

WEEKLY WORD



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Gloria Dei Lutheran Church | www.gloriadeionline.com | 515-276-1700

Dec. 18 and 19, 2010 | Fourth Sunday in Advent

Christmas is almost here!

Bringing Jesus Christ to people for the first time and for a lifetime.

• This week's message - Dec. 18-19

“What's Not Right About Christmas - Timing”

The timing of Jesus' birth just does not seem right. Rome is in control of the promised land. Herod, the king of the Jews, wasn't even a Jew. Why didn't the Son of God come during the reign of David or Solomon, when Israel was in its finest hour? But God always has impeccable timing. At just the right time God sent forth his Son. At just the right time God enters into our lives, relieves our pain and shows us the path. It is usually not the time we would choose, but hindsight shows the timing was spot on.



• Christmas Eve Services - Friday, Dec. 24

“What's Right About Christmas-Jesus”

Invite your neighbors to one of our Christmas Eve services as we celebrate the most important truth throughout the ages—the birth of God's Son, the love of God in human flesh.

Traditional Candlelight Worship: 3, 4:30, 6 and 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Join us for a rich legacy of traditional hymns and liturgy in this candlelight service.

H3 (Family) Worship: 4 p.m. in the Family Life Center

This worship service will feature the sights and sounds of Christmas with an emphasis on helping children understand the importance of Jesus' birth.

Contemporary Candlelight Worship: 5:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center

Our contemporary candlelight worship will include lively Christmas praise songs celebrating Jesus' birth.

• Christmas Day Service - Traditional Worship

We will continue to celebrate the birth of Jesus on Saturday, Dec. 25 at 9 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

• Christmas Weekend Worship

Extend your Christmas memories by worshipping with us the Sunday after Christmas at 7:45, 9 and 10:30 a.m. Please note: Northwind and H3 Service will not be held the weekend of Dec. 25-26.

Cantata - Hark the Herald

Join us this Sunday, Dec. 19 at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary as we celebrate the wonder of Christmas through music in the Cantata, “Hark the Herald.”



Tiny Treasures Christmas program

The entire congregation is invited to watch our children from Tiny Treasures tell about the Good News of Jesus' birth through this simple, yet powerful Christmas program on Monday, Dec. 20 at 5:30 p.m. (3-year-olds) and 6:30 p.m. (4/5-years-olds and PreKs).



Christmas educational times

All educational times will be held Dec. 18-19.

Weekend education times will not meet: Dec. 25-26 and Jan. 1-2

Midweek educational times will not be held: Wednesday, Dec. 22, 29 and Jan. 5

All educational times resume: Jan. 8-9 and Jan. 12, 2011

The Wave Christmas

Sunday, Dec. 19 from 1-2:30 p.m.
See page 5 for details.

Church Christmas office hours

Please note our holiday hours:

Monday-Thursday, Dec. 20-23
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 24
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 27
Office closed

Tuesday-Thursday, Dec. 28-30
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 31
8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

If an emergency arises when the office is closed, leave a message by calling 276-1700, ext. 4. A pastor will return your call.

Commitment reminder

Don't forget to return your 2011 commitment forms to the office or in the offering plate. If you have misplaced your commitment form, please stop by the Information Center. Thank you for your continued support for the ministry of Gloria Dei.

Stewardship notes

Giving statements mailed. Year-to-date giving statements were mailed Dec. 3 to those who made a 2010 giving pledge. This is a record of all giving through Dec. 3 and will give an accurate total of giving with less than one month left in the year. A final record of giving will be mailed after the first of the year for income tax purposes. If your year-to-date statement was not received or if you have questions, please call Shari Smith at 276-1700, ext. 202.

Simply Giving. It is not too late to sign up for the Simply Giving program. Simply Giving is a program through Thrivent which allows you to have your offerings automatically deposited in the church's bank account on a schedule you choose. It is an efficient and accurate method that also saves the church time and money in counting, recording and depositing funds. For those already using the program: if you have changed your pledge amount for 2011, please remember to turn in an updated Simply Giving form.

