

Observer

December/January

Newsletter of
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, ELCA
1000 W. Quincy St.
Hancock, MI 49930-1494

Pastor Brahm Semmler Smith

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*Together in Christ,
We worship, We grow, We serve.*

WORSHIP SERVICES

Fall/Winter/Spring

Sunday~ 8:00 am

10:30 am

SpiritEd / Sunday School—9:15 am

SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS

Memorial Day –Labor Day

Sunday~ 9:00 am

JACOBSVILLE CHAPEL SERVICES

JUNE 9~AUGUST 25

7:00 pm

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!

The season of Advent helps us wait. It helps us lean into the expectation and hope we have in waiting for the coming of God. God comes to us in the flesh, as one of us, in the form of an infant we know as Emmanuel. I remember preparing for the arrival of our children. One by birth, one by adoption, both took preparations. Doctor's appointments, painting rooms, getting clothes. Pictures from social workers, immigration and courtroom appointments. All to welcome in a child into our home. I cannot help but be amazed that our God choose to be known to us through an infant. The God of creation, the God of the universe, comes to us as one of us. Not far off and aloof, but as a new born infant.

I invite you to experience the waiting aspect of Advent with us this December during our Sunday morning worships. We are also invited to midweek Advent soup suppers and Holden Evening Prayer hosted by Good Shepherd and Portage United in Houghton.

Or make space with an Advent devotional during your own time of reflection and study. We will have one available at Gloria Dei called "House of God: Mary, Jesus, and the Meaning of Christmas."

We await the coming of Christ while at the same time recognizing that Christ is with us now. Advent helps us celebrate and anticipate this reality, as we lead into Christmas. Join us Christmas Eve for our services of celebration of the nativity and remember to us a Savior is born.

May you have a blessed Advent and Christmas season!

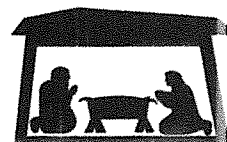
Pastor Brahm

Midweek Advent Soup Supper and Worship

Wednesdays: 5:15 Soup.
6:00 Holden Evening Prayer.

November 29, December 13 at
Good Shepherd, Houghton

December 6 and 20,
Portage United, Houghton



Christmas Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve Worship:
4:00 PM, 7:00 PM, 11:00 PM

Sunday, December 31
Service of Lessons and Carols:
9:00 AM

Happy Anniversary!

December: 13: Kara & Scott Destrampe
18: Dianne & Ted Johnson
24: Jeanne & Alan Karkkainen
27: Karen & Rich Brooks
28: Julie & Gary Beck
30: Deb & John Vaara, Liz Siivola & Peter Vorhes
January: 1: Lennon & Dave Hughes, Jackie & Dave Strong
12: Shirley & Glenn Pyhtila
19: Marie & Ted Laitinen
22: Myrna & James Gondek

2023 Team reports are due in to the office
by **December 31, 2023** to be included in the annual report.

Offering Envelopes:

Will be available for pick up in the Narthex in December.

Vanco Mobile App

This is an app driven giving opportunity powered by Vanco Faith (Simply Giving). You can use your smart phone or tablet. Download the app from the App Store or Google Play. Search for a church in Hancock, Michigan. (If you search Gloria Dei, the list is LONG), and you can donate using your credit card or your checking account. You can set it up to give one time or every week/month. There is also a link on our web site.

QUILTERS' CORNER:

Meet on Tuesdays from noon to 4 pm. All are welcome. Drop in for the time you have. We make simple straight line sewing quilts. No experience necessary. We offer a **Quilt-To-Go Program** for those who would like to sew at home. *If you would like to sew at home call the office to arrange pick up of quilt tops and simple directions. 482-2381.*



Christmas Garden:



As is our tradition at Gloria Dei, if you wish to remember or honor a loved one(s) with a plant for our sanctuary at Christmas, please call the church office with the necessary information for the Christmas Eve bulletin by Monday, Dec. 18. You may pick up your plant following the Christmas services or anytime during the week. When you order your plant, please ask that it be wrapped in white or gold foil, the liturgical colors for the season. Thank you.

Christmas Eve Schedule

4:00 PM – 7:00 PM – 11:00 PM

In person with Live stream at 4 pm



No morning worship on Sunday, Dec. 24

No worship services on Christmas Day – See Synod Worship Service

Midweek Advent Gatherings:

We are invited to join Good Shepherd Lutheran and Portage United Church of Christ for midweek Advent soup suppers and worship. Soup will be served at 5:15, with Holden Evening Prayer starting at 6:00. Good Shepherd will host November 29 and December 13. Portage United will host December 6 and 20. All are welcome.

