

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.

Reformation Day

October 25, 2026

11:00 a.m.

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

AS WE GATHER

Do you feel up for fireworks? Our remembrance of Reformation Day has a lot in common with American Independence Day. It is a day of proclaiming daring declarations, remembering the brave and the bold, and basking in the freedoms won for us. Martin Luther's name may come up more today than usual, but Pastor Luther would be quick to steer the attention back to Jesus. There would be no Ninety-Five Theses without Jesus' declaration "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36). The boldness of the reformers was only fueled by the bravery of Christ, facing the challenge of this world's darkness on their behalf. The freedoms the church celebrates on Reformation Day were not won in the 1500s but at the cross and empty tomb "through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Romans 3:24). So light the fireworks. Celebrate freedom. Christ sets the sinner free!

PRELUDE

"Grant Peace We Pray"

Felix Mendelssohn
Arranged by Carl Schalk

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

506 Glory Be to God the Father

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

947 All Glory Be to God on High



1 All glo - ry be to God on high And thanks for all His
 2 We praise and laud and wor - ship You; We give You thanks for -
 3 O Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son Be - got - ten of the
 4 O Ho - ly Spir - it, our de - light And source of con - so -

fa - vor; No harm can touch or ter - ri - fy A
 ev - er, O Fa - ther, for Your rule is true And
 Fa - ther, Your sav - ing death has made us one With
 la - tion, Pro - tect us from the dev - il's might Through

child of God for - ev - er. God shows His good and
 just and chang - es nev - er. With bound - less pow'r, Your
 God and with each oth - er. O Lamb of God, to
 Je - sus, our sal - va - tion, Who by His death up -

gra - cious will And grants His peace, the world to fill—
 might - y reign Ful - fills what - ev - er You or - dain.
 You on high In our dis - tress we sin - ners cry,
 on a tree Has res - cued us from mis - er - y:

All strife at last has end - ed.
 Lord, grant us ev - 'ry bless - ing!
 Have mer - cy on us, a - men!
 To this we hold for - ev - er.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

People: **Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING

Revelation 14:6–7

(John shares his vision of an everlasting, all-encompassing Gospel)

⁶ Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth--to every nation, tribe, language and people. ⁷ He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalms 46

Leader: God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

People: **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.**

Leader: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.

People: **God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.**

Leader: Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

People: **The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

Leader: Come and see the works of the LORD, the desolations he has brought on the earth.

People: **He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear, he burns the shields with fire.**

Leader: "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

People: **The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

EPISTLE

Romans 3:19–28

(Paul declares the sinner is justified by grace through faith.)

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.

²⁰ Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

²¹ But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²² This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵ God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished-- ²⁶ he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

²⁷ Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith. ²⁸ For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

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

HOLY GOSPEL

John 8:31–36

(Christ announces Himself as the Son who gives freedom to sin's slaves.)

³¹ To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." ³³ They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?" ³⁴ Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ³⁵ Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

HYMN

656 A Mighty Fortress is Our God

setting by Jeffrey Blersch

**1 A mighty fortress is our God,
A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need
That hath us now o'ertaken.
The old evil foe
Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might
Are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal.**

2 **With might of ours can naught be done,
 Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the valiant One,
 Whom God Himself elected.
Ask ye, Who is this?
Jesus Christ it is,
 Of Sabaoth Lord,
 And there's none other God;
He holds the field forever.**

(Choir)

3 *Though devils all the world should fill,
 All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill;
 They shall not overpower us.
This world's prince may still
Scowl fierce as he will,
 He can harm us none.
 He's judged; the deed is done;
One little word can fell him.*

4 **The Word they still shall let remain
 Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain
 With His good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life,
Goods, fame, child, and wife,
 Though these all be gone,
 Our vict'ry has been won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth.**

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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.

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.

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

"All Glory Be to God on High"

Michael Burkhardt

Please stand

OFFERTORY

What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

The Lord's Supper is a gift Christ gives to His Church. In it, He offers His true Body and Blood, in, with, and under the bread and wine. When received in faith, it brings forgiveness, new life, and salvation. In response to God's command in Scripture, we are to examine ourselves prior to partaking of the Sacrament. There are five basic questions by 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 a baptized believer? 2) Do I believe I am a sinner and am truly sorry for my sins? 3) Do I believe that Jesus Christ is my Savior from sin? 4) Do I promise with God's help to turn from sin and live a God-pleasing life? 5) Do I believe in the true teachings of God's Word, namely that the Body and Blood of Jesus are truly present, powerful, and effective in the Sacrament? Any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a differing confession and yet desire to receive the sacrament are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder.(see Matthew 26:26-29; 28:19-20; 1 Corinthians 10:16; 11:17- 34)

