

Welcome to Chapel of the Cross - Lutheran!

To Our Visitors

We offer you a very warm welcome to Chapel of the Cross - Lutheran! We are happy to have you worshipping with us and hope that your worship here today and the Word of God that is shared will assist you in the week ahead. If you are looking for a church home, we hope that you would prayerfully consider making Chapel of the Cross that home. May God bless your week!

Nursery

If you need to take your infant or toddler out of the worship service, the nursery is available for your use. The worship service is broadcast to the nursery. An usher will be happy to show you where it is located.

Sunday School and Bible Study

We have an exciting Sunday School program for children age 2 and up. We also offer Bible studies for youth and adults at 9:45 a.m. Sunday School rooms are in the Lower Level. Check the Chapel Weekly handout for Bible study locations. An usher will be happy to take you to the appropriate place.

Holy Communion

Holy Communion is celebrated regularly and often here at Chapel of the Cross. If you have questions about Holy Communion and what we as a church believe about it, please speak with the Pastor before the service. Children are invited to come forward with their parents for a blessing.

Sound Enhancement Devices

If you are hearing impaired there are sound enhancement devices available. Please ask an usher for a personal receiver.

The Mission of Chapel of the Cross

Chapel of the Cross - Lutheran exists to show the love of Jesus to the people of North County and beyond so that all may have a living relationship with Christ.

Thanksgiving Eve and Day

November 27 & 28, 2024

6:30 P.M. & 9:30 A.M.

A WORD OF WELCOME

A warm welcome to all who are worshiping with us this Thanksgiving, especially to those who are guests and visitors. We are always happy to have you “give thanks” with us here at Chapel of the Cross, and it is our prayer that your worship with us will be richly blessed. We invite you to exchange a “Happy Thanksgiving” with fellow members and friends of the Chapel of the Cross family.

AS WE GATHER

Thanksgiving Day has a high and great meaning for us as Christians, for thanksgiving is grateful acknowledgement for the past and present mercies of God. We have so much for which to thank God – the Word He gives us, which is the living voice of our Lord. Through water and the Word of God, we are brought into His kingdom in Holy Baptism. The spiritual nourishment that renews our strength for the daily tasks of this life comes in the Sacrament of the Altar, where we receive the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sin. This is our purpose today – to pray, praise, and give thanks. We are compelled to give thanks because of the mercy of Jesus Christ.

PRELUDE

Variations on “Now Thank We All Our God”

WELCOME AND EXCHANGE OF PEACE

Please stand

ENTRANCE HYMN

892 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

The congregation turns and faces the cross as the procession approaches the altar reminding us that Christ leads us into the presence of God.

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

People: Let us praise the Lord our God, for He is our salvation!

Pastor: Praise Him for His mighty acts!

People: Praise Him for His excellent greatness!

Pastor: Praise Him for the gift of life!

People: Praise Him for the gift of new life in Christ!

Pastor: Let us sing praise to the Lord our God!

People: We will declare all that He has done for us! We will praise our Lord together.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Before we enter into God's presence to give thanks to Him for all His blessings, we confess our sins and our unworthiness. Clothed with the gift of His forgiveness we may stand before Him to worship, adore, and give thanks to Him whose grace is lavish and abundant.

Pastor: Forgive us, Lord,

People: for we have at times taken Your gifts without being grateful, abused Your gifts and Your creation, and rebelled against Your ownership of all we so quickly call our own. Forgive us of all our sin against You and against one another. Restore us by Your grace and lead us to know and do Your will; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our + Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

People: Amen. Thanks be to God!

+ THANKSGIVING FOR OUR SALVATION +

READING

John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Pastor: God our gracious Father, we have sinned against Your will and way in every aspect of our living.

People: **We pray, forgive us, as we know You will because of the atoning life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.**

Pastor: We praise and offer our thanksgiving to You that Your great love has been effective in us by grace through faith.

People: **We give You all praise and thanks through our Lord Jesus Christ who reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

HYMN "How Can I Thank You, Lord"

**How can I thank You, Lord, For all Your loving-kindness,
That You have patiently Borne with me in my blindness!
When dead in many sins And trespasses I lay,
I kindled, holy God, Your anger ev'ry day.**

**Lord, You have raised me up To joy and exultation
And clearly shown the way That leads me to salvation.
My sins are washed away; For this I thank You, Lord.
Now with my heart and soul All evil I abhor.**

+ THANKSGIVING FOR OTHERS +

READING

1 Corinthians 12:7, 12-13, 26-27

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body – whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Pastor: Thank You, Lord, that You have put others around us:

People: **Family that loves us and allows us to love them;**

Pastor: Friends who encourage us and share their time with us;

People: **Fellow Christians who rejoice with us in our common bond of faith.**

Pastor: Others, who even in times of hardship, disagreement, hard-headedness and disruption, still show love, patience, kindness and forgiveness toward us.