Year-end giving. All offerings received in the church office or postmarked by Friday, Dec. 31 will be processed with the 2010 giving statements. Offerings received after Friday, Dec. 31 in the offering plate or postmarked Jan. 1, 2011 will be processed with the 2011 giving, even if the check is written in 2010.

Debit and credit cards, pay-by-check and text options. Gloria Dei has the capability of collecting giving offerings by using debit cards, Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, online pay-by-check and text messaging. The process is easy and secure. All you need to do is to go to our Web site and click on the online giving link. This takes you to Vanco's secure Web site, the same provider of our Simply Giving electronic funds transfer program.

United Way Option. Please note that you can now direct your United Way contribution to Gloria Dei.

Giving envelopes to be picked up. Giving envelopes for next year can be picked up in the narthex. Please note: your envelope number changes each year, so please use the new envelopes starting Jan. 1, 2011.

Questions. As always, we are willing to help in any way we can. We encourage you to visit with your tax advisor about specific issues related to your own situation. For other questions, feel free to contact Bill Jesse at 276-1700, ext. 217.

Please note: For your convenience, the church office will be open Friday, Dec. 31 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. to receive 2010 donations.

Thank you

Project 52 would like to thank those who supported the fundraiser at Cabaret West Glen in West Des Moines that raised \$14,000 to help five families throughout the year. ~Thanks again, Bill Clark



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For a complete staff listing: go to our
Web site at: www.gloriadeionline.com

Text tithing

In order to keep up with technology, Gloria Dei now accepts tithing by text! The same provider for our Simply Giving and Online Giving programs, Vanco, added a new service to the mix. Before texting a donation for the first time, login to our Web site at www.gloriadeionline.com. Click on the online payment tab and complete (or update) an online profile and check the "Opt In" box. After opting in, texting a donation to the church is quick and easy. Once you are set up, click on the text tab for further instructions. You will be typing the keyword "Give," along with the dollar amount and your four-digit PIN. Vanco will then process your contribution from the account you have set up, just the same as if you processed an online contribution. For more information, go to our Web site, or call Shari Smith at 515-278-5544, ext. 202.

Strategic Plan

As we near the end of 2010 and look forward to a new year, we are faithful that God will continue to guide us in the implementation of our Strategic Plan to carry out our vision of G.R.A.C.E. God is at work indeed and can be praised for the following local and global accomplishments this year:

- Leadership development training for staff members.
- The Wave, our new preteen ministry, and additional midweek Advent services.
- Steady growth in the Stephen Ministry and support groups including DivorceCare and GriefShare and running Financial Peace University classes three times this year.
- New small groups and message series shaped by the Reveal Spiritual Life Survey and a revamping of the Welcome Center ministry that includes more member participation.
- Youth Confirmation retreats enhance the youth ministry and the Wednesday evening attendance spiked upward.
- Tiny Treasures offers quality education and provides an entrance point to many new families joining Gloria Dei.
- Increased participation in community-focused events, including the Patriotic Concert, Meals from the Heartland, and the Giving Tree.

Since the Strategic Plan was approved in March 2008, the Facilities Ministry Action Team has been working hard to research and evaluate land and building options. Since then, much has changed, including the economy, technology and how churches approach ministry—while our facilities issues continue.

With a desire to remain proactive, new MATs have formed to explore other alternatives and “reboot” the Strategic Plan to address these issues and minister ever more effectively within our doors, our city and our world. The MATs will hold town-hall meetings in February to share their findings and gather feedback from the congregation—look for an invitation soon!

