

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 After Pentecost

June 21, 2026

11:00 a.m.

Please note: This worship service is live streamed and recorded

AS WE GATHER

We typically think of freedom as freedom from something: from oppression, fear, punishment, and even death. Our freedom in Christ is certainly a freedom from sin and death, but it is no less a freedom for a new life in Christ. This life is a life of righteousness, bearing the good fruits of the Spirit in our lives, serving our neighbor as Christ has served us, and glorifying God in our words and works. We cannot earn or cooperate in our salvation—this is due solely to Christ’s work alone—but we do cooperate under the Spirit in renouncing sin and living for Christ with new lives born of baptismal water. We are no longer slaves to sin but servants of Christ.

PRELUDE

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Kevin Hildebrand

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

686 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!

People: Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins.

Pastor: Holy and gracious God,

People: I confess that I have sinned against You. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver according to Your mercy and grant peace to my heart so that I may serve You with all my mind, body, and soul.

Pastor: By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. 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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

946 Glory to God, We Give You Thanks and Praise



1 Glo - ry to God, we give You thanks and praise;
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,
△ 3 A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord,



Of heav'n - ly joy and earth - ly peace we sing.
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
At God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high:



We wor - ship You, to You our hearts we raise,
O Lamb of God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won,
Who with the Spir - it wor - shiped and a - dored,



Lord God, al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.
Re - ceive our prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.
With all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: O God, because Your abiding presence always goes with us, keep us aware of Your daily mercies that we may live secure and content in Your eternal love; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

✘ WORD ✘

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 20:7-13

(He rescues the life of the needy.)

⁷ O LORD, you deceived me, and I was deceived; you overpowered me and prevailed. I am ridiculed all day long; everyone mocks me. ⁸ Whenever I speak, I cry out proclaiming violence and destruction. So the word of the LORD has brought me insult and reproach all day long. ⁹ But if I say, "I will not mention him or speak any more in his name," his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot. ¹⁰ I hear many whispering, "Terror on every side! Report him! Let's report him!" All my friends are waiting for me to slip, saying, "Perhaps he will be deceived; then we will prevail over him and take our revenge on him."

¹¹ But the LORD is with me like a mighty warrior; so my persecutors will stumble and not prevail. They will fail and be thoroughly disgraced; their dishonor will never be forgotten. ¹² O LORD Almighty, you who examine the righteous and probe the heart and mind, let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

¹³ Sing to the LORD! Give praise to the LORD! He rescues the life of the needy from the hands of the wicked.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 91:1-10

Pastor: He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

People: **I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."**

Pastor: Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence.

People: **He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.**

Pastor: You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day,
People: **nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday.**

Pastor: A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.
People: **You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked.**

Pastor: If you make the Most High your dwelling-- even the LORD, who is my refuge—
People: **then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent.**

EPISTLE

Romans 6:12–23

("The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ.")

¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.

¹³ Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

¹⁵ What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!

¹⁶ Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey--whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. ¹⁸ You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

(continued on next page)

¹⁹ I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness. ²⁰ When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. ²¹ What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! ²² But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

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

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

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 10:5a, 21–33

(Do not be afraid.)

⁵These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions:

²¹ "Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. ²² All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. ²³ When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. I tell you the truth, you will not finish going through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

²⁴ "A student is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵ It is enough for the student to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebub, how much more the members of his household!

²⁶ "So do not be afraid of them. There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. ²⁷ What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. ²⁸ Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. ³⁰ And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

³² "Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. ³³ But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

CHILDRENS MESSAGE

HYMN

531 Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus

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*



Scan to give online

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Paul Manz

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.

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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

853 How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord

POSTLUDE

“How Clear is Our Vocation Lord”

John A. Behnke

Prepare for next weekend's worship by reading:
Jeremiah 28:5-9; Romans 7:1-13; Matthew 10:34-42

Find a devotional guide on the readings at <https://chapelofthecross.org/devotions>

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Serving at Chapel

Preacher:	Charles Wallace	
Liturgists:	5:00 p.m.	Theodore Laesch
	8:30 a.m.	Ellory Glenn
	11:00 a.m.	Ellory Glenn
Lectors:	8:30 a.m.	Russell Mains
	11:00 a.m.	John Schmidt
Acolytes:	8:30 a.m.	Kyleigh Hill
	11:00 a.m.	Eve Zvirgzdins
Organist:	Timothy Mars	
Instrumentalists:	Lynda Christian, oboe	
	Ted Laesch, trumpet	

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	314-355-0688	pastorlaesch@chapelofthecross.org
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Clifford Bischoff, Pastoral Assistant	314-921-1107	pastorbischoff@chapelofthecross.org
Mary Laesch, Children and Family Ministry Coord.	314-355-0688	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:

*Friend of Moms	*Lutheran Early Response Teams	*Helping Hands Food Pantry
Lutheran Chaplains	Lutheran Heritage Foundation	Lutherans for Life
Concordia Seminary	Friends of New Americans	Shoebox Ministry
Day 3 Seeds	L.A.M.P. Lutheran Assoc. of Missionaries & Pilots	KFUD Radio

** indicates special emphasis in 2026*

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