

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)



THE JOURNEY: "OVERCOMING THE COMPARISON GAME"

Order of Worship August 2, 2026 | 10:00 AM

Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus

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Pianist: Rebecca Tredray

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 Journey Series: Overcoming the Comparison Game, I'll show you how our tendency to compare ourselves with others is the fastest way to sabotage the unique path God intends for us. We all do it, and if we're not careful, we can end up chasing someone else's story instead of our own. In fact, the comparison game shows up in the Bible. In John 21:19-22, Jesus reveals to Peter details about what his future will look like. You'd expect Peter to say, "Thanks for the heads up." Or "Wow. I've got a few questions about that." Instead, Peter looks over his shoulder at the apostle John and asks, "What about him?" Whether it's Peter or you and me, nothing sabotages the sacred and holy path God intends for us like comparison.

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.

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

AS WE GATHER: God is Sovereign, and he does as he pleases. It is his prerogative to lead each of us in whatever path he chooses. When we start looking at others and think they've got it easy and we've got it hard, then we're in for trouble. That is envy, that is lack of trust, and that is sin.

+ *CONNECT* +

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

"In Christ Alone"

v. 1-2

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.

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

"In Christ Alone"

v. 3-4

Keith Getty/Stuart Townend

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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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalms 139:13-18; 23-24

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you.

Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!

And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

EPISTLE READING

Galatians 6:4-10

But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. For each will have to bear his own load.

Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL READING

John 21:19-22

L: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God. And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me."

Jesus and the Beloved Apostle

Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them, the one who also had leaned back against him during the supper and had said, "Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?" When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about this man?" Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!"

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

"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

Message

Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus

The Journey: "Overcoming the Comparison Game"

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

8/02 Sun

Tenth 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

8/03 Mon

7:00 pm Beginners AIAnon (downstairs)

7:00 pm AIAnon (upstairs)

8/04 Tues

6:00 pm **National Night Out, between 30th & 31st McKinley**

7:30 pm SLAA Group Meeting

8/05 Wed

NO Bible Study

8/07 Fri

5:00 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal

8/08 Sat

10:00 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship

6:00 pm Living Word Prayer Night

8/09 Sun

Eleventh 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: Tom Harris and Dale Raschke

Altar Care: Morellis and Lyrenmanns

Counters: Sandy Westling and Tom Harris

Attendance: 7/26/2026: 27

BIRTHDAYS: 6th James Sather, 8th Keven Henslin
ANNIVERSARIES: 8th Keven & Robin Henslin

ETERNAL CANDLE: Sandy Westling – Steve’s birthday (son)

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

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

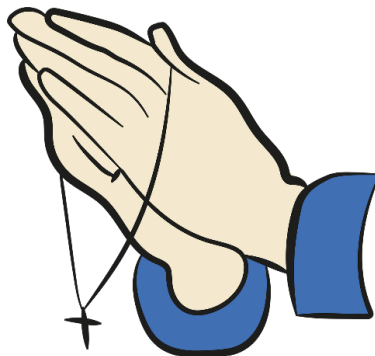
Jennifer (Amy Rich’s sister) recovering from recent breast cancer treatments

Roxie Johnson (Morelli’s niece) 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.



TODAY'S LUTHERAN HOUR

August 2, 2026

"Why Jesus Told Parables"

Mark 4

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Archives August–Effective communicators tell stories to make a point. Hear how Jesus' parables point us to Himself.

NEXT WEEK ON THE LUTHERAN HOUR

August 9, 2026

"Extreme Neighborliness"

Luke 10:25-37

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

Archives August–Jesus is the ultimate "Good Samaritan," the unlikely Rescuer who binds our wounds, carries us to safety, and pays the price through His cross.

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: *Tenth Sunday after Pentecost - Matthew 14:17–18*

"They said to him, 'We have only five loaves here and two fish.' And he said, 'Bring them here to me.'" The five loaves and two fish were all that the disciples had. But when they handed them over to the Lord, the multitudes were fed. Apart from Jesus, all we do and all we have comes to nothing. But in Jesus, the Lord blesses all we do and all we have for His gracious work.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:

"And so, our life finds its meaning in Him. Our path is directed by Him. Our future is secure in Him. Though life may take a very unexpected turn, whether with a pregnancy, an illness, depression, or sudden loss, there is hope, there is peace, and there is comfort in the compassion and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, who loved us and gave Himself for us." *Rev. Paul Clark, Lutherans For Life of Michigan – 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, **"Return Trip,"** the modern-day story of a prodigal daughter. The worship service begins at 9:30 with Rev. Dennis Brech from Trinity Lutheran Church in Slayton, MN, presenting a message titled **"Enough and More,"** based on **Matthew 14:13-21**. For more information or to watch the program, go to www.mainstreetliving.com and select the "Twin Cities' tab.

National Night Out, Tuesday, August 4

Mark your calendar and plan to join our McKinley neighbors between 30th and 31st Streets for National Night Out on **Tuesday, August 4 from 6 – 8 pm**. Stop by for this annual community-building event that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. There will be scheduled visits from emergency personnel, including the Minneapolis Police K-9 Unit and a fire truck.

Take it to the Streets, Community Outreach Event

Thank you to everyone who attended the Fifth Annual **"Take it to the Streets"** BBQ and Picnic on Saturday, July 25th. Special thanks to Chef Ken for another outstanding job at the grill, and to **ALL** the volunteers who helped with setup, serving, and cleanup—this was a BIG job! Despite near-record temperatures, everyone enjoyed the day. It was a hot one! As in past years, the bouncy house was a favorite attraction, and new this year, the cakewalk and bingo, helped make the event a great success. This **FREE** summer gathering is a wonderful opportunity to make new friends, connect with neighbors, and share God's love.

Building relationships and making disciples.