Servers

Officiant/Liturgist:

5:30 p.m. (FLC):
Rev. Phil Robarge

7:45 a.m. (Sanctuary):
Rev. Tim Phillips

9 a.m. (Sanctuary):
Rev. Tim Phillips

9 a.m. (FLC):
Rev. Ron Burcham

10:30 a.m. (Sanctuary):
Rev. Phil Robarge

Preacher:
Rev. Phil Robarge

Organist:
Lynn Hays

Acolytes:

7:45 a.m. (Sanctuary):
Peyton Swift

9 a.m. (Sanctuary):
Amy Hoellein

10:30 a.m. (Sanctuary):
Hunter Vontalge

Elders:

Steve Junge
Tim Mueller
Tim Radig

Ushers:

Northwind
Dennis Dean
Brad Gerke
Mike Mahler

7:45 a.m.

Mike Collins
Joe Gilg
Randy Heiden
Kory Meyeraan
Dan Timmons

9 a.m.

Stan Bonta
John Brown
Jeff Johnston
Dick Larimer
Chris Uglum
Don Zimmerman
Sandy Zimmerman

10:30 a.m.

Dean Miller

Scripture Readings:

Galatians 4:4-7 and Luke 2:1-5 (NIV)

Let's pray!

Blue prayer request cards are beneath the pews. Please indicate your prayer request and place the card in the offering plate. We have both e-mail and phone prayer chains available. Call Pastor Phillips in the church office, 276-1700, or Diane Young between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 993-3870 with your request.

Thanksgivings

- For Don and Charlotte Rasmussen celebrating their 50th anniversary on Dec. 4

Prayers

For the health of:

- Addison Blythe
- Gene Osby
- Mark Anderson
- Don Steuber
- Mark Gerken

And for:

- For the Dueker family grieving the loss of Julie's mother, Mabel Schmidt
- Jennette Morrison, a senior at Concordia University, Seward Neb., traveling to serve the people of Haiti
- Paul and Stacy Sams, who are in the process of adopting a child
- Sarah Bennum and family
- All of our military and workers serving around the world, specifically for Tom Kennedy, Nat Wunsch, Matt Price, Joe Phillips, Jeremy Strachan, Scott LeClair, Eric Lampe, Chad Stone, Craig Scott, Joshua Phillips and Trent Lumley

Prayer team

If you are interested in joining the prayer ministry team, please e-mail Pastor Phillips at: tphillips@gloriadeionline.com with your name, e-mail address and phone number.

Welcome Center updates

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace...1 Peter 4:8-10

Each weekend a lot of assistance is needed from greeting those coming through our doors to helping folks find a seat to collecting the offering to assisting with the sacraments. In the near future you will have an opportunity to share your gifts during the worship service that you normally attend. We need each of you to join one of the hospitality teams that greets, invites, ushers, and shares the joy of membership at Gloria Dei with visitors and other members. Since each worship service will have its own hospitality team, we desire each member of the congregation to offer his/her talents on a monthly basis to those worshipping around you (i.e. greet the first Sunday of every month during the worship service that you normally attend). This ministry is vital to the growth of

Gloria Dei as we work together to meet the needs and assist those who are new to Gloria Dei and to be a continued presence for existing members. Do you have a passion for making others feel welcome and bringing Jesus Christ to people for the first time and for a lifetime? Please take some time to review the responsibilities of each hospitality team and then sign-up today in the narthex and the Family Life Center!

Ushers- The primary duty of an usher is to maintain an atmosphere of reverent worship and respect during the entire worship service. Specific tasks include helping individuals find seats, distributing service handouts, handling offering, communion dismissal and assisting with individual needs that may arise during service.

Greeters- The primary duty of a greeter is to welcome everyone to Gloria Dei. This includes opening the external entry doors appropriate to each service, assisting the elderly, the handicapped or children being dropped off at a main entrance, and directing visitors to the worship location and Welcome Center.

Welcome Center/hospitality- The primary duty is to provide a welcoming environment for Gloria Dei attendees and to encourage fellowship among members and visitors alike. These individuals will be encouraged to be familiar with class locations within the church, the church calendar and be prepared to point individuals to specific information. Following a service, hospitality may work with other team members to provide impromptu tours for visitors.

