

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)



"FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD"

Order of Worship April 6, 2025 | 10:00 AM

Pastor Matthew Cephus

**3014 McKinley Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418
612-781-1989**

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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 our topic today, one of the most famous verses about friendship with Jesus is from John 15:13-15, where Jesus says, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you." Wow. Who are we that the Creator of heaven and earth, the Alpha and the Omega, would desire a friendship with us? It's mind-blowing! As I meditated on this, I also reflected on what it means to be Jesus' friend. He may call us His friends, but do we consider Him to be our Friend?

A special welcome to visitors and guests; we are pleased that you have joined us today and invite you to worship with us every Sunday at 10 am! 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.

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

AS WE GATHER: I'm incredibly amazed and grateful that the King of the universe loves me so much that He wants a friendship with me. It made me realize that even as I worship and revere Him, I can draw close to God as my best friend.

+ *CONNECT* +

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

LSB 770

Text and Tune : Public Domain

What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; Oh, what needless pain we bear-
All because we do not carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged-- Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness-- Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden, Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge--- Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a solace there.

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 and ready to forgive.

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

"Oh How He Loves You and Me"

Oh, how He loves you and me, Oh how He loves you and me.

He gave His life, what more could He give?

Oh, how He loves you; Oh, how He loves me; Oh, how He loves you and me.

Jesus to Calvary did go, His love for sinners to show.

What He did there brought hope from despair.

Oh, how He loves you; Oh, how he loves me; Oh, how He loves you and me.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 41:8-14

But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham, my friend; you whom I took from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest corners, saying to you, "You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off"; fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Behold, all who are incensed against you shall be put to shame and confounded; those who strive against you shall be as nothing and shall perish. You shall seek those who contend with you, but you shall not find them; those who war against you shall be as nothing at all. For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "Fear not, I am the one who helps you."

Fear not, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel! I am the one who helps you, declares the Lord; your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

EPISTLE READING

James 4:3-8

You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:9-15

L: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

SONG 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

"Friendship with God"

Pastor Matthew Cephus

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

"Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus"

Public Domain

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, Just to take Him at His Word;
Just to rest upon His promise, Just to know, "Thus saith the Lord!"

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him! How I've proved Him o'er and o'er;
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! Oh, for grace to trust Him more!

I'm so glad I learned to trust Him, Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;
And I know that He is with me, Will be with me to the end.

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him! How I've proved Him o'er and o'er;
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! Oh, for grace to trust Him more!

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him! How I've proved Him o'er and o'er;
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! Oh, for grace to trust Him more!
Oh, for grace to trust Him more!

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 +

SERVING TODAY

Elder: Karmon Christopherson

Reading: Karmon Christopherson

Ushers: Tom and Patty Lyrenmann

Altar Care: Morelli's

Counters: Shirley Holzinger and Verlayne Sather

Attendance: 3/30/2025: 25

OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

4/06 Sun

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

10:00 am

**Worship Service w/Holy Communion
w/Pastor Matthew Cephus**

11:45 am

Royal Family Worship

6:00 pm

NA

4/07 Mon

7:00 pm

Beginners AIAnon (downstairs)

7:00 pm

AIAnon (upstairs)

4/09 Wed

11:00 am

Bible Study

4/11 Fri

5:00 pm

Living Word Music Rehearsal

4/12 Sat

10:00 am

Living Word Worship & Fellowship

6:00 pm

Living Word Prayer Night

4/13 Sun

Palm Sunday

10:00 am

**Worship Service w/Holy Communion +
Distribution of Palm Branches
w/Pastor Matthew Cephus**

11:45 am

Royal Family Worship

6:00 pm

NA



BIRTHDAYS: 10th Wenda Schwoch; 11th Diane Volner
ANNIVERSARIES: 11th Al & Pam Morelli

ETERNAL CANDLE: Shirley Holzinger – In Memory of Brother-in-Law Greg's Birthday (4/11)
FLOWERS: OPEN

PRAYER CONCERNS

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: Meridel Christopherson, Gwen Johnson, Robert & Dolores Kluwe, Roselyn Norman, Larry Schlais, Pat Scott and all our shut-ins

Karen (Shirley H's neighbor) diagnosed with CML cancer and young friend **Allie Piercer** with Leukemia

Chris Hadtrath hip replacement scheduled for March 21, prayers for quick recovery

Doug and Alec Schwandt (Pam's Brother and Nephew) health issues

Trent Johnson (Roxie's son) undergoing cancer treatment for diaphragm cancer

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

Amanda (Sandy Westling's niece) recent car accident, irritated old injuries from previous car accident. Suffering extreme pain, back problems and headaches, all while taking care of her family. Prayers she finds relief from her pain.

