

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)



"Be Strong and Courageous"

Order of Worship Sunday September 14, 2025 – 10 AM
Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus

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Pianist: Karrie Kikeh

Welcome to God's House!

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: Over and over again in the Bible, we hear the command, "Do not fear." But what is this command really getting at? Is it simply that we're never to experience fear, and if we do, we're disobeying God in some way? Or is there more to it? Fear can be a paralyzing reality in our lives. But it can also be a gift. It all depends on how we engage it. That's why in this episode, we explore the nature of fear, how it negatively impacts us, and how we can leverage courage to move through it to do what we know we need to do but have struggled to do so.

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.

Gloria Dei's mid-day bible study starts again Wednesday,
September 17 at 11 am, featuring The Chosen, Part 5.

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

AS WE GATHER: Fear can paralyze, distract the mind, and hinder spiritual growth by preventing people from following God's will. Remember, God is present to strengthen, help, and uphold us when we are fearful. He is sovereign and in control, even over life and death.

+ *CONNECT* +

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" LSB 770
Text and Tune: Public Domain

What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; Oh, what needless pain we bear-
All because we do not carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged-- Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness-- Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden, Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge--- Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a solace there.

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 to 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 +

SONG OF PRAISE

"Oh, How He Loves You and Me"

Oh, how He loves you and me, Oh, how He loves you and me.
He gave His life, what more could He give?
Oh, how He loves you; Oh, how He loves me; Oh, how He loves you and me.

Jesus to Calvary did go, His love for sinners to show.
What He did there brought hope from despair.
Oh, how He loves you; Oh, how he loves me; Oh, how He loves you and me.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Joshua 1:1-9

After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, **"Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory. No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it.**

For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be **dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.**"

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 43:1-7

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:

"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life. Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you. I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I **formed and made.**"

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 10:28-31

L: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

Standing on the promises of Christ, my King,
Through eternal ages let his praises ring;
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
Standing on the promises of God.

Refrain: Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God, my Savior;
Standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises that cannot fail.
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,
Standing on the promises of God.

Refrain

Standing on the promises of Christ, the Lord,
Bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,
Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
Standing on the promises of God.

Refrain

Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
List'ning ev'ry moment to the Spirit's call,
Resting in my Savior as my all in all,
Standing on the promises of God.

Refrain

MESSAGE

"Be Strong and Courageous"

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

"Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus"

Public Domain

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take Him at His Word;
Just to rest upon His promise,
Just to know, "Thus saith the Lord!"

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er;
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
Oh, for grace to trust Him more!

I'm so glad I learned to trust Him,
Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;
And I know that He is with me,
Will be with me to the end.

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er;
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
Oh, for grace to trust Him more!

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er;
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
Oh, for grace to trust Him more!
Oh, for grace to trust Him more!

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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Gloria Dei has established a fund for Youth Care International, supporting Royal Family's children's mission in Liberia. Contributions help build schools, provide meals and school supplies, support bible camps, and contribute towards Pastor Matthew's spring mission trip. To contribute, please note this on your envelope.

Fall Garage Sale!

Gloria Dei is planning a fall garage sale. As with past sales, all proceeds will benefit Gloria Dei directly. Sale organizers can use your help! Mary Piper will be collecting gently used, sellable items for the garage sale. Please bring your items to **Mary's house** no later than Sunday, September 28 (2955 Benjamin Street NE, leave them at the side garage door). Volunteers are also needed to help with sale setup and work the sale. Speak with Mary or Shirley if you have an interest. Sale dates are October 2, 3 and 4.

Many hands make light work. 😊

OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

9/14 Sun	Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost	
	10:00 am	Worship with Holy Communion, w/Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus
	11:45 am	Royal Family Worship
	6:00 pm	NA
9/15 Mon	7:00 pm	Beginners AIAnon (downstairs)
	7:00 pm	AIAnon (upstairs)
9/16 Tues	5:00 pm	Gloria Dei Council Meeting
9/17 Wed	7:30 pm	SLAA Group Meeting
9/19 Fri	5:00 pm	Living Word Music Rehearsal
9/20 Sat	10:00 am	Living Word Worship & Fellowship
	6:00 pm	Living Word Prayer Night
9/21 Sun	Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost	
	10:00 am	Worship with Holy Communion, w/Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus
	11:45 am	Royal Family Worship
	6:00 pm	NA

SERVING TODAY

Elder: Karmon Christopherson

Reading: Katie Beth Carlson

Ushers: Pam and Aaron Morelli

Altar Care: Pam and Aaron Morelli

Counters: Pam Morelli and Dale Raschke

Attendance: 9/07/2025: 33

It takes multiple contributors to make a Sunday run smoothly at Gloria Dei. This requires the assistance of multiple volunteers to ensure Sunday activities proceed efficiently and visitors are welcomed. Those interested in volunteering on Sunday mornings, please use the signup sheets on the lobby bulletin board OR contact Jeni in the church office at 612-781-1989. Volunteer roles include ushering, altar care, reading and bringing treats. Thank you!

