

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.

Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

July 5, 2026

11:00 a.m.

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

AS WE GATHER

On this day when our thoughts and minds attend to the independence of our nation, we hear a study of contrasts between the mighty King who comes to us on a colt, the foal of a donkey, and the mystery that befuddles the wise revealed to the child. We also hear Paul wrestle with the paradox of his own nature as saint by virtue of the merits of Christ and sinner—all in the same body. Though it is our nature to try and solve such paradoxes and resolve such contrasts, the path of faith is to appreciate what each reveals to us and to trust in the Lord for all things. We might find it frustrating to chafe under the tension of what is and what should be, yet even the child can discern the gracious will of God in Christ and rejoice of His easy yoke. Thanks be to God.

PRELUDE

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

966 Before You, Lord, We Bow

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Leader: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

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

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. 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

All Glory Be to God on High (Tune: Ride On, Ride On in Majesty)

- 1 All glory be to God on high!
Your name, O Lord, we glorify;
We praise You for Your peace and grace,
Your favor toward our fallen race.**
- 2 Our grateful thanks to You we bring,
For Your great glory, heav'nly King,
For all, O Father, You have done
Through Jesus Christ, Your only Son.**
- 3 O Lamb of God, to You we pray,
You take all human sin away;
Have mercy, Lord; receive our prayer;
From God's right hand, Your mercy share.**
- 4 You, Christ, are holy—Lord alone;
The Father's glory You made known.
We by Your Spirit sing again:
"All glory be to God!" Amen.**

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

People: **Gracious God, our heavenly Father, Your mercy attends us all our days. Be our strength and support amid the wearisome changes of this world, and at life's end grant us Your promised rest and the full joys of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

MINISTRY MINUTE

✂ WORD ✂

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Zechariah 9:9–12

(Rejoice! Your King comes to you.)

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰ I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the war-horses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. ¹¹ As for you, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will free your prisoners from the waterless pit. ¹² Return to your fortress, O prisoners of hope; even now I announce that I will restore twice as much to you.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 145:1-14

Leader: I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.

People: Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.

Leader: Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.

People: One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts.

Leader: They will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty, and I will meditate on your wonderful works.

People: They will tell of the power of your awesome works, and I will proclaim your great deeds.

Leader: They will celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

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

Leader: The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.

People: All you have made will praise you, O LORD; your saints will extol you.

Leader: They will tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might,

People: so that all men may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

Leader: Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The LORD is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made.

People: The LORD upholds all those who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down.

EPISTLE

Romans 7:14–25a

(I know that nothing good lives in me apart from Christ.)

¹⁴ We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. ¹⁵ I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. ¹⁶ And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. ¹⁸ I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. ¹⁹ For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do--this I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

²¹ So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. ²² For in my inner being I delight in God's law; ²³ but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. ²⁴ What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God--through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

570 Just As I Am, Without One Plea

Please stand

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mathew, the eleventh chapter.

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

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 11:25–30

("Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.")

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children.

²⁶ Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.

²⁷ "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN

699 I heard the Voice of Jesus Say

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*



Scan to give online

Please stand

OFFERTORY

712 Seek Ye First

1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God, And His
2 Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you, Seek and
3 Man does not live by bread a - lone, But by

righteous - ness. And all these things shall be
ye shall find, Knock and the door shall be
ev - 'ry word That pro - ceeds from the

add - ed un - to you! Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
o - pened un - to you, Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
mouth of the Lord, Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

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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

832 Jesus Shall Reign

POSTLUDE

Prepare for next weekend's worship by reading:

Isaiah 55:10-13; Romans 8:12-17; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

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

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Serving at Chapel

Preacher:	Theodore Laesch	
Liturgists:	5:00 p.m.	Ellory Glenn
	8:30 a.m.	Charles Wallace
	11:00 a.m.	Charles Wallace
Lectors:	8:30 a.m.	Judy Kooi
	11:00 a.m.	Ken Gerler
Acolytes:	8:30 a.m.	Bella Moss
	11:00 a.m.	Anna Zvirgzdins
Organist:	Johnathan Clayton	

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*