



A Monthly  
Publication

630 968-6231  
4501 Main Street  
Downers Grove, IL 60515  
[www.gloriadeichurch.org](http://www.gloriadeichurch.org)

# V Gloria Dei VISITOR

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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## Annual Meeting

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The annual meeting of Voting Members of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2012. The meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall, beginning at approximately 12:45. There will be a dinner served beginning at noon, for which a freewill offering is invited. Business at the annual meeting includes the adoption of the 2012 budget and elections for the congregation council.

The Book of Reports will be available in the narthex and at the Welcome Desk at least a week prior to the meeting. If voting members have questions they would like to have addressed by church leaders at the meeting, they should submit them in advance in writing. A form for questions is included in the announcement booklet on the Sundays prior to the meeting. You may also email questions to [info@gloriadeichurch.org](mailto:info@gloriadeichurch.org)

## It's Your Ministry!

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Stephen Ministry is YOUR ministry. It is an important way we at GLORIA DEI care for one another. If you are going through a difficult time, consider having a Stephen Minister. If you know someone else who is facing difficulties, suggest that they request Stephen Ministry.

Make use of it. Stephen Ministry belongs to you!

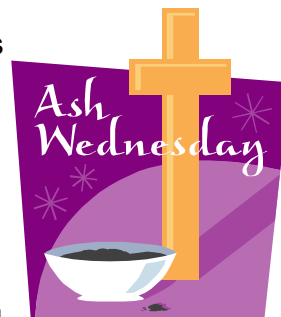
(For support or questions contact Stephen Leaders Pat Fellows or Kim Maschoff via the Church Office)

## Lent Comes Early This Year

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**A**sh Wednesday is  
February 22.

Special Services with the Imposition of Ashes will be at 10:00 A.M. And 7:00 P.M.



The **Passover Seder** is a way of connecting Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples to the ongoing gift of Holy Communion. This year the whole congregation is invited (by reservation) to join us on Saturday, **February 25** at 4:30 p.m. Minimum donation is \$5 per person in order to cover the cost of the meal that is part of the observance. Reservations will be accepted beginning early in February.

## From the Pastor

Just to put this on the record: I absolutely do not believe the predictions of the supposed Mayan Calendar that the world will come to an end on Dec. 21 of this year, either from – as you can easily find on the internet – the opening of a “serpent rope” in the center of the Milky Way galaxy or a collision with the previously unknown planet Nibiru, or a disturbance in our sun’s “coronal magnetic flux”.

What I do believe is that 2012 will continue to be a year of transition into a future that is fully and completely in God’s hands.

2011 was undeniably a rough year for the human family, whether looked at politically, economically, socially or in terms of weather-generated catastrophes. We will surely witness a continuation of many of these dangers in 2012. Some will be resolved, some will get worse. In our personal lives, there are bound to be deaths and disappointments and causes for despair. But there will also be births and marriages and new jobs and new discoveries of wonderful things to think about and spend our time and energy on.

The start of a new year always prompts me to reflect on that beautiful passage from Ecclesiastes 3, the one that begins, “To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.”

Have you ever gone on reading beyond the couplets of that ancient and beautiful poem? Here’s the way the New International Version translates verses 10 – 14:

“I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God. I know that everything God does will endure forever.”

What wonderful phrases to contemplate as this new year begins.

- Everything – and everyone – is beautiful at the right time.
- Eternity is set within each of our hearts.
- Be happy and do good as long as you live.
- Find satisfaction in your work.
- Trust that God’s work will last forever – for all eternity.

None of us can know what surprises the days of 2012 will bring. What we can know is that God will be with us every step of the way, helping things to work out for our good and fulfilling his own mysterious purposes. And we are each able to make choices about our frame of mind, and about the choices we make in how we spend the time God has given us here, and the people we choose to be with. We can make the right choice about keeping our hearts and minds open to hearing God’s Word. We can be honest about our failures and our sins, and sincere in our desire to live better lives with the help of the Holy Spirit. We can be open to receiving God’s grace by being consistent in our prayer life and regularly receiving the gift of Communion with him.

I pray that 2012 will be a year for all of us to grow in faith, hope and love.

