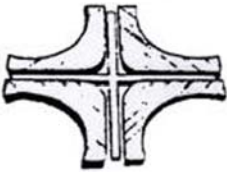


Inside

December 2011

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church



Making Christ Known

Thank You!

On Sunday, November 20, we gathered for Sunday worship and brunch at the Mayo Civic Center. It was a great day: inspiring special music from our musicians, rousing hymns sung by those in attendance -- almost 800 strong, and God's word proclaimed to comfort and guide us into the future.



During this service, members gave their financial pledges for our capital debt, our operating budget, and our sustenance program. The act of giving your pledge is just one step, an important step, but just one step in the process that will lead to our annual meeting on January 22, 2012. As the members of the Council consider the money that has been pledged, they will present to us a ministry plan for next year that will help us build on the energy and excitement experienced this past year.

A special thank you to all of our leaders and staff for working so hard on the November 20 event and all the prep work needed to get to that day of celebration!

If you have already given your pledge, I thank you! If you have not, please do so soon, preferably by December 7. Your participation in this process is very important. I invite you to take an active role in the work of your congregation. With your pledge, stand with fellow members of Gloria Dei and say, "I'm In!"

Pastor Charles

Christmas Worship

Saturday, December 24

- 11:00 a.m. – worship with candlelight and communion (Pastor Karna preaches)
- 3:00 p.m. – worship with candlelight (Pastor Karna preaches)
- 5:00 p.m. – worship with candlelight and a combined Children's Choir (Pastor Dave preaches)
- 8:00 p.m. – worship with candlelight, communion, and the Adult Choir (Pastor Dave preaches)

** Please note the time change of the first and last services.*

Sunday, December 25

- 9:00 a.m. - Pastor Charles preaches
- * Only one service this Sunday morning.*

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Merry Christmas

Questions or
 comments about
 worship? Contact
 Julie Stevens,
 Minister of
 Worship, at 289-
 1841 or
 worship@gloria-
 dei.com!



Taking a look at our Holy Communion Procedure

The Generation X Ministry Team has been checking into our procedure for Communion at Gloria Dei and discovered that we have the following understanding "on the books!" We will continue to explore possible updates in the months to come.

1. Whereas, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is an act on the part of God whereby He graciously works in us the forgiveness of sin, and
2. Whereas, the Sacrament is a gift given to God's people to share together in the spirit of community and forgiveness, and
3. Whereas, the Lord is the Host at this meal and invites all God's people to share in Communion with God and with each other, and
4. Whereas there is no scriptural reference to an age at which the Sacrament should be administered, and
5. Whereas, the faith of a child is acceptable and pleasing to God, and
6. Therefore, be it resolved that Gloria Dei Lutheran Congregation Council hereby opens participation in the Sacrament within our congregation to youth who have completed the fifth grade communion studies offered within our Sunday School, and younger children who have counseled with the pastors in the matter of the Sacrament after expressing a desire to share with the people of God in this special experience.

Worship Hours

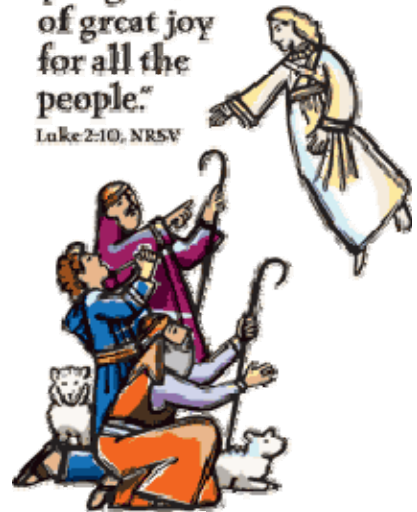
Sunday

8:00 & 9:15 a.m.—Traditional
 10:45 a.m.—Celebration/Contemporary

Wednesday

6:00—6:35 p.m.—Water's Edge
 There will be no Water's Edge worship or programming on December 21 (due to Christmas Caroling) or 28.

