

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Baptism of Our Lord

Sunday, January 11, 2026

9:30 AM



130 S. Lone Oak Dr. Leesburg, FL 34748

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GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

GATHERING IN CHRIST  SHARING HIS LOVE

We welcome all who worship with us. If you are a guest, we are especially glad that you have chosen to worship with us today. Our worship is always enhanced by new faces and voices. If you are already a part of our church family, welcome home.

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

Participating in Today's Service:

Pastor: Pastor Lynn M. Fonfara

Music Director: Len Cremisio

After Worship Secretary: Gayle Bloom (*In order to assist the Pastor, if you need the Pastor to contact someone or address something*)

Assistant Ministers

Reader: Patricia Bressler

Crucifer:

Assisting Minister: Patricia Bressler

Ushers: Crystal Kirkpatrick, Byron Kirkpatrick, John Kelly, Craig Carlson

Prelude:

WELCOME AND WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity,
☩ one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

Amen.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and placed us in a well-watered garden. In the desert, you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you washed us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

We praise you for your salvation through water, for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere, especially Lake Griffin and Lake Harris, and the Ocklawaha River.

Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love. Satisfy all who thirst, and give us the life only you can give.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ, our living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

BAPTISM HYMN: ELW 451 "We are baptized in Christ Jesus"

ENTRANCE HYMN: ELW 459 "Wade in the Water"

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE: ELW 157 Kyrie

HYMN OF PRAISE: ELW 828 "Alleluia! Voices Raise"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 42:1-9

God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.

- ¹ Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
 my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
 he will bring forth justice to the nations.
- ² He will not cry out or lift up his voice
 or make it heard in the street;
- ³ a bruised reed he will not break,
 and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
 he will faithfully bring forth justice.
- ⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed
 until he has established justice in the earth,
 and the coastlands wait for his teaching.
- ⁵ Thus says God, the LORD,
 who created the heavens and stretched them out,
 who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
 who gives breath to the people upon it
 and spirit to those who walk in it:
- ⁶ I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;
 I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
 a light to the nations,
- ⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
 to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,

from the prison those who sit in darkness.

⁸ I am the LORD; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.

⁹ See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 29



Psalm 29:3

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress
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¹ Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
 ascribe to the LORD glo- ry and strength.

² **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;**
worship the LORD in the beau- ty of holiness.

³ The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
 the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

⁴ **The voice of the LORD is a pow- erful voice;**
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor. R

⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
 the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

⁶ **the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,**
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

⁷ The voice of the LORD
 bursts forth in lightning flashes.

⁸ **The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;**
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. R

⁹ The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.
 And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰ **The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;**
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.

¹¹ O LORD, give strength to your people;
 give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace. R

SECOND READING: Acts 10:34-43

Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

³⁴ Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW pg. 518 "We Eat the Bread of Teaching" (Refrain only)

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:13-17

Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.

The holy gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens

said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

The gospel concludes:

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The assembly is seated.

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 305 "When Jesus Came to Jordan"

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Merciful God,

Receive our prayer.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say,
"Peace be with you," or similar words.*

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

Deuteronomy 16:17

Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord, your God, which he has given you.

OFFERTORY: ACS 1056 “God Bless to Us Our Bread” (*See Insert*)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

After the table is set, the assisting minister leads in prayer. Please stand at the invitation to pray:

God of majesty,
no eye has seen, no ear has heard
what you have prepared for those who love you,
yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.
Use what we have gathered
to feed us with the reign of God come near,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy....

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS: ELW 762 “Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy”

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The Presiding minister leads the Eucharistic Prayer

Blessed are you ... without end.

At the conclusion of the Eucharistic Prayer, all say:

Amen.

***THE LORDS PRAYER (Spoken)**

(Those who wish may hold hands as a sign of Christian unity).

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

thy kingdom come, thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,

forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table; taste and see.

LAMB OF GOD: ELW 195 “Lamb of God”

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All Baptized Christians are welcome to commune. Those who do not wish to commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing (fold your arms over your chest).

The Body is available as bread or gluten-free Host.

The Blood is available as wine (large chalices) or non.-alcoholic juice (small chalice).

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:
The body of Christ, given for you.*

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The appropriate response is:

Amen.

During the distribution, please pray silently or join in singing.

HYMN: ELW 396 “Spirit of Gentleness”

CHOIR: “Baptism of the Lord”

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Please remain seated:

Radiant God,

we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

In the sacrament of his body and blood

you have drawn us to your heart.

