



GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rejoice

Advent

The house lights go off and the footlights come on. Even the chattiest stop chattering as they wait in darkness for the curtain to rise. In the orchestra pit, the violin bows are poised. The conductor has raised the baton.

In the silence of a midwinter dusk there is far off in the deeps of it somewhere a sound so faint that for all you can tell it may be only the sound of the silence itself. You hold your breath to listen.

You walk up the steps to the front door. The empty windows at either side of it tell you nothing, or almost nothing. For a second you catch a whiff in the air of some fragrance that reminds you of a place you've never been and a time you have no words for. You are aware of the beating of your heart.

The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens. Advent is the name of that moment.

The Salvation Army Santa Claus clangs his bell. The sidewalks are so crowded you can hardly move. Exhaust fumes are the chief fragrance in the air, and everybody is as bundled up against any sense of what all the fuss is really about as they are bundled up against the windchill factor.

But if you concentrate just for an instant, far off in the deeps of yourself somewhere you can feel the beating of your heart. For all its madness and lostness, not to mention your own, you can hear the world itself holding its breath.



Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, ELCA
319-338-2893
fax-319-338-1899
church@gloriadailutheranic.org
www.gloriadailutheranic.org

Pastor:
Karl Divine-Koch
Minister of Congregational Life:
Pam Larabee-Zierath, AIM
Campus Pastor:
Robert Dotzel
Director of Music Ministries:
Laura Wiebe
Organist:
Ruth Hurlburt
Office Manager:
Natalie Polzin
Sexton:
Richard Madden

Gathered by grace, scattered for service.

Worship

8:00 & 10:30 am Sunday Mornings
with Holy Communion.

6:00 pm Thursday nights Lutheran
Campus Ministry gathers for supper
during the U of I semesters at the
Christus House .

Youth Ministry

Families with children of all ages
gather for events and activities
monthly.

Sunday School meets regularly
Sundays at 9:15 am September - May.
Confirmation classes, 7th and 8th
grades, meet Wednesday nights and
Sunday mornings during the school
year.

Choirs

New singers always welcome!
Youth Choir—6:30-7:10 pm Wed.
Senior Choir—7:30-8:30 pm Wed.

Adults

Bible Studies

- Tuesday Mornings:
6:45 am Men's Bible study
10:30 am Bible Study—all
welcome
- Wednesday 6:30 pm Spanish
Bible Study
- Wednesday 6:30 pm Bible Study
- Thursday 10:30 am Bible Study—
all welcome

4 Women of the ELCA Circles meet
monthly (pg. 3)

3M Club meets the second Tuesday of
the month. Adult fellowship, sometimes
a potluck, sometimes an evening out,
always room for more.

Families in Formation is a group for
families with new children to come
together for fellowship and service.



Women
of the
**EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
IN AMERICA**

Marie Jensen Circle: Mon, Dec. 19, 7:30 pm
Hostess: Doris Houser
Lesson: Doris Houser

Maya Winther Circle: Tues., Dec. 20, 7 pm
Location: Church Lounge
Hostess: Donna Farber/Linda Cooper-Brown
Devotions: Linda Cooper-Brown
Lesson: Linda Cooper-Brown

Elaine Wagner Circle: **Thursday Dec. 15, 9 am**
Location: Ethel Barker's Home
Devotions: Mary Maxwell

Rosella Kameo Circle: **NO DEC. MEETING**

**The WELCA Cookie Exchange and Visitation will be
December 3rd, in the morning starting 9 am**

COME TO THE DINNER PARTY!

Join us for a festive smorgasbord on **December 3rd at 5:30-8:00.** Party goers may bring their favorite dessert or ethnic dish.

Enjoy a smorgasbord of music by some of your favorite performers!

Tickets: Free Will Offering / \$20 suggested donation

YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH ACTIVITIES FOR DECEMBER

Sunday School Christmas Program

All children age 3 yrs old through 8th grade are involved.