"I am bringing
 you good news
 of great joy
 for all the
 people."
 Luke 2:10, NRSV



Special Upcoming Worship Items

Sunday, December 11

Sunday School Christmas Program at 9:15 and 10:45

What can an old fashioned radio program tell us about the birth of Our Savior? Come find out as our 3 year olds through 5th graders tell the story of Christ's birth in their production, "We're On the Air"

Sunday, December 18

Choral Worship Service at 9:15 and 10:45
 Contemporary and upbeat, this 50 minute program celebrates the excitement, joy, and true meaning of the Christmas season.

Composer Joel Raney retells the Christmas story through a unique partnering of creative, original songs with traditional carols. The adult choir is excited to worship with the bell choir and instrumentals including piano, synthesizer, oboe, flute, violin, cello, electric bass and a warm Christmas narration.

Book Club

Friends and members are welcome to join in either group at any time! For more information on the book club contact, Lynne Miller, Alice Olson, Nancy Haroldson or Mary Moon.



Afternoon Book Club

The afternoon book club WILL NOT meet in December. We will resume on Tuesday, January 10 at 2:00 p.m. The book selected is *IN THE GARDEN OF THE BEAST*, by Eric Larson.

Other books and dates are:
 February 14 - O Pioneers!
 March 13 - Heaven is for Real
 April 10 - Crossing Oceans
 May 8 - Unbroken

Evening Book Club

The Tuesday Evening Book Club will not meet in December. We will meet next on January 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the chapel.

The book we have chosen is **Blind Your Pories** by Stanley Gordon West. This book has been recommended by people of all ages. The story is centered around a basketball team in a small town in Montana but is really about so much more than basketball. It's about overcoming adversity, false perceptions and personal fear. It's about courage. West peoples his books with wonderful characters. He totally engages his reader with wit and humor in some of the most challenging situations.

Generational Ministry Highlight

Forever Forty

Thursday, December 15 at 1:00 p.m.

Old Country Buffet (private room)

Join Forever Forty for their Christmas Luncheon! Do you have a Christmas experience to share? There will be time to share and sing Christmas carols. Cost will be \$6.97. Please do not arrive early.

Theology Pub Continues!

Theology Pub has been a great success over the past couple months. About thirty guys have been getting together at the pub to enjoy conversation about some of the big questions in life and theology. Martin Luther and his wife Katie were famous for hosting these types of conversations with friends and neighbors, and the tradition lives on at Gloria Dei. The Generation X Ministry Team invites men of all ages to *Theology Pub* for an opportunity to ask questions about God, faith and theology over a beverage and some appetizers at the Whistle Binkies South.

Information

Where: Whistle Binkies South (247 Woodlake Drive SE, Rochester)

Who: Men's Ministry- Friends...
 Neighbors... Co-Workers...

When: Upcoming times are 7:00 p.m. on Monday night's December 5 & 19.

Bring: Money for food/drink. Come ready to talk about the big questions in life.

Library News

There are 122 books currently checked out of the library! That's great! Thank you as well for returning them in a timely manner.

In the past year, members have donated over a hundred books to the library. Due to limited shelf space, older books have been removed and are currently sitting on a cart in the Narthex waiting to find new homes. Feel free to keep anything you'd like.

There is a limited budget for library purchases. If you have books that you would like to see in our library, contact Barb Lewis at 288-4911. If you have church appropriate books to donate, bring them to the church office.

We invite you to check out the selection of books available at Gloria Dei! The library is located in two locations: on the office level across from Pastor Dave's office and in the north end of the Chapel. Different versions of the Bible are located on top of the shelves near the coffee machine across from Pastor Dave's office.

Mom and Kids

Mom and Kids is a friendship and support group for young mothers and their children. We will meet on December 8 and 22 at 10:00 in the nursery at Gloria Dei. Moms get a chance to visit and kids get a chance to play. Anyone is welcome to join or bring a friend.

The Mom and Kids Group is adopting a family this Christmas. If you would like to donate to this special cause, please have your donation into the church office by Noon on December 2. Please specify that your donation is for Mom and Kids Christmas. Mom and Kids will match your donation. Please help make this family's Christmas very special. If you have any questions, please contact Nicole Cummings at 206-3878.

Mom's Night Out

Mom's Night Out will meet on Sunday, December 4 at 5:00 at Great China (4214 Hwy. 52 N). Following dinner, a Christmas party will be held at Kelly Pieper's home from 6-8:30. Please RSVP to Kelly if you would like to attend at piepermelon@charter.net or 269-7131. We will enjoy desserts, beverages and prepare gifts for our adopted family. Please bring a friend.

