

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)



THE JOURNEY SERIES #4: "IT'S NOT ALWAYS SAFE"

Order of Worship July 5, 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: Following Jesus isn't safe. It was never intended to be. And yet, many of us make decisions based on what's safe, comfortable, and predictable. Paul understood that following Jesus didn't come with those guarantees. And he accepted that because he knew Jesus wasn't interested in safety; he was interested in faithfulness. Like Paul, we're called to be faithful whatever the cost. Until we can identify what keeps us from following Jesus to this extent, we'll struggle to live as faithful disciples on this journey of life.

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.

Pastor Matthew will be out of the office from July 8 – July 13,
attending a mission trip in Jamaica. Safe travels!

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

AS WE GATHER: Being in the center of God's will won't always be easy or safe. But being in the center of God's will is the right place to be, and that's what we should be striving for more than safety or comfort.

+ CONNECT +

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

"Battle Hymn of the Republic"

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword:
His truth is marching on.

Refrain: Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

I have seen him in the watch-fires of a hundred circling camps;
They have builded him an altar in the evening dews and damps;
I can read the righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps;
His day is marching on. Refrain

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of all before his judgment seat;
O be swift, my soul, to answer him; be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on. Refrain

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me;
As he died to make us holy, let us die that all be free!
While God is marching on. 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

"There is a Redeemer"

Text and Music © 1982 Birdwing Music, Admin EMI

**There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.**

Refrain: Thank You, O my Father, for giving us Your Son;
And leaving Your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.

Jesus, my Redeemer, Name above all names,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Hope for sinners slain. Refrain

When I stand in glory, I will see His face, and
There I'll serve my King forever, In that holy place. Refrain

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 43:15-19

I am the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King."

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who

brings forth chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they **are extinguished, quenched like a wick: "Remember not the former things, nor consider** the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

SECOND SCRIPTURE

Acts 14:19-25

But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up and entered the city, and on the next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe. When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Paul and Barnabas Return to Antioch in Syria

Then they passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia. And when they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 16:24-26

L: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

Take Up Your Cross and Follow Jesus

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Faith of Our Fathers"

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Faith of Our Fathers, living still In spite of dungeon, fire and sword,
O how our hearts beat high with joy Whene'er we hear that glorious word!
Faith of our fathers! Holy faith! We will be true to thee till death!

Faith of our fathers, we will strive To win all nations unto thee;
And through the truth that comes from God We all shall then be truly free.
Faith of our fathers! Holy faith! We will be true to thee till death!

Faith of our fathers, we will love Both friend and foe in all our strife,
And preach thee, too, as love knows how By kindly words and virtuous life.
Faith of our fathers! Holy faith! We will be true to thee till death!

Message

Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus

The Journey Series #4: **"It's Not Always Safe"**

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

"God Bless Our Native Land"

LSB 965

Tune: Thesarus Musicus, London, c. 1740; Setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

God bless our native land; firm may she ever stand
Through storm and night
When the wild tempests rave, ruler of wind and wave,
Do Thou our country save, by Thy great might.

So shall our prayers arise to God above the skies;
On Him we wait.
Thou who art ever nigh, guarding with watchful eye,
To Thee aloud we cry: God save the state!

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

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
7/06 Mon	7:00 pm	Beginners AIAnon (downstairs)
	7:00 pm	AIAnon (upstairs)
7/07 Tues	7:30 pm	SLAA Group Meeting
7/08 Wed		<u>NO</u> Bible Study
	6:00 pm	Neighborhood Block Meeting (downstairs)
7/10 Fri	5:00 pm	Living Word Music Rehearsal
7/11 Sat	10:00 am	Living Word Worship & Fellowship
	6:00 pm	Living Word Prayer Night
7/12 Sun		Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
	10:00 am	Worship Service w/Elder Jason Matasovsky Preaching
	11:45 am	Royal Family Worship
	6:00 pm	NA

SERVING TODAY

Elders: Daniel Carlson and Jason Matasovsky

Reading: Julie Cross

Ushers: Dale Raschke

Altar Care: Morellis and Lyrenmanns

Counters: Dale Raschke and Wade Billmeyer

Attendance: 6/28/2026: 27



BIRTHDAYS: 9th Mike Panning
ANNIVERSARIES: None

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

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

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.

NEXT WEEK ON THE LUTHERAN HOUR

July 12, 2026

"Knight, Death, and the Devil"

Ephesians 6:12

Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)

Jesus has triumphed over all the powers of death and hell and He has pledged Himself to be your protector and the armor that you wear.

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: *Sixth Sunday after Pentecost - Matthew 11:28*

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Jesus has come to do the work so that we might have rest from burdens and labors we are not capable of bearing. He frees us from sin, death and the demands of the Law. In that peace and rest of Jesus we find a new purpose — His light yoke is not a burden to bear, but a joy!

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:

"The Fourth of July is an ideal time to thank God if you have a good homeland ... or in the U.S., a free country. What a blessing! Just like Job or Jonah, this isn't the case for everyone. And we should continually pray for those whose homelands or countries are ravaged by war, politics, or disease. Praise God for giving us a country where we can worship Him and live our lives in relative freedom and peace." *Katrina Harrmann, Time of Grace – 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, "A Dream of His Own."** A father and son are at odds when their construction company will evict an Indian family.

The worship service begins at 9:30 with Rev. Jeffrey Williams from Trinity Lutheran Church in Slayton, MN, presenting a message titled, **"Come to Me, All Who Labor"** based on Matthew 11:25-30.

May/June Spring Offering Update

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the 2026 May/Spring Offering. Together, we raised \$565 for Trinity First Lutheran School. Trinity First is a Christ-centered school serving children from kindergarten through eighth grade. With 70% of their students receiving full scholarships. The school provides personal, faith-focused education for children, their families, and the community. If you would like to tour 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.”**



FREE Community Meal at Faith United Methodist Church | July 9 @ 5 - 6 pm
Faith United Methodist Church, 2708 33rd Avenue NE, holds a free Community dinner every second Thursday of the month from 5-6 pm. Everyone is welcome.

FREE Community Dinner at St. Timothy’s | July 14 @ 5 pm - 6:30 pm
Join St. Timothy’s and the local community on Tuesday, July 14, from 5 pm to 6:30 pm (or until the food is gone) for their drive thru community dinner. All are welcome, so please spread the word! **St. Timothy’s Lutheran Church is located at 825 51st Avenue NE, Columbia Heights.**