

CHAPEL OF THE CROSS

LUTHERAN



FAITH • HOPE • LOVE

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.

First Sunday in Advent

December 1, 2024

11:00 a.m.

Please note: This worship service is live streamed and recorded.

AS WE GATHER

Though a full month remains before we turn our calendars to 2025, today we can wish a “happy new year” in the life of the church. The Advent season begins a new church year and is a time of preparation, as the Latin “Adventus” means an arrival or coming of someone. More than preparing for the coming of just anyone, here we prepare for our Savior. As we get hearts and minds ready for the Christmas crescendo to come celebrating Christ’s humble birth, we also remain prepared in this season and always as He promises to come again.

PRELUDE

Variations on “Savior of the Nations, Come”

settings by Lind, Ore, Weber

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND EXCHANGE OF PEACE

It is important to recognize that some people are especially susceptible to viruses that can be spread by contact and that some immune systems are very sensitive. Please understand that some may choose not to shake hands during the Exchange of Peace, but might simply greet you with a verbal greeting, a wave, or a smile.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

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

Please stand

ENTRANCE HYMN

332 Savior of the Nations, Come

- 1** Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.

- 2** Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh—
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.

- 4** Then stepped forth the Lord of all
From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man,
His heroic course began.

- 6** For You are the Father's Son
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
By Your mighty pow'r make whole
All our ills of flesh and soul.

- 8** Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.

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INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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 heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *John 1:5, 9; Genesis 3:15; Psalm 33:20–22*

Pastor: Each week in Advent, we light a candle as we prepare for the arrival of the Savior, who would come to His people in human flesh and who promises to come again. In a world of darkness, a light shines. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

People: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Pastor: The first Advent candle is known as the prophecy candle or the candle of hope. We hear again the first promise and prophesy made in the Garden of Eden after the fall into sin: “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.” The Lord has kept His Word through the mouths of prophets who, for generations, pointed people to the promised Savior to come.

People: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

Pastor: Guided by the light of hope, we respond with the psalmist: “Our soul waits for the LORD;

People: He is our help and our shield.

Pastor: For our heart is glad in Him, because we trust in His holy name.

People: Let Your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in You.”

The first Advent candle is lit.

HYMN

357 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord’rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. Refrain

Text: Public domain

ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: **Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 33:14–16

(The Lord's eternal covenant)

¹⁴ "'The days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will fulfill the gracious promise I made to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. ¹⁵ "'In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line; he will do what is just and right in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.'

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalms 25:1-10

Pastor: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; in you I trust, O my God.

People: **Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

Pastor: No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame, but they will be put to shame who are treacherous without excuse.

People: **Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths;**

(continued on next page)

Pastor: guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.

People: Remember, O LORD, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old.

Pastor: Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you are good, O LORD.

People: Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.

Pastor: He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.

People: All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful for those who keep the demands of his covenant.

EPISTLE

1 Thessalonians 3:9–13

(Lives of the faithful made ready for Jesus' return)

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith. ¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. ¹² May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. ¹³ May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Judy Gresham

"Lift Up Your Eyes"

*Lift up your eyes and look for Him,
Jesus, the coming Saviour-King;
Born to redeem the world from sin,
Bringing His peace to all.*

*Now if you walk in darkest night,
Look for His dawn that's breaking bright;
Nothing shall ever stop this light
Bringing new hope to all.*

Chorus:

*Oh, lift up your eyes see the King!
Worship the Savior, come praise Him,
Jesus the Lord of all.
Oh, once in a manger He lay;
Now lifted high He is reigning;
Jesus the Lord of all.*

*Soon you will see Him come again,
Not as the child of Bethlehem,
But the returning King to reign;
Glorious Lord of all.*

*Lift up your eyes and look for Him,
Jesus, the coming Savior-King;
Now in your heart make room for Him,
Worship Him, Lord of all. (Chorus)*

*Come, worship Him,
Come, bow down before Him,
Come, praise Him, Lord of all.*

Please stand

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 21:25–36

(Ready and watching for the Son of Man)

²⁵ "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. ²⁶ Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. ²⁷ At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹ He told them this parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. ³⁰ When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. ³¹ Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

³² "I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³⁴ "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. ³⁵ For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN

348 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Please stand

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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

+ + + Special Intercessions + + +

Each concluding: Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy, **People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

OFFERING

During the offering, please sign the Record of Fellowship found at the end of each pew

“Comfort, Comfort These My People”

setting by John Leavitt

Please stand

OFFERTORY

707 Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways

To keep His statutes still!

Oh, that my God would grant me grace

To know and do His will!

2 Order my footsteps by Thy Word

And make my heart sincere;

Let sin have no dominion, Lord,

But keep my conscience clear.

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PRAYER

Pastor: Blessed Lord, You have given us Your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by Your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

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.

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.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

339 Lift Up Your Heads, You Everlasting Doors

POSTLUDE

“Lift Up Your Heads”

setting by John A. Behnke

Prepare for next weekend's worship by reading:

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; 1 Peter 1:17-25; Luke 24:13-35

Find a devotional guide on the readings at www.chapelofthecross.org/walkingtogether

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Serving at Chapel

Preacher:	Theodore Laesch	
Liturgists:	5:00 p.m.	Ellory Glenn
	8:30 a.m.	Samuel Wondemu
	11:00 a.m.	Theodore Laesch
Lectors:	8:30 a.m.	Judy Kooi
	11:00 a.m.	Connie Scott
Acolytes:	8:30 a.m.	Kyleigh Hill
	11:00 a.m.	Bella Moss
Soloist:	11:00 a.m.	Matt McEuen
Organist & Accompanist:	Ryan Meyer	
Director of the Week:	John Jordan	
Elder of the Week:	David Stahlhut	