On January 8, we will be meeting at Panera North at 5:00 for dinner and, for those interested, we will be meeting to knit/learn to knit at Gloria Dei in the Chapel from 6-7:45 pm. Please email Angela Spohn at ajspohn@gmail.com if you are interested in dinner and/or learning to knit. She will email you back regarding needles and yarn. Feel free to join us for either dinner or knitting or both. Everyone is welcome.



Thank You!

A big thank you to everyone who helped make the 7th annual Holiday Tea a success. Thanks to those who cooked, baked, decorated tables, waited on tables, helped with the set-up, clean-up and take down, provided entertainment. Thanks also to those who attend the event.



Many thanks to everyone who helped at the lefse, flatbread and candy making workshops. Because of your help, many charities will receive the monies realized from the bake sale. We appreciate your dedication.

2011 Bake Sale

**Sunday, December 4
 between services**

Lefse, Flatbread and other goodies will be available for purchase!! There are limited supplies of lefse this year because of only one workshop, so get there early! Anyone wishing to donate goodies for the sale may drop them off at church on Saturday, December 3 from 9 a.m. until Noon or early Sunday morning.

Women's Circle Info

- Anna December 20 @ 10:30 AM
 Sonia Gisvold, 2292 Coral Ct NE
- Elizabeth December 20 @ 10:00 AM
 Alice Hanson, 1900 Ballington
 Blvd NW #309
- Esther December 13 @ 6:00 PM
 Miriam Anderson, 1442 10th Ave NW
- Naomi December 20 @ 11:30 PM
 Meet @ church at 11:30 to carpool
 to Michaels
- Rachel December 8 @ 2:00 PM
 Gloria Dei
- Ruth December 14 @ 12:00 PM
 Kris Cmiel, 1772 Lakeview Dr SW
- Sarah December 14 @ 9:00 AM
 Gloria Dei Room 10

ABC Dinner

Each year Gloria Dei hosts clients from Ability Building Center for a Christmas dinner and gathering. December 4 is the last day to purchase a decoration for the wreath in the Narthex as a donation to purchase gifts and food for the event.



Christmas Cookie Exchange

A 2nd annual Christmas Cookie Exchange will be held Monday, December 12 at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. This is a great way to simplify the busy holiday season if you like to bake and don't have time to make several different treats.

Bring nine (9) dozen of one kind of Christmas cookie or bar, and you'll be able to go home with a wide variety of goodies. Refreshments will be served and DOOR PRIZES to be given away! To participate, pick up a complete set of instructions and fill out the signup sheet at the Hospitality Desk. Deadline to sign up is December 7.

Angel Tree

Esther circle will be sponsoring the Angel Tree at Gloria Dei again this year. On December 11 and 18, you'll have a chance to select your angel. Proceeds from the sale of the angels will be used to provide Christmas gifts and holiday food for Gloria Dei members in need this Christmas season. If you know of someone in need, please contact Carol Fisher.

Santa Collection Tour

Tuesday, December 13

1:00—3:00 or 7:00—9:00

You are invited to tour the home of Shirley and Mike Doyle to see their collection of Santa's and all the beautiful counted cross stitch pictures. The Doyle's live at 5712 Stapleton Lane N W. Please sign up at the Hospitality Desk. If you would like to car pool meet at the church 20 minutes before the tour.

Food For Friends Ministry

Each week our youth pack backpacks full of food for children in need at Elton Hills and Washington Elementary Schools. This month's collection item is a box of chicken helper and a large can of chicken.

Nursery News

Just a reminder that the nursery is now considered a peanut free zone due to life threatening allergies for one of our youngest members. Thank you so much for your cooperation and feel free to consult the nursery staff if you have questions.

Caroling and Cookies

December 21 6—8:00 p.m.

"Go tell it on the mountain...that Jesus Christ is born." For the past several years, we've delighted in sending out multiple school busses filled with every age and stage of life at Gloria Dei to bring Christmas cheer throughout Rochester. Everyone from babies to those in their 90's participate in this fun event. We will sing Christmas carols for nursing homes and senior living places. No musical ability is required, simply the love of Christ. Afterwards, enjoy delicious cocoa and cookies. Sign-up in the church narthex if you plan to join us.