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

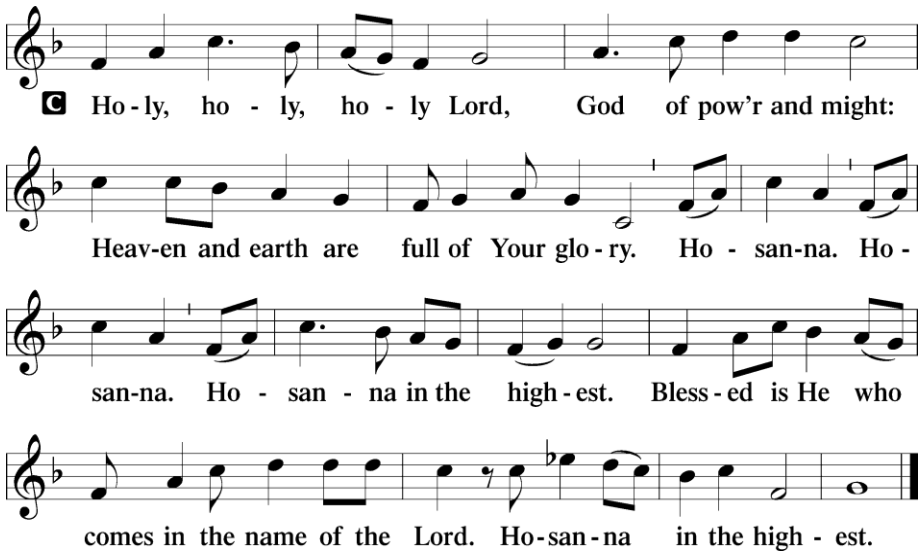
People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

Pastor: We give all thanks and praise to You, as is good, right, and salutary, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, for by Your eternal Gospel You have proclaimed freedom to sinful souls and righteousness through Christ, Your Son. Shower Your people with grace and faith to believe Your Holy Word and to confess Your timeless truth before the world, that more might find refuge in the salvation of Jesus Christ and so rejoice with angels and archangels, with all the faithful in heaven and on earth, and praise Your glorious name in one unending hymn:

SANCTUS (*Holy, holy, holy*)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

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.

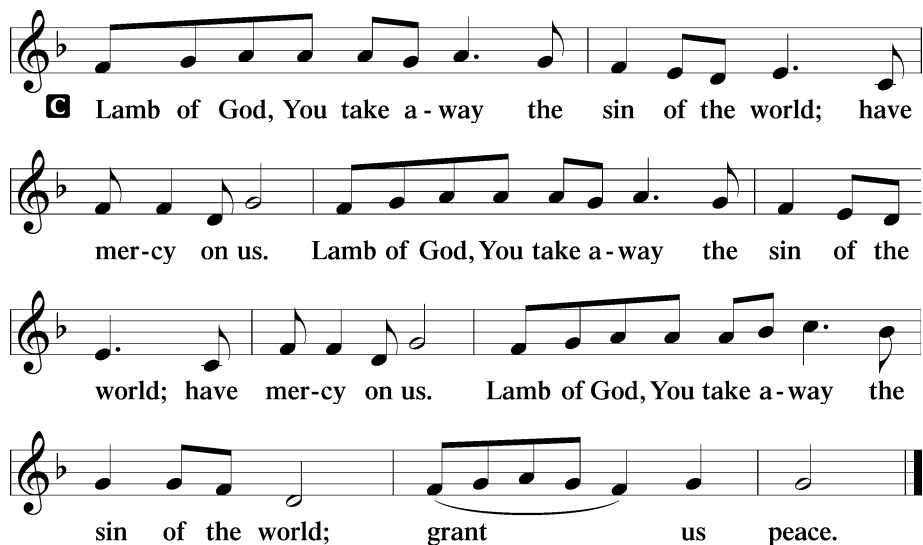
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: Drink of it, all of you; this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **And also with you.**

AGNUS DEI (*Lamb of God*)



□ Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

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.

Children and those who cannot yet commune are invited to come forward and kneel at the rail with arms crossed to receive a blessing.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

- 744 Amazing Grace
655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Your Word
617 O Lord, We Praise Thee

SILENT PRAYER

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

Lord Jesus, we have gathered together in Your house to be guests at Your table. We thank and praise You that You have nourished us with Your body and blood and have covered our sinful hearts with the pure garment of Your perfect righteousness. As You have drawn close to us and shown us Your love and forgiveness, in the same way, help us to draw close and love one another. Keep us in the true Christian faith so that we glorify You with our lives until that time that You call us to be guests at Your heavenly table. In Your name we pray, Amen.

Please stand

CANTICLE



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

Most glorious Father, we thank You for feeding our faith through this Holy Supper, strengthening us to live as those who know and believe Your truth. Keep us in the true faith, that bound to Your truth we might joyfully declare the One who sets us free—namely, Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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

583 God Has Spoken by His Prophets

POSTLUDE

“A Mighty Fortress”

Charles W. Ore

Prepare for next weekend's worship by reading:

Revelation 7:9-17; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

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.	Blake Johnson
	8:30 a.m.	Matthew Laird
	11:00 a.m.	Justin Goodrich
Lectors:	8:30 a.m.	Matt Gahr
	11:00 a.m.	Matt McEuen
Acolytes:	8:30 a.m.	Bella Moss
	11:00 a.m.	Logan Hill/Juris Zvirgzdins
Choir:	Choral Singers	
Instrumentalists:	Johnathan Clayton, trumpet	
	Nate Laesch, trumpet	
Director:	Mat McEuen	
Organist & Accompanist:	Timothy Mars	
Elder of the Week:	Jon Rogers	

Chapel of the Cross - Lutheran

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(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*