

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)



“UNDERSTANDING GOD’S CHARACTER”

Order of Worship January 5, 2025 | 10:00 AM
Pastor Matthew Cephus

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

www.gloriadeilcms.org

email: info@gloriadeilcms.org

Pianist: Steven Hobert

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: Your "character" is the unique things about you, such as how you act, feel and think. God's character traits are incredibly unique and help us understand who he is. Where can we find these character traits? Inside the Bible, God's own Word.

A special welcome to visitors and guests; we are pleased that you have joined us today and invite you to worship with us every Sunday at 10 am! 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.



The Second Sunday after Christmas

AS WE GATHER: As we begin this new year, remember that your heavenly Father is faithful, and He's got a better plan that you can ever imagine. He's with you and will always be there for you. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

+ CONNECT +

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SOLO

"Joseph's Song"

Karmon Christopherson

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, Oh 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

Isaiah 49:8-10, 13-15

Thus says the Lord: "In a time of favor I have answered you; in a day of salvation I have helped you; I will keep you and give you as a covenant to the people, to establish the land, to apportion the desolate heritages, saying to the prisoners, 'Come out,' to those who are in darkness, 'Appear.' They shall feed along the ways; on all bare heights shall be their pasture; they shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them, for he who has pity on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them.

Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the Lord has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted.

But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me."

"Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 13:5-8

Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"

Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

HOLY GOSPEL

John 3:11-17

L: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

For God So Loved the World

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

SONG OF THE DAY

“In Christ Alone”

Keith Getty/Stuart Townend

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In Christ alone my Hope is found, He is my Light, my Strength, my Song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground, Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, What depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, When strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All, Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! Who took on flesh. Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness, Scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died, The wrath of God was satisfied –
For every sin on Him was laid; Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious Day. Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory. Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine - Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath. Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man, Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home, Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

MESSAGE "Understanding God's Character" Pastor 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

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

LSB 711

Text and Tune: Public Domain

Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need Your tender care.
In Your pleasant pastures feed us, for our use Your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have bought us; we are Yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have bought us; we are Yours.

We are Yours; in love befriend us, be the guardian of our way.
Keep Your flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear us children when we pray
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear us children when we pray

You have promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
You have mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to You.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to You.

Early let us seek Your favor, early let us do Your will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior, with Your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have loved us, love us still.

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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Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Update!
The destination of Gloria Dei's 2024 Christmas Child Shoeboxes we all delivered to Malawi. It is a small Country in Southeastern Africa.

OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

1/05 Sun

Second Sunday after Christmas

10:00 am **Worship Service w/Holy Communion
w/Pastor Matthew Cephus**

11:45 am Royal Family Worship

6:00 pm NA

1/06 Mon

7:00 pm Beginners AIAnon (downstairs)

7:00 pm AIAnon (upstairs)

1/10 Fri

5:00 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal

1/11 Sat

10:00 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship

6:00 pm Living Word Prayer Night

1/12 Sun

First Sunday after the Epiphany

10:00 am **Worship Service w/Holy Communion
w/Pastor Matthew Cephus**

11:45 am Royal Family Worship

6:00 pm NA

SERVING TODAY

Elder: Karmon Christopherson

Reading: Sandy Westling

Ushers: Al, Pam and Aaron Morelli

Altar Care: Tom and Patty Lyrenmann

Counters: Al, Pam and Aaron Morelli

Attendance: 12/29/2024: 21

Lift Update: On December 29 Gloria Dei voted on the Lift Project. We will be moving forward with the project. Periodic updates will be provided.

Sign-up sheets for **2025 Altar Care, Ushers, Flowers and Candles** can be found on the entryway bulletin board. Sign up for the week that works best with your schedule. Flowers can be ordered through the Church at a cost of \$28 per bouquet plus a \$12 delivery fee, or feel free to bring in your own. You will be billed directly from the Church if you order flowers. Candles are \$6/per Sunday.

BIRTHDAYS: None

ANNIVERSARIES: None

ETERNAL CANDLE: Sandy Westling – Son, Jeff’s birthday

FLOWERS: Open

PRAYER CONCERNS

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: Meridel Christopherson, Robert & Delores Kluwe, Tom Lyrenmann, Larry Schlais, Pat Scott and all our shut-ins

Amanda (Sandy Westling’s niece) recent car accident, irritated old injuries from previous car accident. Suffering extreme pain, back problems and headaches, all while taking care of her family. Prayers she finds relief from her pain.

Gwen Johnson strength and prayers as she recovers from recent surgery to repair an abdominal aortic aneurysm. This type of aneurysm is hereditary and runs in her family.

