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.

Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

November 14 & 15, 2026

5:00 p.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Please note: The 11:00 a.m. worship service is live streamed and recorded.

PRELUDE

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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

804 O Worship the King

INVOCATION

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Leader: Hear my prayer, O LORD;
People: give ear to my pleas for mercy!

Silent reflection on God's Word and for self-examination

Leader: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
People: Most merciful God, we confess that we have not lived as children of the light. We have fallen into complacency, forgetting who You are and who we are. We have grown comfortable in habits that do not honor You. We have buried what You have given us rather than loving our neighbor with those gifts. We have sinned in our thoughts, our words, and our actions. 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

507 Holy, Holy, Holy

1 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessèd Trinity!

4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessèd Trinity!

Text: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.
People: Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING Zephaniah 1:7–16

(The day of the Lord is near and coming quickly.)

7 Be silent before the Sovereign LORD, for the day of the LORD is near. The LORD has
prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated those he has invited. 8 On the day of the LORD's
sacrifice I will punish the princes and the king's sons and all those clad in foreign
clothes. 9 On that day I will punish all who avoid stepping on the threshold, who fill the
temple of their gods with violence and deceit.
10 "On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry will go up from the Fish Gate, wailing from
the New Quarter, and a loud crash from the hills. 11 Wail, you who live in the market
district; all your merchants will be wiped out, all who trade with silver will be ruined. 12
At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps and punish those who are complacent,
who are like wine left on its dregs, who think, 'The LORD will do nothing, either good
or bad.' 13 Their wealth will be plundered, their houses demolished. They will build
houses but not live in them; they will plant vineyards but not drink the wine.

14 "The great day of the LORD is near-- near and coming quickly. Listen! The cry on the
day of the LORD will be bitter, the shouting of the warrior there. 15 That day will be a
day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness
and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness, 16 a day of trumpet and battle cry against the
fortified cities and against the corner towers.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 8

Leader: O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
People: You have set your glory above the heavens.

Leader: From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.
People: When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

Leader: what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?

People: You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.

Leader: You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet:

People: all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, the birds of the air,

Leader: and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

People: O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

EPISTLE 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

(The Lord has not destined us for wrath but to obtain salvation through Jesus Christ.)

1 Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, 2 for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

4 But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. 5 You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. 6 So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. 9 For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 10 He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 12:22-34

(Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.)

22 Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life,
what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. 23 Life is more than food, and
the body more than clothes. 24 Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have
no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than
birds! 25 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? 26 Since you cannot do
this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?

27 "Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even
Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 28 If that is how God clothes
the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how
much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! 29 And do not set your heart on what
you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. 30 For the pagan world runs after all such
things, and your Father knows that you need them. 31 But seek his kingdom, and these
things will be given to you as well.

32 "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the
kingdom. 33 Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves
that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief
comes near and no moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be
also.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (11L00 a.m.)

HYMN

894 For the Fruits of His Creation

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Please stand

DEDICATION OF COMMITMENTS

Leader: Let us dedicate our commitments to the Lord.

People: Gracious Father, we praise You for Your great gifts to us in Jesus Christ. We rejoice that we are forgiven, loved and called by You into Your family, the church. You have called us to be Your people empowered by Your Spirit to live for You and others in this world.

Because of Your great love You give to us, we make these commitments to You, trusting in You to empower us to follow through with these promises. Accept them and use us and these commitments to Your glory and for the advancement of the Gospel and the growth of Your kingdom in this community and throughout the world. In the name of Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

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

783 Take My Life and Let it Be

1 Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2 Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

3 Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only for my King;
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.

4 Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.

Text: Public domain

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

941 We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God

POSTLUDE

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Prepare for next weekend's worship by reading:
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; 1 Corinthians 15:20-28; Matthew 25:31-46
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.	Justin Goodrich
	8:30 a.m.	Blake Johnson
	11:00 a.m.	Ellory Glenn
Lectors:	8:30 a.m.	Judy Kooi
	11:00 a.m.	Connie Scott
Acolytes:	8:30 a.m.	Logan Hill
	11:00 a.m.	Eve Zvirgzdins
Choir:	8:30 a.m.	Choral Singers
Director:	Matt McEuen	
Organist & Accompanist:	Timothy Mars	

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 KFUO 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

	Home Phone	E-mail
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 Chaplains
Concordia Seminary
Day 3 Seeds

*Lutheran Early Response Teams
Lutheran Heritage Foundation
Friends of New Americans
L.A.M.P. Lutheran Assoc. of Missionaries & Pilots

*Helping Hands Food Pantry
Lutherans for Life
Shoebox Ministry
KFUO Radio

** indicates special emphasis in 2026*

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