Financial Report

Month End

October 2011

General Fund Results

	Actual	Budget
Income	\$ 706,610	\$ 723,683
Expenses	<u>661,057</u>	<u>741,800</u>
Surplus	\$ 45,553	(18,117)

Capital Fund Giving 2011

Contributions	\$ 97,179
Mortgage Payments	<u>(165,717)</u>
	\$ (68,538)

Sustenance Fund

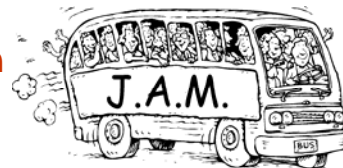
	2011	2010
Received	\$88,790	\$88,021

Loan Balances

Thrivent Financial (Remodel)	\$1,478,104
Mission Investment Fund (Land)	\$ 372,308
Church Bonds Payable (Houses)	\$ 49,000

Children, Youth and Family Ministries

**JAM Caravan and Kidz Resort registration
is available at www.gloria-dei.com**



Jesus And Me Caravan

**Volunteer
Opportunity at 10:45:**

3rd-5th grade girls—
rotating teacher

Our **December
offering** is going to
Operation Christmas
Child.

No JAM Caravan:

**Dec. 25 (Christmas)
Jan. 1**

No Kidz Resort:

**Dec. 21 (Christmas Caroling)
Dec. 28**

**Special Date: Christmas Program
December 11, 2011 at 9:15 and 10:45**

JAM Caravan kids sing and recite their memory
verses during their Sunday school hour.

All kids need to be here 15 minutes early.

Parents...save room for your 3 yr old—2nd grader
in your pew. After the kids are finished singing,
they will join you in your pew for the rest of the
program. 3rd thru 5th graders will sit with their
class in reserved pews.

Inside this issue:

No Programming
Dates

Soul Food

Christmas Memory
Verses

Kindergarten
Bibles

5th Grade First
Communion

Wednesday Evening Schedule— Kidz Resort:

3 year old—1st Grade
6:40-7:20 p.m. Small Group

2nd—5th Grade
7:20-8:00 p.m. Small Group
(6:40-7:20 pm Homework
Hangout)

*Care is available until
8p.m. for all kids.

Children's Choir
3 year old—1st Grade
7:20-7:50 p.m.

Son Dei Singers
2nd—5th Grade
6:40-7:20 p.m.

December 7 and 14:
Combined choirs at 7:10
pm.
December 21—No choir

December 24 —Children's
Choir and Son Dei
Singers—Both choirs sing
at the 5:00 pm worship ser-
vice. Arrive at 4:15 in the
choir room.

Youth Programming

Wednesday Afternoons

Drop Inn (Middle and High School) 3-5 p.m. in the Loft

Drop Inn is back this year with a new twist! Hang out in the loft and watch movies, play Wii, do crafts, compete in trivia games, or study in a quiet room with low music.

Don't miss The Edge in December!

Great things are happening on Wednesday nights at The Edge. We are hanging out, having great conversations, doing service projects, planning huge trips and having an amazing time. If you are in high school, we hope you will join us. We meet from 6:30-8:00 pm (after Water's Edge) in the Loft. Come and bring friends. Everybody is always invited.

2012 Mission Trips

High School Trip—National Youth Gathering in New Orleans (*July 16-24, 2012*)

Middle School Trip—Youth Works in Rapid City, SD (*July 14-20, 2012*)

Christmas Program Drama Practices

December 4th, practice will be 12-2pm with lunch served

December 10th (mandatory practice from 9-12pm) snack will be served

December 11th (performance) kiddos will be at church from approx 8:30am until 12noon.

December 11th program is at the 9:15 and 10:45 worship services



Youth Ministry

Get some Soul Food on December 11

Get the Soul Food experience in December! Throughout the fall we have had huge numbers of people gathering for games, an amazing meal prepared by Derek Jensen of Chester's, and a one of a kind worship experience led by our house band, Grip Shift. Are you coming this month? You should be!

