

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)



"GOD, MY PROMISE KEEPER"

**Order of Worship February 2, 2025 | 10:00 AM
Pastor 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: A promise is only as reliable as the one who makes it. Because of circumstances beyond our control, we can't always keep our promises, but the sovereign Lord of the universe has never failed to fulfill His word. In order to understand how important God's faithfulness is, we must recognize that the Christian life is totally dependent upon His promises. The Bible is filled with God's promises. While it is important to remember these promises spoken about our lives, it is even more important to remember that God keeps every single one of His promises.

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 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

AS WE GATHER: The promises of God represent the very best example of God's responsibility. He makes the promises, but we have to believe and receive by faith. God is the Promise Maker & Keeper; I am the promise claimer.

+ CONNECT +

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SOLO "It Is No Secret What God Can Do" 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: **Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: forgive and cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.**

FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED

+ NURTURE +

HYMN OF PRAISE

"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

OLD TESTAMENT 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!**

EPISTLE READING

2 Corinthians 1:2-4, 18-22

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been Yes and No. For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes. For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

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!

SONG OF THE DAY

"Standing on the Promises of God"

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

"God, My Promise Keeper"

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

“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

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Groundhog Day

2/02 Sun

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

11:45 am Royal Family Worship

6:00 pm NA

2/03 Mon

7:00 pm Beginners AIAnon (downstairs)

7:00 pm AIAnon (upstairs)

2/05 Wed

11:00 am Bible Study, The Book of Ruth

2/07 Fri

5:00 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal

2/08 Sat

10:00 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship

6:00 pm Living Word Prayer Night

2/09 Sun

Fifth 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: Jason Matasovsky

Ushers: Al, Pam and Aaron Morelli

Altar Care: Al, Pam and Aaron Morelli

Counters: Al, Pam and Aaron Morelli

Attendance: 1/26/2025: 27

BIRTHDAYS: 4th Debra Panning; 5th Derald Hadrath

ANNIVERSARIES: None

ETERNAL CANDLE: Open

FLOWERS: Open

PRAYER CONCERNS

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

Trent Johnson (Roxie's son) undergoing cancer treatment for diaphragm cancer

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

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.

Kim Morelli prayers for healing from recent surgery

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, 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

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.

TODAY'S LUTHERAN HOUR

February 2

"Do the Things That Make for Unity"

(John 4:9)

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Jesus crosses borders and even breaks down the barrier of death to do the things that make for unity: shared worship, shared mission, shared harvest.

NEXT WEEK ON THE LUTHERAN HOUR

February 9

"We Have an Advocate"

(John 5:6)

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Where we might see only a problem, Jesus sees a person who needs an Advocate.

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 4:34*

"Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are — the Holy One of God." The demon that Jesus drives out knows who He is. But knowing that Jesus is the Holy One of God will not save the demon from hell. Knowledge is not faith. To know something is not the same thing as trusting someone. Faith is trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation. Mere knowledge of the facts does not give life: trusting in the living God is how we receive life. Knowledge doesn't necessarily lead anywhere — but a living faith in the Lord Jesus leads to a life build on Him and walking in His footsteps

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:

"All life is sacred. Your life is sacred. Every life has infinite worth and eternal value. Your life matters—from conception to natural death to eternity. The psalmist declares: 'I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are Your works; my soul knows it very well' (Psalm 139:14)." *Rev. Robert Mohns, Lutheran Church—Canada – 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 Measure Of A Man."** A newspaper editor learns forgiveness. The worship service begins at 9:30 am with Rev. Jeffrey Williams from Trinity Lutheran Church in Slayton, MN, presenting a message titled **"Depart in Peace"** based on **Luke 2:22-32**. 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.

Something Sweet Needed!

Do you have a favorite cookie, bar or cake recipe? Every Sunday, following the 10 am service, GDLC hosts Fellowship in the Fireside Room, where snacks and coffee are served. If you would like to bring something to share (it doesn't have to be homemade), please sign up on the lobby bulletin board for the Sunday that works best for you.

Your Assistance is Needed for Sunday Services!

Be sure to sign up for Altar Care and Usher duties. Sign-up sheets can be found on the bulletin board in the Church lobby. If you've never done it before, a quick training session can be scheduled by calling the church office.

Also, if you have an interest in reading the scriptures during Sunday services, please let Pastor Matthew know or call the office directly at 612-781-1989. No prior training needed to read! 😊

Vital Living: Senior Planet Tech

Gather in the East Side Neighborhood Services Tech Lounge Mondays and Wednesdays, from 11 am-12:30 pm. Classes are free, but an RSVP is a must. ESNS is located at 1700 Second Street NE. Registration: 612-787-4086 or VitalLiving@esns.org.

Upcoming sessions: **Feb. 3** - AI All Around; **Feb. 5** - AI & Disinformation; **Feb. 10** - Google Maps; **Feb. 12** - Using Google Drive.

Free Community Meal - February 13 @ 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, 5-6 pm.

Everyone is welcome.

Upcoming dates are Feb. 13 and March 13.

