

Participants in Sunday leadership for December, 2022

Date	Reader	Liturgist (Prayers)	Greeter
Dec 4	Pam	Jett	Larry
Dec 11	Katharine	Monica	Jerry
Dec 18	Monica	Jett	Rocky
Sat, Dec 24	Pam	Monica	Larry
Dec 25	Katharine	Jett	Ralph
Jan 1	Pam	Monica	Larry

Readings and prayers available on the "Sunday Service" page (and archive) of our website.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church is located on original lands of Anishinaabe, Cree, Ojibwe-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation. We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories, we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
637 Buckingham Rd
Winnipeg, MB,
R3R 1B9

www.GloriaDeiWinnipeg.org
(204) 832-4564

The Gloria Daily

December, 2022 www.GloriaDeiWinnipeg.org Vol 3. No. 11

*Now the heavens start to whisper, as the veil is growing thin.
Earth from slumber wakes to listen to the stirring, faint within:
seed of promise, deeply planted, child to spring from Jesse's stem!
Like the soil beneath the frost-line, hearts grow soft to welcome him.*
ACS #901

How soft does your heart grow?

I'll say that this has been something I've pondered, of late. Do I let the fears and doubts of the past hold me down? Do the worries of what may come grip me? Can we just *be* in this moment?

Advent is this time of slowing down, even as things may feel hurried and frantic around us ("*Get ready! Buy those gifts! Put up those decorations!*") It's notable that we have four weeks of this season, and then, we even get *twelve days* of Christmas – so, why the rush? Let alone the fact that: whether we ever feel ready for it or not, new life comes among us... and what a joy it is!

Taking a deep breath, finding time to pause... perhaps that is how we might welcome the Christ child.

Even as the days are short, and nights are long, at this time of year, *lean into* the pause, the breath, the hope, the longing. Let the simpler parts of life emerge as you might sit and sip a cup or tea, or listen to some choral music, or look at the flickering of a candle. Often in those simple moments, we come closer to God.

-Pastor Tyler

SUPPORT THE URBAN

Bring an item (or several) of warm clothing for our Advent mitten tree!

Really needed right now at the Urban (cold weather has begun):



- mitts & gloves (thicker kind - and also stretchy gloves)
- men's winter jackets (men's are especially needed) all sizes, especially L & XL.
- women's winter jackets - all sizes (small to XL)
- hoodies for men and women - all sizes (small to XL)
- winter boots with good treads for men and women
- running shoes/track shoes with good treads for men and women

New, and used in good condition, would be great!

Soup's On!

Soup Mixes are available for purchase in the church hall \$7 per package or 3 for \$20

Several varieties available

Proceeds going to support The Urban meal program



Join in....

Preparing meals for The Urban - 1st Wednesday of the month

Ladies' Luncheon - 2nd Wednesday of the month

Quilting group - Tuesday afternoons

Zoom coffee hour - Wednesday mornings



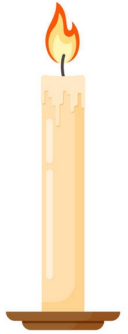
CHRISTMAS SERVICES

4pm on December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

10:30am on December 25

Christmas Day



WORLD AIDS DAY - DECEMBER 1

World AIDS Day takes place on 1 December each year. It's an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with HIV, and to commemorate those who have died from an AIDS-related illness. Founded in 1988, World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day.

Globally, there are an estimated 38 million people who have the virus. Despite the virus only being identified in 1984, more than 35 million people have died of HIV or AIDS related illnesses, making it one of the most destructive pandemics in history.

(<https://www.worldaidsday.org/about/>)

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY - DECEMBER 10

Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December — the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted, in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The UDHR is a milestone document, which proclaims the inalienable rights that everyone is entitled to as a human being - regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Available in more than 500 languages, it is the most translated document in the world. 2022 Theme: Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All.

(<https://www.un.org/en/observances/human-rights-day>)

REFLECTION ON WINTER SOLSTICE (December 21)

The winter solstice time is no longer celebrated as it once was, with the understanding that this is a period of descent and rest, of going within our homes, within ourselves and taking in all that we have been through, all that has passed in this full year which is coming to a close... like nature and the animal kingdom around us, this time of hibernation is so necessary for our tired limbs, our burdened minds.