All year we are exploring the big questions of life (as posed by pop music). This month we are asking the question, "What if God was one of us?" Bring all the friends, neighbors, classmates, teammates, lab partners, cousins, Facebook friends and acquaintances you can find. It will be a great night. **Join us at 6 pm on December 11 and check it out.**

Milestone Ministries At baptism, parents and sponsors promise to faithfully bring their children to the service of God's house; place in their child's hands the holy scripture; teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Apostle's Creed, and the Ten Commandments; and provide instruction in the Christian faith. Milestone ministries are Gloria Dei's effort to partner with parents on this journey.

Baptism Class...Parents reflect on their own journey, learn about the promises made at baptism, the impact that parents have on faith, and the details of baptism at Gloria Dei. (Contact Jan in the main office to sign up).

Upcoming Dates:

January 8

February 12

Milestone Ministries

Kindergarten Blessing - February 26 At the 9:15 or 10:45 service, kindergarteners will receive a Young Readers Bible.

Noon -1:30 Introduction to the Bible Lunch

5th Grade First Communion and Mock Last Supper—March 18

2:30 pm Mock Last Supper

4:00 pm First Communion Service



Christmas Program Memory Verses:

3 year-olds "The angel said "Don't be afraid". Luke 2:10

4year-olds "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people". Luke 2:10b

Kindergarten "The Savior-yes, the Messiah, the Lord has been born today in Bethlehem" Luke 2:11

1st Graders "And you will recognize him by this sign. You will find a baby wrapped snugly, lying in a manger" Luke 2:12

2nd Graders "The Shepherds said to each other, lets go to Bethlehem. Let's see this thing that has happened" Luke 2:15

3rd Graders "They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph, and there was a baby lying in the manger" Luke 2:16

4th Graders "After seeing him, the Shepherds told everyone what had happened" Luke 2:17

5th Graders "The Shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen" Luke 2:20

Confirmation ~ Splash

It's the most wonderful time of the year! This month we will honor Jesus' birthday by learning, celebrating and serving others. December will be an extremely enjoyable month of Splash! First, we will reflect on all that we've learned from the Lord's Prayer. We've discovered how great it is to connect with God in this way.

We've really worked hard the past few months as we've also studied the Apostle's Creed. December will also be the month to celebrate and enjoy all that we've learned. Finally, we will also encourage small groups to participate in the Caroling & Cookies event. This is an exciting night of singing Christmas carols to senior living places and enjoying cookies and

cocoa afterwards. You may also receive service hour credits for this incredible activity.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, we remember that Jesus is the greatest gift this world has ever known. May you experience the joy of our Savior's birth this Christmas.

Splash Schedule:

