



SOUNDS OF GLORY



Glory of God Lutheran Church Newsletter

Don't Forget...

Please join us at 9 AM each Sunday for Worship:

We are in person or online. You can always check out our [GOG website](#) for more information.

Daily Devotions:

If you'd like to receive daily email devotions from Dana, please email her to get in the Daily Devotions Group.

Visits from Dana:

Thanks to all of you who have already visited with me – it's wonderful to be able to get to know you better. However, I'm still looking to visit with as many folks as possible over the next few months. I'll meet anywhere you like (within reason) – your place, GOG, some other place like a coffee or fast-food place, wherever works for you. (I'll even spring for some coffee if that provides an added incentive.) Just call me (414-916-3241) or shoot me an email (dana@gloryofgodchurch.net) to set up a time. Thanks!!

Why Christmas in Advent

You may be wondering why we start singing Christmas songs and hearing parts of the Christmas story in Advent. While I know that Advent is a time of waiting and preparation, I also know that the rest of our culture is well into the Christmas celebration by December 1. So it's really really important to keep reminding all of us what Christmas is all about. And that means telling the story and singing the songs and hearing the liturgy right from the get-go. I don't know about you, but it helps keep me centered on Jesus throughout this holiday season.

And for me, it's impossible not to see God all over the place during these weeks – in everything from the most sublime Christmas carol to the tackiest yard decoration. (I'll admit it – I love pretty much everything about Christmas.) So enjoy both Advent and Christmas, as we again await the arrival of that baby in a manger, while at the same time we celebrate God's activities all around us.

Christmas Eve Worship

Join us at 5 pm on Christmas Eve for a very powerful worship on Christmas Eve. As always, we'll have some wonderful music to celebrate this night, and we'll talk about what Christmas tells us about the God who loves us more than we can imagine. We'll also commune and end with a moving candlelight rendition of Silent night. This is a great worship service to invite family and friends.

Thanks for your Noisy Offering Gifts

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our November noisy offering to help local food banks. The congregation contributed just under \$1600. When added to our \$1000 match, we have a total offering rounded up to \$2600, which will be evenly divided between The Action Center in Lakewood and the Community Table in Arvada. Your gifts are helping lots of people enjoy a better Thanksgiving this year! Way to go Glory of God!!!

December Birthdays

Dec. 12	Kathy Nuanes
Dec. 14	Sara Ware
Dec. 18	Michael Taggart
Dec. 20	Emily Maruyama Mitch Wernlein
Dec. 23	Natalie Craig
Dec. 30	Ali Arend
Dec. 31	Stan Harris

December Prayer Families

December 7

Yergert, Yook, Zeiler, Zinn

December 14

Adams, Arend, Arkins, Austin

December 21

Baneck, Barchus, Bartram, Beasley

December 28

Behnken, Brant, Breckinridge, Bryson

What's Coming Up on in December:

Here are some things to look forward to on upcoming Sundays:

- **November 30: Advent begins!** We'll start off Advent with a bang, as we begin our look at the some of the Characters of Christmas. As we all know, it all starts with God the Father. So we'll look at how God set in motion the plan to send Jesus into our world way back at the beginning of the Old Testament. We'll also have lots of Advent devotionals and other resources available to help us all dive deeply into this God-filled time of year.
- **December 7: Isaiah Prophesied the Messiah of Hope.** We'll look at what the Old Testament prophets said about the Messiah, and the hope that Jesus brought then and now. We'll also celebrate all those with December birthdays.
- **Mary the Favored One, on December 14:** We'll hear the story of the angel Gabriel's visit to Mary and talk about what it means to be favored by God. We'll also wrap angel tree gifts after worship.
- **On December 21 it's all about Joseph.** As we move into the last Sunday of Advent, we'll explore what it looks like to have a faith like Joseph's. How can that type of faith literally change our lives?
- **Christmas Eve on Wednesday, December 24, at 5 pm.** Join us for a meaningful and joyous worship as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior.
- **December 27 - The Nativity Story.** We'll used clips from the movie the Nativity Story and mix them in with carols and readings to experience the story of Jesus' birth in a different and profound way.

