



# Gloria Dei

## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2025

### *A Holy Interruption: Advent's Gentle Start*

As December dawns, many of us feel the world tighten its pace—the rhythm of shopping lists, social events, and final deadlines. Advent, however, invites a different tempo: a holy interruption that opens our eyes to what truly matters. It's a season not merely of anticipation, but of quiet revelation—an invitation to pause, listen, and respond to the One who enters our world with profound tenderness.

### *An Invitation to Pause*

In the hustle of holiday preparations, Advent calls us to slow down and create space for grace. The word “Advent” means “coming” or “arrival,” reminding us that God’s presence breaks into our ordinary days in unexpected ways. This interruption is not disruptive for disruption’s sake; it is a divine invitation to reorient our hearts toward love, justice, and hope.

Ways to pause this Advent season:

- Set aside a daily five-minute moment of stillness, inviting God to surface the person or need that most deserves attention today.
- Create a small Advent altar or ritual at home: a candle, a simple scripture, a note of gratitude, and a commitment to acts of kindness.
- Choose one weekly act of mercy—whether volunteering, listening deeply to someone in need, or sharing a meal with someone unseen.

### *The Holy Interruption in Scripture*

Advent is braided through Scripture with stories of God breaking into human history in surprising ways:  
The angelic announcement to Mary, reminding us that God favors the humble and ordinary.  
Elizabeth’s joyful recognition that God’s promises are not distant but near, even in the womb of a relative.  
The shepherds’ awe as gospel banners are proclaimed to the margins, showing that “good news for all people” begins with the humble.

These narratives aren’t distant recollections; they invite us to recognize our own moments of interruption—times when God interrupts our plans to invite us into a larger story of grace.



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### *Practical Ways to Respond*

A holy interruption is less about spectacular signs and more about faithful response. Here are practical ways to respond in this season:

Practice generous listening: in conversations, seek to understand first, rather than to fix.

Make room for others: invite someone who feels unseen into your circle, whether at the dinner table or in a conversation.

Seek justice in small ways: support local charities, advocate for the marginalized, or support fair labor practices in your community.

Nurture spiritual disciplines: Scripture, prayer, and contemplative silence help cultivate discernment to recognize God's interruptions.

### *Advent Practices for Communities*

**Lighting the Advent Candles:** A weekly ritual of hope, peace, joy, and love that culminates in the birth of Christ.

**The Prayer of Blessing:** Each week, bless a neighbor or a stranger with a simple, sincere blessing—"May you know the presence of God today."

**Care Packages:** Assemble small gift bags for those serving in our communities—first responders, healthcare workers, or shelter staff—acknowledging their steady, quiet endurance.

### *A Prayer for the Holy Interruption*

Heavenly Father, grant us the grace to notice Your interruptions in our busy days. Please help us to respond with humility, compassion, and courage. May this Advent season recalibrate our hearts toward faith that believes, hope that endures, and love that acts. Come, Lord Jesus; interrupt our plans with the gift of Your presence. Amen.



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## COMING UP

### BOOMWHACKERS



### HANDCHIMES



# Gloria Dei

## COMING UP

### CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

The Greatest Gift...The Love of Jesus!

Children's Christmas

Program. Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> 9 am



### CHRISTMAS CANTATA

GLORIA DEI  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
A BLEST  
MESSIAH  
BORN  
December 13, 5 pm  
December 14, 9 am



[WWW.GLORIADEIKC.ORG](http://WWW.GLORIADEIKC.ORG)



# Christmas COMING UP

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Oasis on the Boulevard

### Christmas Dinner Celebration

Join us Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> for our First Official Event for  
the new ministry "Osais On The Boulevard"  
We are looking for volunteers to help that day  
from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm. Let Pastor Edd or Kitty  
Long know if you can help.

## TURKEYS NEEDED

Help provide a turkey for the  
Food Pantry

this holiday season. An envelope is  
available in the Welcome Center

## HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER WITH NORTHLAND ELCA CONGREGATIONS

— 7:00 PM —

DECEMBER 3 - HOSANNA! - 2800 N. Church Rd, Liberty

DECEMBER 10 - ST. JAMES - 1104 NE Vivion Rd, Kansas City

DECEMBER 17 - GLORIA DEI - 5409 NW 72nd St, Kansas City

MAKE READY FOR HOLY DISRUPTION

[WWW.GLORIADEIKC.ORG](http://WWW.GLORIADEIKC.ORG)

# Christmas

## COMING UP

### INVITATIONAL MINISTRY

The Invitational Ministry Team invites you to share in the joy of Advent and Christmas by participating in the activities and celebrations as we anticipate our Savior's birth. May this season be filled with peace and joy.

