

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)



God's Work ~ Our Hands

"GIVE GOD SOMETHING TO WORK WITH"

Order of Worship June 28, 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 today's sermon, I will walk you through one of the classic dilemmas many of us face in our lives. What does it look like to live faithfully when we get stuck? Exodus 13 and 14 capture this exact moment in the life and journey of the Hebrew people. Freed from a lifetime of servitude, God leads them straight into the wilderness. Out of the lush and abundant land of Goshen and into the nothingness of the desert. It's a stark contrast, much like the whiplash we feel in our own lives when we transition from the known to the unknown. But it gets worse. Thinking the Israelites are confused and lost, the Egyptian army gives chase. And it's in this transitional space—between the known and the unknown, between an army and a sea—where we learn something about how God desires His people to journey. In The Journey Pt. 3, we'll learn what it means to get moving and give God something to bless or work with when we're stuck in the in-between.

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.

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

AS WE GATHER: So often, when we get stuck, we want to put it in park and wait until God parts the sea for us. There is goodness and wisdom in waiting on God to move, but sometimes God is waiting on us so he can. Keep on moving—giving God something to bless.

+ CONNECT +

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

“My Jesus, I Love Thee”

My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine; for thee all the follies of sin I resign;
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou; if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I love thee because thou hast first loved me and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;
I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow; if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

In mansions of glory and endless delight, I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow: If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

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

"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

Exodus 13:20-22; 14:10-15

And they moved on from Succoth and encamped at Etham, on the edge of the wilderness. And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people. When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, "Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? Is not this what we said to you in Egypt: 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent."

The Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

EPISTLE READING

James 2:20-26

Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"—and he was called a friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL READING

Luke 9:12-17

L: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

Now the day began to wear away, and the twelve came and said to him, "Send the crowd away to go into the surrounding villages and countryside to find lodging and get provisions, for we are here in a desolate place." But he said to them, "You give them something to eat." They said, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish—unless we are to go and buy food for all these people." For there were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each." And they did so, and had them all sit down. And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing over them. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. And they all ate and were satisfied. And what was left over was picked up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.

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 "Give God Something to Work With" Rev. Dr. 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

"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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OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

6/28 Sun

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

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

11:45 am Royal Family Worship

6:00 pm NA

6/29 Mon

7:00 pm Beginners AIAnon (downstairs)

7:00 pm AIAnon (upstairs)

6/30 Tues

7:30 pm SLAA Group Meeting

7/01 Wed

NO Bible Study

7/03 Fri

5:00 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal

7/04 Sat

10:00 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship

6:00 pm Living Word Prayer Night

7/05 Sun

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

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

11:45 am Royal Family Worship

6:00 pm NA

SERVING TODAY

Elders: Daniel Carlson and Jason Matasovsky

Reading: Verlayne Sather

Ushers: Morelli's and Lyrenmann's

Altar Car: Morelli's and Lyrenmann's

Counters: Sandy Westling and Tom Harris

Attendance: 6/21/2026: 28



BIRTHDAYS: July 2nd Vicki Henderson
ANNIVERSARIES: Tom Harris & Pat Vogel

ETERNAL CANDLE: Shirley Holzinger – Sister Vicki’s birthday (July 2)

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

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

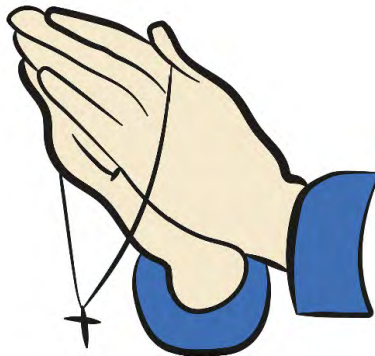
Roxie Johnson (Morelli’s niece) heart issues, upcoming surgery to replace small valve

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.



Note: Wednesday Bible Study will be taking the summer off.
No classes in July or August. We will resume on September 16th.

