

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.

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 7, 2025

11:00 a.m.

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

AS WE GATHER

Jesus is blunt about the cost of discipleship. He does not sugarcoat the life He calls us to in the baptismal waters but neither does He diminish His promises, gifts, and blessings that accompany this life of faith. Today He calls us to count the cost, knowing that the way of the Christian is constantly tested and tried by our affection for the things of this life, our vulnerability to the enemies of the faith, and the weakness of our own sinful flesh. Part of that cost is not just in what you desire but also in what you are willing to surrender for the sake of Christ and His kingdom.

PRELUDE

Präeludium

by Hans Friedrich Micheelsen

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

797 Praise the Almighty

- 1 Praise the Almighty, my soul, adore Him!
Yes, I will laud Him until death;
With songs and anthems I come before Him
As long as He allows me breath.
From Him my life and all things came;
Bless, O my soul, His holy name.
Alleluia, alleluia!
- 2 Trust not in rulers; they are but mortal;
Earthborn they are and soon decay.
Vain are their counsels at life's last portal,
When the dark grave engulfs its prey.
Since mortals can no help afford,
Place all your trust in Christ, our Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia!
- 3 Blessèd, oh, blessèd are they forever
Whose help is from the Lord Most High,
Whom from salvation can nothing sever,
And who in hope to Christ draw nigh.
To all who trust in Him, our Lord
Will aid and counsel now afford.
Alleluia, alleluia!

4 Penitent sinners, for mercy crying,
Pardon and peace from Him obtain;
Ever the wants of the poor supplying,
Their faithful God He will remain.
He helps His children in distress,
The widows and the fatherless.
Alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Public domain

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Father in heaven, in Your mercy You call us to turn from our sinful ways and live.

People: **We confess that we have often run away from Your presence. By what we do and what we fail to do, we have turned our backs on Your love. Forgive us, Father. Draw us again to the cross of Your Son that we may be restored in our relationship with You. Amen**

Pastor: Brothers and sisters in Christ, we are promised redemption and restoration in the presence of our Father, who hears our prayers. 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

797 Praise the Almighty

- 5 Praise, all you people, the name so holy
Of Him who does such wondrous things!
All that has being, to praise Him solely,
With happy heart its amen sings.
Children of God, with angel host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!
Alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: O merciful Lord, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all. Grant us courage and strength to take up the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

MINISTRY MINUTE

✕ WORD ✕

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Deuteronomy 30:15–20

(I have set before you this day life and good, death and evil.)

¹⁵ See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. ¹⁶ For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, ¹⁸ I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

¹⁹ This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live ²⁰ and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 1

Pastor: Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.

People: **But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.**

Pastor: He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

People: **Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away.**

(continued on next page)

Pastor: Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

People: **For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.**

EPISTLE

Philemon 1–21

(Paul's letter commending the slave Onesimus back to his master, not only as a slave but as a brother in the Lord.)

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker, ² to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier and to the church that meets in your home: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints. ⁶ I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ. ⁷ Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints.

⁸ Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, ⁹ yet I appeal to you on the basis of love. I then, as Paul--an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus-- ¹⁰ I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.

¹² I am sending him--who is my very heart--back to you. ¹³ I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. ¹⁴ But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do will be spontaneous and not forced. ¹⁵ Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back for good-- ¹⁶ no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a man and as a brother in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back--not to mention that you owe me your very self. ²⁰ I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

“Take My Life”

Tomlin, Giglio, Havergal, Malan

*Take my life and let it be consecrated Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.
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.*

*Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King.
Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from Thee.
Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use ev'ry power as You choose.*

*(Refrain) Here am I, all of me.
Take my life, it's all for Thee.*

*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.
Take my love, my Lord, I pour at Your feet its treasure store.
Take myself and I will be ever, only, all for Thee. (Refrain)*

Please stand

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourteenth chapter.

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

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 14:25–35

(Jesus speaks of the cost of discipleship and calls on those who would follow Him to deny themselves and take up the cross.)

²⁵ Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: ²⁶ "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters--yes, even his own life--he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

²⁸ "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? ²⁹ For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'

³¹ "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. ³³ In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple. ³⁴ "Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? ³⁵ It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out. "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN

853 How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord

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 THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION STAFF

Please stand

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

"Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways"

setting by Benjamin M. Culli

Please stand

OFFERTORY

What Shall I Render to the Lord

The musical score is written for a single voice part in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a common time signature 'C' in a square box. The music is a simple, hymn-like melody with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes. The lyrics are: '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.'

C 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.

PRAYER

Pastor: 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

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

918 Guild Me, O Thou Great Redeemer

POSTLUDE

"The Son of God Goes Forth to War"

setting by Paul Soulek

Prepare for next weekend's worship by reading:

Ezekiel 34:11-24; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

Find a devotional guide on the readings at www.chapelofthecross.org/walkingtogether

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Serving at Chapel

Preacher:	Ellory Glenn	
Liturgists:	5:00 p.m.	Charles Wallace
	8:30 a.m.	Theodore Laesch
	11:00 a.m.	Theodore Laesch
Lectors:	8:30 a.m.	Adrienne Burton
	11:00 a.m.	Ken Gerler
Acolytes:	8:30 a.m.	Nyla Hill
	11:00 a.m.	Bella Moss
Soloist:	11:00 a.m.	Matt McEuen
Organist:	Kathleen Stahlhut	
Director of the Week:	Gary Timm	
Elder of the Week:	Craig Schlichtmann	