Fortune Lake Happenings

Senior Day. January 15 from 10-1 pm CST

Winter Wonderland Retreat: January 12-14, 2024—all ages!

Observer Deadline

The next Observer will be February/March issue! The deadline for inclusion will on January 18. Thanks!

In Person Worship Sundays at 8 & 10:30 am. With Live Stream at 8 am and later online.

Recent Pastoral Acts

Funeral: Wayne Goulette, October 2, 2023.

Baptism: Mabel Louise Swanson, November 19, 2023

Memorials:

Wayne Goulette: Carole Ahola, Chris Ahola, Martha Dickson, Bill Lohela, Gerry & Nancy Perreault, Wayne & Eileen Stordahl, Ken Seaton.

Bob Langseth: Martha Dickson.

Margaret Lindeman: Ken Season, Carol Streicher, Mary Mikkola, Jim & Myrna Gondek.

Karen Halkola: Mark Halkola.

Bus Drivers needed:

Please let the office know if you are willing and able to help. 482-2381.

Our Little Library:

Thank you to all who have made our little library a success. We are in the process of organizing it to make topics easier to find!

Visitors Needed:

If you have time and like to visit, we have homebound members who would appreciate a visit/phone call. Call the office for details 482-2381.

Let's Eat Community Meals:

Third Sundays, December 19 at Grace Lutheran, South Range and January 21 at Gloria Dei from 4-5 pm. All are welcome to the meal and there is no charge. Dine in preferred, take-out available!

The Faith in Action Team

enrolled Gloria Dei in Tadych's MarketPlace Grocery Receipt program. A collection container is on the shelf in the coat room. We will be collecting Tadych's MarketPlace receipts and twice a year will submit them to the store. They will pay 1% of the total back to Gloria Dei. The proceeds of this program will be used to fund various projects of the church. Please consider supporting this program with your Tadych's MarketPlace receipts.

Gloria Dei Congregation Council

Glenn Anderson, Kathy Goulette, Zach Halkola, Shannon Handler, Courtney Hohnholt, Brian Jarvis, Dolores Kilpela, Jen Mattila and Tom Oldfield.

Ladies Luncheon:

Ladies Luncheon on Thursday, December 7 is a catered meal at noon at Mission United, Pelkie. Bus leaves at 11:00. Call Gladys Brownlee or Karen in the office at 906-482-2381 to RSVP. You must RSVP by Dec. 1 to attend. All are welcome to attend!

Food Pantry News

The number of visitors using the pantry is slowly growing.

We remain very appreciative of the congregation's generosity. Please be mindful of expiration dates. We can not give out expired food.

We are in need of: Hamburger Helper (or similar), baking items (flour, sugar, cake mixes), condiments, salad dressings, easy mixes, (cookies, waffles) dish/laundry soap personal hygiene items, and toilet paper.

Mitten Alert!

The Jeanne Kotila Memorial Mitten Tree will be up in the Narthex from Sunday, November 26 thru Sunday, Dec. 17. The week of Dec. 18 we will bring the donations to individuals, charities and schools for distribution. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated.



Please, Sign In:

Just a reminder: for those attending Sunday worship to please sign in. The sign-in sheet is located on the Welcome Center in the Narthex. This form will be replacing the Friendship Cards that used to be located at the end of the pews. Please take time either prior or after service to sign in. Thank you!

Address Changes:



Please let the church office know if you have a change of address so you will get your Observer and other mail! Thanks!



Operation Christmas Child

This year we brought **16 boxes** to Dollar Bay for distribution. Thank you one and all for your support.

Toys for Tots:

We have a collection box available in the coat room.

ANNUAL MEETING

Will be held on **Sunday, January 28, 2024**

More details to follow!

Happy Birthday!

