

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)



The Church – “The Benefits of Belonging”

Order of Worship March 22, 2026 | 10:00 AM
Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus

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

www.gloriadeilcms.org

email: info@gloriadeilcms.org

Pianist: Carol Blase

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: It's easy to assume that our faith in Jesus is only about ourselves—our own assurance, growth, and sanctification. Have you ever been tempted to believe this? Yes, Christ saved us individually, but in doing so, He also united us to one another (Ephesians 4:15–16). True Christian faith is designed to be lived out within the Body of Christ—a community of believers walking together in love, service, and encouragement.

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 Gloria Dei for Wednesday Bible Study, each Wednesday at 11 am
Featuring the Book of Ephesians*

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

AS WE GATHER: We're not meant to live the Christian life alone. Salvation through Jesus Christ brought us into a family—a living, breathing body where Christ is the head. Being part of a church isn't just an option for Christians; it's an essential part of our faith journey.

+ *CONNECT* +

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN SOLO "The Family of God" Karmon Christopherson
Bill Gaither

Congregation joins in with Refrain

For I'm part of the family The family of God

You will notice we say brother And sister 'round here
It's because we're a family And these folks are so near
When one has a heartache We all share the tears
And rejoice in each victory In this family so dear

Refrain: I'm so glad I'm a part Of the family of God
I've been washed in the fountain Cleansed by His blood
Joint heirs with Jesus As we travel this sod
For I'm part of the family The family of God

From the door of an orphanage To the house of the King
No longer an outcast A new song I sing
From rags unto riches From the weak to the strong
I'm not worthy to be here But, praise God, I belong

Refrain: I'm so glad I'm a part Of the family of God
I've been washed in the fountain Cleansed by His blood
Joint heirs with Jesus As we travel this sod
For I'm part of the family The family of God
Yes I'm part of the family The family of God

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

"There is a Redeemer"

Melody Green-Sievright © 1982 Birdwing Music, BMG Songs, Inc. EMI Christian Music Publishing, CCLI # 11483

There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

Refrain:

Thank You, O my Father, for giving us Your Son;
And leaving Your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.

Jesus, my Redeemer, Name above all names,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Hope for sinners slain.

Refrain

When I stand in glory I will see His face, and
There I'll serve my King forever, in that holy place.

Refrain

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Deuteronomy 26:5-9

"And you shall make response before the Lord your God, 'A wandering Aramean was my father. And he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number, and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. And the Egyptians treated us harshly and humiliated us and laid on us hard labor. Then we cried to the Lord, the God of our fathers, and the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. And the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great deeds of terror, with signs and wonders. And he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 2:18-22

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.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 16:13-18

L: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

The Church's one foundation, Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation, By water and the Word.
From heav'n He came and sought her, To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.

Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses, With every grace endued.

Through toil and tribulation, And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation, Of peace forevermore;
Till with the vision glorious, Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious, Shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union, With God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion, With those whose rest is won.
O blessed heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by Your grace,
That we, like saints before us, May see You face to face.

MESSAGE The Church – "The Benefits of Belonging" 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 SONG

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

LSB 809

Text & Music: © 1923, renewed 1951 Hope Publishing Co.

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not; Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Refrain

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

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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Thrivent Choice Dollars Expire March 31!

If you have Thrivent Choice Dollars, they expire at the end of the month, March 31. You can direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church before they expire. **With your generosity, GDLC received \$1,150 for 2025.** You must renew the distribution of your Choice Dollars every year. There are two ways to direct your Choice Dollars. Go to www.thrivent.com and click on Generosity or call 1-800-847-4836 and say "choice dollars," a representative will come on the line to help.

Thank you for considering GDLC when making your Choice Dollars donation.

Invitation to GDLC's 75th Anniversary Celebration – May 17, 2026

Our planning committee is actively organizing Gloria Dei's 75th Anniversary Celebration and they need your help to make this event memorable. If you know someone who would like to attend this special event, you are encouraged to let us know. To do so, call the office at 612-781-1989 OR email info@gloriadeilcms.org with their contact information. This will help us extend invitations and ensure all interested guests are invited. Your help in connecting with our extended community is greatly appreciated!