Sign up today at the Welcome Centers.

“Together we can create a contagious, welcoming, environment at Gloria Dei. A place where we all desire to be.” ~ Pastor Robarge

January opportunities

Yes, there is life after Christmas! And we are excited to offer opportunities that will keep us growing and warm in the cold of winter. Here are a few:

Message series

“Destination-Resurrection: Where am I in God's plan?” We will embark on a 16-week journey through the Bible starting Jan. 8-9, 2011. Travel with us through the Bible making stops in the Old Testament as well as in Jesus' life. We will arrive at our final destination—the resurrection on Easter Sunday, with a new understanding of the majestic, omnipotent hand of God seen throughout the ages and in our lives as well.

2011 Honduras mission trip

Wednesday, Jan. 5 at 6:30 p.m. in rooms 131/133 An informational meeting will be held for those interested in obtaining more information about our mission trip to Honduras from June 25-July 2, 2011.

CareNight

Starts Thursday, Jan. 6 from 6-8 p.m.

The evening will begin with a fellowship meal before heading to the following groups: GriefShare, Stepping Stones, DivorceCare and DivorceCare4Kids. Register on our Web site.

Financial Peace University

Tuesday, Jan. 11 to Apr. 12, 2011 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Financial Peace University (FPU)

is a 13-week life-changing program that empowers and teaches how to make the right money decisions to achieve your financial goals and God's plan for your life. Register on our Web site.

More additional offerings can be found on page 7!

For more information about these events, or to register, visit:
www.gloriadeionline.com
 or call the church office at 276-1700.



Upcoming Events

Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2011 at 6 p.m.
 "30 Hour Famine" kick-off

January 2011 - Dinner theater casting/
 rehearsal

March 2011 - Dinner theater production

April 2011 - 30-Hour Famine

Junior high (6-8)

Sunday: Castaway: Expect fun times during our Castaway hour from 9-10 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

Wednesday from 6-7:15 p.m.: Have a merry Christmas, see you Wednesday, Jan. 12.

Senior high (9-12)

Wednesday, December 22 at 6 p.m. Christmas Party

Bring a white elephant gift (something you already own that may be looking for a new home) wrapped and an hors d'oeuvre to the Christmas party.

Sundays from 9-10 a.m. - Join us in room 138.

Thank you

Thank you to all who participated in the Giving Tree. We served 33 families, which included 29 adults and 84 children. In addition, 20 family baskets were distributed as part of the Giving Tree.

Book club

Join us in January and discuss a great Christian fiction. Meet in the cry room from 6:15-7:15 p.m.

January 5 - "Angel Song" by Sheila Welsch

Need more information, contact Heather Schmitz, 371-5875.

The Wave - Christmas

Sunday, Dec. 19 from 1-2:30 p.m.

Preteens in grades 3-5 are invited for a hands-on Christmas celebration. Bring 6 cookies or snacks to share.

Shining City calendar

Shining City Foundation has once again created a beautiful calendar portraying the people and culture of Tibet and China, whom they serve. The calendars will be available in the narthex throughout December for a suggested donation of \$20. All profits will go to the work that Shining City has funded, which includes building churches, medical clinics and helping orphanages.

Children and youth portrayed "Christmas Throughout the Ages"

Last Sunday, children and youth portrayed Christmas celebrations throughout the ages starting with the first Christmas, traveling to Christmas celebrations of the pioneers and ending in celebratory '50s "sock hop." The program ended in a popular tradition embraced throughout the ages—Christmas baked goods!