Send us from this table with delight,

that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,

and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

BLESSING

May the triune God,
who has put a new song in your mouth
and tuned your heart for praise
☩ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN: ELW 841 “Lift Every Voice and Sing”

(verses 1,3 only)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Voluntary

***The end of Worship –
The beginning of Christian Ministry.***

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Pastor Lynn M. Fonfara

c. 352-249-8533

Evelyn Rollins, Administrator

c. 352-787-3223

Leonard Cremisio, Music Director

c. 352-638-3695

Altar Care:

Crystal & Byron Kirkpatrick,
Craig Carlson

After Worship Sec.: 9:30 a.m Gayle Bloom (*In order to assist the Pastor, if you need the Pastor to contact someone or address something*)

Counters:

Linda Steege, Janet Braun

Greeters:

9:30 a.m.

Fellowship: Leone Goding, Jacquelyn Goding

Communion Wine: For January is given to the Glory of God.

Altar Flowers: For January is given to the Glory of God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

THIS WEEKS CALENDAR

Sun. 1/11	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship
Mon. 1/12	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues. 1/13	9:00 a.m.	Mary Martha Circle
	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Wed. 1/14	10:00 a.m.	Call Committee Meeting
	4:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Thurs. 1/15	9:30 a.m.	Ruth Circle

NEXT WEEKS CALENDAR

Sun. 1/18	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship/Hunger Offering
Mon. 1/19	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues. 1/20	9:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Wed. 1/21	10:00 a.m.	Call Committee Meeting
	4:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Fri. 1/23	9:00 a.m.	LWR Quilting
	9:00 a.m.	Mary Martha Circle

Attendance for Sunday, January 4, 2026: 72

BIRTHDAYS

**James Menchaca
Nancy Kancel**

**January 12th
January 15th**

BIBLE STUDIES

Developing Disciples Bible Study will not be meeting until further notice.



Zoom Bible Study

The group has chosen a new study topic based on a video series from The Great Courses, called ***Sacred Texts of the World***. We will spend January and February exploring the sacred writings (other than our familiar Bible) that have shaped the identities, beliefs and actions of large segments of humanity. Our leader will be Dr. Grant Hardy, Professor of History and Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina, Asheville. We will watch a 30-minute video lecture and discuss what we have learned. **Every Monday at 7pm.** Contact the church office for the Zoom meeting link.

Interested in Leading a Bible Study? We are looking for individuals who feel called to lead a Bible Study group. If you have a passion for scripture and a desire to help others grow in their faith, we encourage you to consider this opportunity. If you're interested or would like more information, please speak with Christine Carlson.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS.....

We need **volunteers for Assisting Ministers, Crucifers and Readers!!!** If you would like to try it but need a little more information, please contact the church office. Thank you.



Help Host Our After-Worship Gatherings!

We're looking for volunteers to provide light refreshments—such as snacks, coffee, and juice—after worship on Sundays. It's a great way to extend our fellowship and hospitality. **If you'd like to help, please enter your name on the kitchen counter sign-up sheet or contact the church office.** Thank you!



Prayer List Update. Please take a moment to review the Prayer List located on the podium in the Gathering Hall. If you would like to add or remove a name from the list, please reach out to Christine or call the Church Office. **Your help in keeping our Prayer List current is greatly appreciated.**



Save the Date: Annual Congregational Meeting

Please plan to join us for our **Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 25th, following the service.** Your presence and participation are important, and all are encouraged to attend.



Gloria Dei Instant Church Directory Update:

It has been three years since our directory was last updated, and we're ready to refresh both information and photos. We also want to be sure our newer members are included.

On January 4th and on January 11th after the church service we will have a section of our fellowship area set aside to take photos and for members to fill out the needed form which will then be entered into the online instant church directory. If the information that is currently in the Instant Church Directory is accurate, but you would still like your photo updated, we are happy to take a new photo.

If you do not yet have access to the Instant Church Directory, printed instructions for Android and Apple devices are available on the information desk by the entry door.

We look forward to seeing our members who want to update their photo and/or their current information in the directory and we especially look forward to adding our newer members on January 4 or January 11 after church service. If you have questions or are having difficulty setting up the Instant Church Directory app on your device, give either one of us a call.

Dick Healy, 352-223-4800
Linda Steege, 815-222-6195