Youth Care International Fund

Gloria Dei helps to support Royal Family's children's mission in Liberia via the **Youth Care International** fund. Donations help build schools, provide meals and supplies, run Bible camps, and back Pastor Matthew's spring trip. Pastor Matthew and Patience will be in Liberia from April 6 to April 30, 2026 supporting this great project. To donate, mark your envelope with "*Youth Care International.*"

Funeral Preplanning

Are you interested in attending a 60-minute funeral preplanning seminar by Washburn McReavy? The presentation will lay out options and hopefully reduce stress for your family while communicating your wishes. Please let the office know if you are interested and we'll schedule a convenient date and time that works for everyone. 612.781.1989 OR info@gloriadeilcms.org

OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

3/22 Sun

Fifth Sunday in Lent

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

11:45 am Royal Family Worship

6:00 pm NA

3/23 Mon

7:00 pm Beginners AlAnon (downstairs)

7:00 pm AlAnon (upstairs)

3/24 Tues

7:30 pm SLAA Group Meeting

3/25 Wed

11:00 am **Bible Study featuring the Book of Ephesians**

3/26 Thurs

6:00 pm Neighborhood Block Meeting (downstairs)

3/27 Fri

5:00 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal

3/28 Sat

10:00 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship

6:00 pm Living Word Prayer Night

3/29 Sun

Sixth Sunday in Lent

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

11:45 am Royal Family Worship

6:00 pm NA

SERVING TODAY

Elders: Daniel Carlson and Jason Matasovsky

Reading: Julie Cross

Ushers: Tom Harris and Wade Billmeyer

Altar Care:

Counters: Tom Harris and Wade Billmeyer

Attendance: 3/15/2026: CANCELLED due to Weather

Easter Holiday Services Dates and Times

Palm Sunday, March 29 | 10 am Worship Service, w/Distribution of Palm Branches

Maundy Thursday, April 2 | 5 pm Worship Service

Good Friday, April 3 | 5 pm Worship Service

Easter Sunday, April 5 | 10 am Worship Service

BIRTHDAYS: Sandy Westling 23rd, Robin Henslin 28th

ANNIVERSARIES: None

ETERNAL CANDLE: Sandy Westling – Mom and Grandma’s birthday

FLOWERS: OPEN

PRAYER CONCERNS

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

For all our Neighbors who are taking turns on Community Watch Walks

Maude Jacomet (Roselyn’s sister) recently lost her husband, keep in prayer for God to comfort her and her bereaved family

Larry Derksen (Shirley & Vicki’s brother) going through treatment at VA for seizures

Greg (Wade’s friend) heart valve replacement, prayers for strength and recovery

Alec Schwandt (Morelli’s nephew) upcoming procedure to remove heart fibulator, prayers for success and healing

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, recovering from cancer surgery, future treatment discussion 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

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.

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 at 612-781-1989.

TODAY'S LUTHERAN HOUR

March 22, 2026

"Meeting You Where You Are" 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Guest Speaker: Rev. Gregory Manning

Jesus meets you where you are, not where you should have been.

NEXT WEEK ON THE LUTHERAN HOUR

March 29, 2026

"Dime-Sized"

1 Corinthians 13:11

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

God doesn't look for valuable, desirable, beautiful people so that He can love them. God loves first, and by loving them He makes people valuable, desirable, and beautiful.

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: *Fifth Sunday in Lent - Romans 8:1*

"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." This is the joy of the Gospel! There is no condemnation for us before the throne of God because in His love He has provided salvation for us in Christ. We have been set free. We are His children once again, and co-heirs with Christ of all the blessings of heaven. If this does not make us thankful, nothing will!

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:

"Grief is a road no one chooses, yet in this fallen world, it is a path we must all tread. There are no words that can fully capture the sorrow of losing someone we love—no explanations that can make death seem natural or right. It wasn't meant to be this way. Death is the great intruder, a bitter consequence of sin's curse. And yet, even in the depths of sorrow, the Lord gives us this promise: He is near." *Rev. M.L. Smith, Director of International Missions of Lutheran Church-Canada (LCC) – 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 **"Money for Marriage."** A woman's decisions at work put a strain on the new couple's marriage. The worship service begins at 9:30 am with Rev. Ed Borchardt from Zion Lutheran Church in Hardwick, MN, presenting a message titled, **"Can I Have a Little Taste?"** based on **John 11:1-45**. For more information or to watch the program, go to www.mainstreetliving.com select the "Twin Cities" tab.