

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.

Third Sunday in Advent

December 11 & 12, 2021

5:00 p.m. & 8:30 a.m.

Please note: The 5:00 p.m. worship service is live streamed and recorded.

AS WE GATHER

The festive, joyful pink candle lit on our Advent wreath today, reflects today's Readings, which begin to anticipate the unbridled joy that Jesus' birth brings. We do many joyful things during Advent. We sing Christmas carols, bake cookies, decorate our homes inside and out, and travel far and wide to visit those we love. Yet all these joyful things point to an even greater joy—the joy that comes by the Creator of the universe, the Lord almighty, who loves you, forgives you in Jesus, and cares about you beyond human measure! "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!"

PRELUDE

"Rejoice, Rejoice Believers"

Jeffrey Biersch

WELCOME

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

✘ PREPARATION ✘

Please stand

ENTRANCE HYMN

515 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

- 1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
And let your lights appear;
The evening is advancing,
And darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising
And soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
At midnight comes the cry.

- 2 The watchers on the mountain
Proclaim the Bridegroom near;
Go forth as He approaches
With alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting;
The gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory;
The Bridegroom is at hand.

- 3 The saints, who here in patience
Their cross and suff'rings bore,
Shall live and reign forever
When sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory
The Lamb they shall behold;
In triumph cast before Him
Their diadems of gold.

4 **Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, O Sun so longed for,
O'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
We plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption
That sets Your people free!**

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INVOCATION

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Leader: Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

People: **Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.**

Leader: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

People: **Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended You and sinned against Your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to Your promised in Christ Jesus.**

Silence for meditation and reflection

Leader: God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by His death on the cross and freed us from death by His resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

People: **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Leader: Let us pray.

O Lord, let the lighting of these candles signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

“Advent Candlelight Carol”

arr. by Anna Page and Jean Shafferman

Congregation sings all verses

Ad - vent can - dle burn - ing bright through the night, shine your
light of (1.) hope tell - ing peo - ple ev - 'ry - where: soon the Sav - ior
(2.) peace
(3.) love
comes, soon He will be here! Peo - ple gath - er and pre -
pare in the night with the light of (1.) hope
(2.) peace
(3.) love

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Almighty God, through John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ, You once proclaimed salvation; now grant that we may know this salvation and serve You in holiness and righteousness all the days of our lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Zephaniah 3:14–20

(God will gather His scattered people and restore them to Him.)

¹⁴ Sing, O Daughter of Zion; shout aloud, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O Daughter of Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. ¹⁶ On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. ¹⁷ The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing."

¹⁸ "The sorrows for the appointed feasts I will remove from you; they are a burden and a reproach to you. ¹⁹ At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you; I will rescue the lame and gather those who have been scattered. I will give them praise and honor in every land where they were put to shame. ²⁰ At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes," says the LORD.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 85

Leader: You showed favor to your land, O LORD;

People: You restored the fortunes of Jacob.

Leader: You forgave the iniquity of your people and covered all their sins.

People: You set aside all your wrath and turned from your fierce anger.

Leader: Restore us again, O God our Savior, and put away your displeasure toward us.

People: Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger through all generations?

Leader: Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?

People: Show us your unfailing love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

Leader: I will listen to what God the LORD will say; he promises peace to his people, his saints-- but let them not return to folly.

People: Surely his salvation is near those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

Leader: Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

People: Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven.

Leader: The LORD will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest.

People: Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps.

EPISTLE

Philippians 4:4-7

(The Lord invites us to bring our worries to Him in prayer.)

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

"To You, O God, I Lift Up My Soul"

by Marty Haugen

*To You, O God, I lift up my soul;
My spirit seeks refuge in You.
From all sin and disgrace
Keep me sheltered by Your grace,
For I trust that Your promise is true.*

*O set my feet on pathways of peace
And teach me to walk in Your ways.
Let Your truth be my light,
My salvation shining bright;
I will serve You the length of my days.*

*Remember, God, Your mercy and love,
Forgive me for times when I fall;
For Your mercy is great
To the humble ones who wait,
To the lowly who answer love's call.*

(continued on next page)

*The path of God is love without end
To pilgrims who walk in God's ways.
Teach our hearts, make us wise;
For to You we turn our eyes.
We will serve You the length of our days.*

Please stand

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the seventh chapter.