### POINSETTIAS ORDERS

Purchase your Poinsettias for the Holiday Season! Envelopes are located in the Welcome Center.

\$15.00 each

### NATIVITY DISPLAY

Nativity Display beginning Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> through Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>.

If you would like to add To the display, please bring your nativities to the church by Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks!



### THANK YOU!

Thank you to those who have filled out and returned the Time and Talent sheets. That information really helps the church to plan.

-Invitational Ministry

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## THANK YOU!

### WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOU

In this season of thanksgiving, all of us at Northland Clothing Center are thankful for you. We rely on referral agents like you to send children and families to us so we can serve those who are in the greatest need of clothing.

Thank you, and may you have a safe and meaningful Thanksgiving weekend with those you love.  
- From the entire Northland Clothing Center team.

### WE'RE THANKFUL FOR YOU

Whether it's helping you prepare dinner for your family, warming your home this holiday season, or helping your business have a standout year, we want you to know how much we appreciate the trust you place in us - and how grateful we are to be a part of moments that matter.

Thank you for choosing Spire for your natural gas needs. It's both an honor and a privilege to serve you.

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season, - Spire

### THANK YOU!

Thank you for providing Pastor Edd's services to those new to the community and unable to attend church services. I have felt connected with the church as he brings communion and church activities. I am able to get online worship and enjoy that service also. Thank you for these services.

-Ann Smith

# December 2025

# WINTER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 <b>*December 28th is the Last Day to turn in donations for 2025 yearly statements.</b>	1 9:30 am Grandpa Coffee Day Care	2 6:45 am Norquest 9:30 am Grandpa Coffee Day Care	3 9:30 am Women's Fellowship 9:30 am Grandpa Coffee Day Care 7:00 pm Mid-Week Advent 8:00 pm Cantata Rehearsal	4 9:30 am Grandpa Coffee Day Care	5 9:30 am Grandpa Coffee Day Care	6 7 - 9 am Harvesters Pantry 5 pm Worship
7 9 am Worship Children's Christmas Program	8 9:30 am Grandpa Coffee Day Care	9 6:45 am Men Bible 9:30 am Grandpa Coffee Day Care 10:30 am Chosen	10 9:30 am Women's Fellowship 9:30 am Grandpa Coffee Day Care 7:00 pm Mid-Week Advent 8:00 pm Cantata Rehearsal	11 9:30 am Grandpa Coffee Day Care	12 9:30 am Grandpa Coffee Day Care	13 4 pm Choir 5 pm Christmas Cantata
14 8 am Choir 9 am Christmas Cantata 10 am Breakfast Potluck	15 9:30 am Grandpa Coffee Day Care 6:00 pm Council Meeting	16 6:45 am Men Bible 9:30 am Grandpa Coffee Day Care	17 9:30 am Women's 9:30 am Grandpa 7:00 pm Mid-Week Advent 8:00 pm Cantata Rehearsal	18 Nativity Display 9:30 am Grandpa Coffee Day Care	19 Nativity Display 9:30 am Grandpa Coffee Day Care	20 Nativity Display 7 - 9 am Food Pantry 5 pm Worship
21 Nativity Display 9:00 am Worship	22 9:30 am Grandpa Coffee Day Care	23 6:45 am Men Bible 9:30 am Grandpa Coffee Day Care	24 <b>Christmas Eve</b> 5:00 pm Family Service 7:00 pm Choir 8:00 pm Candles Service	25 Office Closed	26 Office Closed 9:30 am Grandpa Coffee Day Care	27 Nativity Display 5:00 pm Worship
28 Nativity Display 9:00 am Worship <b>*Last Day to turn in 2025 offerings</b>	29 9:30 am Grandpa Coffee Day Care	30 6:45 am Men Bible 9:30 am Grandpa Coffee Day Care	31 <b>*Office 9 am - 12 pm</b> Nativity Display 9:30 am Grandpa Coffee Day Care	1	2	3

## COMMUNION SERVERS

Dec 7 The Fax family  
 Dec 14 Jerry & Jennifer Shireman  
 Dec 21 Jim & Jackie Finnegan  
 Dec 28 Dean & Joan Dark

## ASSISTING MINISTER

Dec 7 Brian Erickson (Lector: Jo Ellen Witt)  
 Dec 14 Jennifer Williams (Lector: VirJean Scheuerman)  
 Dec 21 Corey Reil (Lector: Kurt Sortland)  
 Dec 28 Steve Fogt (Lector: Jennifer Shireman)

## ALTAR FLOWERS

Dec 7 In honor of Dane's birthday ~ Mary Engebretson

Dec 14 None ~

Dec 21 Give thanks for the birth of Jesus the Christ child. ~ Armand & Jo Matthews

Dec 28 In honor of our 58th Wedding Anniversary ~ Don Peterson