December:

- 2: Richard Brooks
- 3: Kaitlin Bergdahl-Birondo
- 8: Lisa Naber
- 10: Jane Berner, Karen Brooks, Dave Kumlin, Richard Salani
- 17: Chris Ahola, Clay Hilman, Lisa Mattila, Cory Soumis
- 18: Linda Applegate, Ken Seaton
- 22: Kevin Michaelson
- 23: Marja Salani
- 24: Heidi Sutcliffe
- 25: Ayden Handler, Edith Lieburn
- 27: Carole Ahola
- 29: Shirley Arvo
- 31: Mildred Grzelak

January:

- 1: Julie Ross
- 2: Tyler Melvig
- 3: Chris Hodges
- 4: Carolyn Mattson
- 6: Marshall Hohnholt
- 11: Bob Hauswirth, Aspen Stoll-Pietila
- 14: JoAnn Dombrowski
- 15: Pat Oldfield
- 16: Darlene Siekas
- 17: Stephen Smith
- 18: Bob Backon
- 20: Al Wakeham
- 21: Laila Hauswirth, Alice Lahti
- 26: Mike Cischke
- 27: Zach Weekley
- 28: Marie Juntunen
- 30: Ava Lahti



December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8 am to 4 pm					1	2
3 Advent 2 8:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion	4 Pr. Brahm's day off 4:30 pm Tops	5 12 Quilters 5:30 pm Habitat 6:30 pm Council 7 pm Boy Scouts	6 5:45-7:30 pm Girl Scouts 5:15 Soup supper at Portage United 6:00 Holden Evening Prayer	7 11:00 Bus leaves for luncheon 12 Noon: Ladies Luncheon at Mission United, Pelkie 1 pm Mahjong 6 pm Book Study	8	9
10 Advent 3 8:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion 11:30 am Finance Team	11 Pr. Brahm's day off 4:30 pm Tops	12 12 Quilters 2 pm PortagePointe 7 pm Boy Scouts	13 5:45-7:30 pm Girl Scouts 5:15 Soup supper at Good Shepherd 6:00 Holden Evening Prayer	14 1-2 pm Food Pantry Open 1 pm Mahjong 5:30 pm Habitat 6 pm Noteworthy 6:30 pm Council at Hohnholt's	15	16 4-8 pm Sons of Norway Dinner
17 Advent 4 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Worship 1:30-3:30 pm Girl Scouts 4-5 pm Let's Eat Community Meal at Grace, South Range	18 Pr. Brahm's day off 4:30 pm Tops	19 12 noon Quilting 7 pm Boy Scouts	20 5:45-7:30 pm Girl Scouts 5:15 Soup supper at Portage United 6:00 Holden Evening Prayer	21 1 pm Mahjong 6 pm Noteworthy	22	23
24 4:00 pm Worship with Holy Communion 7:00 pm Worship with Holy Communion 11:00 pm Worship with Holy Communion	25 	26 12 Quilters 7 pm Boy Scouts	27 5:45-7:30 pm Girl Scouts	28 1-2 pm Food Pantry Open 1 pm Mahjong 6 pm Noteworthy	29	30
31 9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion						

December 2023 Serving Saints

	December 3	December 10	December 17	December 24	December 31--9:00 am
8:00 am Lector	Dave Strong	John Vaara	Julie Beck	No	9:00 am Travis Hanson
8:00 am Communion Assistant	Dave Strong	John Vaara	Julie Beck	Morning	
8:00 am Usher Team	David Strong Al Kempainen Dave Kumlin	John Vaara Phil Quenzi	Bruce Ragusett Carol Ragusett	Worship	
10:30 am Lector	Mark Halkola	Chris Hohnholt	Youth	Services	Jane Berner
10:30 am Communion Assistant	Maija Stadius Neil Ahola Jen Mattila	Glenn Anderson Chris Hodges Liz Siivola	Zach Halkola Mary Brunet Ann Anderton	<i>Have a</i>	9:00: Travis Hanson Shannon Handler Courtney Hohnholt
10:30 am Usher Team	Mark Halkola Zach Halkola Seth Halkola Noah Halkola Laurel Roehm	George Stockero Shari Stockero Greg Markkanen Gladys Brownlee Doug/Shelby Hamar	Rich/Karen Brooks Steve/Jane Zutter Todd Bessner Eric Seagren	<i>Blessed & Merry</i>	9:00 am Neil Ahola Carole Ahola Chris Ahola
Bus Driver	Dave & Lisa Ruhman	Stephen Smith	Chris Hohnholt	<i>Christmas</i>	Doug Hamar

Altar Guild

December:

2-23: Deb Vaara
Marja Salani
24-31: Maija Stadius
Chris Hodges
Dianne Johnson

January:

Chris Ahola
Carol Ahola
Connie Ahola

February:

Vi Norkol
Myna Gondek

Bread Bakers

December:

Marja Salani

January:

Shari Stockero

February:

Chris Ahola

Christmas Eve Helpers

4 pm Reader: Jane Berner
Communion: **Volunteers needed**
Usher Team: Wayne Stordahl
Bus Driver: **Volunteer needed**

7 pm Reader: **Volunteer needed**
Communion: **Volunteers needed**
Usher Team Mark Halkola

11 pm Reader: Dave Strong
Communion: **Volunteers needed**
Usher Team: Dave Strong

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8 am to 4 pm	1	2	3 5:45-7:30 pm Girl Scouts	4 12 Noon Ladies Luncheon ??? 1 pm Mahjong 6 pm Book Study 6:00 pm Noteworthy	5	6
7 8:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion	8 Pr. Brahm's day off 4:30 pm Tops	9 12-4:00 pm Quilting 5:30 pm Habitat Build Board 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	10 5:45-7:30 pm Girl Scouts	11 1-2 pm Food Pantry Open 1 pm Mahjong 5:30 pm Habitat board 6 pm Book Study 6:00 pm Noteworthy	12	13
14 8:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion	15 Pr. Brahm's day off 4:30 pm Tops	16 12-4:00 pm Quilting 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	17 5:45-7:30 pm Girl Scouts	18 1 pm Mahjong 6 pm Book Study 6:00 pm Noteworthy <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	19 5 pm Girl Scout Cookie Rally/overnight	20 11 am Girl Scout Cook- ie Rally
21 8:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion 4-5:00 pm Let's Eat Community Meal at Holy Trinity, Chassell	22 Pr. Brahm's day off 4:30 pm Tops	23 12-4:00 pm Quilting 6:30 pm Council 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	24 5:45-7:30 pm Girl Scouts	25 1 pm Mahjong 6 pm Book Study 6:00 pm Noteworthy	26	27
28 8:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion 11:30 am Annual Meeting	28 Pr. Brahm's day off 4:30 pm Tops	30 12-4:00 pm Quilting 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	31 5:45-7:30 pm Girl Scouts			

January 2024 Serving Saints

	January 7	January 14	January 21	January 28	February 4
8:00 am Lector	Dianne Johnson	Dave Strong	Julie Beck	Travis Hanson	Dianne Johnson
8:00 am Communion Assistant	Dianne Johnson	Dave Strong	Julie Beck	Travis Hanson	Dianne Johnson
8:00 am Usher Team	Don Juntunen Bill Lohela	David Strong Al Kempainen Dave Kumlin	Bruce Ragusett Carol Ragusett	Tom Oldfield Pat Oldfield	David Strong Al Kempainen Dave Kumlin
10:30 am Lector	Ruth Archer	Laurel Roehm	Ken Seaton	Stella Soumis	
10:30 am Communion Assistant	Brian Jarvis Shelby Hamar Dolores Kilpela	Maija Stadius Kathy Goulette Zach Halkola	Neil Ahola Jen Mattila Glenn Anderson	Chris Hodges Liz Siivola Mary Brunet	Ann Anderton Shannon Handler Courtney Hohnholt
10:30 am Usher Team	Arne Henderson Maija Stadius Jim Bogan Chris Hohnholt	Mark Halkola Zach Halkola Seth Halkola Noah Halkola Laurel Roehm	George Stockero Shari Stockero Greg Markkanen Gladys Brownlee Doug/Shelby Hamar	Rich/Karen Brooks Steve/Jane Zutter Todd Bessner Eric Seagren	Neil Ahola Carole Ahola Chris Ahola
Bus Driver	Scott Pietila	Dave & Lisa Ruhman	Stephen Smith	Chris Hohnholt	Doug Hamar

Altar Guild

January:

Chris Ahola
Carole Ahola
Connie Ahola

February:

Vi Norkol
Myrna Gondek

March:

Lennon Hughes
Volunteer needed

Bread Bakers

January:

Shari Stockero

February:

Chris Ahola

March:

Shannon Handler

Faithful Giving	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023
2023	May	June	July	August	September	October
Attendance	439	419	592	460	400	654
Target Offerings	19,583	19,583	19,583	19,583	19,583	19,583
Actual Offerings	18,227	19,153	17,894	16,929	20,134	20,135
Target Offer. 2022	18,567	18,567	18,567	18,567	18,567	18,567
Actual Offer. 2022	19,192	18,048	12,579	19,351	18,238	24,045