Children's Christmas Program practice times:

Sun., Dec.11 9:15-10:15am - Children's Christmas Program
practice (instead of Sunday School)

Wed., Dec.14 6:00-7:00pm - CCP practice

Sat., Dec.17 10:00-11:30am - CCP practice

Sun., Dec.18 - 9:15-10:15am - Children's Christmas Program

You're Invited ! Sunday, December 18



Soup and Sandwich luncheon 12pm
(High School students help prepare the meal at 8
am!)

CAROLING AT 12:45pm

**PROCEEDS WILL HELP FUND OUR TRIP TO
THE ELCA YOUTH GATHERING IN JULY 2012!**



MERRY CHRISTMAS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WRAPPING OF ANGEL TREE GIFTS

Please help wrap gifts for the Angel Tree on December 17th.

Donations of tape, gift boxes, wrapping paper or tissue paper would be appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Christy Hillberry.

Angel Tree Gifts

We've filled our tree with Christmas wishes and placed it on the table in the Narthex. You can fill a wish by picking a tag from the tree (generally a \$20-25 gift), signing the sheet by the tree, buying a gift and bringing it to church by December 14th unwrapped with the tag attached.



POINSETTIAS

If you would like to decorate the chancel this Christmas Eve by donating a poinsettia “in memory” or “in honor” of someone special, please sign-up on the sheet located on the high-table outside the office by Wednesday, December 14th. The cost is \$10.

If you prefer to pick out your own poinsettia, please bring it to the church by 9:00 am on Thursday, December 22nd but be sure to let the office know.

You can drop the check off in the office. Make checks payable to Gloria Dei with “Poinsettia” in the memo field. Plants may be picked up after Christmas Day.

ADVENT SCHEDULE



SERVICE IN THE MIDST OF DARKNESS

December 22 at 5:30pm is our Service in the Midst of Darkness, for those who have experienced significant losses, changes, or stresses during the year. This will be a quiet, meditative worship service that makes time for remembering, sharing our hurting places with God, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ. This service is open to anyone in the congregation or in the community.

CHRISTMAS EVE

This year's **Family Service at 5:15 pm** on Christmas Eve features a special children's time with the unwrapping and placing of Gloria Dei's soft-sculpture nativity set. This "kid-friendly" service, planned to last no more than an hour, will also include familiar carols and holy communion.

The **Candlelight Services will be at 7pm and 11pm**. Both services will have Holy Communion. The Senior Choir will sing at the 7pm service.

CHRISTMAS DAY

The Christmas Day service is at 10am.



Please note: Sunday, December 25th and Sunday, January 1st there is only 1 (one) service, 10:00 am.

CALENDAR OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 11

Worship with Advent Lessons and Carols

Decorate Christmas Trees 12pm

Sunday, December 18

Wittenberg Steamroller plays

Sunday School Christmas Program between services

Soup and Sandwich luncheon at 12pm

followed by Christmas Caroling

Thursday, December 22

5:30pm Service in the Midst of Darkness

On Christmas Eve

5:15 pm Family service

7:00 pm Candlelight service

11:00 pm Candlelight service

Christmas Day

ONE SERVICE 10:00 am

Sunday, January 1

ONE SERVICE 10:00 am

WELCA NEWS

***Gloria Dei Women of the ELCA invite all women to the annual
Christmas Outreach & Cookie Exchange***

Saturday, December 3, 2010 at 9:00 am
Fellowship Hall

Bring 3-4 dozen cookies to share and exchange.
Enjoy a morning of fellowship, devotion, and singing carols.
Prepare a goodie bag for an outreach visit.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

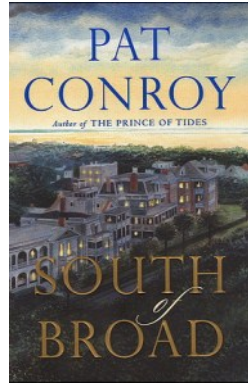
**Stan & Nan Carlson
Erinn Uhlmeyer**

BOOK CLUB

ARE YOU READING?

