

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.

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 17 & 18, 2022

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

Please note: The 8:30 a.m. worship service is live streamed and recorded.

AS WE GATHER

How do children come to know their parents' love? There are signs. How does a wife know that her husband loves her? There are signs. How do any of us know that we are loved by another? There are signs. So, too, God wanted to give people a sign of His love. We read in Isaiah 7:14: "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call Him Immanuel." In our worship today we are reminded of how God sent His Son, born of the Virgin Mary, as fulfillment of prophecy and a sign of His love for us.

PRELUDE

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

setting by John A. Behnke

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

357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verses 1-5)

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors,

People: **that the King of glory may come in.**

Pastor: Who is this King of glory?

People: **The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory!**

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him for the sake of His promised Son to grant us forgiveness and grace.

(Silence for personal reflection)

Pastor: Lord God, we confess to You

People: **that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. Our thoughts have at times wandered from Your Word of mercy and truth.**

Our own words have not always bestowed honor and glory upon Your name. We have acted contrary to Your holy will. We have betrayed the covenant of grace bestowed upon us in our Baptism. We have frequently diminished the importance of our confirmation vows. Believing in Jesus' death and resurrection for us, we plead that You would forgive our sins and by Your Holy Spirit, strengthen our resolve to live a life to the glory of Your holy name.

Pastor: As a called and ordained servant of the Word, in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I 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

Pastor: 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.**

Sung: **Four Advent candles burning bright
Remind Us of the Love of Christ,
Who died for us on Calvary
And gives us life eternally.**

**O Jesus Christ, our one true Light,
Come, pierce the dark of this world's night.
Prepare our hearts to welcome Thee,
To wait with Hope, Thy face to see.**

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 and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 7:10–17

(The birth of Immanuel is prophesied.)

¹⁰ Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹ "Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights." ¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³ Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God also?"

¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He will eat curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right. ¹⁶ But before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste. ¹⁷ The LORD will bring on you and on your people and on the house of your father a time unlike any since Ephraim broke away from Judah—he will bring the king of Assyria."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM HYMN

339 Lift Up Your Heads, You Everlasting Doors

(Paul greets the saints in Rome with words of blessing.)

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God-- ² the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures ³ regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, ⁴ and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. ⁵ Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith. ⁶ And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. ⁷ To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

"Mary Did You Know"

Buddy Greene & Mark Lowry

*Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?
This Child that you delivered will soon deliver you.*

*Mary, did you know that your baby boy would give sight to the blind man?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would calm a storm with His hand?
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
And when you kiss your little baby, you've kissed the face of God.*

*The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again;
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak, the praises of the Lamb.*

*Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?
And the sleeping Child you're holding is the great I Am!*

Please stand

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

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

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18–25

(The telling of the birth of Jesus)

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us." ²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

HYMN

356 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

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

"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

setting by Anna Laura Page

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.**

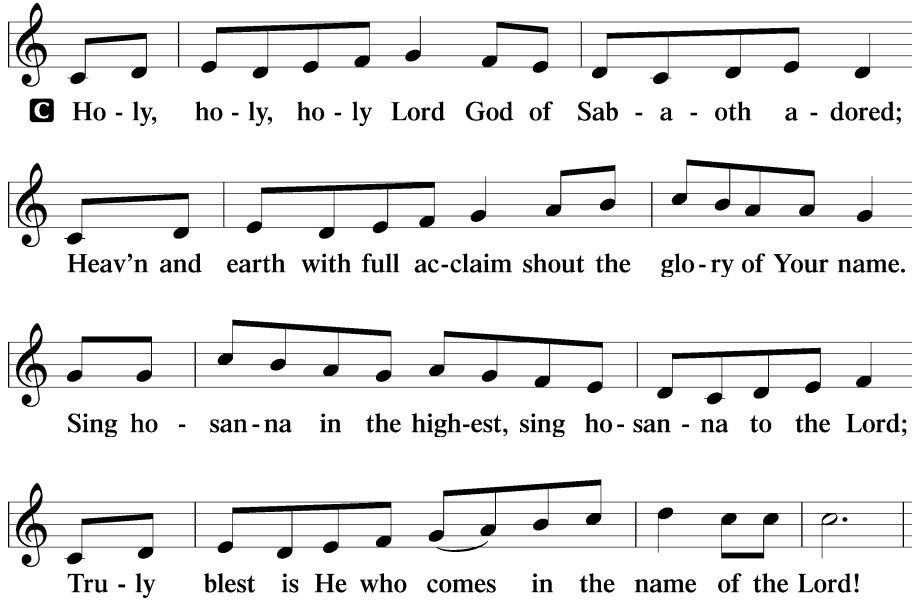
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Lord, our God, for You have had mercy on us and sent Your only-begotten Son, the long hoped-for Messiah, to bring us salvation. Pour out upon us the gifts of Your Spirit, that we may receive Your blessings joyfully and resolutely serve You in all we do. Grant that we may receive the body and blood of our Lord as a foretaste of the feast to come in Your eternal kingdom. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise, together with the Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

SANCTUS



C 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.

If you wish to take communion in the pew, please raise your hand when the communion assistant comes down the aisle.

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

352 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

621 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

SILENT PRAYER

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

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank and praise You that You have again refreshed us with the gift of Your holy body and blood in this comforting sacrament. Bless our participation that we may depart from Your presence with peace and joy in the knowledge that we are reconciled to God. We ask this in Your name. Amen.

Please stand

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, we thank You for having fed us with the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Govern our hearts that we may never forget Your blessings but steadfastly thank and praise You for all Your goodness in this life until, with all Your saints, we praise You eternally in Your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, to whom, with You and the same Spirit, be all honor and glory, forever and ever.

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

384 Of the Father's Love Begotten

POSTLUDE

Finale on "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Prepare for next weekend's worship by reading:

Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrew 1:1-6; John 1:1-14

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.	Clifford Bischoff
	8:30 a.m.	Ellory Glenn
Lector:	8:30 a.m.	Connie Scott
Acolyte:	8:30 a.m.	Jordan Hill
Soloists:	5:00 p.m.	Matt McEuen
	8:30 a.m.	Mark Petersen
Instrumentalist:	Jonah Meyer, percussion	
Organist & Accompanist:	Ryan Meyer	
Elder of the Week:	Johnnie Spears	

Chapel of the Cross - Lutheran

11645 Benham Road, St. Louis, MO 63136
(314) 741-3737 www.chapelofthecross.org
Email: office@chapelofthecross.org

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 11:00 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
Ellory Glenn, Specific Ministry Pastor	369-8014	ellory.glenn@chapelofthecross.org
Ryan Meyer, Director of Music	839-0306	ryan.meyer@chapelofthecross.org
Bill Rusnak, Director of Adult Ministry	200-9797	bill.rusnak@chapelofthecross.org
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*