

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)



"CHARACTER CHOICES THAT LEAD TO HAPPINESS"

Order of Worship September 6, 2026 | 10:00 AM

Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus

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

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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: Can you really overcome anxiety and find lasting happiness by following God's plan for your life? Today, I will be revealing a powerful biblical perspective on happiness, anxiety, and the choices that can transform the way you live. Learn what God may be asking you to change so you can experience greater peace, purpose, and joy.

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.

BIBLE STUDY IS BACK!

Gloria Dei is excited to announce Wednesday mid-day bible study will return September 16 at 11 am. We will be wrapping up the book of Ephesians.

See you there!

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

AS WE GATHER: I believe happiness is an attitude, not a state of being. And just as we can choose our attitude, we can choose to be happy. It's not always easy, but I do believe there are choices we can intentionally make every day that will lead to happiness.

+ *CONNECT* +

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds" LSB 524 v. 1-3

Text & Music: Public Domain

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds, and drives away our fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole and calms the heart's unrest;
'Tis manna to the hungry soul and to the weary rest.

Dear name! The rock on which I build, my shield and hiding place;
My never-failing treasury filled with boundless stores of grace.

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 “How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds” LSB 524 v. 4-6

Text & Music: Public Domain

O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend, my Prophet, Priest and King,
My Lord, my life, my way, my end, accept the praise I bring.

How weak the effort of my heart, how cold my warmest thought!
But when I see Thee as Thou art, I'll praise Thee as I ought.

Till then I would Thy love proclaim with ev'ry fleeting breath;
And may the music of Thy name refresh my soul in death!

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalms 42:1, 5-11

As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God.

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.

My soul is cast down within me; therefore I remember you from the land of Jordan and of Hermon, from Mount Mizar. Deep calls to deep at the roar of your waterfalls; all your breakers and your waves have gone over me. By day the Lord commands his steadfast love, and at night his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life. I say to God, my rock: “Why have you forgotten me? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?” As with a deadly wound in my bones, my adversaries taunt me, while they say to me all the day long, “Where is your God?”

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

EPISTLE READING

Philippians 2:19-30

I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me, and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also.

I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need, for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL READING

John 15:9-11

L: The Holy Gospel according to John.

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

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

"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

Message

Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus

"Character Choices That Lead to Happiness"

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

“When Peace Like a River”

LSB 763

Text & Music: Public domain

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;
When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say,
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

Refrain: It is well with my soul.
It is well, it is well with my soul,
It is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate
And hath shed His own blood for my soul

Refrain

He lives, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

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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OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

9/06 Sun		Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
	10:00 am	Worship Service w/Holy Communion
		Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus
	11:45 am	Royal Family Worship
9/07 Mon	6:00 pm	NA
	7:00 pm	Beginners AIAnon (downstairs)
	7:00 pm	AIAnon (upstairs)
9/08 Tues	7:30 pm	SLAA Group Meeting
9/11 Fri	5:00 pm	Living Word Music Rehearsal
9/12 Sat	10:00 am	Living Word Worship & Fellowship
	6:00 pm	Living Word Prayer Night
9/13 Sun		Sixteenth 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: Julie Cross
Ushers: Dale Raschke and Wade Billmeyer
Altar Care: OPEN
Counters: Dale Raschke and Wade Billmeyer
Attendance: 8/30/2026: 27

BIRTHDAYS: None

ANNIVERSARIES: 10th Karmon & Meridel Christopherson

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

Evelyn Cummings (Roselyn's family) breast cancer, double mastectomy and treatment pending

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

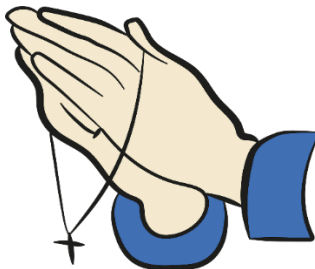
Roxie Johnson (Morelli's niece) ongoing heart issues, upcoming surgery to replace small valve on August 24

Trent Johnson (Roxie's son) liver cancer, now in hospice

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

September 6, 2026

"Come and See"

John 1:46

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The Book of Nature can open your mind to the possibility that God is real. The Book of Scripture, the Bible, goes further, like a friend who's been there.

NEXT WEEK ON THE LUTHERAN HOUR

September 13, 2026

"Forgiveness Is a Non-Negotiable"

Matthew 6:12

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

In God's family, forgiveness is non-negotiable. It's not up for debate because forgiveness is what makes us who we are.

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: *15th Sunday after Pentecost - Matthew 18:4*

"Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." What does it mean to have childlike faith? Certainly Jesus does not want us to have a faith that is childish — we are not called to ignorance or silliness. Rather, we are called to trust the way a child trusts: with complete confidence in the Father. We show that confidence in our lives when we follow His directives for our life. Father knows best, so we'll take His advice!

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:

"However imperfect, every day comes as opportunity and privilege. They usually require patience and persistence, of course, and not a little bit of shared sweat and tears. But they turn out the sweeter for it. 'When she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world' (John 16:21). 'Take heart; I have overcome the world' (John 16:33)!" *Rev. Michael Salemink, former Executive Director of Lutherans For Life – 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, **"The Selling Price."** A father and son face the issue of ethics and how it relates to God's law. The worship service begins at 9:30 with Rev. Jeffrey Williams from Trinity Lutheran Church in Slayton, MN, presenting a message titled, **"The God Who Forgives,"** based on **Matthew 18:15-20**. For more information or to watch the program, go to www.mainstreetliving.com and select the "Twin Cities' tab.



Fall Garage Sale!

Gloria Dei is planning a fall garage sale! With proceeds once again benefitting Gloria Dei. Planned sale dates are **Thursday, September 17, Friday, September 18 and Saturday, September 19**. Sale organizers can use your help! Mary Piper will be collecting gently used, sellable items for the garage sale prior to the sale. Please bring your items to Mary's house no later than Sunday, September 13th (leave them at the side garage door). Volunteers are also needed to help with sale setup, to work the sale and packing up the "left-overs." Items not sold will be donated to local thrift stores.

Speak with Mary or Shirley if you have an interest in helping with any aspect of the sale.

Many hands make light work. 😊

FREE Community Dinner at St. Timothy's

Join St. Timothy's and the local community on **Tuesday, September 8**, from **5 pm to 6 pm** (or until the food is gone) for their drive thru community dinner. All are welcome so spread the word! St. Timothy's Lutheran Church is located at 825 51st Avenue NE, Columbia Heights.

Free Community Meal, September 10 from 5:00 pm - 6:00 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. Future upcoming dates are October 8, November 12 and December 10.

Northeast Polish Fest

Friday, September 11, 5-10 pm; Saturday, September 12, noon-10 pm, Holy Cross Church, University Avenue & 16th Avenue NE. Live music: Friday - Backman-Carson Overdrive – Jack Brass Band; Saturday – Cynor Classic Polka Band, Dolina Polish Folk Dancers, Popbang ('80s & '90s) with Edison Alumni Band. Authentic Polish food (pierogi, kielbasa, gołąbki, bigos (hunter's stew), potato pancakes, Polish desserts. Other activities: cash bingo (Saturday, 1-3 pm), crafts, raffles, pulltabs, gift baskets, rabbit booth, mystery gifts and kids' games Saturday afternoon, family-friendly snack bar, plus beer and wine.