People: **May our thanksgiving for each of them be obvious in our thoughts and actions toward them through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

HYMN “For the Beauty of the Earth”

**For the beauty of the earth, For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth Over and around us lies;
Christ our God, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the joy of human love, Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above, For all gentle thoughts and mild;
Christ our God, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For Thy church that evermore Lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore Her pure sacrifice of love;
Christ our God, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grateful praise.**

+ THANKSGIVING FOR THE LORD'S PROTECTIVE CARE +

READING

Psalm 23

Pastor: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want;

People: He maketh me to lie down in green pastures.

Pastor: He leadeth me beside the still waters; He restoreth my soul.

People: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Pastor: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:

People: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.

Pastor: Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;

People: Thou anointest my head with oil, my cup runneth over.

Pastor: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

People: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Pastor: Thank You, Lord, that even in times when we feel we cannot make it, You sustain us.

People: When we question, "Why?", You give hope.

Pastor: When earthly fortresses fail, Your strong arm delivers.

People: Help us always to see that Your love and care are from everlasting to everlasting.

Pastor: Even in the midst of hurt, hardship or pain, allow us to receive with thanks Your promise: "In all things, I work for the good of those who love Me."

People: We praise and thank You for Your fatherly love through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANTHEM

“My Heart is Filled with Thankfulness”

Getty/Townend

*My heart is filled with thankfulness
To Him who bore my pain;
Who plumbed the depths of my disgrace
And gave me life again;
Who crushed my curse of sinfulness
And clothed me with His light;
And wrote His law of righteousness
With pow’r upon my heart.*

*My heart is filled with thankfulness
To Him who walks beside;
Who floods my weaknesses with strength
And causes fears to fly;
Whose every promise is enough
For every step I take;
Sustaining me with arms of love
And crowning me with grace.*

*My heart is filled with thankfulness
To Him who reigns above;
Whose wisdom is my perfect peace
Whose every thought is love;
For every day I have on earth
Is given by the King;
So, I will give my life, my all,
To love and follow Him.*

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+ THANKSGIVING FOR LEADERS OF HOME, STATE, CHURCH +

READING

Romans 13:1-7

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Pastor: Father in heaven, we give thanks that You continue to provide for us, Your children.

People: **You grant to us leaders who guide and direct us, that our earthly life might be safe and orderly.**

Pastor: That we might prosper both physically and spiritually,

People: **we pray, grant wisdom, health and strength to our leaders.**

Pastor: Bless parents as they seek to bring up their children in Your name and in accordance with Your will.

People: **Bless pastors, teachers and all leaders in our church that they may serve You as they share with us.**

Pastor: Bless our president, governor, mayor and other civic leaders that they may have the courage to work honestly and with conviction for the good of us all.

People: **Bless us with leadership pleasing to You through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

HYMN "God Bless Our Native Land"

**God bless our native land; Firm may she ever stand
Through storm and night.
When the wild tempests rave, Ruler of wind and wave,
Do Thou our country save By Thy great might.**

**So shall our prayers arise To God above the skies;
On Him we wait.
Thou who art ever nigh, Guarding with watchful eye,
To Thee aloud we cry: God save the state!**

+ THANKSGIVING FOR EARTHLY BLESSINGS +

READING

2 Corinthians 9:8-15

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Please stand

RESPONSIVE CONFESSION OF FAITH AND PRAYER

Pastor: I believe that God has created me and all that exists. He has given me and still preserves my body and soul with all their powers.

People: **For another year of life, we thank You Lord. We are grateful for the gift of medical science which helps us keep our bodies whole; we thank You for the gift of Your Word which feeds us in spirit.**

Pastor: He provides me with food and clothing, home and family, daily work, and all I need from day to day.

People: **Lord, You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. You give us so much more than we need or desire. Thank You for the opportunity to earn our daily bread. Thank You for the love and support of our families, and the warmth and joy of our homes.**

Pastor: God also protects me in time of danger and guards me from every evil. All this He does out of fatherly and divine goodness and mercy, though I do not deserve it.

People: **Father, thank You for sending Your angels to watch over us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us. We are grateful for Your love and mercy.**

Pastor: Therefore I surely ought to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

People: **On this, our day of thanksgiving, we offer up our praise and sincere gratitude, Father. Fill us with Your Spirit so that we may live lives that give You honor and glory. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

895 Now Thank We All Our God

SERMON

OFFERTORY

"Simple Gifts"

arr. by Joseph Martin

GATHERING OF THE OFFERINGS

(If you are visiting with us today, your presence with us is your contribution. Thank you for sharing this day with us. During the offering, please sign the fellowship register found at the end of each pew. Pass the pad on and when it reaches the end of the pew, pass it back, noting the names of others.)