Our Angel Giving Tree is Up

Don't forget - our Angel Giving Tree is up and covered with angel tags for kids at Fletcher Miller School and siblings whose Christmas will be brighter with a gift from our congregation. (We'll be getting more over the next few weeks.) Please take a tag and then purchase a gift for the child described on the tag. Please spend no more than \$35 per child, and return the gift(s), unwrapped with the tag attached, by Sunday, December 14 before worship. We'll have a wrapping party on December 14 during fellowship time to get the gifts all ready to go. Everyone is invited to stay and help. See Kathryn Gault with any questions.



Monday Night at the Movies: Holiday Special - December 1st at 6:00 PM

Get ready for a festive evening of Christmas cheer at our Monday Night at the Movies: Holiday Special tonight, Monday, December 1st at 6:00 PM! We'll be watching Klaus, a beautifully animated and heartwarming film that reminds us of the power of kindness, generosity, and friendship—perfect for starting the Advent season together.

But the movie is just part of the fun!

One of the highlights of the night will be our Ugly Sweater Contest. Pull out your most outrageous, over-the-top, sparkly, jingling, or wonderfully tacky Christmas sweater. Whether it glows, sings, or simply defies fashion in the best possible way, wear it proudly for a chance to be crowned our Ugliest Sweater Champion!

Enjoy a festive evening with food, drinks, treats, and sweets, and bring a friend to share the fun. It's a night of laughter, holiday cheer, and community you won't want to miss!

Tuesday Bible Study

Join us every Tuesday at 10:30 AM for our Community Bible Study. We are studying the book of Jonah. Everyone is welcome—come and be part of this time of learning and fellowship!

Lunch Bunch on Monday, December 15th

Join us for Lunch Bunch Monday, December 15 in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited and it starts at 11:30 AM. Please RSVP to Lynn Hornecker.

2025 Giving - Final Count Reminder

The final count for 2025 donations will be completed by the counters on Tuesday, December 30th. Please make sure any donations you wish to include on your 2025 Statement of Giving are received in the church office before this date.

Pastoral Care Emergencies

If you need pastoral care in an emergency situation (hospitalization, accident, death) and it is during church office hours, Monday – Thursday – 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM, please contact Alison. If outside those office hours, you can contact Pastor Dana directly at: **414-916-3241**. You can reach her by email at: dana@gloryofgodchurch.net

Lunch Bunch

We will gather on Monday, December 15th at 11:30 AM. Please contact Lynn Hornecker if you plan to attend or need a ride.

GOG Craft Group

Friday December 5th and 19th at 10:00 AM in the fellowship hall. See Debbie Losey if you would like to participate. All are welcome!

GOG Bible Study

Tuesdays at 10:30 AM in the conference room. Everyone is welcome, any time! Please join us!

Office Hours

Pastor Dana

Tuesdays, Wednesdays,
from 10:00 AM.

Schedule varies based on
GOG events. Please contact
her directly to schedule
an appointment.

414-916-3241

dana@gloryofgodchurch.net

Church Office

Mon. – Thurs., 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
303-421-2721

Michael

Mon. – Thurs., 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Sun., 7:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Rick

Wed., 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

GLORY OF GOD LUTHERAN CHURCH

12200 West 38th Avenue Wheat
Ridge, Colorado

www.gloryofgodchurch.net

Ministers: Members and Friends of
Glory of God

Pastor: Dana O'Brien
dana@gloryofgodchurch.net

Parish Administrator: Michael Taggart
pa@gloryofgodchurch.net

Tech Admin: Michael Taggart
tech@gloryofgodchurch.net

Music Coordinator: Roz Kueter

Choir Director: Colleen Turner

Accompanist: Matheus Pagliacci

The Characters of Christmas

During Advent this year, we'll focus on some of the more important characters of Christmas. We start with God the Father (and sadly, I forgot to include God the Father as one of my Christmas characters until fairly recently.) Then we'll look at Isaiah and the prophetic announcements of the coming Messiah throughout the Old Testament. And during the last two Sundays of Advent, we'll take closer looks at both Mary and Joseph, as we learn a bit more about that very first Christmas. Join us (and invite your friends and family) as we experience this season with some key figures in the Christmas story.

Essential Jesus Coming Up

We've learned about interpreting the bible. We know how important following Jesus is. And starting in January of 2026, it's time to take what we've learned and do some serious bible reading, as we focus on who Jesus is, what he did and said, and how we can become better disciples of Jesus. We'll read five biblical passages each week (a total of 10 Old Testament passages and 75 New Testament passages), with accompanying questions to help us all dig deeper into what we read. I hope you are looking forward to this as much as I am!