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

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 7:18–28

(The lame walk, the blind see, and the poor have good news spoken to them.)

¹⁸ John's disciples told him about all these things. Calling two of them, ¹⁹ he sent them to the Lord to ask, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?"

²⁰ When the men came to Jesus, they said, "John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?'"

²¹ At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. ²² So he replied to the messengers, "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. ²³ Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me."

²⁴ After John's messengers left, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? ²⁵ If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear expensive clothes and indulge in luxury are in palaces. ²⁶ But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷ This is the one about whom it is written:

" 'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

²⁸ I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE WORD

345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding

1 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!

"Christ is near," we hear it say.

"Cast away the works of darkness,
All you children of the day!"

2 Startled at the solemn warning,

Let the earthbound soul arise;

Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling,
Shines upon the morning skies.

3 See, the Lamb, so long expected,

Comes with pardon down from heav'n.

Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all, to be forgiv'n;

4 So, when next He comes in glory

And the world is wrapped in fear,

He will shield us with His mercy
And with words of love draw near.

Δ 5 Honor, glory, might, dominion

To the Father and the Son

With the ever-living Spirit

While eternal ages run!

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PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Please stand

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”

Wilbur Held

Please stand

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.**

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

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.

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

(continued on next page)

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who alone fills our hearts with joy both in good times and bad times. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san - na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

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.

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.

PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **And also with you.**

AGNUS DEI



1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

A "continuous communion table" will be the method of distribution this day. Communicants will come forward down the center aisle at the direction of the usher. You will receive the wafer from the pastor at the center and then proceed to the right or left (depending on which side of the church you are sitting) to receive the wine. You will then return to your pew. As is our custom, communion will be brought to people in the pews who have difficulty walking to the chancel. If you wish to take communion in the pew, please raise your hand when the communion assistant comes down the aisle. Also young children will receive a word of blessing.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

- 1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness
With a liberating light;
Praise the One who frees the pris'ners,
Turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the Gospel,
Healing ev'ry dread disease,
Calming storms, and feeding thousands
With the very Bread of peace.**

- 2 Praise the One who blessed the children
With a strong, yet gentle, word;
Praise the One who drove out demons
With the piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water
To the desert's burning sand;
From this Well comes living water,
Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.**

- 3 Let us praise the Word Incarnate,
Christ, who suffered in our place.
Jesus died and rose victorious
That we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
Seeing what our God has done;
Let us praise the true Redeemer,
Praise the One who makes us one.**

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636 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

- 1 Soul, adorn yourself with gladness,
Leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,
Come into the daylight's splendor,
There with joy your praises render.
Bless the One whose grace unbounded
This amazing banquet founded;
He, though heav'nly, high, and holy,
Deigns to dwell with you most lowly.**
- 2 Hasten as a bride to meet Him,
And with loving rev'ence greet Him.
For with words of life immortal
He is knocking at your portal.
Open wide the gates before Him,
Saying, as you there adore Him:
Grant, Lord, that I now receive You,
That I nevermore will leave You.**

(continued on next page)

- 3 He who craves a precious treasure
Neither cost nor pain will measure;
But the priceless gifts of heaven
God to us has freely given.
Though the wealth of earth were proffered,
None could buy the gifts here offered:
Christ's true body, for you riven,
And His blood, for you once given.
- 4 Now in faith I humbly ponder
Over this surpassing wonder
That the bread of life is boundless
Though the souls it feeds are countless:
With the choicest wine of heaven
Christ's own blood to us is given.
Oh, most glorious consolation,
Pledge and seal of my salvation!
- 5 Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,
Truest friend, and dearest treasure,
Peace beyond all understanding,
Joy into all life expanding:
Humbly now, I bow before You;
Love incarnate, I adore You;
Worthily let me receive You
And, so favored, never leave You.
- 6 Jesus, sun of life, my splendor,
Jesus, friend of friends, most tender,
Jesus, joy of my desiring,
Fount of life, my soul inspiring:
At Your feet I cry, my maker,
Let me be a fit partaker
Of this blessed food from heaven,
For our good, Your glory, given.