Kim Morelli prayers for healing from recent surgery

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, hi 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) Receiving chemo and radiation for Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma

Amy Price (Morelli's niece) – treatments for stage 4 cancer

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.

TODAY'S LUTHERAN HOUR

April 6

"Better Than I Deserve!"

(John 12:1-11)

Guest Speaker: Rev. Keith Haberstock

Jesus didn't deserve to die on a cross, but He died and rose again in order to give us better than we deserve.

NEXT WEEK ON THE LUTHERAN HOUR

April 13

"In the Middle"

(John 19:18)

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

In Jesus, God showed up smack in the middle of life with forgiveness, love, and a promise never to leave us.

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: *Lent 5* - Mark 10:45

"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Jesus gives everything He has: He gives Himself. That self-giving is the model for our giving in all aspects of our lives. In our family, in our church, and in the world at large, Jesus calls us to follow His example of self-giving. We can only do this if we are connected to His self-giving in faith.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:

"Friend, you have a good word to speak to your neighbor. You have God's Word of life to share—with your spouse, your children or grandchildren, your co-worker or friend. You can tell them that their life is sacred, a gift of God, and that their life matters to you." *Rev. Robert Mohns, Lutheran Church—Canada – 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 **"Mr. Big"** - A man from the big city learns humility and forgiveness in the county jail after an accident. The worship service begins at 9:30 am with Rev. Ed Borchardt from Zion Lutheran Church in Hardwick, MN, presenting a message titled **"Not Rejected"** based on **Luke 20:9-20**. This program is interpreted and closed captioned for the deaf and hard of hearing. For more information or to watch the program, go to www.mainstreetliving.com select the "Twin Cities" tab.

In-Person Pre-Planning Funeral Seminar

This pre-planning seminar will be hosted by Washburn-McReavy and held at Gloria Dei. Learn how preplanning for funeral and cremation services can help you protect your family in the future. If you have an interest in attending, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the entryway OR call the church office at 612-781-1989. The dates are **April 23** (11 am – 12 pm) and **May 7** (1 pm – 2 pm).

Pre-planning is determining the details of your funeral and cemetery services in advance. With a plan, you'll reduce stress for grieving loved ones—and simply let them honor and celebrate your life, knowing things are happening just as you wanted.

Some of the topics to be covered, include

- Why funeral services are important for the loved ones left behind.
- The different types of funeral services.
- What are the common reasons people prearrange funeral services.
- What are the benefits of prearranging funeral services.
- What is the VA's veteran burial benefits?
- How do I protect assets from Medicaid?
- What if I die away from home?
- What if I move away from the area?
- Can I donate my body to science?

The free session will consist of a 30-minute informational "pre-planning" presentation and options for the future and a 30-minute Q&A. Snacks will be served.

Free community dinners at St. Timothy's | April 8 @ 5 - 6:30 pm

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, 825 51st Ave. NE, in Columbia Heights, serves a free community drive through dinner the second Tuesday of each month. The **drive through dinner goes from 5-6:30 pm** (or until the food is gone). The dinners are free and everyone is welcome! Please spread the word!! Info: 763-571-9721.

Free Community Meal | April 10 @ 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Faith United Methodist Church, 2708 33rd Avenue NE, holds a free Community dinner every second Thursday of the month, 5-6 pm. Everyone is welcome. Upcoming dates are April 10, May 8 and June 12.

SENIOR PROGRAMS AT LOGAN PARK

Logan Park Rec Center, 690 13th Ave NE, (612) 370-4927

Senior Luncheons, Tuesdays, \$10: Call to reserve your spot by the Wednesday before the luncheon. **Tuesday, April 8:** Honey ham slices and au gratin potatoes. May 13: Taco Bar. June 10: Summer BBQ

Seniors on the Go: Spaces are limited so register early. **Wednesday, April 23:** SideKick Theater, "The Fabulous Lipitones," 9 am-4 pm, \$30. Thursday, May 15: Rochester Trolley Tour, 8 am-4 pm, \$60.