

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)



"GOD'S PROVISION IN THE DESERT"

Order of Worship Sunday October 26, 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: When things go wrong in life, one of the first things we feel is that we're alone. In the Hebrew Scriptures, the wilderness is the primary metaphor for challenging seasons of life. But what if the challenges and limitations of the wilderness actually bring forth something much better? This teaching explores how God can help us overcome isolation or loneliness, etc. so we can experience his provision in the desert.

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.

Join Wednesday bible study at 11 am featuring The Chosen, Part 5.

See you there!

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

AS WE GATHER: The desert is an unpleasant place, fleshly speaking. Naturally, we want prosperity, health, and easy going. There will be times of trial and pressure. Our faith will be tested. But the God of grace will meet us even in the desert.

+ *CONNECT* +

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

"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**

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

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

LSB 733 v. 1-4 & 6

Text & music: Public domain

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:

Under the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last and our eternal home!

OLD TESTAMENT READING

1 Kings 19:1-8,11

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." Then he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.

But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, "It is enough; now, O Lord, take

away my life, for I am no better than my fathers." And he lay down and slept under a broom tree. And behold, an angel touched him and said to him, "Arise and eat." And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. And he ate and drank and lay down again. And the angel of the Lord came again a second time and touched him and said, "Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you." And he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mount of God.

And he said, "Go out and stand on the mount before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Second Scripture Reading

Isaiah 43:1-2, 11, 15-19

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.

I, I am the Lord, and besides me there is no savior.

I am the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King."

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings forth chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

HOLY GOSPEL

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 "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" LSB 657 v. 1,2,4
Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, Music: Public domain

A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious;
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe has sworn to work us woe
With craft and dreadful might he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.

No strength of ours can match his might we would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight, whom God Himself elected.
You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is He,
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.

God's Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it;
For God Himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child or spouse,
Though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day.
The Kingdom's ours forever!

MESSAGE "God's Provision in The Desert" 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

"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 +

+ + +

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OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

10/26 Sun

Twentieth 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

10/27 Mon

7:00 pm Beginners AIAnon (downstairs)

7:00 pm AIAnon (upstairs)

10/29 Wed

11:00 am **Bible Study – The Chosen, Part 5**

7:30 pm SLAA Group Meeting

10/31 Fri

5:00 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal

11/01 Sat

10:00 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship

6:00 pm Living Word Prayer Night

11/02 Sun

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Daylight Savings Time Ends!

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: Tom and Patty Lyrenmann

Altarcare: Tom and Patty Lyrenmann

Counters: Tom and Patty Lyrenmann

Attendance: 10/19/2025: 24

BIRTHDAYS: None
ANNIVERSARIES: None

ETERNAL CANDLE: OPEN
FLOWERS: OPEN

PRAYER CONCERNS

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

Aaron Morelli upcoming testing

Al Morelli GI procedure scheduled for 10/13

Gwen Johnson, prayers are working! Upcoming radiation, then cancer free!

Pastor Martin Cornes' father-in-law, Dan, recently diagnosed with cancer; has undergone surgery. He is now staying in a transitional care facility; discussions regarding future treatment options are forthcoming

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

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

Diane Sharbono undergoing cancer treatment

Dorie (Shirley Holzinger's sister-in-law addressing unexpected issues.

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) continued prayers as he continues treatment 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

October 26

"Worn In"

(Numbers 20:13)

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Are you feeling worn down or worn out? Through faith, God conforms us to the pattern of Christ.

NEXT WEEK ON THE LUTHERAN HOUR

November 2

"The Way Out"

(1 Corinthians 10:13)

Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)

Jesus alone is the Way out, rescuing us from sin, despair, and death. He calls us to live as people "on the way."

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: *Proper 25 - 2 Timothy 4:6*

"For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come." As St. Paul nears the end of his life, he continues to view it as something to be spent in sacrifice toward God – just as he had told the Romans to be "living sacrifices" (Rom. 12:1). And why does St. Paul do this? Because he knows that His Lord has already won for him the crown of life. Jesus' sacrifice that purchased our salvation leads us to imitate His sacrifice in our living for Him.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:

"We need pro-life laws and alternative-to-abortion options to provide bridges and buy time for us to share the Gospel of salvation in Christ. Yet we cannot settle for a favorable court ruling, a strong piece of legislation, or a life-favoring politician ... Ultimately, though, changed hearts provide the alternative of eternal hope when despair and desperation tempt us to do bad things." *Pastor Robert Fleischmann, Christian Life Resources – 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 Sexton"** — A pastor and a sexton (church caretaker) with magical powers fight an eerie duel in a church. The worship service begins at 9:30 am with Rev. Ryan Eden from Redeemer Lutheran Church in Winona, MN, presents a message titled **"Hear Moses and the Prophets"** based on **Luke 16:19-31**. For more information or to watch the program, go to www.mainstreetliving.com select the "Twin Cities" tab.

A Prayer for Reformation Sunday

Gracious and Almighty God, You are our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. We give You thanks for the Reformation, through which You restored the clear light of Your Gospel, that sinners are justified by grace alone, through faith alone, for the sake of Christ alone. On this day of remembrance, we give You thanks for Martin Luther and all who have gone before us, confessing the faith with boldness and joy. May we, too, be faithful unto death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Collection for Operation Christmas Child Has Started!



The Board of Social Ministries is sponsoring *Operation Christmas Child* for the 2025 holiday season. Samaritan's Purse sends gift-filled shoeboxes to children in need around the world together with the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Here is what you do: (1) Find a Shoebox - You can use any empty shoebox or shoebox-sized plastic container. (2) Girl or Boy? - Decide whether you will pack for a girl or a boy and the age category: Age groups are 2 - 4, 5 - 9, 10 - 14. (3) Fill with

Gifts. You may also want to include a personal note and photo. (4) Pray - Most importantly, pray for the child who will receive your gifts. (5) Follow your box - remember to include \$10 (per box) for shipping. (6) Drop-Off - Bring your shoebox gift to Gloria Dei no later than **Sunday, November 16.**

St. Maron Lebanese Bake Sale

St. Anne's Club Annual Bake Sale at St. Maron Maronite Catholic Church, 602 University Avenue NE, will hold its annual Lebanese bake sale **Saturday, November 8, 11 am–5 pm and Sunday, November 9, 9 am–12 pm.** Sumboosick, baklava, macaroons, meat pies, Mishtah and Zaatar bread (Manoushe) will be on sale. Pre-orders encouraged online at www.stmaron.com OR email to secretary@stmaron.com. Questions, call 612-379-2758. Don't miss this opportunity to experience the vibrant and rich culture of Lebanon!

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 "*Youth Care International*" on your envelope.