

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.

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2023

11:00 a.m.

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

AS WE GATHER

The most essential, important, and difficult aspect of living the Christian life is learning how to live in the forgiveness of sins. There is a direct connection between my receiving God's forgiveness and my forgiving another person. However, it is not that God's forgiveness is caused by my forgiving someone else, but rather it is the extent to which I do not forgive or am reluctant or finds it difficult to forgive someone else that should make one wonder if you have really appreciated God's forgiveness for yourself. There are no limits to God's forgiveness; neither is there to be for us forgiving others. Joseph, and his forgiveness of his brothers, points us to Jesus. In Jesus God took our debts into Himself, paid the price Himself so that forgiveness might be the free gift of His pure grace.

PRELUDE

Gospel Medley: "Are You Washed in the Blood" and "I'll Fly Away"

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

851 Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Leader: The Lord is merciful and gracious,

People: **slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Leader: As far as the east is from the west,

People: **so far does He remove our transgressions from us.** *Psalm 103:8, 12*

Leader: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **O God, we confess to You all the bitterness we have harbored toward our neighbors, our refusal to forgive, and our lack of love toward those in need. In Your tender mercy do not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. In Your steadfast love and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior, grant us Your forgiveness, fill us with Your love, and grant us Your peace. Amen.**

Leader: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our 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. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

790 Praise to the Lord the Almighty

- 1 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!
- 4 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.
- 5 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!

Text: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

People: **O God, You reveal Your power by showing mercy and love. Grant us Your grace to receive what You have promised and to forgive as we have been forgiven through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 50:15–21

(Joseph and his brothers)

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: ¹⁷ 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

¹⁸ His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹ So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 103:1-13

Leader: Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

People: **Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits—**

Leader: who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,

People: **who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion,**

Leader: who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

People: **The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.**

Leader: He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel:

People: **The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.**

Leader: He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever;

People: **he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.**

Leader: For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;

People: **as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.**

All: **As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him.**

ANTHEM

"Like as a Father"

Cherubini, arr. by A. Lovelace

*Like as a father, filled with compassion pities all his children,
So the Lord has mercy on those who fear him.*

(We belong to the Lord.)

¹ Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters.

² One man's faith allows him to eat everything, but another man, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. ³ The man who eats everything must not look down on him who does not, and the man who does not eat everything must not condemn the man who does, for God has accepted him. ⁴ Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

⁵ One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶ He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord. He who eats meat, eats to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who abstains, does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷ For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

⁹ For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰ You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. ¹¹ It is written:

"As surely as I live," says the Lord, "every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God."

¹² So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

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

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21–35

(The parable of the servant who would not forgive)

²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?”

²² Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

²³ “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

²⁶ “The servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ ²⁷ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

²⁸ “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

²⁹ “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’

³⁰ “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.

(continued on next page)

³² "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' ³⁴ In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

³⁵ "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN

606 I Lay My Sins on Jesus

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Sermon Notes:

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

“Beautiful Savior”

setting by Myran Caine

Please stand

OFFERTORY

955 Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, And fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, That we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the
hopes and the dreams of all; U - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with Your pres - ence, and
give us A fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text and tune: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: Chapel of the Cross no. VVPKL-GBOIT-LYVDV-EKAFZ

PRAYER

Leader: Almighty God, we thank You for teaching us the things You want us to believe and do. Help us by Your Holy Spirit to keep Your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, 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

Leader: 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

793 Praise, My Soul, the Kings of Heaven

POSTLUDE

“Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”

setting by Kevin Hildebrand

Prepare for next weekend's worship by reading:

Isaiah 55:6-9; Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30; Matthew 20:1-16

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

*Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com
Hymns used by permission. OneLicense.net #A-725523 Lutheran Service Builder License no. VVPKL-GBOIT-LYVDV-EKAFZ.*

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 4. Copyright © 2023 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Serving at Chapel

Preacher:	Theodore Laesch	
Liturgists:	5:00 p.m.	Jedidiah McClellan
	8:30 a.m.	Brett Arrasmith
	11:00 a.m.	Jacob Anderson
Lectors:	8:30 a.m.	Riane Cleveland
	11:00 a.m.	John Zvirgzdins
Acolytes:	8:30 a.m.	Audrey Runser
	11:00 a.m.	Nathan Runser
Duet:	8:30 a.m.	Mark Petersen & Denise Koch
Choir:	11:00 a.m.	Choral Singers
Organists:	Ryan Meyer, Zeke Laesch	
Accompanist:	Ryan Meyer	
Elder of the Week:	Jon Rogers	

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*