Photos by Vic Kesse



Week of Dec.18-25, 2010

Saturday, December 18

- 8:00 a.m. Cantata Rehearsal
- 2:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling
- 4:00 p.m. Northwind Worship Rehearsal
- 5:30 p.m. Northwind Worship Service in Family Life Center
- 5:50 p.m. Grace Place

Sunday, December 19

- 7:45 a.m. Traditional Worship Service in Sanctuary with Communion
- 9:00 a.m. Senior High Bible Study
- 9:00 a.m. Castaway
- 9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service in Sanctuary with Communion
- 9:00 a.m. H3 Worship Service in Family Life Center
- 9:10 a.m. Adult Bible Study
- 9:20 a.m. Grace Place
- 9:20 a.m. Worship Team Warm-up
- 9:20 a.m. Lifelight Adult Bible Study
- 10:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study
- 10:30 a.m. Infusion Contemporary Worship Service in Sanctuary with Communion
- 10:50 a.m. Grace Place
- 1:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #659
- 1:00 p.m. The Wave
- 2:00 p.m. Chapel at Emeritus of Urbandale
- 4:00 p.m. Cantata - Hark the Herald

Monday, December 20

- 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Connections a.m.
- 5:30 p.m. Tiny Treasures' Preschool Christmas Program
- 6:30 p.m. Tiny Treasures' Preschool Christmas Program
- 6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Connections p.m.
- 6:30 p.m. Stephen Minister Training

Tuesday, December 21

- 5:00 p.m. Health and Fitness

Wednesday, December 22

- 6:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers
- 6:00 p.m. The Point Christmas Party
- 6:45 p.m. Carrilloneurs

Thursday, December 23

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study

Friday, December 24

- 8:00 a.m. Office will close at 3 p.m.
- 3:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve in the Sanctuary
- 4:00 p.m. H3 (Family) Christmas Eve in the Family Life Center
- 4:30 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve in the Sanctuary
- 5:30 p.m. Contemporary Christmas Eve in the Family Life Center
- 6:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve in the Sanctuary
- 7:30 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve in the Sanctuary

Saturday, December 25

- 9:00 a.m. Traditional Christmas Day in the Sanctuary with Communion
- 5:30 p.m. No Northwind Service

Advent (Dec. 15)	Attendance
12:15 p.m.	59
6 p.m.	291
Total	350

Worship	Attendance	Communion
Northwind	123	68
7:45 a.m.	84	
9 a.m. (Sanctuary)	163	
9 a.m. (FLC)	60	25
10:30 a.m.	212	
Total	642	93

Outpouring of Love	
General Fund Offerings	\$39,655
Second QTD Offering	\$337,299
Second QTD Budget	\$379,000

Week of Dec. 26-Jan. 2, 2011

Sunday, December 26

- 7:45 a.m. Traditional Worship Service in Sanctuary
 9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service in Sanctuary
 9:00 a.m. **No H3 Worship Service** (please note: H3 will resume Jan. 2, 2011)
 10:30 a.m. Infusion Contemporary Worship Service

Monday, December 27

Office Closed in Observance of Christmas

Tuesday, December 28

No Scheduled Activities

Wednesday, December 29

No Scheduled Activities

Thursday, December 30

- 10:00 a.m. Joyful Stitchers
 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study
 6:30 p.m. Men's Basketball

Friday, December 31

8:00 a.m. Office will close at 2 p.m.

Saturday, January 1

- 4:00 p.m. Northwind Team Practice
 5:30 p.m. Northwind Worship Service

Sunday, January 2

- 7:45 a.m. Traditional Worship Service in Sanctuary with Communion
 9:00 a.m. H3 Worship Service in Family Life Center
 9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service in Sanctuary with Communion
 10:30 a.m. Infusion Contemporary Worship Service in Sanctuary with Communion

January opportunities

(continued from page 4)

Discovery 101: Thursday, Jan 13 to Feb. 3, 2011 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Join us for the winter session of Discovery 101 on Thursdays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. This informal four-week class is for all who are new to the Lutheran faith. If you would like to use the childcare services we offer, please indicate this when you register.

Tiny Treasures Registration for 2011/2012 school year will begin for Gloria Dei families on Saturday, Jan. 8. Registration is as easy as 1-2-3! Simply go to our Web site at: www.gloriadeionline.com and click on the Tiny Treasures' link.

