

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)



"GOD'S AMAZING PROMISES ABOUT YOUR FUTURE"

Order of Worship January 11, 2026 | 10:00 AM
Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus

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Pianist: Carol Blase

Welcome to God's House!

The Mission of Gloria Dei is Caring. Sharing. Serving. Reaching.

We strive to be the local church in the community of Northeast Minneapolis, who are here to help people come to KNOW Jesus, GROW in their faith and GO into the world equipped to SERVE others. GLORY TO GOD!

Today's Topic: You're going to spend the rest of your life in the future — your past is behind you. But since you don't know the future and have no control over it, looking ahead can be scary. These promises offer comfort that He (God) provides strength for today and a future filled with hope and peace, not harm. In this sermon, we will be discussing some of the amazing promises God has for your future.

A special welcome to visitors and guests; we are pleased that you have joined us today! If you have no church family, and if we can be of any assistance to you, please speak with the Pastor after the service or via the church office. We pray you will feel God's love for you and be empowered to live as God's child this week. We look forward to seeing you again.

Is there something you'd like us to pray for today? If you have family members or friends who require our prayers, please use the prayer request cards found in each pew. They will be added to the Prayer list. You can hand your request to an usher before the service or during the offering. They will be given to the Pastor to be included in the prayers for today. ***Other prayer requests can be made by contacting the church office at 612.781.1989.***

Children are welcome in worship!

The Lord's Supper is celebrated.

When we receive the true Body and Blood of Jesus Christ,

- we express the belief that Jesus is the Son of God and Son of Man;
- that Jesus is our Savior and only way for salvation;
- that Jesus offers us His Body and Blood in a mysterious yet real way;
- that Christ's sacrificial death grants the forgiveness of our sins;
- and that God is strengthening us in this Sacrament to live a more godly life and to amend with the help of the Holy Spirit, those areas not in conformity with God's will.

We declare these statements because it is our concern for people to not be hypocritical between their faith and celebrate the blessings of God's Table at the Altar.

Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, January 14th at 11 am. Please join us!

The First Sunday after the Epiphany

AS WE GATHER: God's promises for the future center on His good plans, hope, strength, provision, and eternal life, encouraging believers to trust Him through challenges, find purpose in His guidance, and look forward to ultimate glory.

+ *CONNECT* +

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN **"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"** **LSB 733 v. 1-4,6**
Text & music: Public domain

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:

Under the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last and our eternal home!

INVOCATION

L: Our worship begins the way our lives in Christ begin in baptism: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF OUR SINS

L: Let us confess our sins to God our Heavenly Father who truly loves us.

C: **Merciful Father, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole hearts; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED

+ *NURTURE* +

SONG OF PRAISE

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

LSB 803

Text & Music: Public Domain

Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, Praising Thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, fountain-head of love divine:
Joyful, we Thy heav'n inherit! Joyful, we by grace are Thine!

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 29:10-14

"For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

EPISTLE READING

Philippians 4:4-8

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 6:25-34

L: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

Do Not Be Anxious

"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

"Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ!**

HYMN OF THE DAY

"In Christ Alone"

Keith Getty/Stuart Townend

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In Christ alone my Hope is found, He is my Light, my Strength, my Song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground, Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, What depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, When strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All, Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! Who took on flesh. Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness, Scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died, The wrath of God was satisfied –
For every sin on Him was laid; Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious Day. Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory. Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine - Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath. Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man, Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home, Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

MESSAGE

Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus

"God's Amazing Promises About Your Future"

CONFESSION OF FAITH: Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

GATHERING OF THE OFFERINGS

+ EMPOWER +

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

(Prayer response – P: Lord, in your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.)

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

PREFACE TO HOLY COMMUNION

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

L: It is our duty and delight at all times and everywhere to give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for You have enlightened us by the working of the Holy Spirit. Grant that the Spirit, who has called and gathered us, would guide us in all things, that we be enabled to speak the Gospel to others and rejoice in sharing the gift of salvation that is our treasure. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, with You and the Holy Spirit, is one God, through whom with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take this, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you, Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy, You would strengthen us through the same, in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

CLOSING SONG

"Standing on the Promises of God"

Standing on the promises of Christ, my King,
Through eternal ages let his praises ring;
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
Standing on the promises of God.

Refrain: Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God, my Savior;
Standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises that cannot fail.
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,
Standing on the promises of God.

Refrain

Standing on the promises of Christ, the Lord,
Bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,
Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
Standing on the promises of God.

Refrain

Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
List'ning ev'ry moment to the Spirit's call,
Resting in my Savior as my all in all,
Standing on the promises of God.

Refrain

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

+ Silent Prayer +

POSTLUDE

+ *WE DEPART TO SERVE* +

+ + +

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January – March 2026 Portals of Prayer available at the back of the Church. Help yourself!

Free Drive-Thru Community Dinner at St. Timothy's | January 13th

Drive Thru Community Dinner – Second Tuesday of each month – 5-6:30 pm (or until the food is gone). St. Timothy's is located at 825 51st Ave NE, Columbia Heights.

2026 MCCL March for Life

Let's make Minnesota a place that values and loves both moms and babies! Join thousands of pro-life Minnesotans at the 2026 MCCL March for Life. The March begins at noon on **Thursday, January 22**, on the grounds of the Minnesota Capitol in St. Paul. It will be followed from 12:30 to 1 pm by a program on the Capitol steps featuring speakers, music, and more. Learn more and get involved at mccl.org/march.