7 Lord, by love and mercy driven,
You once left Your throne in heaven
On the cross for me to languish
And to die in bitter anguish,
To forego all joy and gladness
And to shed Your blood in sadness.
By this blood redeemed and living,
Lord, I praise You with thanksgiving.

8 Jesus, bread of life, I pray You,
Let me gladly here obey You.
By Your love I am invited,
Be Your love with love requited;
By this Supper let me measure,
Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.
Through the gift of grace You give me
As Your guest in heav'n receive me.

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SILENT PRAYER

You may pray the following prayer as we give thanks to God for His good gifts:

Lord God of mercy, I give You thanks for the body and blood of Your Son; for the Word by which You give me forgiveness; for Your promises by which You give me life. May the gifts of Your heavenly banquet fortify me against the Evil One and strengthen me in the face of the world. Help me to live as one who hungers for Your grace, who thirsts after righteousness, who longs to taste of Your goodness, that I may sit at Your table at the heavenly feast which has no end. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Please stand

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

We rejoice, O Lord, and thank You that in Christ's body and blood we now receive forgiveness of our sins, life rooted in Christ, and salvation both now and forever; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

803 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

- 1 Joyful, joyful we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee,
Praising Thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
Drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.

2 All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

3 Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Fountainhead of love divine:
Joyful, we Thy heav'n inherit!
Joyful, we by grace are Thine!

Text: Public domain

POSTLUDE

“Hymn of Joy”

Albert L. Travis

Prepare for next weekend's worship by reading:

Micah 5:2-5a; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

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.	Theodore Laesch
	8:30 a.m.	Jedidiah McClellan
Lectors:	8:30 a.m.	Bill Kooi
Singers:	8:30 a.m.	Mark Petersen
Acolytes:	8:30 a.m.	Zeke Laesch
Organist & Accompanist:	Carolyn Rusnak	

Chapel of the Cross - Lutheran

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Worship and Christian Education

Saturday - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday - 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Worship Service broadcast on KFUD 850 AM Sundays at 4:00 p.m.
Live internet streaming at www.chapelofthecross.org Sundays at 8:30 a.m.

*Holy Communion is celebrated the 1st and 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month at 8:30 a.m.,
the 2nd and 4th and 5th Sundays of the month at 11:00 a.m.,
and the 1st and 3rd and 5th Saturdays of the month at 5:00 p.m.*

Sunday school for children, Sunday Bible classes for adults and youth – 9:45 a.m.

Chapel Ministry Staff

	<u>Home Phone</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Theodore Laesch, Pastor	355-0688	pastorlaesch@chapelofthecross.org
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Clifford Bischoff, Pastoral Assistant	921-1107	pastorbischoff@chapelofthecross.org
Mary Laesch, Children and Family Ministry Coord.	355-0688	family@chapelofthecross.org

Missions

Chapel of the Cross supports the ministry of the English District and the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod as well as the Lutheran High School Association. We also assist the following ministries and organizations:

*Day 3 Seeds	*Christian Friends of New Americans	*Food for the Poor
Helping Hands Food Pantry	Concordia Seminary	Friend of Moms
Sidewalk Sunday School	Lutherans for Life	KFUD Radio
Chapel Summer Camp	Apple of His Eye	Hope Center for Families

** indicates special emphasis in 2021-2022*

*Chapel of the Cross - Lutheran is affiliated with the
English District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod*