

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)



THE BOOK OF RUTH: "THE JOURNEY BACK HOME TO BETHLEHEM"

Order of Worship October 4, 2026 | 10:00 AM
Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus

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Pianist: Karrie Kikeh

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: In the face of overwhelming loss, Naomi does what many of us do when we're hurting: she isolates and cuts herself off from those around her. But Ruth embodies a dramatically different response. As we'll see, Ruth's response to the experience of loss becomes the core theme of the entire book and solidifies her place as one of the most inspiring characters of the Hebrew Scriptures. By the end of this episode, you'll have a deeper appreciation for the power of community to help you practice faithfulness in the face of adversity.

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.

Join Gloria Dei on Wednesdays at 11 am for mid-day bible study, featuring the book of Ephesians. We will be wrapping up Chapter 5 walking in love and in the light of Christ and moving on to Chapter 6 a call to spiritual battle using the Armor of God.

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

AS WE GATHER: Naomi had left Bethlehem full of life, but what a difference a decade makes away from God and away from His promises. Despite the pain, she's going back home. Home to her land. Home to her people. Home to her God... and so was Ruth.

+ CONNECT +

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

"I Need Thee Every Hour"

I need Thee ev'ry hour, Most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like Thine Can peace afford.

Refrain

I need Thee, oh, I need Thee; Ev'ry hour I need Thee;
Oh, bless me now, my Savior, I come to Thee.

I need Thee ev'ry hour, Stay Thou nearby;
Temptations lose their pow'r When Thou art nigh.

Refrain

I need Thee ev'ry hour, In joy or pain;
Come quickly and abide, Or life is vain.

Refrain

I need Thee ev'ry hour, Teach me Thy will;
And Thy rich promises In me fulfill.

Refrain

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 unto 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* +

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Shine Jesus Shine"

Graham Kendrick

© *Graham Kendrick*, 1987 and this arr. 1991 *Make Way Music, Ltd.* CCLI # 30426

Lord, the light of Your love is shining In the midst of the darkness shining;
Jesus, light of the World shine upon us, Set us free by the truth you now bring us,
Shine on me, shine on me.

Refrain: Shine, Jesus, Shine, Fill this land with the Father's glory;
Blaze, Spirit, Blaze, Set our hearts on fire.
Flow, River, Flow Flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth Your Word, Lord, And let there be light.

Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,
From the shadows into Your radiance;
By the blood I may enter your brightness,
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness,
Shine on me, Shine on me.

Refrain

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness,
So our faces display Your likeness,
Ever changing from glory to glory,
Mirror'd here may our lives tell Your story.
Shine on me, Shine on me.

Refrain

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ruth 1:8-18

But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband!" Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept. And they said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters; go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, even if I should have a husband this night and should bear sons, would you therefore wait till they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that the hand of the Lord has gone out against me." Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

And she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you." And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

EPISTLE READING

1 John 2:1-6, 15-17

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL READING

Luke 15:17-24

L: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants."' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Trust and Obey"

When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will, He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

Refrain: Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,
But our toil He doth richly repay;
Not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross,
But is blessed if we trust and obey.

Refrain

But we never can prove the delights of His love
Until all on the altar we lay;
For the favor He shows, for the joy He bestows,
Are for them who will trust and obey.

Refrain

Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at His feet,
Or we'll walk by His side in the way;
What He says we will do, where He sends we will go;
Never fear, only trust and obey.

Refrain

Message

Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus

The Book of Ruth: "The Journey Back Home to Bethlehem"

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 HYMN

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer"

LSB 918

Text and Music: Public Domain

Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou art mighty; hold me with Thy pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more;
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer, be Thou still my strength and shield;
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to Thee.
I will ever give to Thee.

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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36th Annual German Dinner and Polka Mass

St. Boniface, 633 Second Street NE, will host a polka Mass on **October 11 at 11 am**. Traditional German Dinner featuring Jaegerschnitzel (Roast Pork), Potato Dumplings, Sauerkraut, Red Cabbage and a special Bavarian Dessert. Special appearance by Northeast Royalty. Music by Rod Cerar. Dancing encouraged. Tickets available at the door: \$18 for adults, \$10 for children 12 & under. Info: 612-379-2761.

OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

10/04 Sun

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am **Worship Service w/Holy Communion**
 Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus

11:45 am Royal Family Worship

6:00 pm NA

10/05 Mon

7:00 pm Beginners AlAnon (downstairs)

7:00 pm AlAnon (upstairs)

10/06 Tues

7:30 pm SLAA Group Meeting

10/07 Wed

11:00 am **GDLC Bible Study**

7:00 pm Neighborhood Block Meeting/Soup Swap (downstairs)

10/09 Fri

5:00 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal

10/10 Sat

10:00 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship

6:00 pm Living Word Prayer Night

10/11 Sun

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am **Worship Service w/Holy Communion**
 Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus

11:45 am Royal Family Worship

6:00 pm NA

SERVING TODAY

Elders: Daniel Carlson and Jason Matasovsky

Reading: Katie Beth Carlson

Ushers: Dale Raschke and Wade Billmeyer

Altar Care: Open

Counters: Shirley Holzinger and Verlayne Sather

Attendance: 9/27/2026: 29

Well, another successful Fall Garage Sale has ended. We put up with rain, wind, cold, and some sunshine. We got through it with smiles and laughter. Thank you, Mary Piper, for all your hard work and for hosting our tenth sale and to all who helped:

Dan and Vicki Moore for feeding us every day, yum.

Verlayne, Jimmy, Pam, Aaron, Julie, Dale, Tom, Patty, Kay, Jeni & Michael.

Also, for all who donated items to sell.

Again, thank you to all and see you in June 2027.

Shirley

BIRTHDAYS: 11th Al Morelli

ANNIVERSARIES: 7th Derald & Christine Hadrath

ETERNAL CANDLE: Open

FLOWERS: Open

PRAYER CONCERNS

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: Wade Billmeyer, Karmon & Meridel Christopherson, Robert & Dolores Kluwe, Larry Schlais, Pat Scott, Verlayne Sather and all our shut-ins

Trent Johnson (Roxie's son) passed away on Sunday, September 25 (liver cancer).

Michelle (Shirley H's friend) suffering with vertigo and doctors just found a lesion on her brain.

Evelyn Cummings (Roselyn's family) breast cancer, double mastectomy and treatment pending

Allie Pierce, her cancer has returned

James Norman His cancer and pain have worsened. He is also losing weight fast.

Larry Derksen (Shirley & Vicki's brother) going through treatment at VA for seizures

Alec Schwandt (Morelli's nephew) heart surgery procedure successful, thank you for all the prayers

Jennifer (Amy Rich's sister) recovering from recent breast cancer treatments

Roxie Johnson (Morelli's niece) ongoing heart issues, upcoming surgery to replace small valve on August 24

Kim Morelli and Amy Rich (Morelli's DnLs) both doing well with current cancer treatments, thank you for your continued prayers

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

THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY IN DANGEROUS AREAS

NOTE: Those "in our extend prayers" are removed from the list after eight weeks. If there is someone you would like to keep on the list for another eight weeks, please contact the church office at 612-781-1989.



TODAY'S LUTHERAN HOUR

October 4, 2026

"Embrace Life"

John 10:10-11

Guest Speaker: Rev. Germán Novelli Oliveros

Jesus offers His abundant life to people plagued by pain and problems.

NEXT WEEK ON THE LUTHERAN HOUR

October 11, 2026

"Covered"

Matthew 22:11-12

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Proper Attire Required: how God covers us with the robe of Christ's perfect righteousness.

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: *19th Sunday after Pentecost - Matthew 21:43*

"Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits." The Pharisees were not bearing fruit. Though they were faithful to the letter of the Law in keeping the Sabbath, tithing and all the rest, they neglected the heart of God's will. The grace of God belongs at the center. Our giving and all our other good works flow forth from receiving God's grace and living in that grace on a daily basis.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:

"Your life is valuable, and your life has purpose. It was not an accident; it was planned from the beginning. But that doesn't mean it will be easy. You will experience hardship and suffering. As you age, your body will wear out. Your mind will dull. Your abilities will lessen. And yet, it is in your body with all of its brokenness that the Holy Spirit resides. It is this, your body, that God the Father formed by hand, and it is this, your body, that Jesus, God's Son, redeemed. And your body, a unique and miraculous gift, will be raised from the dead and made new." *Michelle Bauman, former Director of Y4Life – 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 Fathering Kind."** A single father is down and out and trying to raise a son on his own. The worship service begins at 9:30 with Rev. Kent Borglum from St. John's Lutheran Church in Montevideo, MN, presenting a message titled, **"God Desires Growth in His Garden," based on Isaiah 5:1-6.** For more information or to watch the program, go to www.mainstreetliving.com and select the "Twin Cities' tab.