The Rev. Dr. Michael R. Rothaar  
Pastor

## Adult Forums In January

(Meets in the lounge Sundays 9:45-10:45am)

### **January 15 & 22 “Positive Parenting Using the FAMILY RULES Parenting System”**

Guest speaker, Ms. Susan Pauna is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor currently working for Lutheran Social Services. She will explain a behavior modification program that has been effectively used with families.

### **January 29 “Make Malaria History---ELCA Malaria Campaign”**

Every 45 seconds a child dies from malaria, a preventable and treatable disease!

The ELCA Malaria Campaign is uniquely positioned to provide mosquito nets, insecticide, medication, health care, education and more to help eliminate deaths from this disease---for good.

### **February 5 “Love and Marriage”**

This “Love and Marriage” video is from the favorite NOOMA DVD SERIES of Rob Bell. Based upon a short 10 minute film about God and our lives. Pastor Bell says that, “Maybe we don’t understand what real love is. We mistake things like friendship, commitment, or lust for love. But God wired us a certain way to experience all that love was really meant to be.”

### **February 12 “Women at Risk International”**

Did you know...

Human trafficking is the fastest growing crime in the US?

Babies are sold into slavery globally for as little as \$100?

Every 14 seconds a child is orphaned by HIV/AIDS?

800,000 people are illegally trafficked against their will every year

“Women at Risk International” has programs in 25 different countries. They offer outreach, prevention programs and emergency intervention safe houses. Learn more about this agency and how it gives voice to the silent cries of women.

**“Women at Risk International” Fair Trade Shopping** will be available in the Gathering Area between services. Purchases empower disadvantaged women to work with dignity, lifting the veil on today’s slavery.

## Labor of Love

Our meeting this month will be Tuesday, January 17 at 9:00am in Fellowship Hall. Come help us pin and tie layers of the quilts for Lutheran World Relief. We can always use more hands to make the job go quicker and to have more quilts ready to ship to those in need. See you there.

## Bible Studies In January

(Meets Sundays in the conference room 9:45)

### **January 15 “The Savior, the Wise Men and the Vision of Isaiah”**

Bible study based on Matthew 2:1-12 & Isaiah 60:1-7

Who did Jesus come to save? From where did the wise men hail? What do Jerusalem and Isaiah 60 have to do with Christmas?

### **January 22 & 29 “Mark’s Gospel---On Stage with Max McLean”**

A powerful (DVD) performance that takes you inside the story of Jesus. Received the Jeff Award for “Best Solo Performance.”

### **February 5-12-19 & 26 “An In-Depth Study of ‘The Lord’s Prayer’**

This Bible study uses Kenneth E. Bailey’s book, *“Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes: Cultural Studies in the Gospels.”* Learn about the style and language of prayer, Abba’s meaning and significance and male and female metaphors for God.

Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**“Seasons of the Spirit”** Wednesday morning Bible Study in the library, 10-11am. Pastor Rothaar leads this lectionary based study.

**“Word For the Week”** Wednesday evening Bible Study in the conference room.

6:30-7:30pm. Study next week’s scripture lessons. Pastor Kral leads this study.

## Welcome our New Parish Nurse

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We are pleased to announce that Barbara Ann Barrett, R.N., B.S.N., has accepted the position of Parish Nurse at Gloria Dei. She will be installed at all four services on January 14 and 15. Office hours will be announced at a later time, but her phone number will be 968.6231, extension 110. Her office will be located on the lower level, adjacent to the LSSI Counseling Center.

The Parish Nurse program is a partnership between Gloria Dei and Advocate Health Care. Parish Nursing is a specialty practice in which Barb was certified in 2011. She will be an employee of the Advocate Parish Nurse program, which is responsible for medical supervision and record-keeping (including all applicable legal requirements), continuing education and liability insurance. Gloria Dei compensates Advocate for her salary, as well as providing office space, program expenses and on-site supervision by the Senior Pastor. This partnership has been made possible by special contributions received over the last two years, a grant from the Wheatridge Foundation, and pledges from the Faithful Living Fruitful Giving Appeal.