The meaning of Epiphany

Epiphany begins on January 6 each year. It gets its name from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, meaning 'to appear, to show or to manifest.' The ending date of the Epiphany season is determined by Ash Wednesday, which is determined by the date of Easter. The season of Epiphany emphasizes the divine nature of Jesus – a truth that justifies his perfection as the model of real life. The color of Epiphany is green to symbolize life, growth and hope and eternity, which are all characteristics of the Epiphany emphasis.



OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

1/11 Sun

First Sunday after the Epiphany

**10:00 am Worship Service w/Holy Communion
w/Pastor Matthew Cephus**

11:45 am Royal Family Worship

6:00 pm NA

1/12 Mon

7:00 pm Beginners AAnon (downstairs)

7:00 pm AAnon (upstairs)

1/13 Tues

7:30 pm SLAA Group Meeting

1/14 Wed

11:00 pm Bible Study – Book of Ephesians

1/16 Fri

5:00 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal

1/17 Sat

10:00 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship

6:00 pm Living Word Prayer Night

1/18 Sun

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

**10:00 am Worship Service w/Holy Communion
w/Pastor Matthew Cephus**

11:45 am Royal Family Worship

6:00 pm NA

SERVING TODAY

Elder: Karmon Christopherson

Reading: Katie Beth Carlson

Ushers: Dale Raschke and Wade Billmeyer

Altar Care: Tom and Patty Lyrenmann

Counters: Dale Raschke and Wade Billmeyer

Attendance: 1/04/2026: 30

Mark your calendars, the annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 18** following the 10 am service. A recap of 2025 will be presented, as well as what is planned for 2026. Please plan to attend.

There will be no Council Meeting in January.

BIRTHDAYS: None
ANNIVERSARIES: None

ETERNAL CANDLE: OPEN
FLOWERS: Christmas Poinsettias

PRAYER CONCERNS

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: Karmon & Meridel Christopherson, Tom Farrell, Robert & Dolores Kluwe, Al Morelli, Roselyn Norman, Larry Schlais, Pat Scott, Alec Schwandt and all our shut-ins

Nanc Rixe recovering from shoulder replacement surgery

Jennifer (Amy Rich's sister) recently treated for breast cancer, recovering

Danielle Ohnstad continued prayers as she struggles with breast cancer

Marie Padmore (Roselyn's sister) prayers for positive test results

Aaron Morelli upcoming testing

Pastor Martin Cornes' father-in-law, Dan, recently diagnosed with cancer; has undergone surgery. He is now staying in a transitional care facility; discussions regarding future treatment options are forthcoming

Roger Kropelniki (Ken Biebighauser's BnL) underwent esophagus surgery and is suffering from lung issues

Karen Charpentier (Ken Biebighauser's sister) going through cancer treatment

Diane Sharbono undergoing cancer treatment

Dorie (Shirley Holzinger's sister-in-law) addressing unexpected issues.

Roxie Johnson (Morelli's niece) heart issues (pacemaker), prayers as she gets stronger

Kim Morelli and Amy Rich (Morelli's DnLs) continued prayers for good health after cancer treatments

Mudy Mason dealing with an autoimmune disease. Pray for strength, peace, hope, believing in God, Family, Mindset.

James Norman, Sr. (James' dad) Continued prayers, prostate cancer seems to be getting worse, he is having increasing pain and decreased mobility

Nonie Wakeman (Shirley Slagle's SnL) diagnosed with Lung Cancer

Karen (Karmon's sister) Recently diagnosed with cancer (Warren's wife)

Kurt Nowacki (Bruce & Julie Cross' Brother-in-Law) recently diagnosed with 'myopathy,' a degenerative muscle disease

Bruce (Wenda Schwoch's BnL) has stage 4 prostate cancer and **Ashley** (Wenda's niece) continued prayers

Warren (Karmon's BnL) continued prayers as he continues treatment for Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma

Amy Price (Morelli's niece) dealing with continued health concerns

For First Responders/Health Care Workers, including James Norman, an ICU nurse

THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY IN DANGEROUS AREAS

TODAY'S LUTHERAN HOUR

January 11, 2026

"Solidarity"

Romans 6:5

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Solidarity is how Christians understand their relationship to Jesus Christ. We believe that Jesus, the Son of God, went where we had gone so that we might go where He goes.

NEXT WEEK ON THE LUTHERAN HOUR

January 18, 2026

"Outstanding Universal Value"

1 Corinthians 1:18-19

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The Christian faith has the power to make us act better. But that's not the goal.

On Sunday mornings, listen on 830 AM WCCO AM at 6:05 am, or 1110 AM, Omaha, at 6:30 am, or XM 170 Satellite Radio on Sundays at noon or listen anytime at www.lutheranhour.org

STEWARDSHIP: *The Baptism of Our Lord - Matthew 3:15*

"But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.'" God sent His Son into the world to fulfill all righteousness for us, to do what we could not do. Here, Jesus plunges Himself into our sins and soaks them up in His Baptism, so that in our Baptism we might be cleansed and renewed. The whole of Jesus' life, everything He did and said, was one great offering to the Father in our stead to fulfill all righteousness for us. All our offerings back to our Lord are in thanksgiving for this one great, true offering.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:

"A baby is God's opinion that the world should go on." *Carl Sandburg – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Main Street Living airs each Sunday at 9 am on WFTC Channel 29/9-2 with an episode of This Is the Life. This week's episode is **"The Christ We Share."** Sharing the Gospel is neither swift nor easy but truly rewarding in the end. The worship service begins at 9:30 am with Rev. William Traphagan from Mission of the Cross Lutheran Church in Crosslake, MN, presenting a message titled **"Baptism of our Lord"** based on **Matthew 3:13-17**. For more information or to watch the program, go to www.mainstreetliving.com select the "Twin Cities" tab.