Tiny Treasures Workshop: Want a healthy start to 2011? Dr. Heather Yost will offer a workshop, "Feed Me!: Changing Your Child's Future with Healthy Food," Thursday, Jan. 6 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in rooms 130-132. Registration requested by signing up at the preschool office or e-mail jolynn@gloriadeionline.com Free and open to all.

Tiny Treasures Playgroup: Playgroup for 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 year olds will begin Feb. 1 and is offered on Tuesday or Thursday from 9 to 11:30 a.m.

Winter Kindermusik classes begin on Jan. 18, 2011 and will be held on Tuesdays.

Young Child for ages 5-7 years meets Jan. 18 to Mar. 29 from 4:50-5:20 p.m.

Village for newborn to 18 months meets Jan. 18 to Mar. 8 from 5:30-6 p.m.

Our Time for ages 18 months to 3 years meets Jan. 18 to Mar. 29 from 6:05-6:35 p.m.

Imagine That for ages 3-4 years meets Jan. 18 to Mar. 29 from 6:40-7:10 p.m.

Welcome to Gloria Dei! We are glad you are here!

Welcome! Please take some time to get to know us. If you have any questions, ask any of our member or stop by the Welcome Center today!

Weekend Worship Services

Children are encouraged to worship with their parents at each service before being invited to Grace Place: Saturday at 5:50 and Sunday at 9:20 and 10:50 a.m. For youth in grades 6-8, an invitation to Castaway will be extended on Sunday at 9:20 a.m.

Northwind Contemporary Worship Service: Saturday at 5:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center: This come-as-you-are service offers high-energy worship.

Traditional Worship Service: Sunday at 7:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary: Join us in this classical Lutheran worship service that utilizes all the divine services and hymns from the new Lutheran Service Book.

Traditional Worship Service: Sunday at 9 a.m. in the Sanctuary: Our classical Lutheran worship makes use of written and free-flow liturgy with traditional hymns.

H-3 Family Worship Service: Sunday at 9 a.m. in the Family Life Center: Experience the wonder of a child in this casual and friendly-family atmosphere where families with young children worship together. Toe-tapping hymns, lively praise music and puppets will capture the heart of all family members.

Infusion-Contemporary Worship: Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary: This service offers high-energy worship using contemporary Christian songs and praise music.

Other Important Items

Nursery: Infants to age 3. Located on the lower level with access through the doors in the narthex. The nursery is staffed during all worship services for children ages 3 and under at no cost to the parent.

Cry room: Located in the southwest corner of the narthex is a room with a full view of the Sanctuary for parents to take their small children when they are upset or crying.

Communion

Communion is offered on the first and third Sundays of each month during the services in the Sanctuary and the second and fourth Saturdays and Sundays during the services in the Family Life Center.

A note to our guests and visitors: The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Gloria Dei in the belief and with the confession that this Sacrament is the very body and blood of Christ (The Doctrine of the Real Presence) which is received with the bread and the wine for us to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our faith. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and seek to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us. If you agree with our beliefs regarding the nature and meaning of this Sacrament and desire to commune with us, you are welcome! For the medical and/or physical needs of members or visitors, non-alcoholic wine will be in the inner circle of each communion tray and will be lighter in color than the regular wine. In addition, gluten-free wafers are available, please alert the elders before the service if possible.

Weekly Bible Reading

Galatians 4:4-7 (NIV)

But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

Luke 2:1-5 (NIV)

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

Gloria Dei Weekend Worship Times

Saturday Evening: 5:30 Northwind Contemporary

Sunday Morning: 7:45 Traditional • 9:00 Traditional • 9:00 H3 Service • 10:30 Contemporary

Children's Educational Times: Saturday at 5:50 p.m. and Sunday at 9:20 and 10:50 a.m.

Staffed nursery from 8 a.m.-noon