



# 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](mailto:dana@gloryofgodchurch.net)) to set up a time. Thanks!!

### **Essential Jesus Sermon series**

Starting Sunday, January 4, we'll be taking what we learned last fall about the bible and do some serious bible reading, as we focus on who Jesus is, what he did and said, and how we can be better disciples. We'll start with an overview of the New Testament gospels, and then focus on different aspects of Jesus' life – his teachings, miracles, parables, followers, etc.

Each week, starting January 4, I'll be sending out five biblical passages that we can all read for the following Sunday. Each passage will include some questions to help us dig deeper. The following Sunday's sermon will focus on that week's passages. And every Wednesday, starting January 14, I'll host a zoom bible study where we can go even deeper into the weekly readings.

This series includes something for everyone, and you can decide how active you wish to be. Everyone who shows up on Sunday will benefit from our biblical look at Jesus. But you'll get even more out of it if you do the readings ahead of time; even more if you consider the questions that accompany each reading (ideally with someone else); and even more if you participate in some or all of the weekly bible studies.

For starters, please find a bible that works for you (and don't forget to bring your bibles to worship each week).

### **Essential Jesus Zoom Bible Studies**

Starting Wednesday, January 14 at 6:30, I'll be hosting weekly bible studies to discuss our Essential Jesus readings. However, since I know that Colorado's unpredictable winter weather often makes it hard to attend in-person gatherings, all of our Essential Jesus bible studies will be on zoom. Hopefully, that will make it easier and less time consuming to attend. And since we'll be looking at different readings each week (based on the sermon from the prior Sunday) you can jump in and out any time.

## You All Made a Difference this Christmas

If you're anything like me, you were pretty tired the last week of December. The holidays take a lot out of all of us. (I made it through my first Christmas at Glory of God primarily on adrenaline -- and a lot of grace.)

But when I looked back on all the joy-filled and life-giving things we did as a congregation during this last month, I was again reminded of how blessed I am to be here (and why we all might be a bit tired). Here are a couple of highlights:

- We started out the month with a fun night watching the movie Klaus and a very competitive (and funny) Ugly Sweater contest.
- During December, we read (and/or shared with friends and family) over 65 advent devotional books.
- We made the Christmas wishes of 24 kids from Fletcher Miller School come true through our angel giving tree.
- The Men's Group went to see some Christmas lights and then met for a fun Christmas dinner. (Don't we all wish we could join the men's group)
- We learned about the characters of Christmas as worshipped God each Sunday during Advent.
- We hosted a Christmassy themed Lunch Bunch, with great food and terrific company.
- GOG volunteers brought the Christmas spirit to bingo with festive attire, raffles and a lot of fun.
- We gathered on three Wednesdays for meals and some great Christmas fellowship, as we watched and discussed the movie It's a Wonderful Life;
- We hosted parents and friends of Priority Preschool kids for three amazing holiday programs, complete with costumes, singing and lots of wonderful picture opportunities.
- We made a difference to people we don't know, by contributing over \$1300 to the ELCA Good Gifts program through a December's noisy offering and the purchase of Good Gift ornaments. (And a special shout-out to the craft group who contributed \$320 to send eight girls to school.)
- We helped with Fletcher Miller School's Winter Wonderland, which provided a great pancake breakfast, a visit with Santa, adaptive toys for Christmas, and lot of crafts and fun for kids with special needs and their families.
- Our bible study group met every Tuesday to discuss one of our Advent devotional books and explored the hints of Jesus that appear in the Old Testament.
- We bought lots of our friends and families to worship to celebrate Jesus' birth on Christmas Eve. (And once again, we all saw how this congregation's music program rocks - all the time, but Christmas Eve was special.)
- We then enjoyed some fun and fellowship at our first Christmas open house on Christmas Day.
- We gathered one more time to try something a bit different as we experienced Jesus' birth in readings, songs and video on the last Sunday in December.

And of course, none of this could have happened without the efforts of so many of you!!! (Worship always involves lots of behind-the-scenes work, but Christmas Eve worship takes even more work by more folks.)

But the truly amazing thing is that this list is only a little piece of all that you did last month to grow as Jesus' disciples and live as God's church in our world. I haven't even mentioned all the money you donated, all the time you spent helping others, all the kind words you shared, and the myriad of other ways (most of which I don't even know about) in which you blessed people every day during this Advent/Christmas season. Because as we all know, being church certainly has something to do with what we do here at Glory of God, but it has so much more to do with who you are each day as you go about your daily lives. That's where God is constantly inviting us to partner with God in all the Kingdom things God is already out there doing. That's where we live as the missional disciples God calls us to be. And for all that, I want to thank you. God is powerfully at work in this community of faith.

And as we stand at the beginning of 2026, I look forward to so much more to come.

## January Birthdays

Jan. 1	Val Shaffer
Jan. 2	Mary Reetz
Jan. 4	Jeremiah Ware
Jan. 16	Karen Setzer
Jan. 22	Bob Lundgren
Jan. 24	Mike Austin
	Diana Wood
Jan. 25	Tom Roepcke
Jan. 28	Don Van Winkle
Jan. 29	Ron Casias
	Lisa Volzke
Jan. 31	Ginny Behnken

## December Prayer Families

### January 4

Casias, Catlin, Conniff, Craig

### January 11

Ebbesen, Eccles, Esbenson, Garcia

### January 18

Gault, Girin, Grinstead, Haataja

### January 25

Hall, Harju, Harris, Henderson

## What's Coming Up on Sundays in January:

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

- **Intro to Essential Jesus on January 4.** We begin a new sermon series with a description of our goals as we look more deeply at Jesus, and with an overview of the four gospels we'll be reading over the next few months. We'll also celebrate everyone with a January birthday and encourage Epiphany house blessings.
- **"Who is Jesus?" on January 11.** We start with five New Testament readings that describe various aspects of who Jesus is. It is the same question we'll be asking ourselves throughout the next few months as we explore what Jesus did and said.
- **January 18 - "Our Need for a Savior".** We look back at some Old Testament passages to get a sense of our need for God to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves - to bring us back into a right relationship with God, others and the world around us. We'll also take a noisy offering for a local nonprofit, Petals of Light.
- **The Beginning of Jesus' Ministry on January 25.** The beginning of Jesus ministry tells us a lot about him - how God affirmed him at his baptism, how he picked his followers, what his mission statement was and how he inaugurated God's kingdom in everything he did.

## An Epiphany House Blessing

Epiphany (January 6th) is the day we traditionally celebrate the Magi's visit to Jesus. It is also the day that many families gather to ask God's blessing on their homes and on those who live in or visit their homes by marking the wood above the door with chalk. Although not as well known in the US, this chalking of the door blessing is a centuries-old practice around the world.

The traditional way of doing this is to use chalk to write above the home's entrance, 20 + C + M + B + 26. The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross, and 2026 is the year. (The blessing is done each year.) We have chalk and instructions available on the council table in Fellowship Hall so you can do your own house blessing. Alternatively, Pastor Dana would be happy to come over any time during the month to bless your home.

## Some 2025 Year-End Financial Info

A couple things to finish off 2025 as we move into 2026:

- Thanks to all of you who gave financially in 2025!!! Your giving was more than projected in 2025 and helped us to pay our budgeted expenses and to expand our ministry both inside and outside our walls. Expect another exciting year ahead in 2026 as we continue to follow God's lead in our community.
- You may have noticed there was no "official" pledging done at the end of 2025. We'll probably do that next fall, but don't let the lack of a written pledge deter you from giving to Glory of God in 2026. Not only is it a wonderful way to participate in all that God is going here, but it's also a great way to thank God for all God has done in your life.
- If you made a financial contribution to Glory of God in 2025, you will be receiving your year-end statement, along with a letter from me (that would be Pastor Dana) before the end of the month. Once again, I thank you for the joy and blessing of being your pastor here. And I thank you, in advance, for all the exciting things that God will do through all of us this coming year.

## Tuesday Bible Study

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

## Lunch Bunch on Monday, January 12th

Join us for Lunch Bunch Monday, January 12th in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited and it starts at 11:30 AM. Please RSVP to Lynn Hornecker.

## New Church Directory Coming Soon

We're excited to announce that we're creating a new Church Directory to help our church family stay connected. The directory will include names and photos, making it easier to put faces with names and strengthen our sense of community. More details on how to participate will be shared soon.

## 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](mailto:dana@gloryofgodchurch.net)**

## Lunch Bunch

We will gather on Monday, January 12th at 11:30 AM. Please contact Lynn Hornecker if you plan to attend or need a ride.

## GOG Craft Group

**Friday January 2nd, 16th, 30th**  
at 11:00 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](mailto: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](http://www.gloryofgodchurch.net)

Ministers: Members and Friends of  
Glory of God

Pastor: Dana O'Brien  
[dana@gloryofgodchurch.net](mailto:dana@gloryofgodchurch.net)

Parish Administrator: Michael Taggart  
[pa@gloryofgodchurch.net](mailto:pa@gloryofgodchurch.net)

Tech Admin: Michael Taggart  
[tech@gloryofgodchurch.net](mailto:tech@gloryofgodchurch.net)

Music Coordinator: Roz Kueter

Choir Director: Colleen Turner

Accompanist: Matheus Pagliacci

## **The Blessing Board**

As we begin the new year, we are excited to introduce a Blessing Board in our Fellowship Hall. You'll find it on the east wall, and it is meant to be a place of encouragement, gratitude, and shared blessings within our church family.

The board will feature blessings shared in our newsletter, as well as individual blessings that you are invited to add yourself. Whether it's a prayer, a note of thanks, a simple reminder of God's presence, or words of appreciation and encouragement for others in our church community, these blessings help build one another up.

A special thank you to Bob Lundgren for making the Blessing Board possible and helping bring this idea to life.

We invite everyone to stop by, read the blessings, and add one of your own as we start the year grounded in gratitude and faith.

## **Collection of Personal Items and Socks**

This last month we quickly gave away all but four of the care bags we earlier made for the homeless. It's clear that there is a real need for these types of items, and it will only increase as the weather gets colder. So we will be assembling more care bags in January and February. The craft group is busy knitting more hats and the rest of us can help by bringing in toiletries, small snack items and warm socks to fill our bags. Needed items include hand wipes, tooth brushes and travel size toothpaste, small deodorant, lip balm, feminine products, and non-perishable food items like small packages of crackers and cheese, granola bars, tuna/peanut butter packs, and beef jerky. Please put your items in the bin in the entryway.

## **Child Priority Updates**

Happy and Healthy New Year to all of you!

We hope you enjoyed your holiday with your family.

Our school families started the break on December 22nd and we look forward to seeing everyone back for fun on Wednesday, January 7th.

Our Fall 2026-2027 school year registration begins on January 14th. We have already conducted tours for approximately 40 new families interested in enrolling next year.

We are excited to begin our upcoming curriculum topics, which include Stock Show play with stick horses and cowboy hats, Dinosaurs and habitats, Outdoor sledding, and making our own indoor snow!

Happy Days!



## Online Help & Staying Connected

We're excited to share that we're working on a new and improved church website and look forward to sharing it with you soon. In the meantime, we invite you to stay connected with Glory of God Lutheran Church online.

Be sure to visit our website for worship information, upcoming events, and church news:

Website: <https://www.gloryofgodchurch.net>

You can also help support our church by liking and following us on Facebook, X and Instagram. Engaging with our posts—by liking, sharing, or commenting—helps spread the word and keeps our church visible in the wider community.

Another easy and meaningful way to help is by leaving a review on Google or Yelp. Your positive reviews make a big difference and help others discover Glory of God when they're searching for a welcoming faith community.

Google Reviews: Search Glory of God Lutheran Church, Wheat Ridge on Google

Yelp: <https://www.yelp.com/biz/glory-of-god-lutheran-church-wheat-ridge>

Thank you for supporting our ministry—both in person and online. Every visit, like, follow, and review helps spread the word!

## From The Action Center

Thank you for your generous gift of \$1,300.00 on November 28th. Your support plays a vital role in helping individuals and families in our community overcome challenges and move forward with hope, strength and resilience. We are deeply grateful for your compassion and commitment.

## From Community Table

On behalf of everyone at Community Table. We would like to express our sincere appreciation for your contribution of \$1,300.00 on 11/26. Thank you for being a part of our mission to nourish people, built solutions to end hunger, and put those struggling on the path to self-sufficiency.

## GOG Contacts

### Pastor Dana O'Brien

414-916-3241

[dana@gloryofgodchurch.net](mailto:dana@gloryofgodchurch.net)

### Church Office/ Parish Administrator

303-421-2721

[pa@gloryofgodchurch.net](mailto:pa@gloryofgodchurch.net)

### Michael Taggart/ Technical Administrator

303-421-2721

[tech@gloryofgodchurch.net](mailto:tech@gloryofgodchurch.net)

### Rick Johnson/ Assistant Treasurer

303-421-2721

[assist.treasurer@gloryofgodchurch.net](mailto: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

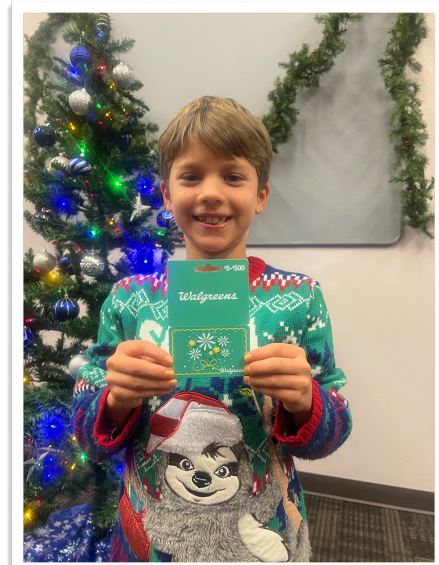
### Fellowship

Bob Lundgren &  
Nita Barchus

**And the winner is:**



## Ugly Sweater Contest



THANK YOU  
SO MUCH

To all our friends @Glory of God Wheat Ridge! Your support of our program has helped us grant over 300 wishes to kids w/ complex needs in Jeffco. We are so thankful for your partnership and support.

✓ The Elves at CTU

✉ [clarkstoyworkshop@gmail.com](mailto:clarkstoyworkshop@gmail.com)

[clarkstoyworkshop.com](http://clarkstoyworkshop.com)

# CLARK'S TOY WORKSHOP

Adapting toys so ALL kids can play

A dense collage of the words "Thank you" in various colors (red, green, blue, yellow, purple, black) and fonts (serif, sans-serif, script, bold, thin). The words are layered and overlapping, creating a vibrant, textured background.

Dear Church

Dear Glory of God WR,  
Thank you so much for your kindness in sponsoring our Angel Tree again this year. Our families are so thankful for your generosity and kindness. As you know, our families at Miller face a unique set of challenges as caregivers to children w/complex needs. Knowing we have caring neighbors like you makes a world of difference. You have helped to ease their worry this time of year. Thank you for your continued support of Miller School.

I JUST  
CAN'T  
*thank you*  
ENOUGH.

For the gift Basket  
and gift Card

## **Bless You...**

- **To all** who helped decorate the church building for the season.
- **Pastor Dana** for her Advent studies on "It's a Wonderful Life". The discussions have been engaging and fun.
- **Ali Arend** for keeping us on track as our GOG President.
- **Michael Taggart** for all he does at GOG.
- **Rick Johnson** for all the many hats he wears at GOG including doing the PowerPoint for Sunday Services.
- **Choir and praise band** for sharing your musical gifts and making worship a more meaningful experience.
- **Greeters** who come early to make Glory of God a welcoming space.
- **Alter Guild** that works behind the scenes each week to prepare the sanctuary for worship.
- **To all** who have stepped up to serve communion or do the readings.
- **Many thanks** to the Worship committee of Roz, Jan, Jeri, Colleen and Dana who put in many hours to create meaningful services throughout the year.
- **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.
- **To all our Volunteers** - seen and unseen.
- **Debbie Losey** for the extra work she does at GOG - craft group, communion and so much more!
- **Colleen Turner** for conducting the choir.
- **Brad Willey & Bob Lundgren** for their constant support, helpful hands, and unfailing patience whenever something needs fixing.
- **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.
- **Jeri & Kurt Schmelzel** for opening their home for the Council & staff Christmas party. Such a beautiful home.
- **Nancy Hornecker** for the many things she does 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
- **Diana, Lynn, Marlene, and Ruth** for a lovely lunch bunch. The decorations and extra treats were so kind and thoughtful.
- **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 working on the membership database and for sharing your musical talent with seasonal holiday piano tunes during lunch bunch.
- **Tech Team** -Thank you! We can't have a service without you!
- **Tom and Judy, Jan S, and Bev** for joining the lunch bunch crew! So lovely to see you there!
- **Nancy Hornecker** for handling Maria with patience & kindness.
- **June Marquez** for her Spanish skills & communicating with Maria when we need it.