

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)



ARMOR OF GOD: "The Belt of Truth"

Order of Worship February 23, 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: The book of Ephesians was written by the Apostle Paul as an encouragement to the church in the city of Ephesus. He pleads for the church to stay strong in their fight against the "devil's schemes." After many years of faithful service, Paul knew first-hand that the enemy was always working to undermine the people of God, and that his methods were crafty. Believers needed to be alert and ready to fight, standing against "the powers of this dark world."

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 Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

AS WE GATHER: One of the devil's favorite weapons is lies. Often, he distorts the truth so that it can be hard to distinguish fact from fallacy. But if we ask God, He will give us discernment and the wisdom to know His truth above all the other noise.

+ CONNECT +

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS Keven and Robin Henslin

OPENING HYMN

"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

LSB 761

Lead by Karmon Christopherson

Text & Tune: Public domain

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood, from Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Not the labors of my hands, can fulfill Thy Law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring; simply to Thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to Thee for dress; helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown, see Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in 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 "My Faith Looks up to Thee" LSB 702 v. 1, 2, 4
Text and Music: Public Domain

My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day be wholly Thine!

May Thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart; my zeal inspire!
As Thou has died for me, Oh, may my love to Thee
Pure, warm and changeless be, a living fire!

**When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love, fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

ISAIAH 40:28-31

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

EPISTLE READING

EPHESIANS 6:10-17

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

HOLY GOSPEL

JOHN 8:31-36

L: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free?'"

Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

Stand up, stand up for Jesus; ye soldiers of the cross.
 Lift high His royal banner; it must not suffer loss.
 From vict'ry unto vict'ry His army He shall lead
 Till ev'ry foe is vanquished, and Christ is Lord indeed.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus; the trumpet call obey;
 Stand forth in mighty conflict in this His glorious day.
 Let all His faithful serve Him against unnumbered foes;
 Let courage rise with danger and strength to strength oppose.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus; the strife will not be long;
 This day the din of battle, the next the victor's song.
 The soldiers, overcoming, their crown of life shall see
 And with the King of Glory shall reign eternally.

MESSAGE **ARMOR OF GOD: "The Belt of Truth"** 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

"Onward, Christian Soldiers"

LSB 662 v. 1, 2, 3

Text & tune: Public domain

Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before.
Christ, the royal master, leads against the foe;
Forward into battle see His banners go!

Refrain: Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before.

Like a mighty army moves the Church of God;
Brothers, we are treading where the saints have trod.
We are not divided, all one body we,
One in hope and doctrine, one in charity.

Refrain

Crowns and thrones may perish, kingdoms rise and wane,
But the Church of Jesus constant will remain.

**Gates of hell can never 'gainst that Church prevail;
We have Christ's own promise, and that cannot fail.**

Refrain

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

2/23 Sun		Seventh 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
2/24 Mon	7:00 pm	Beginners AIAnon (downstairs)
	7:00 pm	AIAnon (upstairs)
2/26 Wed	11:00 am	Bible Study, The Book of Ruth
2/28 Fri	5:00 pm	Living Word Music Rehearsal
3/01 Sat	10:00 am	Living Word Worship & Fellowship
	6:00 pm	Living Word Prayer Night
3/02 Sun		The Transfiguration of Our Lord
	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: Karmon Christopherson

Ushers: Tom and Patty Lyrenmann

Altar Care: Tom and Patty Lyrenmann

Counters: Shirley Holzinger and Verlayne Sather

Attendance: 2/16/2025: 27

BIRTHDAYS: 28th Brian Morelli
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

Nanc Rixe's mother Doris is hospitalized and in serious condition as of Sunday, 2/16
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 23

"Need to Know"

(John 7:28-29)

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

If you don't need God, you won't know God.

NEXT WEEK ON THE LUTHERAN HOUR

March 2

"It's Best to Be with Jesus"

(Luke 9:28-36)

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

Life was not meant to be a do-it-yourself project. We need God's help, His strength, His gifts.

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 6:30-31*

"Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them."

Is it really possible to live like this? Would it really work to be so open-handed and generous? Our conscience often reminds us of our failures, and the Lord knows our **frailty, that's for sure! But a life of faith is a life lived in imitation of Jesus** — and every follower of Jesus knows that yes, indeed, it is better to give than to receive.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:

"Handmade by the one true God and designed in His image, we are inherently valuable, not only for this life but for all of eternity." *Michelle Bauman, Y4Life – 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 **"Richest Man in the World."** A gardener reminds a town what's most important in life. The worship service begins at 9:30 am with Rev. David Petrich from St. James Lutheran Church in Holland, MN, presenting a message titled **"The Resurrection Body"** based on 1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42. 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.

Please add to your Calendar:

*Ash Wednesday is March 5, 2025. Gloria Dei will host a 5:30 pm
Ash Wednesday Service with the Imposition of Ashes.*

This service will not include Holy Communion.

(No 11 am bible study that day)

Vital Fitness

East Side Neighborhood Services, 1700 2nd Street NE

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

Weekly Thursdays, 10:30-11:30 am, in person. A wide variety of balance, strength and flexibility movements will be incorporated into this fun and social group class. No cost. Pre-registration is helpful for planning purposes but not required. All abilities are encouraged to come. Movements can be done seated or standing.

Columbia Heights Library Adult Programs

Winter Green Houses: Monday, March 3, 4:30-5:30 pm. CHPS Agriculture Specialist Melissa Trent will walk you through the process of constructing a small winter greenhouse from recycled materials; planting, labelling and caring for it. You will learn about five native plants that provide food sources and nesting habitats for pollinators and where to plant them. Take your greenhouse project home to watch through the winter months and plant your hearty seedlings in the spring.

Columbia Heights Library is located at 3939 Central Avenue NE. For more information, call 763-706-3690 or visit chplmn.org.

Alzheimer's Workshop

Minneapolis Parks & Recreation is offering a new workshop, "I Was Just Diagnosed with Alzheimer's (AD), Now What the Heck Do I Do?" Presented by an ex-teacher who was diagnosed with AD 18 months ago. There is almost no support for people who are newly diagnosed with AD; support from the medical community or insurance companies **typically doesn't begin until 3-5 years** after diagnosis. This workshop is for people who have an actual diagnosis of AD or Mild Cognitive Impairment. Topics to be covered include: basic FAQs about AD, tips and tricks for living with the disease and concrete work-arounds to stave off the impact of the most common AD symptoms, for as long as possible. Tuesday, Feb. 25, 9:30-11 am, Northeast Recreation Center, 1530 Johnson Street NE.