Barb Barrett has been a Registered Nurse in Illinois since 1982. She was a staff nurse (surgical and psychiatric) as well as an R.N. Instructor with Hinsdale Hospital through 2003. She has also had experience in community nursing, has been a School Nurse, and has been involved in Hospice care.

Since 2005 she has been with the Robert Crown Center for Health Education (in Hinsdale) as Senior Health Educator. She worked on youth and family issues, serving as a teacher and developer of programs. She has focused on health issues for children and youth (including special needs students), including sexual health, substance abuse and nutrition education. Barb developed, revised and taught the first national Girls' Body Image/Self Esteem program in partnership with the Dove Foundation.

Barb and her husband live in Western Springs. The youngest of her three children will start college in the fall, and she is looking forward to

this new venture. She is a member of Grace Lutheran Church in LaGrange. Her focus is on whole-person health promotion and disease prevention services, with an emphasis on spiritual care. She has a passion for health education, teaching and empowering others to make decisions that help their life. She looks forward to using her skills in a setting that allows her to pray with people.

As part of the ministry team here at Gloria Dei she will work collaboratively with Mrs. Huron to make wellness a focus of our Family Ministries program. She will also work closely with Pastor Kral in meeting the needs of the homebound and others such as those served by Stephen Ministers. She will help coordinate hospital visitations and other supportive ministries with both pastors. She will work closely with Pastor Rothaar (and his successor) to plan programs that carry out her major activities: the Parish Nurse is an **integrator of faith and health, health educator, personal health counselor, referral agent, developer of support groups, educator of volunteers, and health advocate.**

We are grateful to the Wellness Cabinet – and especially its chair, Barb Chang – who have given so much effort to bring us to this point. Several of its members also served on the Interview Team – which was unanimously in support of Pastor Rothaar's recommendation to the Congregation Council, which approved this half-time appointment at its December 2011 meeting. She was by far the strongest of the five candidates Advocate offered us for this position. As Barb Barrett joins our staff and assumes leadership of this ministry, she will be forming a health committee to assist her. We'll be sure to let you know how you can volunteer!

## More Than Bread Alone

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February 19th, 12:30-2pm, Fellowship Hall  
Today's entrée is **"Oriental Steak"**

We meet in Fellowship Hall for a light lunch and opener and then move into the kitchen to prepare a take-home meal. Please bring a 9 x 13 inch glass baking dish and an apron to class. Sign up is next to the nursery. Please pre-pay \$15. in envelope marked "February---More Than Bread Alone." We need someone to sign up for lunch (12 people), dessert & shopper.

## **Faithful Living Fruitful Giving COMMITMENTS**

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**G**loria Dei is thankful to the 201 member families who have committed to funding all our ministries through regular contributions in 2012, and to the special Fund Appeal to support new missions and make further reductions in our mortgage debt over a three-year period.

The Faithful Living Fruitful Giving Appeal was brought to a close on Dec. 20, 2011.

Pledges for the 2012 Operating Fund totaled \$561,403, an increase of 4.5% over the amount pledged and given last year from about the same number of families. (The responsibility of the congregation council to prepare a budget is still a challenge – 215 additional families contributed last year without pledging, so the council can only estimate a projection for the coming year. Last year this group contributed about \$130,000.)

162 families committed themselves to the 3-year Appeal (for 2012–2014), with an increase of 17.1% over the prior 3-year appeal, or a total of \$886,633. (For 122 families who pledged to both appeals, the increase was 33.3%!)

Gloria Dei members in the past have been extremely faithful about fulfilling these commitments. In the just-completed 2009-2011 Building Fund Appeal, \$746,510.44 was received, 98.5% of the projected \$757,735!

We are grateful to all those who have given prayerful consideration to their giving, determined to be as generous as they can, and been willing to help the church's planning by making their commitment. We are also grateful to all those who support the work of the church with their contributions as they are able, even though they haven't made a formal commitment.

## **“A Few Words from our Director of Music Ministries”**

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**I**t's not too late to join one of our musical groups! All are welcome. Weekly rehearsal times are in your worship bulletins; please check our website for more detailed information, or contact me.