GLORIA DEI BOOK CLUB

Mark your calendar and dust off your library card, the Gloria Dei Book Club is meeting the second Wednesday of every month at 6:30 pm in the lounge.



Books for 2011

December

South of Broad
by Pat Conroy

No January Meeting

February

Consumption
by Kevin Patterson

No March Meeting

April

Sing Them Home
by Stephanie Kallos

Join the discussion

Wednesday, Dec. 14th,
6:30pm in the church
lounge.

The Book for Feb.—Consumption

by Kevin Patterson

Wednesday, Feb 8th, 6:30 pm

The reader enters into the modern contradictions of the Arctic—walrus meat and convenience food, midnight sun and 24-hour satellite TV, dog teams and diamond mines—and into the heart of Victoria's internal exile. Born on the tundra in the 1950s, Victoria knows nothing but the nomadic life of the Inuit until, at the age of ten, she is diagnosed with tuberculosis and evacuated to a southern sanitarium. When she returns home six years later, she finds a radically different world, where the traditionally rootless tribes have uneasily congregated in small communities. And Victoria has become a stranger to her family and her culture.

STEWARDSHIP MATTERS

FINAL STEWARDSHIP NOTES FOR 2011

For the first time this year, our monthly giving in November **decreased** (by \$4,000) compared to November of last year. This means that our total giving in this last month of this year must really come through **in abundance** if we are to achieve our balanced budget for 2011. In addition to completing our regular pledged contributions for 2011, we urge all of our members to consider the following as well:

1. We are hoping for more “Tithe for a Week” contributions before year-end, as we are still \$300 short of our \$9,000 budgeted goal.
2. All members are urged to use your “Holy Days” envelopes for incremental Thanksgiving and Christmas offerings. (only a few Thanksgiving envelopes have been received to date)
3. It is not too late to turn in your “Initial Envelope” offering (found in the front of your envelope box).
4. Special “Fundraiser” gifts continue to be welcomed.

With the continued inspiration of the Holy Spirit working within our midst, I am confident that we can achieve our goal of a balanced budget! Let’s do it!

SERVING CHRIST TOGETHER,

Jim Wiese, Stewardship Committee

2012 PLEDGE CARD REMINDER

All members are strongly urged to turn in your 2012 pledge cards as soon as you can to (1) reduce the need for follow-up phone calls and (2) to facilitate our budget planning process for 2012.



LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

Christus House, 109 E. Market St.
(next door to Gloria Dei Church)

www.uiowa.edu/~lcmelca

**Campus Ministry will be on Winter Break
from Dec. 18 - Jan. 16.**

**January 11-14 Pastor Rob and LCM students will travel to
Joplin, MO to assist with ongoing tornado recovery efforts.**

To learn more about LCM, email us at lcm-elca@uiowa.edu.

THEOLOGY FOR LUNCH

**Gloria Dei Lutheran
Church Lounge
Wednesdays at noon**

Topic: *First Light/Jesus and the Kingdom of God* - video discussion series with Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan; 12 sessions. (Each session will include a 30 minute video, followed by reflection and discussion of related biblical texts led by Campus Pastor Rob Dotzel).

Dec, 7; Session 11 – Resurrection and Resistance (Texts: Acts 2:43-47 and Col. 1:9-23)

Dec. 14; Session 12 – America as the New Rome (Texts: Mark 8:27-38 and 1 Peter 1:3-11)

CAMPUS MINISTRY UPDATE

Dear friend(s) of Lutheran Campus Ministry:

It has been a very exciting fall for students of Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Iowa. Activities this semester included a weekly Bible study on *Jesus and the Kingdom of God*, Thursday suppers and evening worship, a program called Art Fridays, providing childcare during worship at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, a fall retreat with Lutheran students from Iowa State on talking about faith, a Flash Mob Eucharist at the Occupy Iowa City campground (*Yes, it was cool!*), and yet to come - our Winter Break Service Trip to assist with tornado recovery in Joplin, MO. **Please consider giving generously to support this important mission of the church!** Here is what our Student Ministry Leadership Team has to say about the importance of Campus Ministry in their lives:

Megan Henson: *LCM has been my light over the last two years. I can't wait to graduate from the University of Iowa, but I will be extremely sad to leave my tight-knit community.*

Ben Welper: *LCM has done a lot for me. Probably the major thing is it keeps me going to college. I would be at home working full time, probably miserable as well. At LCM, I am able to meet a lot of new friends and new people I never would have met.*

Rebekah Dotzel: *LCM provides a fun and friendly place for Lutheran students to grow academically and faithfully. I would be lost without my Lutheran family!*

Erinn Uhlmeier: *Lutheran Campus Ministry is like family to me. Thursday night dinners are the highlight of my week.*

Thank you for your prayers and support! Donations can be sent to Lutheran Campus Ministry, 109 E. Market Street, Iowa City, 52245, or placed in Pastor Rob's mailbox at Gloria Dei.

God's peace and blessings to you as we enter upon the holiday season, the celebration of our Savior's birth, and the coming of a New Year full of opportunities to share Christ's love with the world.

In God's grace,

Pastor Robert Dotzel



Partners in Faith Formation

By Pam LZ

You might as well settle in...it's a long one. This year's Advent season is the longest it can be (Advent starts on the 4th Sunday before Christmas and since Christmas moves through the week, the length of Advent can vary from 22 to 28 days). As one who enjoys curling up with a good Advent meditation on light in darkness, or promise in uncertainty, or the mystery of God's love in the face of human sin, I'm delighted with the season's length and depth. But, I know it can get long for people who are REALLY eager for Christmas to arrive. So I'm going to share a delightful but silly idea from the Advent devotional book that David and I are using this year. It's a way for folks to pass some time together and think about the Christmas story in the process.

Have you played the paper & pencil version of Cooties? You roll a die and get to draw a body part of a beetle-like creature (but you must wait for a "1" to get your body first!). This Advent version is played like that but with characters from the Christmas Story. Let's start with an Angel. Assign body parts to numbers 1 – 6.

- 6= body, of which there is one
- 5= head, of which there is one
- 4= halo, of which there is one
- 3= wings, of which there is two
- 2= eyes, of which there is two
- 1= mouth, of which there is one

The body of the angel needs to be drawn first, so the first one to get a 6 will be the first to draw. Once the body is drawn, other parts can be added in any order (or not...decide on your own house rules!). If someone rolls a number they have already drawn, they skip the turn and pass the die. The first angel completed wins (or not...). Next time try a shepherd, or sheep...Mary or Joseph...the stable and manger...Magi. Through the season, create an entire nativity scene for your home. You still have to wait all of Advent but waiting can be fun! By the way, next year Advent will be one day off of the shortest possible – so you can always hang onto that Advent hope!

(From Debbie Trafton O'Neal in Making All Things New, Augsburg Fortress)

THANK YOU!

Thank you to the team who put together the Advent/Christmas liturgical art in the nave: Tom Larsen, artist; Paul Rogers and Carl Richey, engineers; Sunday School children, painters. It will marvelously enhance our worship experience this season!

BAPTIZED

Eli Jamesson Noel, born 8/25/11—Son on Matt & Nikki Noel

Lauren Suzanne Beim, born 7/19/11—Daughter of Tucker & Amy Beim, Granddaughter of Doug & Julie Busch, Great Granddaughter of Bob & Esther Peterson

ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Forum at 9:15 am on Sundays

December 4 – Pastor Karl will lead the Forum

December 11 – Christmas Foods and Traditions: The Larsen Family

December 18 – No Forum

December 25 – No Forum

January 1— No Forum

Weekday opportunities:

Tuesday - Men's Bible Study at 6:45 am

New Testament Study at 10:30 am

Wednesday - Spanish Bible Study at 6:00 pm (en español)

