

SCRIP
 Sunday

Worship with us - Sunday at 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Online Worship @ <https://www.youtube.com/c/gloriadei> (Sunday)
 Sunday School - 9:10 a.m. - 10:10 a.m. Adult Bible Study - 9:10 a.m.



Prayers for Joan Rausch, Paul Morton, Kyle, and Shirley Berg.



This Sunday we welcome **Kaysen and Liam** into the family of God through sacrament of Holy Baptism.
 May we be a loving support in their lifelong journey in faith!

Kaysen James Krutz

Parent: Taylor Krutz

Sponsors: Rachel Krutz & Brendan Krutz

Liam Joseph Krasne

Parents: Alex & Elizabeth Krasne

Sponsors: Nicholas Krasne & Jamey Verkuilen



WORDS
 FOR THE BEGINNING

The Advent theme for 2024 is Words for the Beginning. Advent is a season of endings and beginnings. As the calendar year comes to a close, a new church year begins. Christ's birth ushers us into new ways of living and loving; and yet the world as we know it spins on. In many ways, pregnant Mary was surrounded by endings-large and small, personal and political. But Mary proclaimed hope in a God who was and is making all things new. Christ's birth offered a beautiful new beginning for shepherds and Magi alike-all the while, King Herod tried to bring Christ's story to the end. When we ourselves navigate seasons filled with endings and beginnings, we need reminders. We need words that can feel like steady ground, like a path for our feet to find as we step forward into the unknown. May the words of Advent renew us and guide our faith.

1st Sunday of Advent Theme: You are a blessing.

Advent devotionals are available and can be picked up on the Advent table in the Narthex.

Giving Tuesday, December 3.

Consider Gloria Dei on "Giving Tuesday!" As we give thanks for our Blessings and Prepare for the Gift of Christ at Christmas, consider sharing an extra gift for the ministries of Gloria Dei on Giving Tuesday. A great example of giving recently was the congregation coming together to distribute Thanksgiving baskets to 33 families. With the help of

GIVING TUESDAY

Here's how you can give:
 + www.gloriadeilc.org/give
 + Text \$ Gift to 1-877-952-9422
 + Scan QR Code Here:



ALL, we can continue to do the life-giving work of feeding the hungry, caring for others and spreading the Good News of the Love of God in Jesus. Let's join together and increase our impact!!

Advent Project: The next two weeks everyone will be making a quilt-designed ornament to decorate the Christmas tree. We will be writing a word of encouragement on a quilted square which will be made into a banner. Supplies will be in the Narthex between services. Please take a moment to create a square.



Advent Breakfast - Sunday, Dec 8 between services. We will be serving egg bakes and breakfast goodies. Come for breakfast and fellowship and meet the new members. Contact Mary Kuehnl or Jenny Bonikowske if you would like to help or donate. Free and open to all.



6" CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Red = \$8.00 or White sparkle = \$13.00

Poinsettias will arrive Dec 13 and be displayed at church until Christmas Day. Please order a beautiful poinsettia today to help decorate the chancel for Christmas.

Last chance to sign up on kiosk this Sunday, Dec 1.

Bring payment to the office or place envelope labelled poinsettias in collection plate.

Sunday School Christmas Program will be Sunday, Dec 15 at 10:30 service. Practices will be held during Sunday school hour along with a big Saturday practice on **Sat, Dec 7 from 9-noon.**



SS families are asked to bring 1 dozen cookies to enjoy after the Christmas program. Looking for 1-2 people to volunteer to set up and serve the cookies after the 10:30 service on Dec 15. Contact Pastors or Jill Kruger if you can help.

Christmas Giving Tree

You are encouraged to take a tag off the Christmas Tree in the narthex and buy a gift listed on the tag. Attach the tag to the **unwrapped gift** and return it under the tree. **We need all gifts back to church by Dec 8.**

This year we are helping 2 families, 12 local children, have a joyful and magical Christmas. If you can't shop, but would like to help with money to purchase gifts, you can drop a donation in the offering plate or in the office marked "Christmas Giving" and we will shop for you. Do not wrap the presents and include the tag from the tree on the gift. Thanks. Tori Imhoff.