Thank you to those who provided special music during the month of December, including our Christmas worship services: Faith Choir, Festive Strings, Gloria Dei Bells, Hope Bells, Wayne Bormann, Kate Huron, Nancy Larson, Carly Lilja, Bob McGuffin, Ben Sorce, Danny Tedeschi, Sam Tedeschi, Tom Tedeschi, Melissa Voss, and Sarah Williams. Your music greatly enhanced our worship!

Blessings to you in 2012,  
Betsy Waldon  
elizabeth.waldon@gloriadeichurch.org  
(630) 968-6231 Ext. 103

## **February Circle Meetings**

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### Thursday, Feb. 2, 2012

Priscilla – 7:00 pm at Yvonne Cowell's / Carol Kazwick

### Friday, Feb. 3, 2012

Martha – 1:00 pm at Carol Richter's

### Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2012

Sarah – 7:00 pm at Carol Hansen's

### Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2012

Elizabeth – 7:30 pm at Mary Rakowski's

## Celebrations of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

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All are welcome at **Sabbath Center**, 22782 Short Rd, Lanark, IL 61046. The celebration begins on Sunday, January 15 at 3 p.m. with a performance of the Cotton Patch Gospel musical by John and Beth Chase (cost is \$12). All are welcome to stay for a simple soup supper and conversation with a former resident of Koinonia Farm in Georgia. Overnight accommodations are available for a freewill offering. On Monday, January 16, beginning at 10 a.m., participants will remember Dr. King as prophet and peacemaker. As a service project, peace poles will be made. For reservations, contact Steve Myers at 847-845-9408 or [stevenmyers@msn.com](mailto:stevenmyers@msn.com). For more information, visit [www.sabbathcenter.com](http://www.sabbathcenter.com) and [www.chaseact.com](http://www.chaseact.com).

### Children's Choir of Holy Family Lutheran School at Barrington Event

Stations of the Dream, the third annual Martin Luther King Barrington event, will take place on Sunday, **January 15, 2012**, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m., at the Chapel, 180 N. Hawthorne Rd., Barrington, IL 60010-5304. The Children's Choir of Holy Family Lutheran School will perform. The cost is \$5 per person (847-201-2777). For more information, visit <http://stationsofthedream.com/>.

### LSTC Chapel Service and UNESCO Film

How can we come to terms with the collective memory of the global tragedy of African slave trade? How did this tragedy shape the modern world? Answering those and related questions will be part of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago's 2012 celebration of the life, impact and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Monday, **January 16, 2012**.

The Rev. Dr. Frank Yamada, president of McCormick Theological Seminary (Presbyterian U.S.A.), is the preacher at the 11 a.m. commemoration service in the Augustana Chapel at LSTC, 1100 East 55th Street, Chicago, IL 60615. The Rev. Dr. Maxine Washington presides.

### Documentary screening and discussion

Following a free luncheon at noon, Judith Roberts, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Director for Racial Justice Ministries, will lead a screening and discussion of *Slave Routes: A Global Vision*. This UNESCO film documents the tragedy and recognizes how Africans "forced to recreate themselves in strange lands, among unknown peoples... became the first globalized peoples of the modern era. Africans and their descendants triumphed over a length and intensity of oppression unprecedented in human history."

"As we celebrate Dr. King's vision of freedom and equality for all people, we are able to look at history, name the tragedy and begin to heal our communities," said the Rev. Dr. Cheryl Pero, director of the Albert "Pete" Pero Jr. Multicultural Center at LSTC.

## WELCA Board Meeting

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The Board will meet on Thursday, January 19, 2012, 7:00 pm in the lounge. January devotions to be led by Barb Schrage.

## 50 Years of Ministry

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Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Woodridge, will be celebrating 50 years of ministry on Sunday, January 22 with a special worship service at 10:00 a.m., Bishop Wayne Miller preaching. The service will be followed by a reception until 3:00 p.m. For more information please visit the church's website at [www.popwoodridge.org](http://www.popwoodridge.org) or call the church at 630-969-1268.