December 7th Lord's Prayer Review

December 14th Splash Christmas Party

December 21st: Church-wide Caroling night

December 28th No Splash, Christmas Break

December 2011 Sunday Morning Volunteer Schedule

8:00 am Worship	December 4	December 11	December 18	December 25
Communion Type	Kneeling	None	Kneeling	
Greeters N=North E=East S=Sanctuary W=West Entrance	Norma Bjork-N Harold Boysen-E Betty Boysen-S Betty Danielson-W	Gary Brekke-N Connie Brekke-E Mike Doyle-S Shirley Doyle-W	Ralph Ellefson-N Peter Heldt-E Fred Fibeger-S Rosane Fibeger-W	
Coffee Servers (Fellowship Hall)	Kayla Wieme Norma Bjork	Gary Addington Carol Addington	Ralph Ellefson Melody Melin	
Hospitality Center	Phyllis Rusley	Anderson's	Phyllis Rusley	
8:00 Ushers	**Ron Greseth** Jim Fields, Leo Haubenschild, Harold Opdahl			
9:15 am Worship	December 4	December 11 Children's Program	December 18 Choral Worship	9:00a.m. December 25
Communion Type	Kneeling	None	None	None
Greeters N=North E=East S=Sanctuary W=West Entrance	Norma Gehrke-N Les Gill-E Dee Gill-S Dee Hrdlicka-W	Steve Jerde-N Laura Jerde-E Bob Julius-S Margaret Kemple-W	Lee Kirchner-N Sharon Kirtz-E Mur Kositzke-S Mary Moon-W	None
Lesson Reader	Joanne Swenson	None Needed	None Needed	None
Coffee Servers (Fellowship Hall)	Lois Olson Leanne Pederson Jodi Raehsler Stephanie Raehsler	John Rasmusson Linda Rasmusson Bob Reid Bev Reid	Gloria Schaar Janet Stenberg Ramon Simonson Gloria Simonson	No Coffee Fellowship Time
Hospitality Center	Gloria Lewison	Mary Sorum	Mayhew's	None
9:15 Ushers	**Jerry Olson** Robert Fountain, Maynard Jones, Larry Kruger, Gary Lane, Stew Lewis, Bob Mayhew, James Mickelson, Phil Swenson, Duane Warfield, Ernie Weick, Warren Williams			
10:45 am Worship	December 4	December 11 Children's Program	December 18 Choral Worship	December 25
Communion Type	Kneeling	None	None	
Greeters N=North E=East S=Sanctuary W=West Entrance	Jerry Christenson-N Judy Olson-E David Petersen-S Ann Petersen-W	Dan Sandberg-N Janice Tucker-E Mary Allen-S Jean Carlson-W	Steve Sparrow-N Carol Sparrow-E Alice Erickson-S Vi Helland-W	
Lesson Reader	Jerry Christenson	None Needed	None Needed	
Coffee Servers (Chapel)	Char Harstad Pam Mathiason	Sharon Nuss Linda Seegmiller	Steve Sparrow Carol Sparrow	
Hospitality Center	Mary Sorum	Allyssa Allen	Judy Olson	
10:45 Ushers	**Scott Jacobson, Bruce Lewis** Steve Epp, Don Frerichs, Tom Kastner, Sandy Lewis, Frank Spaeth			
Communion Set up	8 & 9:15 Carol King 10:45 *****	None Needed	8am *****	None Needed
Cookies (3 dozen each)	Chris Schmit Linda Seegmiller Gloria Simonson Barb Solheim Kay Spavin Janet Stenberg Kari Stonelake- Hopkins	Dora Thompson Jan Thorson Pat Tollefsrud Tad Trejo Janice Tucker Tammy Veldhuizen Emily Vetter Paula Vogt	Jolleen Weick Nancy Werning Judy Whitney Kayla Wieme Amy Adams Melissa Aeschlimann Mary Allen Sharon Applegquist	

December 2011 Sunday Morning Volunteer Schedule

	Cheryl Strande Jacky Swenson Joanne Swenson Rose Swenson Jennifer Thicke	Kirstyn Vold Leigh Ann Vold Chris Walters Judy Warfield	Deb Aries Julie Bakken Karen Balster Laura Baudoin	
Communion Bread	Mary Moon	None Needed	None Needed	None Needed

*****Volunteers still needed

Contact Staci if you can fill these dates 289-1841 volunteers@gloria-dei.com

December 24th Christmas Eve

Communion Set up

11am-*****

8pm-Dee Gill



1212 Twelfth Avenue NW, Rochester, MN 55901
gloriadei@gloria-dei.com

Non-Profit Org
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit #20
Rochester, MN 55901

Return Service Requested



YOUR GLORIA DEI STAFF

Pastor Charles Ortloff	Ministers: All Members of Gloria Dei
Pastor Karna Hagen	Congregation President, Paul Dahlen
Pastor Dave Berg	Organist, Harold Vetter
Minister of Worship, Julie Stevens	Interim Adult Choir Director, Duane Sauke
Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry, Amy Baker	Children's Choir Director, Heidi Finck
Parish Administrator, Carol Fisher	Son-Dei Singer Choir Director, Heidi Finck
Director of Communications, Open	Handbell Choir Director, Deb Rentfrow
New Member Coordinator, Staci Magnuson	Children, Youth and Family Coordinators, Kristelle Behle
Administrative Assistant, Jan Voeltz	Dawn Johannsen & Joshua Poencet
Custodian, John Dornack	Worship Leader, Dick Trisko
	Sunday Custodians, Sue Long, Zach Petersen, Ben Stevens, Cathy Esberg

Phone: (507)289-1841 Fax: (507)281-9599 E-Mail: gloriadei@gloria-dei.com

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

At 11th Avenue and 12th Street NW ~ (office entrance on west side)

**Newsletter article deadline is
December 15, 2011**

** Submit your January announcements to
Jan at gloriadei@gloria-dei.com