As we prepare for the holiday season, here are upcoming church events to put on your calendar:

- Dec 1: Advent Begins
- Dec 7: Sunday School Christmas Program practice: 9am-noon
- Dec 8: Advent Brunch between services & New Members
- Dec 15: Children's Christmas Program @ 10:30 service w/ refreshments after the program
- Dec 22: Cantata lead by One Voice Choir: One service at 9am. No Sunday school.
- Dec 24: Christmas Eve Services @ 4pm & 6:30pm
- Dec 25: Christmas Day Service @ 9am
- Dec 29: One worship service @ 9am. No Sunday school.



Continued prayers for the family of Carla Jaeger who passed away last month. Her memorial service is scheduled for Friday, December 6 at 10am @ GD.

Fox Valley Community Table Christmas Meal - Sat, Dec 14.

Each church is asked to provide:

- 8 more lap blankets (50x60) (7 have been donated already)
- 6 pies (either fruit or pumpkin). Need to be dropped off @ St Paul on Sat, 12/14 by 8am.
- 1-2 volunteers to come Wed, 12/11 at 1pm to sort and prep items for gift bags
- 1-2 volunteers to come Thurs, 12/12 at 6pm to help set up the large dining room
- 1-2 volunteers to come Fri, 12/13 at 9am for food prep and finish setting up
- 1-2 volunteers to come Sat, 12/14. 1 at 9am, 1 at 10am, 1 at 11am, and 1 at 12:30pm
- 1-2 volunteers as wait staff on Sat, 12/14 at 11:15.
- 1 volunteer to help with clean-up on Sat, 12/14 at 12:30.
- 1 driver to deliver homebound meals.

Stockbridge Munsee Tribal Council is hosting the showing of the [Bad River Documentary](#) starting at 12:00 PM on Sunday Dec 8 @ the North Star Mohican Casino Resort with real wild rice dishes & wonderful speakers. No required admission fee.

Lutherans at the Movies. The Appleton Conference is hosting a special viewing of *Bonhoeffer* (PG-13, 2hrs, 12m). Sunday, Dec 8. Doors open at 12:30pm and movie starts at 1pm. Hollywood Marcus Theater, 513 N Westhill Blvd, Appleton. \$10 includes popcorn and drink [Registration](#) required. 80 people are signed up. Join others from ELCA congregations in the Fox Cities. <https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/9332611>

December Coffee Hour is being sponsored by Brenda Marks in memory of her brother, James Shady.

Upcoming Community Events:

- ♦ A Very Neenah Christmas Event - Friday, Dec 6 from 5-8pm. Downtown Neenah.
- ♦ Santa at the Ranch (Beaming): Saturday, Dec 7 from 9am-12noon.
- ♦ Paul Mayer: 25th Stars & Promises Christmas Concert - Friday, Dec 20 @ OSLC - see kiosk for more information.
- ♦ Synod Youth Tubing Day - January 11 @ Kewanee Winter Park.

Fun and Games will be held Tuesday, Dec 10 @ 1pm at Gloria Dei. Come enjoy some fun, games, and a white elephant gift exchange. Bring along a wrapped white elephant gift that is silly or nice but something you already have. We invite you and your friends to come join a fun afternoon. Refreshments will be served.



Christmas Eve Special Music: We are looking for people to provide special music during our Christmas Eve services - 4:00 pm and/or 6:30 pm. If you can help, please contact Myron Jones at 920-427-5917.



Getting ready for the holidays and need a gift idea. Check out Scrip. Order forms are in the Scrip Mailbox near church office. Upcoming Scrip Dates are: 12/1, 12/8, & 12/15. Submit order forms on due date and Scrip can be picked up at church mailbox 4 days later.

Coffee House Ministry –

Thursdays from 3:15 – 4:30 p.m.

Coffee House served 81 students and parents last week. Thank you to all you have brought treats or volunteered. If you would like to volunteer or bake goodies, please contact Pastor Jon.

Stewardship - Thank you to all who have returned their stewardship packets already this year. If you still haven't had the opportunity to do so, please help yourself to stewardship materials on the table in the narthex and return them as soon as possible. Your response helps us to finalize talents and financial gifts for 2025.