**THE NEXT VISITOR DEADLINE  
IS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7,  
2012. DISTRIBUTION WILL BE  
FEBRUARY 15, 2012.**

## Thank You Notes

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*Part of our ministry together at Gloria Dei is to provide support for others who are working with those in need. Here are letters to the whole congregation that were received this month.*

From Katherine Kirby, Advancement Director, and Brenda Swartz, President/CEO, Concordia Place, Chicago:

“With your support, we look to a continued bright future. On behalf of all teens and their families that we serve in our Emerging Leaders Program we want to thank you for your generous gift of \$2,000 to Concordia Place. Your generosity ensures that our mission remains strong and that everyone has a place to gather, learn and grow regardless of income.”

From the Rev. Dr. Denver Bitner, President/CEO, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois:

“Thank you for your recent gift of \$2,050 to LSSI. We are grateful to your congregation for standing with us as we serve the poorest of the poor in Illinois. Your generosity helps bring health, healing and wholeness to thousands of people across the state. Every day LSSI responds to the Gospel by serving the most vulnerable among us. Over 60% of LSSI's clients have an income of under \$10,000 per year. The faithfulness of congregations like Gloria Dei is critically important in this work.”

From June Miller, Corresponding Secretary, Downers Grove Area FISH Pantry:

“On behalf of the FISH Pantry I thank you for your very generous check for \$200, as well as your monthly gifts of food. For the past 16 months, we have had an increase in the number of people needing our services. Your donation will help immensely in our being able to continue to help our neighbors in need. We could not continue to help so many people without you.”

From Kimberley C. Perez, Executive Director, People's Resource Center, Wheaton:

“Thank you all so much for your generosity! Thank you for your recent gift of \$500 to support the work of People's Resource Center. Your generosity makes an important difference in the

lives of DuPage County neighbors who are struggling to make ends meet. Basic needs like food, shelter and clothing are important every day, but especially at the holidays we want to share the spirit of the season and the comfort that comes from knowing someone cares. Thank you for caring, thank you for sharing.”

## ELCA Malaria Campaign

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### Make Malaria History

**A child dies from malaria every 45 seconds.**

Today we are in a special moment where we could turn this around. Working through Lutheran churches in Africa, the ELCA Malaria Campaign is uniquely positioned to provide mosquito nets, insecticides, medication, health care, education and more to help eliminate deaths from this disease—for good. See [www.elca.org/malaria](http://www.elca.org/malaria) to learn more. On Sunday, January 29, Jessica Nipp, the Coordinator for the ELCA Malaria Campaign at the churchwide office in Chicago, will join us to give a presentation at the Adult Forum at 9:45 a.m.



**Michael R. Rothaar**  
Senior Pastor

**Rhonda Kral**  
Associate Pastor

**Kate Huron**  
Director of Youth  
And Family Ministries

**Sue Scharping**  
Director of  
Kids of the Kingdom Choir

**Elizabeth Waldon**  
Director of Music Ministries

**Deb Cerny, Joyce Pauly**  
Administrative Staff

**Vernon Tittle**  
Custodian

**Ella Heflin**  
Visitor Editor

## February at Gloria Dei

Complete Calendar of Events can be accessed from our website: [www.gloriadeichurch.org](http://www.gloriadeichurch.org)

### Special Events

**Souper Bowl Sunday/Scout Sunday**  
February 5  
**First Communion Instruction**  
February 6, 12  
**Women At Risk Fair**  
February 12  
**More Than Bread Alone**  
February 19  
**Thankoffering Weekend**  
February 25-26

### Bible Studies/Adult Forums

**NOOMA Discussion Group**  
Thursdays @ 7:00 PM, Room 202  
**Seasons of the Spirit Bible Study**  
Wednesdays @ 10:00 AM, Room 202  
**Word for the Week**  
Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM, Room 203

### Children/Youth

**Confirmation Classes (Sept-May)**  
Wednesdays @ 5:00 PM, Rooms 104 & 116  
**High School Youth Group (Sept-May)**  
Wednesdays @ 5:00 PM, Rooms 105-106  
Sundays @ 9:45 AM, Fellowship Hall  
**Sunday School (Sept-May)**  
Sundays @ 9:45 AM