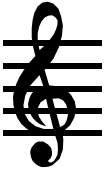
Evening Bible Study at 6:30 pm—Romans

Thursday - Old Testament Study at 10:30 am

And don't forget **Theology for Lunch** at noon on Wednesdays, sponsored by Lutheran Campus Ministry! (see separate article)

MUSIC NOTES

Coe College Joins Us in Worship Sunday, December 4th, 10:30 Service



Coe College Chorale has been a veritable institution at the college for over 50 years, specializing in music for treble voices. The choir consists of both music majors and students from other disciplines, and is also open to faculty and community members. Chorale and Concert Choir will perform a service of Lessons and Carols at Coe on Tuesday, December 6 at 7:30 pm.

Note of remembrance: Chorale was directed for many years by Richard Hoffman (1949-2010), who is dearly missed by many members of Chorale. He is remembered with particular fondness this season for his dedication to Chorale's Lessons and Carols service, a tradition he started at Coe.

Coe College Chorale

Laura Wiebe, conductor
Brett Wolgast, accompanist

Soprano I

Marissa Anderson – Marengo, IA
Jessica Ausborn – Lytton, IA
Jennifer Hardin – Wapello, IA
Hannah Keast – Altoona, IA
Ngoc Nguyen – Vung Tau, Vietnam
Haley O'Taggart – Newhall, IA
Desiree Ramirez – Oshkosh, WI
Maureen Salisbury – Bolingbrook, IL
Caitlyn Weber – Plainfield, IL
Bethany Yanak – Salix, Iowa

Soprano II

Liesl Burgher – Amana, IA
Shayla James – Kansas City, MO
Shannon Loria – Palatine, IL
Brittany Nichols – West Burlington, IA
Erynn Norris – St. Paul, MN
Rebecca Staupe – Menomonie, WI
Courtney Stenerson – Palatine, IL
Lynnette Volden – St. Charles, MN

Alto

Molly Adams – Lake Bluff, IL
Shannon Armstrong – Albuquerque, NM
Christine Bekebrede – Cedar Rapids, IA
Ashley Cook – Quincy, IL
Kayla Darrow – Oxford, IA
Alyssa Dufoe – Center Point, IA
Diana Feldstein – Chicago, IL
Mandi Gregorcyk – Tipton, IA
Elizabeth Knoble – Council Bluffs, IA
Emily Koch – St. Joseph, MI
Nichole Lattin – Browntown, WI
Sierra Reese – Chicago, IL
Savannah Skidmore – Muscatine, IA
Zoë Timmerman – Lawrence, KS
Chelsea White – Marion, IA
Ella Wiese Moore – Madison, WI
Emily Williams -- Albuquerque, NM

Librarian: Courtney Stenerson
Rehearsal Assistants: Liesl Burgher,
Shayla James and Brittany Nichols

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



Terry & Karla Anderson	
12/6	
Cliff & Ramona Bell	12/8
John & Mary Abadi	12/10
James & Carolyn Gardner	12/26
Jerry & Barbara Zinn	12/27
Tom & Diana Larsen	12/28
Chuck & Marilyn Skaugstad	12/28
Chuck & Sherry Skaugstad Jr.	12/29
Karen & Frank Smith	12/30

Congratulations to all those who celebrate a birthday or anniversary this month. If we've missed you, please let Natalie know so that she can update the records. Thank you!



Pray for God's care and healing for: Connie McRoberts, Larry Wonick, Kelly Knight (cousin of Cathy Divine-Koch), Bette Schmidt, Don Brown, Karin Orr (niece of Brenda Vrchoticky), Betty Sass, Betty Forell, Michael Molinar (friend of Brigitte Vanle), Jeanette Roth (friend of Deb Bailey-Murray), Ramona Bell, Arlene Schlotfeld (grandma of Kaitlin Schlotfeld), Debbie Reid (mother of Ryan Reid), Al Schroeder, Jack Boal, Kathryn Nereim, Shelley Tucker (niece of Jo McConahay), Jeanette Bailey-Murray (Arthur's mother), Dorette Morehouse (mother of Cathy Goddard), Byron Bacher, Edward (brother of Barb Palasek), Paul Wiese (brother of Jim Wiese), the family of Bess Hora (grand-niece of Richard Madden).