Kim Morelli prayers for healing from recent surgery

Roselyn Norman lower back surgery (11/19). Continued prays for recovery in Jesus’ name.

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

Roselyn Norman’s college friend and sister Famata Kamara and her two sons, Eric Golafaie, and Naide Davis, for deliverance

Amy Rich’s mom (Morelli’s DnL) Kathy Rich, diagnosed with pancreatic cancer

Roselyn Norman’s neighbor and friend, Tom, was recently diagnosed with State 3 kidney and liver cancer

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

Jim (Gwen Johnson’s brother) reoccurring issues due to his time in the Service

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) – treatments for stage 4 cancer

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

THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY IN DANGEROUS AREAS

TODAY'S LUTHERAN HOUR

January 5

"In the Beginning Was Dialogue"

(John 1:1)

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Do you need more faith? Then you need the Word. Faith comes from hearing the Word of Christ.

NEXT WEEK ON THE LUTHERAN HOUR

January 12

"What's This Neighborhood Coming To?"

(John 1:14)

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

When you're not limited by the size of your table, you can invite everyone.

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: *Second Sunday after Christmas - Luke 2:40*

"And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him." At Christmas God became man. And as a man, Jesus grew up and increased in strength and wisdom. We are called to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, to grow in His image. The power for this growth comes from receiving the grace of Jesus in His Word and Sacraments. How is the Lord calling you to grow this year?

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:

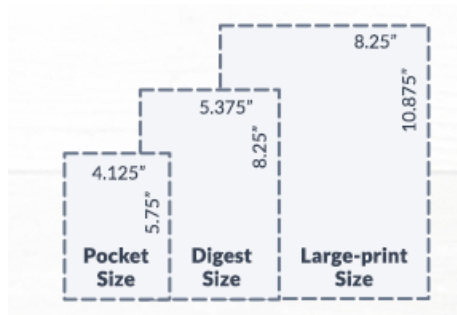
"Let the peace of Christ change how you live—clothing yourself with godly virtues reflecting a thankful heart. Carry this peace that the angels proclaimed and Simeon saw. It sets the tone for the coming year, another year you get to live as God's child in the peace of Jesus." *Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – 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 Other Wiseman."** Another Magi, making his journey to the Christ child, encounters others and shows kindness along the way. The worship service begins at 9:30 am with Rev. Larry Harvala from St. John's Lutheran Church in Park Rapids, MN, presenting a message titled **"In the Father's House"** based on **Luke 2:49**. This program is interpreted and closed captioned for the deaf and hard of hearing. For more information or to watch the program, go to www.mainstreetliving.com select the "Twin Cities" tab.

A DAILY DEVOTION FOR ALL!

Start your day. End your day. Take a break in the middle of the day. No matter when you need it, Portals of Prayer inspires you to live each day in Jesus' name.

Within your envelope box are envelope for **Portals of Prayer** payment. Each daily devotion includes a Bible reading, meditation and prayer to apply to your daily life, published in multiple sizes and formats – note the slight cost increase for this years' subscription, for pocket size (regular print) is **\$9.76**, digest-size is **\$20** and large print is **\$21.25**. Please use the envelopes designated when you make your payment.



Vital Living: Senior Planet Tech

Gather in the East Side Neighborhood Services Tech Lounge Mondays and Wednesdays, 11 am-12:30 pm. Classes are free, but an RSVP is a must. January 6: **Google Maps**; January 8: **Using Google Drive**; January 13: **Ridesharing Apps**; January 15: **Getting Started with Lyft**.

East Side Neighborhood Services is located at 1700 Second Street NE.

Registration: 612-787-4086 or VitalLiving@esns.org.

Free Drive-Thru Community Dinner at St. Timothy's | January 14th

Drive Thru Community Dinner – Second Tuesday of each month – 5-6:30 pm (or until the food is gone). Free, everyone is welcome! St. Timothy's is located at 825 51st Avenue NE, Columbia Heights.

Circuit Volleyball starts on Sunday January 12 for Winter and Spring

LCMS church members are invited to play volleyball Sunday afternoons at Redemption Lutheran Church (927 E Old Shakopee Rd, Bloomington). It is open to men and women 18 and up. Warmup starts at 1 pm and then teams are formed for playing. If needed, teams will be adjusted to make them more even, we will play until approximately 3 pm. If you decide to play after the first couple of weeks, the fee will be \$10 per person for the entire season which begins Sunday January 12 and runs through Spring of 2025. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide childcare. If you have questions contact: Lon (Landsortner@comcast.net).