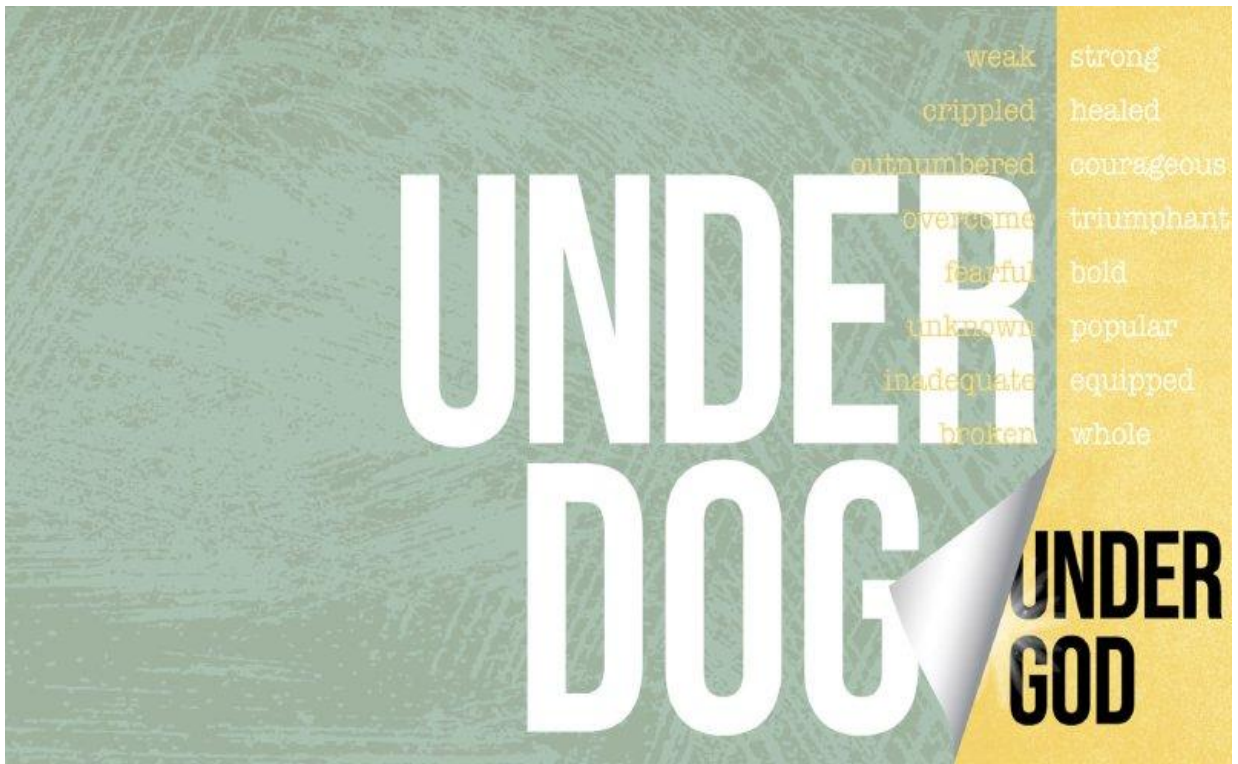


Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)



"Underdog? God Favors You!"

Order of Worship February 22, 2026 | 10:00 AM

Guest Pastor Bruce Laabs

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

www.gloriadeilcms.org

email: info@gloriadeilcms.org

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: You are never without help, even if your case feels like a hopeless pit. The Creator is working behind the scenes to turn your situation around. Sometime the help of God can produce results that defies natural laws—like in the story of Gideon (Judges 6:6-16).

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 us for every Wednesdays Bible Study at 11 am
Bring your friends, bring your family!***

The First Sunday in Lent

AS WE GATHER: There is nothing permanent in life and that includes your problems, your challenges, and whether you feel the world is against you or with you. Just like anything in life, trust God that this too shall pass.

+ *CONNECT* +

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

LSB 702

Text and Music: Public Domain

My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day be wholly Thine!

May Thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart; my zeal inspire!
As Thou has died for me, Oh, may my love to Thee
Pure, warm and changeless be, a living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread and griefs around me spread,
Be Thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray from Thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love, fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!

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

"We Praise You, O God"

LSB 785

Text & tune: Public domain

We praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before You, we kneel and adore You;
We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.

We worship You, God of our fathers, we bless You;
Through trial and tempest our guide You have been.
When perils o'er-take us, You will not forsake us,
And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer,
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us;
To You, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalms 34:18

The Lord is near to the broken-hearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

EPISTLE READING

James 2:15-17

If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:46-55

L: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

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

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

"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!

MESSAGE "Underdog? God Favors You!" Guest Pastor Bruce Laabs

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 SONG

"Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

LSB 643

Text: © 1964 World Library Publications Tune: Public Domain

Setting: © 1972 Inter-Lutheran Commission of Worship

Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.
The Supper is ended. O now be extended
The fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of His teaching, receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
His grace did invite us, His love shall unite us
To work for God's kingdom and answer His call.

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever-living
The tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
Embracing His children of each tribe and race.
With Your feast You feed us, with Your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.

