

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, January 25, 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.

Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy.

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: Linda Hide

Crucifer: James Menchaca

Assisting Minister: Vaike O'Grady

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

Prelude:

WELCOME AND WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS

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 Creator of heaven and earth,
the Word who spoke life into being,
the Wind stirring the waters.

Amen.

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty God, lover of justice,
you call us to life in community,
but we have served our own interests
at the expense of our neighbors.
We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.
We say the right words,
but our hearts are far from you.
Turn us to seek your face.
Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,
that we may do justice, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.

The former things have passed away,
and new things God now declares:
Like a spring of water that never fails,
God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,
and forgives your sin in [☩] Jesus' name.
May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,
and bless you with the gift of peace.

Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN: ELW 798 "Will You Come and Follow Me"

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

Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:1-4

The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experienced the gloom of defeat by Assyrian military forces, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them.

¹ There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the LORD] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness
 have seen a great light;
 those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
 on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied exultation;
 you have increased its joy;
 they rejoice before you
 as with joy at the harvest,
 as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden
 and the bar across their shoulders,
 the rod of their oppressor,
 you have broken as on the day of Midian.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 40:1-11



The LORD is my light and my sal - va - tion.

Psalm 27:1

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress

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¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then I shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I I be afraid?

**4 One thing I ask of the LORD; one I thing I seek;
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days
of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek
God I in the temple.**

⁵ For in the day of trouble God will I give me shelter,
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me
high up- I on a rock.

**6 Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies I who
surround me.**

**Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary,
sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music I to
the LORD. R**

⁷ Hear my voice, O LORD, I when I call;
have mercy on me and I answer me.

**8 My heart speaks your message— I “Seek my face.”
Your face, O LORD, I I will seek.**

⁹ Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your
ser- I vant in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me
not, O God of I my salvation. R

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God’s salvation.

¹⁰ Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹ For it has been made clear to me by Chloe’s people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹² What I mean is that each of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” ¹³ Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not

with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 4:12-23

Jesus begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God’s reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.

The holy gospel according to John

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵ “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—

¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned.”

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

¹⁸ As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. ¹⁹ And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³ Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their

synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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 306 "Come, Beloved of the Maker"

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 307 “Light Shone in Darkness”

CHOIR: “Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God”

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 582 “Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling”

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:

Arlene Kelly & Lillian Ostrander

Greeters:

9:30 a.m.

Fellowship:

Jim and June Rieb

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

Altar Flowers: Ritch and Debbie Cassem given to the Glory of God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

THIS WEEKS CALENDAR

Sun. 1/25	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship
Mon. 1/26	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues. 1/27	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Wed. 1/28	10:00 a.m.	Call Committee Meeting
	4:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Fri. 1/30	9:00 a.m.	LWR Quilting
	9:00 a.m.	Mary Martha Circle

NEXT WEEKS CALENDAR

Sun. 2/1	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship/ Brief Order For Healing
Mon. 2/2	10:30 a.m.	Quilt Shipping Day
	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues. 2/3	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	10:00 a.m.	WELCA Board Meeting
Wed. 2/4	10:00 a.m.	Call Committee Meeting
	4:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Thurs. 2/5	10:30 a.m.	Ruth Circle

Attendance for Sunday, January 18, 2026: 83

BIRTHDAYS

Irvin Johnson

January 30th

BIBLE STUDIES



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.



The concert is FREE – however, tickets are necessary, Each choir member will be given several tickets each - **so see CJ if you are interested.** **Tickets are available at Morrison's office (352-787-3786 or from members of other choirs:** (CJ will be requesting as many tickets as she can get, so you can check with her at church) There are no guarantees of tickets available at the door, but they MIGHT have some at the concert on Sunday, February 1st at 4PM. **Parking will be limited so carpool if you can.**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

No Flowers During Lent

In keeping with the solemn season of Lent, there will be no flowers in the sanctuary from **February 18 through April 2**. This practice helps us reflect prayerfully as we journey toward Holy Week and Easter.

Request for Dried Palms

Congregation members are invited to bring in **dried palms** to be used in preparation for the Lenten season.

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!

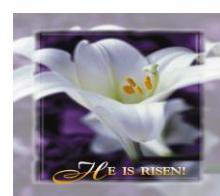
We're looking for volunteers to provide light refreshments—such as snacks, coffee, and juice—after worship on Sundays. It's a great way to extend our fellowship and hospitality. **If you'd like to help, please enter your name on the kitchen counter sign-up sheet or contact the church office.** Thank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



Order Easter Plants. Honor or Memorialize a loved one or special event by ordering Easter plants to decorate the sanctuary. Fill out the included form and return it by **Sunday, March 29th.** Thank you for helping make our Easter celebration beautiful and memorable!



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 18th and on January 25th 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 18th or January 25th 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