### Committees

**Altar Guild (Jan, March, Sept, Oct. only)**  
4th Tuesday @ 7:30 PM, Ropom 201  
**Evangelism Committee (Sept-May)**  
2nd Tuesday @ 7:30 PM, Room 201  
**Library Committee (Sept-May)**  
1st Sunday @ 9:30 AM, Room 202  
**Mission & Justice Committee (Sept-May)**  
2nd Tuesday @ 7:30 PM, Room 203  
**Worship & Music (Sept-May)**  
2nd Tuesday @ 7:30 PM, Room 104

### Community Groups

**AA Groups**  
Tuesdays @ 7:00 PM, Room 112-113  
Fridays @ 12:00 PM, Room 111  
Fridays @ 8:00 PM, Room 112-113  
Fridays @ 8:30 PM, Rooms 114-115  
**Boy Scouts, Troop #95**  
Mondays @ 7:30 PM, Fellowship Hall  
**CA Group**  
Thursdays @ 7:30 PM, Room 112-113  
**Daisy Girl Scouts, Troop #1065**  
Thursdays as scheduled @ 6:30 PM, FH  
**Downers Grove Dementia Support Group**  
1st Tuesday @ 7:00 PM, Room 111  
**Families Anonymous/111**  
Thursdays @ 7:00 PM  
**LSSI Counseling (by appointment only)**  
Tues, Wed, Thur, Fri from 10:00 AM-9:00 PM  
**Mistwood Condo Board**  
3rd Monday @ 6:30 PM, Room 112-113  
**Mom's Morning Out (Sept-May)**  
Fridays 9:15 AM-12:45 PM, Nursery, 101-102  
**Oakbrook Colony Condo Board**  
4th Monday @ 6:30 PM, Room 112-113  
**Radio Club**  
1st Friday @ 7:30 PM, Rooms 109 & 111  
**What Now? Grief Support Group**  
Tuesdays @ 1:30 PM, 201

### Groups

**60 Minute Book Club**  
3rd Monday @ 12:15 PM, Room 202  
**Baptismal Consultation**  
1st Tuesday @ 7:00 PM, Room 203  
**Church Night Supper (Sept-May)**  
Wednesdays @ 5:45 PM, Fellowship Hall  
**Computer Users' Workshop**  
3rd Wednesday @ 7:00 PM, Room 103  
**Council Meeting**  
4th Tuesday @ 7:30 PM, Room 202  
**Executive Committee**  
3rd Tuesday @ 7:30 PM, Room 203  
**Fourth Tuesday Morning Group**  
4th Tuesday @ 10:00 AM, Room 201

### Groups (cont'd)

**Knit 1 Purl 2 (Sept-May)**  
1st Tuesday @ 9:00 AM, Room 201  
**Labor of Love (Sept-June)**  
3rd Tuesday @ 9:00 AM, Fellowship Hall  
**Men's Christian Fellowship Group**  
1st Wednesday @ 6:45 PM, Room 203  
**New Member Consultation**  
2nd Tuesday @ 7:00 PM, Room 202  
**Sonshine Callers**  
3rd Friday @ 4:30 PM, Church Office  
**Stephen Ministry**  
1st Wednesday @ 7:30 PM, Rm. 202  
**WELCA Board (Aug-June)**  
3rd Thursday @ 7:00 PM, Room 201  
**Wellness Cabinet**  
1st Wednesday @ 7:00 PM, Room 104

### Music Ministries

**Kids of the Kingdom (Sept-May)**  
Wednesdays @ 5:00 PM, Rooms 114-115  
**Faith Choir (Sept-May)**  
Wednesdays @ 8:00 PM, Choir Loft  
**Gloria Dei Bell Choir (Sept-May)**  
Wednesdays @ 7:00 PM, Nave  
(see Sunday Visitor for changes during Lent)  
**Hope Bell Choir (Sept-May)**  
Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM, Nave

### Worship Services

Saturday 6:00 PM spoken liturgy  
Sunday 7:30 AM spoken liturgy  
8:30 AM Holy Communion  
11:00 AM Holy Communion

### Ash Wednesday & Lent Midweek Worship

Wednesday 10:00 AM  
7:00 PM

### In the Weeks Ahead....

March 18 More Than Bread Alone  
March 21 DGN Late Start Breakfast Club

Room 201 = Lounge  
Room 202 = Library  
Room 203 = Conference Room