Fletcher Miller School Winter Wonderland

As many of you know, we purchased a bunch of toys for Clark's Toy Workshop for the kids at Fletcher Miller School last month. On December 13, the school will have a Winter Wonderland party where everyone is invited for a pancake breakfast, crafts and fun, and the kids who use adaptive toys will be able to select their Christmas gifts. Some of us will be helping at the party, but there are still opportunities on December 12 from 3 to 7 to help set up for the party. (You'll be working with the staff to decorate the space and organizing everything for the big day.) Please sign up on the sheet on the fellowship table if you'd like to help and contact Dana if you have any questions.

Poinsettia Orders

Once again this year, Glory of God will be decorating the sanctuary with poinsettias. If you'd like to buy one (or more), please have your order and payment in by Dec 21st. Help to decorate our worship space for our Christmas services. Order forms are on the council table in the fellowship hall.

Advent Devotionals Now Available

This year, we have some Advent devotionals available to help you really live into this season. Our Advent devotionals include:

- **In the Manger, by Max Lucado.** This devotional includes 25 inspirational selections each of which include a Bible verse to deeply reflect on, an inspirational passage from some of Max's most popular books, and a prayer to help you apply the day's message.
- **Awaiting the Manger: Whispers of Advent in the Old Testament, by Ocieanna Fleiss.** For those interested in the Old Testament passages tied to the coming of Jesus, this book provides 25 devotions, each of which include the story of an Old Testament character, a scripture passage, prayer, reflection questions and a hymn.
- **Shadow & Light: A Journey into Advent, by Tsh Oxenreider.** A book that teaches about the basics of Advent and then includes one reading for each day of the four weeks of Advent. Each day's reading includes Scripture, a reflection, a question, and a simple activity to engage the senses, such as lighting candles, listening to music, and viewing artwork both old and new.
- **Come and See: exploring the Names of Jesus as a family through Advent, by Beth Meverden and Jenna Hallock.** This big box is for families wanting to help kids celebrate Advent. The guide includes Scripture, discussion, and hands-on learning activities to keep Christ at the center of your family's Christmas celebrations.

The Advent devotionals are on a table in the Narthex. We encourage every person to take one - they are wonderful ways to help celebrate the coming of Christmas each day. But please take only one per person, so we have enough for everyone.

Advent Calendars

Family Advent calendars from ELCA World Hunger are available on the Welcome Table. Through bible passages, songs and suggested actions, they contain daily reminders of how we can follow Jesus and change the world.

GOG Contacts

Pastor Dana O'Brien

414-916-3241

dana@gloryofgodchurch.net

Church Office/ Parish Administrator

303-421-2721

pa@gloryofgodchurch.net

Michael Taggart/ Technical Administrator

303-421-2721

tech@gloryofgodchurch.net

Rick Johnson/ Assistant Treasurer

303-421-2721

assist.treasurer@gloryofgodchurch.net

GOG Council

President

Ali Arend

Vice President

Ann Craig

Secretary

Nancy Hornecker

Treasurer

Connie Bartram

Worship

Jeri Schmelzel

Property

Brad Willey

Community Outreach & Social Ministry

Kathryn Gault

Fellowship

Bob Lundgren &
Nita Barchus



Advent Wednesdays - It's a Wonderful Life

On Wednesdays, December 3, 10 and 17, we will come together for a soup supper and then explore some biblical themes in the movie *It's a Wonderful Life*. The meals start at 6 pm and we'll be done by 7:15. At 6:30, we'll watch and discuss parts of *It's a Wonderful Life*. If you haven't seen the movie before, this is a great introduction. The sign-up for volunteers to provide soup is on the council table.

Christmas Giving through Barnyard Animal and Other ELCA Ornaments

After all the names on our angel tree are taken, we'll put up barnyard animal and other ornaments from the ELCA Good Gifts Program. These cute ornaments are great stocking stuffers. You just take one (or two, or three . . .) and then send the specified amount to the ELCA directly on behalf of the person for whom you're buying the ornament. (If you'd prefer, you can give the money to Glory of God and we'll forward it.) You keep the ornament to put on your own tree, or to give to the person on behalf of whom you're making the donation. This is great for those last minute Christmas gifts.

Advent Visits

Last month I (Dana) mentioned how much I love Christmas and offered to come over to help you with your Christmas decorating or to just to see your Christmas lights and hear about your Christmas traditions. Well, that offer is still open, so if you'd like me to stop by, just contact me. (And yes, this is a shameless attempt to see as many Christmas decorations and get to know as many of you as possible.) So don't forget to ask me early before my schedule fills up.

Child Priority Updates

As part of our upcoming Holiday Program, the children will be performing a rendition of "Twas the Night Before Christmas."

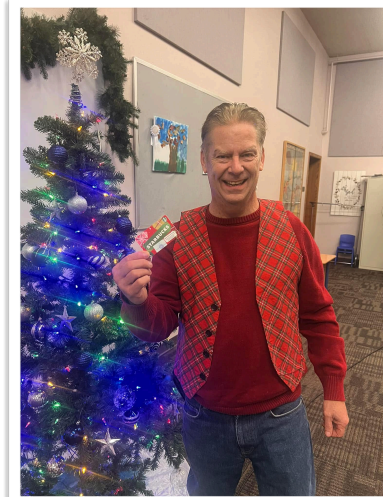
Each child will play the role of an elf, coming from backstage to speak their practiced line into a microphone. We have been focusing our rehearsals on speaking loudly, enthusiastically, and with expression, providing an excellent opportunity for the children to practice public speaking in a fun environment.

Following the reading, all the children will sing and dance to a few holiday songs while wearing their Christmas pajamas and a Santa hat, and using a personal bag full of props. It is going to be an adorable performance!

The Holiday Program will be held on **Tuesday, December 9, at 9:00 am.**

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

GOG Photo Album



**Don't miss our ugly sweater contest on
Dec. 1, 6 PM**



**Craft Group
Photos by Debbie Losey**



Thank you to all our volunteers

Bless You...

- **Pastor Dana** for your thought-provoking and insightful sermons.
- **Ali Arend** for keeping us on track as our GOG President.
- **Michael Taggart** for all he does at GOG.
- **Rick Johnson** for his patience with our council and our frequent adjustments to the proposed 2026 budget.
- **Rob Maruyama** for the hours of extra time he spent setting up for both Praise band and Blue Grass Trio on Reformation Sunday. We have a finite amount of mics and wires and Rob configured everything so both practice and Sunday service went flawlessly.
- **Roz Kueter** for stepping up the organ to make beautiful music for A Mighty Fortress is our God.
- **Jan Bryson** for her continued willingness to lead songs and share her beautiful voice during many, many services.
- **Matheus Pagliacci** for your excellent accompaniment to the choir and the church.
- **Worship Team** for their dedicated work. Our music is SO in-sync with the message.
- **Praise Band** for the hours they put in practicing and performing for us.
- **June Marquez and Ann Craig and all our helpers** for the Summer Wednesday BBQ's.
- **All those** who step up and help with Fellowship.
- **All the people** who usher and read lessons each Sunday.
- **To all our Volunteers** - seen and unseen.
- **Brad Willey** for his commitment to maintaining and caring for our church building. Thank you for raking the leaves.
- **Debbie Losey** for the extra work she does at GOG - craft group, communion and so much more!
- Colleen Turner for conducting the choir.
- **Council Members** - Thank you for keeping our church running and for all the behind the scenes work the council has been doing to support GOG.
- **Dana O'Brien, Nancy Hornecker, Jan and Grant Bryson** for helping to welcome the preschool parents during the Halloween Parade
- **Nancy Hornecker** for the many things she accomplish behind the scenes.
- **Bingo volunteers** - Thank you to all the volunteers that spend every Saturday at bingo without fail - you have no idea how much help that is to us.
- **Bob Lundgren and Nita Bachus** for all the work they put into fellowship
- **The AMAZING Altar Guild Crew** for keeping the sanctuary looking beautiful and helping with communion and prep.
- **Connie Bartram** for all the work you do in the office keeping our giving records up to date and balanced and updating the photo wall. Thank you for updating the membership database.
- **Tech Team** -Thank you! We can't have a service without you!
- **Bob Lundgren** for all the volunteer work he does at Glory of God! Thank you Bob!
- **Earl and Connie Bartram** - A big thank you for weeding, groundskeeping, and sprucing up the West Entrance. Your hard work has made a visible difference, and we're grateful for the time and care you've put into making our church grounds welcoming and beautiful for all who visit.
- **Kurt Esbenson** for all the work creating our beautiful new church sign to helping Brad replace the water heater in the sacristy, and fixing our dishwasher. we are deeply grateful for your time, skills, and dedication.