

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)



THE BOOK OF RUTH: "FAMINE IN BETHLEHEM"

Order of Worship September 20, 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: One of the most beautiful and moving stories in the Bible is found in the book of Ruth. But it doesn't start that way. Set in the dark and precarious times of the Judges, the story of Ruth begins in a place of famine and death. As we'll see, the first five verses are loaded with contextual information that lay a foundation for the rest of the book. Before we can appreciate the beauty of the story, we have to deal with the disappointment and understand why it's so important to acknowledge our famines, so they don't define us.

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.

**October-December Portals of Prayer are available (back table of church).
Please help yourself!**

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

AS WE GATHER: When we are facing difficult situations that we don't understand, one of the *best* things we can do is to trust God. It allows Him to take the wrong things that have happened and work them out for our benefit.

+ *CONNECT* +

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

"Nearer My God to Thee"

vs. 1-3

Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee!
E'en though it be a cross That raiseth me; Still all my song shall be,
Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee.

There let the way appear Steps unto heaven;
All that Thou sendest me In mercy given; Angels to beck-on me
Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee.

Then, with my wak-ing thoughts Bright with They praise,
Out of my stony griefs, Beth-el I'll raise; So by my woes to be
Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee.

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

Ruth 1:1-5

In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there.

But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

EPISTLE READING

Romans 8:22-28

For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 11:28-30

L: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross"

Fanny Crosby

Public Domain

Jesus, keep me near the cross, There a precious fountain;
Free to all, a healing stream, Flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

Refrain: In the cross, in the cross Be my glory ever,
Till my ransomed soul shall find Rest beyond the river.

Near the cross, a trembling soul, Love and mercy found me;
There the Bright and Morning Star Shed His beams around me. **Refrain**

Near the cross! O lamb of God, Bring its scenes before me;
Help me walk from day to day With its shadow o'er me. **Refrain**

Near the cross! I'll watch and wait, Hoping, trusting ever;
Till I reach the golden strand, Just beyond the river. **Refrain**

Message

Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus

The Book of Ruth: "Famine in Bethlehem"

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

“Almighty Father, Bless the Word”

LSB 923

Text and Music: Public Domain

Almighty Father, bless the Word
Which through Your grace we now have heard.
Oh, may the precious seed take root, Spring up and bear abundant fruit!

We praise You for the means of grace
As homeward now our steps we trace.
Grant, Lord, that we who worshiped here May all at last in heav’n appear.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

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 +

OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

9/20 Sun	Seventeenth 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
9/21 Mon	7:00 pm	Beginners AIAnon (downstairs)
	7:00 pm	AIAnon (upstairs)
9/22 Tues	7:30 pm	SLAA Group Meeting
9/23 Wed	11:00 am	GDLC Bible Study
9/25 Fri	5:00 pm	Living Word Music Rehearsal
9/26 Sat	10:00 am	Living Word Worship & Fellowship
	4:00 pm	Living Word Board Meeting
	6:00 pm	Living Word Prayer Night
9/27 Sun	Eighteenth 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: Verlayne Sather

Ushers: Al, Pam and Aaron Morelli

Altar Care: Morelli's

Counters: Al, Pam and Aaron Morelli

Attendance: 9/13/2026: 27

BIRTHDAYS: 23rd Patty Lyrenmann
ANNIVERSARIES: 21st Kevin and Kim Morelli

ETERNAL CANDLE: Shirley Holzinger – In Memory of Mom, Arlene’s birthday (9/25) and Nephew Shane’s Birthday (9/25)

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 20, 2026

"High Bar to Clay Jar"

Matthew 20:16

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

In Jesus, we don't need to compare ourselves to anyone else. Instead, we are free to better appreciate them.

NEXT WEEK ON THE LUTHERAN HOUR

September 27, 2026

"Teachable"

Matthew 21:31

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

To be a disciple is to be a learner. Jesus loves you enough to make you teachable.

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: *17th Sunday after Pentecost - Matthew 20:9*

"And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius." Behold the generosity of God! He gives out of His grace, not what we deserve to receive. Living a godly life means living in imitation of God — and surely one of the foundations of God's being is His generosity.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:

"I firmly believe that the sanctity of human life is the most important issue of our day and that by means of informing and educating the public, as well as by applying Christian love and compassion to those directly affected by the trauma of abortion, physician-assisted suicide, and euthanasia, the pro-life position will prevail, and our nation will again uphold the dignity and sanctity of human life." *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, **"My Husband, My Sorrow."** A man and woman must deal with whether they should consummate an adulterous affair. The worship service begins at 9:30 with Rev. Jeff Kasmerski, admissions counselor at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN, presenting a message to start the academic year. For more information or to watch the program, go to www.mainstreetliving.com and select the "Twin Cities" tab.

BIBLE STUDY IS BACK!

Gloria Dei is excited to announce Wednesday mid-day bible study returns September 23rd at 11 am. Plan to join the group as they wrap up with the book of Ephesians, continuing into Chapters 5, which deals with walking in love and in the light of Christ then going on through Chapter 6, a call to spiritual battle using the Amor of God. See you there!

Produce Distribution at East Side

Free & Available to the Public: Fourth Thursday of the Month (July-October)

Next Upcoming Date: September 24th | 3:00-5:00 PM

Produce distributions will be held indoors at ESNS in the Gym. Located at 1700 Second Street NE Minneapolis. The Food Programs at East Side Neighborhood Services secure food support for those who may have difficulty accessing traditional food shelves or grocery stores. These programs serve over 7,000 Hennepin County households, providing fresh, nutritious food as well as referrals to other resources. For more information about the Food Program including the different Food Shelves, you can visit the Food Programs Page on their website.

Taste of Northeast Festival

St. Mary's Orthodox Cathedral, 1701 5th Street NE will host their annual Taste of Northeast Festival on **Saturday, September 26, 12-9 pm and Sunday, September 27, 12-6 pm**. Enjoy local ethnic foods including perohi, holubki, ustipci, as well as corn, fries, and more. Live entertainment, bingo and raffles, silent auction, kids' activities, beer/wine and marketplace. Rock 'n' roll cover band American Bootleg Saturday night. This event is cashless with the exception of bingo, cash raffle and marketplace (by vendor discretion).

Audubon Farmers Market

Every Thursday, rain or shine, from **4 – 7 PM** in the lot at 2800 Johnson Street.

Season runs through September 24th.

Help yourself to a free night lite compliments of Xcel Energy. Limit two boxes per household, please. Lights are in the Fireside Room on the side table.

