

# CHAPEL OF THE CROSS

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## 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.*

# **Eighth Sunday After Pentecost**

**July 19, 2026**

**11:00 a.m.**

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

## **AS WE GATHER**

Many of us suffer from “selective hearing,” that is, we hear mostly what we want to hear. A person who can’t hear something spoken distinctly and directly to his face may hear every word spoken behind his back from the next room. Even when it is our Lord speaking, Satan works to block out or prevent the message. Our prayer this day is that God would open our hearts and ears to hear the pure message of the Gospel, and that He would give us power to live as His children.

## **PRELUDE**

“Now Thank We All Our God”

John A. Behnke

## **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

**794**    The Lord, My God, Be Praised

### INVOCATION

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

**People:**        **Amen.**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**Pastor:**        Your word is a lamp to my feet

**People:**        **and a light for my path.**

*Psalm 119:105*

**Pastor:**        Teach me Your way, O Lord,

**People:**        **and I will walk in Your truth;**

**Pastor:**        Give me an undivided heart,

**People:**        **that I may fear Your name.**

**Pastor:**        I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart;

**People:**        **I will glorify Your name forever.**

**Pastor:**        For great is Your love toward me;

**People:**        **You have delivered me from the depths of the grave.**

*Psalm 86:11-13*

Pastor: God's love for us is indeed great. Yet we have not loved Him with our whole heart, mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Let us confess before Him our sins of ingratitude, of hardness of heart, and of lack of obedience to Him.

*(Silence for personal confession)*

Pastor: Almighty God,

**People: we are bold to come before You and ask for Your forgiveness. We have sinned against You and against others in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have allowed the cares of this world to crowd out Your presence in our lives. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, we ask for Your forgiveness. Restore us, we pray, and renew Your love within us.**

Pastor: God's love is great. In the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, our sin is removed from us as far as the east is from the west. In His name and at His command I, as an called and ordained servant of the Word, forgive you all of your sins, in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen. Thanks be to God!**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

814 O Bless the Lord, My Soul



1 O bless the Lord, my soul! Let all with - in me join  
3 'Tis He for - gives thy sins; 'Tis He re - lieves thy pain;  
4 He crowns thy life with love When ran - somed from the grave;

And aid my tongue to bless His name Whose fa - vors are di - vine.  
'Tis He that heals thy sick - ness - es And makes thee young a - gain.  
He that re-deemed my soul from hell Hath sov - 'reign pow'r to save.

Text and tune: Public domain

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

**People:** Our King and Redeemer, give us strength to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armor of light, so that when Your Son comes again in glory to judge both the living and the dead, we may shine like the stars in glory, through Him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## ✠ WORD ✠

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 44:6–8

*(The unrivaled Lord reinforces His power, peace, and purpose for His people.)*

<sup>6</sup> "This is what the LORD says-- Israel's King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God. <sup>7</sup> Who then is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and lay out before me what has happened since I established my ancient people, and what is yet to come-- yes, let him foretell what will come. <sup>8</sup> Do not tremble, do not be afraid. Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago? You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides me? No, there is no other Rock; I know not one."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

*(Creation groans in hope for the glory yet to be revealed.)*

<sup>18</sup> I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that<sup>[a]</sup> the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

<sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. <sup>23</sup> Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

<sup>26</sup> In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. <sup>27</sup> And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

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

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

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

*(Jesus shares and interprets His story of harvest and final judgment.)*

<sup>24</sup> Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. <sup>25</sup> But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. <sup>26</sup> When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. <sup>27</sup> "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?' <sup>28</sup> "An enemy did this," he replied. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' <sup>29</sup> "No," he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. <sup>30</sup> Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.' "

<sup>36</sup> Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field." <sup>37</sup> He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, <sup>39</sup> and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. <sup>40</sup> "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup> The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. <sup>42</sup> They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup> Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

**Pastor:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **VOLUNTEER MISSIONARY COMMISSIONING**

## HYMN

659 Lord of Our Life

## 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.**

## INSTALLATION OF VICAR JUSTIN GOODRICH

### 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*

Meditation on “Now Thank We All Our God”

Charles Callahan

*Please stand*

## OFFERTORY

**C**re - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

## 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

663     Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray

## POSTLUDE

“Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray”

Jeffrey Blersch

Prepare for next weekend's worship by reading:

Deuteronomy 7:6-9; Romans 8:28-39; Matthew 13:44-52

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

*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](http://www.zondervan.com) Hymns used by permission. OneLicense.net #A-725523 Lutheran Service Builder License no. VVPKL-GBOIT-LYVDV-EKAFZ.*

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## Serving at Chapel

|                       |                 |                     |
|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Preacher & Liturgist: | Theodore Laesch |                     |
| Lectors:              | 8:30 a.m.       | Denise Koch         |
|                       | 11:00 a.m.      | Charlie Kinder      |
| Acolytes:             | 8:30 a.m.       | Plaseyh Hallowanger |
|                       | 11:00 a.m.      | Eve Zvirgzdins      |
| Organist:             | Timothy Mars    |                     |

## Chapel of the Cross - Lutheran

11645 Benham Road, St. Louis, MO 63136

(314) 741-3737

[www.chapelofthecross.org](http://www.chapelofthecross.org)

Email: [office@chapelofthecross.org](mailto: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](http://www.chapelofthecross.org) Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

*Holy Communion is celebrated the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month at 8:30 a.m.,  
the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month at 11:00 a.m.,  
and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 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      | <a href="mailto:pastorlaesch@chapelofthecross.org">pastorlaesch@chapelofthecross.org</a>     |
| Ellory Glenn, Specific Ministry Pastor           | 314-369-8014      | <a href="mailto:ellory.glenn@chapelofthecross.org">ellory.glenn@chapelofthecross.org</a>     |
| Justin Goodrich, Vicar                           | 586-399-0058      | <a href="mailto:vicarjustin@chapelofthecross.org">vicarjustin@chapelofthecross.org</a>       |
| Timothy Mars, Director of Music                  | 308-241-2012      | <a href="mailto:timothy.mars@chapelofthecross.org">timothy.mars@chapelofthecross.org</a>     |
| Bill Rusnak, Director of Adult Ministry          | 314-200-9797      | <a href="mailto:bill.rusnak@chapelofthecross.org">bill.rusnak@chapelofthecross.org</a>       |
| Clifford Bischoff, Pastoral Assistant            | 314-921-1107      | <a href="mailto:pastorbischoff@chapelofthecross.org">pastorbischoff@chapelofthecross.org</a> |
| Mary Laesch, Children and Family Ministry Coord. | 314-355-0688      | <a href="mailto:family@chapelofthecross.org">family@chapelofthecross.org</a>                 |

## 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<br>& 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*