

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 3, 2023

11:00 a.m.

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

AS WE GATHER

Welcome to the season of waiting! Not only is Advent a period of preparation for Jesus' first coming at Christmas, but this sacred season readies our hearts for Jesus' ultimate coming: when He, as King of kings and Lord of lords, returns in power on the Last Day, when every knee will bow before Him and every eye will see Him as the One who reigns in sovereign majesty over all things. Until the arrival of that glorious Day, we wait for Him in confident faith, strengthened by His Word and Meal, trusting that He has redeemed us by His cross and resurrection. With the expectant people of old, may our worship together lead us to say: "Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield" (Psalm 33:20).

PRELUDE

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

settings by Jacob B. Weber & Charles W. Ore

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

355 O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide

- 1 O Savior, rend the heavens wide;
Come down, come down with mighty stride;
Unlock the gates, the doors break down;
Unbar the way to heaven's crown.
- 4 O Fount of hope, how long, how long?
When will You come with comfort strong?
O come, O come, Your throne forego;
Console us in our vale of woe.
- 5 O Morning Star, O radiant Sun,
When will our hearts behold Your dawn?
O Sun, arise; without Your light
We grope in gloom and dark of night.
- 6 Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies;
Grim death looms fierce before our eyes.
O come, lead us with mighty hand
From exile to our promised land.
- 7 There shall we all our praises bring
And sing to You, our Savior King;
There shall we laud You and adore
Forever and forevermore.

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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: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins to God our Father, imploring Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: **who made heaven and earth.**

Leader: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

People: **And you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Leader: Almighty God, merciful Father:

People: **I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You and for which I justly deserve Your punishment. But I am sorry for them, and repent of them, and pray for Your boundless mercy.**

For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being; forgive my sins, give me Your Holy Spirit for the amendment of my sinful life, and bring me to life everlasting. Amen.

Leader: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for His sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things;

People: **His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.**

(Psalm 98:1)

Leader: Oh, that You would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before You!

People: **As fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make Your name known.**

(Isaiah 64:1-2a)

Leader: One candle is set ablaze, as we wait with eager expectation for You, Lord, to come down.

People: **Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come!**

“We Light The Advent Candles”

Gracia Grindal

Sung: We light the Advent candles
Against the winter night
To welcome our Lord Jesus,
Who is the world's True Light;
To welcome our Lord Jesus
Who is the world's True Light.

The first one will remind us
That Christ will soon return.
We light it in the darkness,
And watch it gleam and burn;
We light it in the darkness,
And watch it gleam and burn.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

People: **Almighty God, Judge and King, the whole creation waits for Your coming. Come, Lord Jesus, with Your grace and fill our lives with Your presence. Use all of our time for Your gracious purpose, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

ANTHEM

"Lift Up Your Eyes"

Judy Gresham

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

*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.*

*Come worship Him,
Come bow down before Him,
Come praise Him, Lord of 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. (chorus)*

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

("Look upon us, for we are all Your people.")

¹ Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! ² As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! ³ For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. ⁴ Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. ⁵ You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved? ⁶ All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. ⁷ No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and made us waste away because of our sins. ⁸ Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹ Do not be angry beyond measure, O LORD; do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look upon us, we pray, for we are all your people.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalms 80:1-7

Leader: Hear us, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock;
you who sit enthroned between the cherubim,

People: **shine forth before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.**

Leader: Awaken your might; come and save us.

People: **Restore us, O God; make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.**

Leader: O LORD God Almighty, how long will your anger smolder against the prayers of your people?

People: **You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have made them drink tears by the bowlful.**

Leader: You have made us a source of contention to our neighbors, and our enemies mock us.

People: **Restore us, O God Almighty; make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.**

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 1:3–9

(We wait for Jesus, who sustains us and takes our guilt away.)

³ Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵ For in him you have been enriched in every way—in all your speaking and in all your knowledge—⁶ because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. ⁷ Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸ He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the thirteenth chapter.

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

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 13:24-37

(Christ will come again.)

²⁴ "But in those days, following that distress,

" 'the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; ²⁵ the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.'

²⁶ "At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

²⁸ "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. ³⁰ I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³² "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Be on guard! Be alert ! You do not know when that time will come.

³⁴ It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

³⁵ "Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back--whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. ³⁶ If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷ What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!' "

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN

332 Savior of the Nations, Come

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>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.</p> <p>3 Here a maid was found with child,
Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown:
God was there upon His throne.</p> <p>4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all
From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man,
His heroic course began.</p> | <p>7 From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides.</p> <p>Δ 8 Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.</p> |
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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

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

+ + + Special Intercessions + + +

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

Leader: 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

331 The Advent of Our King

1 The advent of our King
 Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing
 In strains of holy joy.

6 All glory to the Son,
 Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
 Through all eternity.

5 Before the dawning day
 Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away,
 The new self now put on.

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PRAYER

Leader: 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

Toccata on “Savior of the Nations, Come”

setting by Paul Manz

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.	Adam Rouse
	8:30 a.m.	Jedidiah McClellan
	11:00 a.m.	Brett Arrasmith
Lectors:	8:30 a.m.	Denise Koch
	11:00 a.m.	Marilyn Kreitner
Acolytes:	8:30 a.m.	Nyla Hill
	11:00 a.m.	Anna Zvirgzdins
Soloist:	8:30 a.m.	Denise Koch
	11:00 a.m.	Denise Koch
Organist & Accompanist:	Ryan Meyer	
Elder of the Week:	Jim Crosier	
Director of the Week:	Riane Cleveland	

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
Brett Arrasmith, Vicar	417-592-1854	vicar@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:

*L.A.M.P. Lutheran Assoc. of Missionaries & Pilots

*Lutheran Bible Translators

Concordia Seminary

Day 3 Seeds

Chapel Summer Camp

* Helping Hands Food Pantry

Friend of Moms

Lutherans for Life

Apple of His Eye

Food for the Poor

KFUD Radio

** indicates special emphasis in 2023*

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