

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)



"FOUR (4) BIBLICAL FACTS ABOUT MY FUTURE"

Order of Worship January 4, 2026 | 10:00 AM

Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus

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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: Our certainty about the future doesn't come out of thin air. It is based upon the fact that God not only knows what will take place in the future but has revealed the key events to us so that we might have confident hope. Furthermore, God explicitly claims accurate knowledge of future events as one of the greatest proofs that he is the one and only true God. It shows us not only that we can trust him but also that he is in total control of all things.

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.

Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, January 14th at 11 am. Please join us!

The Second Sunday after Christmas

AS WE GATHER: It's time that we need to recognize the preciousness of this biblical truth about God's omniscience. This truth gives Christians the security in God's promises about a future filled with certainty and hope. Happy New Year!

+ CONNECT +

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SOLO

"Live Like That"

Lisa Kleinwolterink

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: **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 +

SONG 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

Psalms 139:1-6;13-17

Search Me, O God, and Know My Heart
To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

O Lord, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 1:4-8

The Call of Jeremiah

Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth." But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the Lord."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

THIRD SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

HYMN 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 "Four Biblical Facts About My Future" 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 SONG

"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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Free Community Meal - January 8, 2026 @ 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, from 5-6 pm. Everyone is welcome. Upcoming dates are Jan. 8, Feb. 12, March 12, April 9, May 14, June 11, July 9, Aug. 13, Sept. 10, Oct. 8, Nov. 12 and Dec. 10.

Puzzle Swap - January 13, 2026 @ 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Thursday, January 13th at 6:30 pm. Do you have stacks of puzzles that you finished and now you need a new challenge? Bring your puzzles to swap and find something new to keep you busy on these cold winter nights. Senior Room in Murzyn Hall, 530 Mill Street NE. Park in the back of Murzyn hall and enter through the lower level entrance.

2026 MCCL March for Life

Let's make Minnesota a place that values and loves both moms and babies! Join thousands of pro-life Minnesotans at the 2026 MCCL March for Life. The March begins at noon on Thursday, January 22, on the grounds of the Minnesota Capitol in St. Paul. It will be followed from 12:30 to 1 pm by a program on the Capitol steps featuring speakers, music, and more. Learn more and get involved at mccl.org/march.

A graphic with the words "Happy New Year!" in large, blue, 3D block letters. The letters are decorated with colorful streamers and confetti, giving it a festive, celebratory appearance.

OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

1/04 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

1/05 Mon

7:00 pm Beginners AlAnon (downstairs)

7:00 pm AlAnon (upstairs)

1/06 Tues

7:30 pm SLAA Group Meeting

1/09 Fri

5:00 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal

1/10 Sat

10:00 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship

6:00 pm Living Word Prayer Night

1/11 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: Jason Matasovsky

Ushers: Tom and Patty Lyrenmann

Altar Care: Tom and Patty Lyrenmann

Counters: Sandy Westling and Tom Harris

Mark your calendars, the annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 18** following the 10 am service. A recap of 2025 will be presented, as well as what is planned for 2026. Please plan to attend. There will be no Council Meeting in January.

BIRTHDAYS: None
ANNIVERSARIES: None

ETERNAL CANDLE: Sandy Westling, Son, Jeff's birthday
FLOWERS: Christmas Poinsettias

PRAYER CONCERNS

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

Nanc Rixe recovering from shoulder replacement surgery

Jennifer (Amy Rich's sister) recently treated for breast cancer, recovering

Danielle Ohnstad continued prayers as she struggles with breast cancer

Marie Padmore (Roselyn's sister) prayers for positive test results

Aaron Morelli upcoming testing

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

January 4, 2026 "Knowing and Being Known in a New Year" John 17:3

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

God invites us to speak with Him in prayer and hear from Him in the Bible, to know Him and to love as we are loved.

NEXT WEEK ON THE LUTHERAN HOUR

January 11, 2026 "Solidarity" Romans 6:5

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Solidarity is how Christians understand their relationship to Jesus Christ. We believe that Jesus, the Son of God, went where we had gone so that we might go where He goes.

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 2:49*

"And he said to them, 'Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?'" What a privilege the Lord has given to us by calling us to come to His house! It is not a burden but rather an honor and a blessing for us to always be able to come to a place where we know God is present for us in His gifts of Word and Sacrament. Likewise, the Lord has honored us by allowing us to support the work of His house with our tithes and offerings.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:

"Your story might not look as extraordinary as Esther's. It might not be as exciting as David's or as tumultuous as Rahab's or as terrifying as Mary's. But you don't have to be extraordinary for God to work through you. He can accomplish great things through something as unassuming as prayer or as simple as a meal for a new mother." *Grace MacPherson – 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*. The worship service begins at 9:30 am with Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President of the Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, presenting a Christmas message. 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.