School)  <b>9:30 AM-WORSHIP</b>  11 AM Brunch; Choir Rehearsal	<b>8</b> 6:30 PM Pack 27 Meeting	<b>9</b> 10 AM Fellowship Bible Study  <i>Capri RSVP Deadline</i>	<b>10</b> 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 5th & 6th Gr. Bible Study, Confirmation, Sr. High Discipleship, Music, Crafts	<b>11</b> 6 PM Pack Committee Meeting	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 1 PM – 4 PM Winter Clothing Drive-thru Drop-off
<b>14</b> 8:30 AM First Light (Sunday School)  <b>9:30 AM-WORSHIP</b>  11 AM Choir Rehearsal	<b>15</b> 6:30 PM Girl Scout Meeting; Pack 27 Meeting	<b>16</b> 10 AM Fellowship Bible Study 6 PM Suppers at Capri – <i>Reservation Required</i>	<b>17</b> 12 PM Community Bible Study – H.E.L.P.	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 8:30 AM First Light (Sunday School)  <b>9:30 AM-WORSHIP</b>  11 AM Christmas Caroling, Lunch	<b>22</b> 7 PM WELCA @ Pour Girls	<b>23</b> 10 AM Fellowship Bible Study	<b>24</b> 5 PM Children's Christmas Eve Worship  7:30 PM Candlelight Service	<b>25</b> Christmas Day 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<div>Christmas Break Church, School, and Childcare Closed</div>						
<b>28</b> 8:30 AM First Light (Sunday School)  <b>9:30 AM-WORSHIP</b>  11 AM Choir Rehearsal  <b>9:30 AM-WORSHIP</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <div>New Year's Break Church, School, and Childcare Closed</div>			

# January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <i>New Year's Break Church, School, and Childcare Closed</i>	2	3
4 8:30 AM First Light (Sunday School) <b>9:30 AM-WORSHIP</b> <b>Christmas Lessons &amp; Carols</b> 11 AM Choir Rehearsal; Unhanging of the Greens	5 6:30 PM Pack 27 Meeting	6 10 AM Fellowship Bible Study  4 PM Senior Staff Meeting	7 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 5th & 6th Gr. Bible Study, Confirmation, Sr. High Discipleship, Music, Crafts	8 6 PM Pack Committee Meeting  <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	9	10
11 8:30 AM First Light (Sunday School) <b>9:30 AM-WORSHIP/</b> Bring a Friend Sunday 11 AM Choir Rehearsal; Prayer Shawl Ministry	12 6:30 PM Girl Scout Meeting; Pack 27 Meeting	13 10 AM Fellowship Bible Study  <i>Capri RSVP Deadline</i>	14 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 5th & 6th Gr. Bible Study, Confirmation, Sr. High Discipleship, Music, Crafts	15	16	17
18 8:30 AM First Light (Sunday School) 9 AM Blood Drive <b>9:30 AM-WORSHIP</b> 11 AM Choir Rehearsal; ExAdCom	19 6:30 PM Pack 27 Meeting  <i>MLK Day Church, School, and Childcare Closed</i>	20 10 AM Fellowship Bible Study  6 PM Suppers at Capri – Reservation Required	21 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 5th & 6th Gr. Bible Study, Confirmation, Sr. High Discipleship, Music, Crafts	22	23	24
25 8:30 AM First Light (Sunday School) <b>9:30 AM-WORSHIP</b> 11 AM Choir Rehearsal; Council Meeting	26 6:30 PM Girl Scout Meeting; Pack 27 Meeting  7 PM WELCA @ Pour Girls	27 10 AM Fellowship Bible Study	28 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 5th & 6th Gr. Bible Study, Confirmation, Sr. High Discipleship, Music, Crafts	29 Pinewood Derby Setup	30 12:30 PM Pinewood Derby	31

*Winter Celebration  
Youth Retreat  
Friday thru Sunday*

# Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

250 Fox Hill Road, Hampton, Virginia 23669-1793

Telephone (757) 851-2838

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

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

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**Worship with us!**

**In-person in the Nave or YouTube**

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

## *Christmas Eve Worship Services*

5:00 p.m. A brief worship service with familiar Christmas carols and special music.  
Perfect for families with young children.

7:30 p.m. A candlelight worship service with Christmas carols and special music.  
Pre-service music begins at 7:15 p.m.

## Online Giving

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