Our modern culture teaches avoidance at a max at this time; alcohol, lights, shopping, overworking, over spending, comfort food and consumerism.

And yet the natural tug to go inwards as nearly all creatures are doing is strong and the weather so bitter that people are left feeling that winter is hard, because for those of us without burning fires and big festive families, it can be lonely and isolating. Whereas in actual fact winter is kind, she points us in her quiet soft way towards our inner self, towards this annual time of peace and reflection, embracing the darkness and forgiving, accepting and loving embracing goodbye the past year.

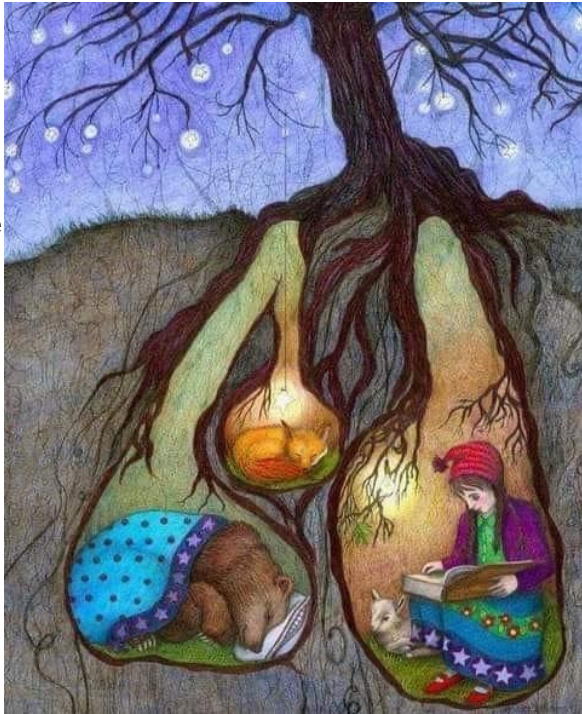
"Winter takes away the distractions, the buzz, and presents us with the perfect time to rest and withdraw into a womb like love, bringing fire & light to our hearth".

.. and then, just around the corner the new year will begin again, and like a seed planted deep in the earth, we will all rise with renewed energy once again to dance in the sunlight

Life is a gift a Happy winter to you all...

Written by Bridget Anna McNeil

Artwork by Jessica Boehman



"This is the solstice, the still point of the sun, its cusp and midnight, the year's threshold and unlocking, where the past lets go of and becomes the future; the place of caught breath." — Margaret Atwood.

WHAT IS KWANZAA?

Kwanzaa is an annual celebration of African-American culture from December 26 to January 1, culminating in a communal feast called *Karamu*, usually on the sixth day. It was created by activist Maulana Karenga, based on African harvest festival traditions from various parts of West and Southeast Africa. Kwanzaa was first celebrated in 1966.



According to Karenga, the name Kwanzaa derives from the Swahili phrase *matunda ya kwanza*, meaning "first fruits". First fruits festivals exist in Southern Africa, celebrated in December/January with the southern solstice, and Karenga was partly inspired by an account he read of the Zulu festival Umkhosi Wokweshwama. It was decided to spell the holiday's name with an additional "a" so that it would have a symbolic seven letters.

During the early years of Kwanzaa, Karenga said it was meant to be an alternative to Christmas. He believed Jesus was psychotic and Christianity was a "White" religion that Black people should shun. As Kwanzaa gained mainstream adherents, Karenga altered his position so practicing Christians would not be alienated, stating in the 1997 book *Kwanzaa: A Celebration of Family, Community, and Culture* that "Kwanzaa was not created to give people an alternative to their own religion or religious holiday." Many African Americans who celebrate Kwanzaa do so in addition to observing Christmas.

After its initial creation in California, Kwanzaa spread outside the United States. (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kwanzaa>)

All religions try to benefit people, with the same basic message of the need for love and compassion, for justice and honesty, for contentment.

-Dalai Lama