Gloria Dei Blood Drive: Thank you to all the volunteers who helped the blood drive run smoothly and to everyone who gave blood the Red Cross collected 61 units. One Unit of Blood can save 3 lives!



WEEK AT A GLANCE

1 SUNDAY	2 MONDAY	3 TUESDAY	4 WEDNESDAY	5 THURSDAY	6 FRIDAY	7 SATURDAY
8:00 Worship Service (Live Stream on YouTube) 9:00 Fellowship Hour 9:10 SS Advent Project and Christmas program practice 9:10 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship Service 12:00 Baptism	7:30 Pilates Church office open 7:30-11:30. Closed in the afternoon. 12:00 Senior Pot-luck @ OSLC	9:00 ZUMBA No Quilting	5:30 Junior Choir 6:15-7:30 Confirmation 6:30 One Voice Choir	7:30 Morning Bible Study 3:15-4:30 Coffee House 7:00 Narcotics Anonymous	7:30 Pilates 9-10 Visitation 10:00 Funeral for Carla Jaeger 7:00 Women of Hope NA	9-Noon Sunday School Christmas Program Rehearsal

2024 THANKSGIVING BASKETS: Gloria Dei wrapped up the 2024 Thanksgiving Baskets ministry with 33 families receiving holiday baskets that will help them fill their pantries and feed their families for several weeks. Some families are experiencing financial hardship due to chronic health issues. Your generous contributions will help ease the stress and concern that families are facing as they try to feed hungry mouths in their homes.

Delivery people commented that some parents were very emotional at the sight of all the food and essentials that were carried to their front doors! Gloria Dei served 57 adults and 89 children, totaling 146 people! We really took care of the babies.

Families received handmade winter hats, scarves, and dish cloths.

During the final ten days of the Thanksgiving baskets drive, we held 4 sorting days, had **94 volunteers** who logged **156 hours!** **On November 23 we had 38 people delivering baskets!!** It's a sight to behold when the bed of a truck packed full of food and essentials is on its way to an eagerly awaiting family! With a project of this magnitude, it takes many volunteers to get the job done, and you stepped up to the plate!

We have dozens of people to thank and have done our best to express our gratitude to you personally. No-one can match the dedication and willingness to help like Gloria Dei!! Thank you to Pastor Tabitha for the endless hours of calling schools and agencies, connecting with families, and for her unwavering support of this ministry. Thank you to Thrivent, Kurt at Festival Foods, Eric at Sturtevant & Associates, Tori at CENTURY 21 Ace Realty, and our very own Loopy Loomers. Thank you to the children who warmed our hearts as they carried the weekly donations to the altar on Sundays! Thank you to the many volunteers who supported this program in any way. We're already making plans for next year!

This year we asked the people who delivered food to the families' homes to provide feedback; it was heart-warming to hear the responses from our families:

"Everyone was very thankful, and the lady gave us a hug when we left!"

"All 3 families were very thankful for everything. They were also surprised by how much they received."

"The Thanksgiving Basket delivery went so smoothly. Great job. The families we delivered to were overwhelmed by the generous donations from Gloria Dei."

From an aunt and uncle of a basket recipient: "Our nephew and family are very grateful for the basket!! Thanks for making their day and ours!!"

"Thank you so much for thinking about my family today. It will definitely help a lot!"

"We delivered to a family with 9 kids and they were very appreciative! They couldn't thank us enough. She had her kids out helping us carry the bags. She said this will help them soooo much! Lots of hugs for all, especially for Vivi who wiped out on the road! Great experience for us all!!"

"People were so grateful. Thank you so much! They especially loved the giant coloring pages."

"What a blessing! We are so very grateful!"

"When we arrived at the first house, the father and his toddler son greeted us at the door. They were both very grateful! He said, This will be an amazing holiday season for us. Thank you very much!"

"The mother was extremely grateful for the food and all the other items. She said several times, And there's more coming . . . This is simply amazing!! You made a family very happy today!"

"The parents and a couple of kids came to the door. They were amazed at how much food they received. Their voices reflected how thankful they were to receive this help. They concluded with Happy Thanksgiving, God Bless You!"

That says it all!!

Happy Thanksgiving! With much appreciation, Jim and Vicki Wippich