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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OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

2/22 Sun

First Sunday in Lent

10:00 am **Worship Service w/Holy Communion
w/Guest Pastor Bruce Laabs**

11:45 am Royal Family Worship

6:00 pm NA

2/23 Mon

7:00 pm Beginners AlAnon (downstairs)

7:00 pm AlAnon (upstairs)

2/24 Tues

7:30 pm SLAA Group Meeting

2/25 Wed

11:00 am **Bible Study**

2/26 Thurs

6:00 pm Neighborhood Group Meeting

2/27 Fri

5:00 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal

2/28 Sat

10:00 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship

6:00 pm Living Word Prayer Night

3/01 Sun

Second Sunday in Lent

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

11:45 am Royal Family Worship

6:00 pm NA

SERVING TODAY

Elder: Karmon Christopherson

Reading: Julie Cross

Ushers: Al, Pam and Aaron Morelli

Altar Care:

Counters: Al, Pam and Aaron Morelli

Attendance: 2/15/2026: 31

Gloria Dei helps to support Royal Family's children's mission in Liberia via the **Youth Care International** fund. Donations help build schools, provide meals and supplies, run Bible camps, and back Pastor Matthew's spring trip. Pastor Matthew and Patience will be in Liberia from April 6 to May 2, 2026 supporting this great project. To donate, mark your envelope with "*Youth Care International.*"

BIRTHDAYS: 28th Brian Morelli
ANNIVERSARIES: None

ETERNAL CANDLE: OPEN
FLOWERS: OPEN

PRAYER CONCERNS

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

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

Greg (Wade's friend) heart valve replacement, prayers for strength and recovery

Chris Hadrath knee replacement surgery (1/23). Prayers for a speedy recovery

Alec Schwandt (Morelli's nephew) upcoming procedure to remove heart fibulator, prayers for success and healing

David Jacomet (Roselyn's BnL) recently diagnosed with lung cancer, Pneumonia, high fever and declining health

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, recovering from cancer surgery, future treatment discussion 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.

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

February 22, 2026

"As Through Fire"

1 Corinthians 3:13

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

To be baptized into Christ, to trust in Him, is to die with Him, to be raised by Him, to pass through the fire under His shelter.

NEXT WEEK ON THE LUTHERAN HOUR

March 1, 2026

"The Fifth Act"

1 Corinthians 4:1

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Through the Bible, God invites us to help Him complete the unfinished drama He's been writing for the world.

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: *First Sunday in Lent - Matthew 4:7*

"Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written.'" Jesus defeats Satan in our place, not by using His power as God, but by His perfect obedience in His perfect humanity. Jesus defeats Satan not by miracles, but by quoting the Scriptures and living according to them. This should cause us great joy for two reasons. First, we see Jesus win the victory for us. Second, here Jesus shows us how to stand in that victory: on the Word of God alone.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:

"God created us anew in Baptism. We are the work of His hands, and He will not forsake us. Guided by the Spirit through the wisdom of His Word, we learn to walk in His ways, even when we must 'walk in the midst of trouble.'" *Dr. Carol Geisler, Lutheran Hour Ministries – 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 **"Cell of Hope."** Flag Washington (Lawrence Hilton-Jacobs), who came to Christ while in prison gets a new cellmate, Jimmy Stricklin (Richard Dinitri), who is obnoxious. The worship service begins at 9:30 am with Rev. Ben Hollingsead from St. John Lutheran Church in Aitkin, MN, presenting a message titled, **"Tempted but Triumphant,"** based on **Genesis 3:1–21, Romans 5:12–19, and Matthew 4:1–11.** For more information or to watch the program, go to www.mainstreetliving.com select the "Twin Cities" tab.

Easter Holiday Services Dates and Times

Palm Sunday, March 29 | 10 am Worship Service, w/Distribution of Palm Branches

Maundy Thursday, April 2 | 5 pm Worship Service

Good Friday, April 3 | 5 pm Worship Service

Easter Sunday, April 5 | 10 am Worship Service

Readers Needed - Gloria Dei is always in need of readers for Sunday Services

We welcome volunteers to assist with the reading of scriptures during Sunday services, as your participation adds richness and variety to our worship. Whether you are a seasoned reader or would like to try for the first time, your involvement is greatly appreciated. If you feel called to serve in this way, please reach out to the church office for more information or to be added to the schedule. Every voice helps bring the Word of God to life for our congregation.

Thank You!

THE CONCORDIA CHOIR – TODAY, FEBRUARY 22 AT ROSEVILLE LUTHERAN

The Concordia Choir, Moorhead, MN, conducted by Michael Culloton, will sing in concert, at Roseville Lutheran **TODAY, February 22, 2:00 pm!** The Choir is preparing to embark on its 16-day tour of the northeastern United States. The 68-voice ensemble has performed throughout the country as well as internationally. Experience an eclectic program of traditional and contemporary choral works. This is a ticketed event - to purchase tickets, visit ConcordiaTickets.com.

Alpha Course/Introduction to Christianity: This course is for those who are new to the Faith or wanting to relate to those who are new to the Faith. It is a very engaging video-based curriculum. Pastor Bruce will be teaching this at Golden Valley Lutheran Church on Thursdays at 5:30 pm, starting February 26th. To sign up or inquire go to alphausa.org, click on "Find an Alpha," and enter "Golden Vally," along with your contact info. Golden Valley Lutheran is located at 5501 Glenwood Avenue, Golden Valley.

Days for Girls Sew-a-Thon

The Minneapolis City of Lakes Rotary Club will host a **Days for Girls Sew-a-thon** at Northeast United Methodist Church, 2510 Cleveland Street NE, Saturday, February 28, 9-11 am. The volunteers will be making feminine hygiene kits for girls in developing countries. The completed kits will be distributed by various volunteer organizations to girls in developing countries so they can continue to stay in school and have choices in their lives. No sewing experience is required and training will be provided to assemble the kits.