BIRTHDAYS: 17th Aaron Morelli; 19th Layne Betterman
ANNIVERSARIES: None

ETERNAL CANDLE: OPEN
FLOWERS: OPEN

PRAYER CONCERNS

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: Meridel Christopherson, Tom Farrell, Gwen Johnson, Robert & Dolores Kluwe, Al Morelli, Larry Schlais, Pat Scott, Alec Schwandt and all our shut-ins

Roger Kropelniki (**Ken Biebighauser's BnL**) underwent esophagus surgery and is suffering from lung issues

Al Morelli underwent surgery on August 27 to implant a stent in his carotid artery

Karen Charpentier (**Ken Biebighauser's sister**) **going through cancer treatment**

Danielle Ohnstad is currently undergoing treatment for breast cancer

Diane Sharbono undergoing cancer treatment

Dorie (**Shirley Holzinger's sister-in-law**) recovering from successful bypass heart surgery and is now in rehabilitation, plus addressing some unexpected issues.

Karen (**Shirley H's neighbor**) **diagnosed with CML cancer and young friend Allie Piercer with Leukemia**

Trent Johnson (**Roxie's son**) recovering from cancer surgery (stomach)

Roxie Johnson (**Morelli's niece**) **heart issues** (pacemaker), prayers as she gets stronger

Kim Morelli and Amy Rich (**Morelli's DnLs**) continued prayers for good health after cancer treatments

Mudy Mason dealing with an autoimmune disease. Pray for strength, peace, hope, believing in God, Family, Mindset.

James Norman, Sr. (**James' dad**) **Continued prayers, prostate cancer seems to be getting worse**, he is having increasing pain and decreased mobility

Nonie Wakeman (**Shirley Slagle's SnL**) **diagnosed with Lung Cancer**

Karen (**Karmon's sister**) **Recently diagnosed with cancer (Warren's wife)**

Kurt Nowacki (**Bruce & Julie Cross' Brother-in-Law**) recently diagnosed with **'myopathy,' a degenerative muscle disease**

Bruce (**Wenda Schwoch's BnL** **has stage 4 prostate cancer and Ashley (Wenda's niece) continued prayers**

Warren (**Karmon's BnL**) **Receiving chemo and radiation for Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma**

Amy Price (**Morelli's niece**) dealing with continued health concerns

For First Responders/Health Care Workers, including James Norman, an ICU nurse

THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY IN DANGEROUS AREAS

TODAY'S LUTHERAN HOUR

September 14 "It's All on God; It's All on Us" (Deuteronomy 1:31)
Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

A paradox doesn't make sense, mathematically. But it can be an accurate description of real-life experience.

NEXT WEEK ON THE LUTHERAN HOUR

September 21 "Someone Worth Having" (Numbers 6:27)
Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

We lost God's name along the way, but God found us and gave us the Name by which we can know Him: Jesus--"God saves."

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: *Luke 15:2*

"And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, 'This man receives sinners and eats with them.'" Thanks be to God: Jesus receives us sinners! What the Pharisees can't understand, we praise with all our being. We give thanks for the grace of God, and we live by that grace. The more of it we receive, the more we will want to conform ourselves to the image of our generous and gracious Lord. Knowing the Lord and trusting Him come first, and the desire to imitate Him can't help but follow.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:

"If we expect to be the one to change hearts by sowing seeds of judgment rather than love, we are changing the mission we have been sent to fulfill. Please use your Gospel-motivated voice For Life in love and may God bless your efforts!" *Virginia Flo, 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 "Tragedy Near a Small Town"** — Tragedy in a small-town results in a loving father holding a grudge instead of forgiving as our Father has forgiven us. The worship service begins at 9:30 am with Rev. Tom Volker from St. John and St. Mark Lutheran Church in Rushford, MN, presenting a message titled **"Finding the Lost"** based on Luke 15:1-10. For more information visit: www.mainstreetliving.com and select the "Twin Cities" tab. For more information or to watch the program, go to www.mainstreetliving.com select the "Twin Cities" tab.