+ THANKSGIVING THROUGH PRAYER +

Please stand

Pastor: Gracious Father, we give thanks in Your holy name for all the benefits You grant to us as Your people. Thankful are we that in Your Son, Jesus, You won for us forgiveness, life and salvation. Thankful are we that You continue to bless us with health, fellowship, leaders and those things necessary to sustain our earthly life. Thankful are we especially that You have revealed Yourself to us and allowed us by grace to enter Your presence through faith. By Your Spirit, continue to work in us as we pray the prayer Your Son taught us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

+ THE THANKSGIVING MEAL +

In the Lord's Supper we receive Christ's body and blood in and with the bread and wine. The two great blessings of the Lord's Supper are the forgiveness of sins and strength to live an improved Christian life. In response to the Lord's command we are to examine ourselves privately prior to partaking of the Sacrament. There are three basic questions on which we should examine ourselves, all of which we should be able to answer in the affirmative if we are to partake of the Sacrament worthily: 1) Am I truly sorry for my sins? 2) Do I believe Jesus Christ is my Savior? 3) Do I promise with God's help to live a Christian life? If you agree with the above statement, we invite you to the Sacrament.

When the wine is distributed, individual glasses will be offered first, then the common cup. Communicants may take whichever is preferred. If taking the individual glass, please keep the glass visible so that the communion assistant with the common cup will know who has already communed. Non-alcoholic wine is available in the center of the communion tray for those who have a sensitivity to the alcohol in wine.

During the distribution the following hymns will be sung. We ask that you take your worship folder with you and sing as you approach and leave the altar.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: 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, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. This do 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 is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

785 We Praise You O God

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'ertake 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!

790 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear Now to His temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen All that is needful has been
Sent by His gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,
Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.
What need or grief Ever has failed of relief?
Wings of His mercy did shade you.

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew What the Almighty can do
As with His love He befriends you.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the Amen Sound from His people again;
Gladly forever adore Him!

893 Sing to the Lord of Harvest

Sing to the Lord of harvest, Sing songs of love and praise;
With joyful hearts and voices Your alleluias raise.
By him the rolling seasons In fruitful order move;
Sing to the Lord of harvest A joyous song of love.

God makes the clouds rain goodness, The deserts bloom and spring,
The hills leap up in gladness, The valleys laugh and sing.
God fills them with His fullness, All things with large increase;
He crowns the year with blessing, With plenty and with peace.

Bring to this sacred altar The gifts His goodness gave,
The golden sheaves of harvest, The souls Christ died to save.
Your hearts lay down before Him When at His feet you fall,
And with your lives adore Him Who gave His life for all.

Please stand

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Almighty God, we thank You that through this eating and drinking of Your Son's body and blood our faith is strengthened, for You are the source of all good things in our lives. We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who with You and the Holy Spirit ever rules, one God, now and for all eternity.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

Please turn towards the cross as it is carried out of the church, and remain facing it until the hymn is completed. This symbolizes our following Christ into the world as we leave.

CLOSING HYMN

“Let All Things Now Living”

**Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
To God the Creator triumphantly raise,
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
Who still guides us on to the end of our days.
God’s banners are o’er us, His light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
Till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
As forward we travel from light into light.**

**His law He enforces, the stars in their courses
And sun in its orbit obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
The deeps of the ocean proclaim Him divine.
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
With glad adoration a song let us raise
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
“To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!”**

**The harvest completed, our hopes far exceeded
Your hand once again has supplied all our needs;
Our voices now raising, Your name ever praising,
In clear recognition of Your countless deeds.
Your gifts we are sharing, Your mercy declaring
In loud proclamation the rest of our days.
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
“To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!”**

POSTLUDE

“Now Thank We All Our God”

S. Karg-Elert

HAVE A BLESSED THANKSGIVING!



2024 Advent and Christmas Schedule

Service of Confession and Absolution

December 2

6:30 p.m.

Advent Midweek Services

December 4, 11, 18

6:30 p.m.

Advent Dinners at 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Choir Concert

December 15

11:00 a.m.

Children's Christmas Program

December 22

11:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Worship

December 24

5:00 & 10:30 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship

December 25

10:00 a.m.

New Year's Eve Worship

December 31

6:30 p.m.

Serving at Chapel

Preacher:	Theodore Laesch	
Liturgists:	6:30 p.m.	Ellory Glenn
	9:30 a.m.	Theodore Laesch
Acolytes:	6:30 p.m.	Grace Meyer
	9:30 a.m.	Anna Zvirgzdins
Singers:	6:30 p.m.	Denise Koch, Anne Meyer, & Mark Petersen
Choir:	9:30 a.m.	Choral Singers
Instrumentalists:	Nate Laesch, trumpet	
	Ted Laesch, trumpet	
	Jake Laesch, euphonium	
	Zeke Laesch, horn	
	Jonah Meyer, percussion	
Organist & Accompanist:	Ryan Meyer	