

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)



THE JOURNEY: "FINISH STRONG"

Order of Worship August 9, 2026 | 10:00 AM

Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus

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

www.gloriadeilcms.org

email: info@gloriadeilcms.org

Pianist: Rebecca Tredray

Welcome to God's House!

The Mission of Gloria Dei is Caring. Sharing. Serving. Reaching.

Today's Topic: Today, as we conclude "The Journey" series, we will be focusing on **Finishing Strong**. We will also examine what gets in the way of finishing well by looking at the lives of Jesus and the apostle Paul. Near the end of his life, Jesus prayed, "I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do." But what's fascinating is that Jesus prayed these words before his ultimate act of obedience on the cross. It's as if Jesus was saying to God, "You can consider it done. I've finished everything you've asked of me, and you can trust me to do the same with this."

In the same way, before the end of his life, the apostle Paul claimed, "My only aim is to finish the race and complete the task." Like Jesus, Paul's story wasn't finished. But he could sense the finish line was near, and he wasn't about to let up. And that's the problem. When we're nearing the end of just about anything, the great temptation is to slow down. But both Jesus and Paul show us how to accelerate towards the point of impact because it's the last 10% of any project that matters the most.

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.

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

AS WE GATHER: It doesn't matter if you've had a great start in the Christian life. It doesn't matter if you've stumbled time and again — or even fallen flat on your face. What matters most is how you finish. I pray that you will finish strong.

+ CONNECT +

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

LSB 739

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Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn
Through the storm, through the night lead me on to the light.
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

When my way grows drear precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call; hold my hand lest I fall.
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

When the darkness appears and the night draws near
And the day is past and gone,
At the river I stand; guide my feet, hold my hand,
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

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 "10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)"

*Matt Redman, Jonas Myrin; 2011 Thankyou Music, Said and Done Music, Sixsteps Music
SHOUT! Music Publishing; Admin EMI Christian Music; CCLI # 6016351*

Chorus: Bless the Lord, O my soul, O... my soul, Worship His Holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul. I'll worship Your Holy name.

The sun comes up. It's a new day dawn-ing.
It's time to sing Your song again.
Whatever may pass And whatever lies before me
Let me be singing. When the evening comes

Chorus

You're rich in love And You're slow to an-ger
Your name is great, And Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons For my heart to find

Chorus

And on that day When my strength is fail-ing
The end draws near And my time has come
Still my soul will Sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years And then forevermore

Chorus

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 40:25-31

To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name; by the greatness of his might and because he is strong in power, not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God"? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

EPISTLE READING

Acts 20:17-24

Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. And when they came to him, he said to them:

"You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL READING

John 17:1-5

L: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

"He Leadeth Me O Blessed Thought"

He leadeth me, O blessed thought!
O words with heav'nly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Refrain: He leadeth me, He leadeth me,
By His own hand He leadeth me;
His faithful foll'wer I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.

Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine,
Nor ever murmur nor repine;
Content, whatever lot I see,
Since 'tis my God that leadeth me.

Refrain

And when my task on earth is done,
When by Thy grace the vict'ry's won,
E'en death's cold wave I will not flee,
Since God through Jordan leadeth me.

Refrain

Message

The Journey: "Finish Strong"

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

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

LSB 809

Text & Music: © 1923, renewed 1951 Hope Publishing Co.

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not; Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Refrain

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Refrain

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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The **Second Annual Polish Picnic** takes place on **Saturday, August 15, 11 am-5 pm** in Huset Park West, 530 Mill Street NE. Polish food will be available for purchase à la carte. The Craig Ebel & DyVersaCo Polka Band will provide music, and the Dolina Polish Folk Dancers will perform traditional Polish dances. In addition, there is an outdoor playground and splash pad in the park. Food tickets can be purchased ahead on the Polish American Institute of Minnesota website at PACIM.org or at the picnic.

OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

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

8/10 Mon

7:00 pm Beginners AAnon (downstairs)

7:00 pm AAnon (upstairs)

8/11 Tues

7:30 pm SLAA Group Meeting

8/12 Wed

NO Bible Study

8/14 Fri

5:00 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal

8/15 Sat

10:00 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship

6:00 pm Living Word Prayer Night

8/16 Sun

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Elder Daniel Carlson, Preaching

11:45 am Royal Family Worship

6:00 pm NA

SERVING TODAY

Elders: Daniel Carlson and Jason Matasovsky

Reading: Jason Matasovsky

Ushers: Dale Raschke and Wade Billmeyer

Altar Care: Lyrenmanns

Counters: Dale Raschke and Wade Billmeyer

Attendance: 8/02/2026: 31

Gloria Dei recently **donated 91 pounds of food** to the Salvation Army Food Shelf. Thank you for generously filling our grocery cart and making this possible. By working together, we can ensure that everyone in our community has access to the food they need to thrive.

BIRTHDAYS: None
ANNIVERSARIES: None

ETERNAL CANDLE: Roselyn Norman, In Memory of Bob & Muriel Heyer

FLOWERS: Roselyn Norman, In Memory of Bob & Muriel Heyer

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

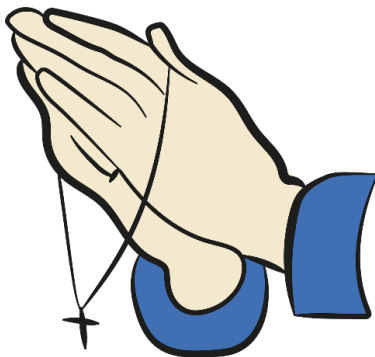
Roxie Johnson (Morelli's niece) heart issues, upcoming surgery to replace small valve

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 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.

NEXT WEEK ON THE LUTHERAN HOUR

August 16, 2026

"Look at Me"

Luke 18:1-8

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Archives August—God hears our cry for justice, not as an indifferent judge, but as our merciful heavenly Father.

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: *Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost - Matthew 14:30*

“But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, ‘Lord, save me.’” The world really is a scary place, with natural disasters, disease, terrorism and a hundred other things. But where do we place our hope, our trust, our vision? Where do we look for aid and comfort? When Peter’s eyes were on the Lord, he had confidence. When he turned to look at his problems and took his eyes off the Lord, he fell apart. Sometimes God’s call to support the work of His church with our offerings makes us nervous. But put your eyes back on your Lord, trust Him, follow His Word and all really will be well.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:

“Just as powerful, we can relate to stories because, whether we know it or not, we are part of the greatest story ever told. The one that’s still unfolding. The one that will last forever. We’re part of God’s story—the one He’s writing—the story of salvation. And because we’re in God’s story, our story begins even before we were born.” *Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life – 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, **“Some People Need Help.”** An amputee from a Veteran’s hospital must learn that hurting others will not help him. The worship service begins at 9:30 with Rev. Eric Obermann from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Lakefield, MN, presenting a message titled **“Where were you?”** based on **Job 38:4-18**. For more information or to watch the program, go to www.mainstreetliving.com and select the “Twin Cities’ tab.