TODAY'S LUTHERAN HOUR

June 28, 2026

"Journey Through Ambition"

Matthew 25:21

Guest Speaker: Pastor Ryan Tinetti

You don't have to worry about making a name for yourself. In Christ, God has already given you His.

NEXT WEEK ON THE LUTHERAN HOUR

July 5, 2026

"Bloom Where You're Planted"

Genesis 39:21

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Blessing, in a Biblical sense, means God's favor in any circumstance, no exceptions, because there is no place or circumstance in which God does not belong.

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: *Fifth Sunday after Pentecost - Matthew 10:42*

"And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward." The tithes and offerings you give to the Lord's work in His church go toward supporting all manner of discipleship. They provide for a minister of the Gospel to preach, teach and conduct the Sacraments; they provide for our missionaries and ministries of mercy here and abroad; and they make sure that the folks in your area have a place to go to worship the Lord. The Lord is pleased with this work, and He wants to bless you through your support of it.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:

"God always makes life, and He always makes life worth it. The Good Giver of Life also accompanies each one as the Almighty Lord of 'my power is made perfect in weakness' (2 Corinthians 12:9). The crucifixion forgiveness of Jesus Christ proves that He constantly populates the adversities themselves with delights." *Rev. Michael Salemink, former Executive Director of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life*
• lutheransforlife.org

Main Street Living Sunday at 9 am on WFTC Channel 29/9-2 with an episode of *This Is the Life*. This week's episode is **"The Main Event."** A boxer who is hit by a car becomes embittered until he meets a cheerful 8-year-old girl. The worship service begins at 9:30 with Rev. Jeffrey Williams from Trinity Lutheran Church in Slayton, MN, presenting a message titled, **"We Believe, Teach, and Confess"** based on **Matthew 10:26-33**. For more information or to watch the program, go to www.mainstreetliving.com select the "Twin Cities" tab.

Gloria Dei Garage Sale

Thank you to everyone who stopped by the garage sale and made it huge success! The sale ran June 18 - 21 and Friday's rain did not keep the shoppers away. It was one of our busiest sales with proceeds benefiting Gloria Dei. A BIG thank you to all the "helpers" who volunteered their time and energy. It was one of our biggest sales in terms of donations. The garage sale always turns out to be a great neighborhood event. People enjoy stopping by multiple times to see what new items they can discover each day.

May/June Spring Offering

June 30 is officially the close of the 2026 May/Spring Offering. We will keep the fund open for a few weeks after, so keep donations coming. Donations to **Trinity First Lutheran School** can be made by using your "May Mission Offering" envelope. The Minneapolis School is Christ-based and serves children from early entry kindergarten (age 3) through the eighth grade and works to be known as a high-quality educational center for children, their families, and the community. Trinity First is 100% faith focused with 70% of their students on full scholarships. With class sizes averaging 15 students, they strive to meet each students' needs. If you would like a tour of the school, please contact the church office.

Readers Needed for Sunday Services

Gloria Dei is looking for volunteers to read during Sunday services.

- **Interested?** Call the church office at 612.781.1989 or speak with Pastor Matthew.
- **Time commitment:** Minimal—you are already at the 10 am service. 😊
- **Preparation:** Readings will be emailed on Wednesday so you can review them prior to reading on Sunday.

Mark your calendars to attend the "Take it to the Streets" Picnic

Royal Family along with Gloria Dei's assistance, will host the annual Take it to the Streets outreach event on Saturday, July 25 from 3 – 7 pm. All activities will take place outdoors on the church front lawn. Hot dogs and burgers will be on the grill as well as a variety of foods, salads and desserts. This FREE event is family-friendly and open to EVERYONE. The festivities begin at 3 pm, so grab a lawn chair and we'll see you there!

If you can contribute to this event, there is a sign-up sheet on the front bulletin board OR monetary donations can be marked "Take it to the Streets."