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Dottie Armens	12/1	Greg Maxwell	12/17
Janet Lumpa	12/1	Ron Woodruff	12/17
Quinta Bontrager	12/2	Steven Wildman	12/18
Adriane Downs	12/2	Robert Johansen	12/19
Jennifer Heddens	12/2	Christopher Brown	12/20
Andy Armens	12/4	William Brown	12/20
John Knutson	12/4	Susan Schwartz-Rogers	12/20
Derek Schmelzer	12/4	Jennifer Bisgard	12/21
Duane Hochstedler	12/5	Millicent Helgevoid	12/21
Lauren Whinery	12/5	Heather Morrison	12/21
Christina Bailey-Murray	12/7	Carol Ostrem	12/21
Cheyenne Evangelista	12/7	Jenn Singaas	12/23
Diane Borseth	12/8	Isabella Kellbach	12/24
Lois Lembke	12/8	Deana Buell	12/25
Bryan Schlotfelt	12/8	Michael Sondergard	12/27
Alexander Halter	12/9	David Christian	12/28
David Ostrem	12/9	Rob Dotzel	12/28
Julie Reid	12/9	Allie Murphy	12/28
Ramona Bell	12/11	Reese Vrchoticky	12/28
Emily Winckler	12/11	Bruce Ahrens	12/29
Elsie Foerstner	12/12	Abby Pudenz	12/30
Roald Anderson	12/13	Peter Ungaro	12/30
Alex Huberty	12/13	Bette Schmidt	12/31
Michael Whetstone	12/13		
Roger Davis	12/14		
Lyn Hayslett	12/14		
Denise Rehmke	12/14		
Erinn Uhlmeyer	12/14		
Mike Burkitt	12/15		
Sarah Johnson	12/15		
Conner McMahon	12/15		
Miekka Mires	12/16		
Phillip Wilken	12/16		
Karl Armens	12/17		
Christopher Burr-Baker	12/17		



We are lining up worship volunteers for Jan. & Feb. We need greeters, readers, ushers, and people to bring cookies and make coffee. Be ready to respond to an invitation to serve. NOTE: You can see the volunteer schedule for the next two Sundays in the “members Only” section of the website. Go to “Events” located on the members only ribbon.

Committees of Gloria Dei

Please remember to write up a report for the end of the year and get them into the office by January 4th for inclusion in the Annual Report. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 29th.



The full minutes of the Council are posted on the kiosk in the church narthex.



ATTENDANCE

DATE	8:00	10:30	TOTAL
11/6/11	130	134	264
11/13/11	104	162	266
11/20/11	101	149	250
11/27/11	81	146	227



Wittenberg Steamroller

Please enjoy the special music of Gloria Dei's own
holiday season instrumental group!

Delighting us at worship on December 18th

The weather gets colder; snow is in the forecast; the pumpkins on the front step no longer look festive; and lights and wreaths begin to appear. All of this can only mean one thing....It's time to fire up the Wittenberg Steamroller in order to play some seasonal music for the congregation on Dec. 18th at both services. Those of you who have played with us in the past know that good times abound in our band of yuletide players. If you have merely thought about playing, now is the time to dust off the old horn and find some chops or a useable reed. We welcome everybody from 6th grade on up. So come and join us for the following rehearsal times. The more of these you can attend, the less stress we place on our leadership.

Tuesday, Dec. 6th 7:00-8:00 pm

Sunday, Dec. 11th 4:30-5:30 pm

Saturday, Dec. 17th 8:30-9:30 am

Sunday Dec. 18th Performance

Warm-up 7:30 am

1st Service 8:00 am

2nd Service 10:30 am



GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

123 East Market Street

Iowa City, IA 52245-1731

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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