

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.

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 18 & 19, 2021

5:00 p.m. & 8:30 a.m.

Please note: The 5:00 p.m. worship service is live streamed and recorded.

AS WE GATHER

Our world is filled with turmoil, strife, contention. Every time it seems that our nation or even our own lives are at peace, again something disrupts it. Today's Readings point us to the truth that the peace we seek cannot come from the powers of the world, nor can it come from anything in our own hearts or our spiritual potential. Real peace comes from what seems like the least promising place: a little town, through the young Virgin. Peace comes from Bethlehem, from where God comes to us. From God's Word. From the Bread of Life in Holy Communion. Real peace comes to us, often beyond our understanding, through the babe of Bethlehem, Jesus Christ, through whom God made peace with us by a cross.

PRELUDE

5:00 p.m.

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

setting by Ryan Meyer

8:30 a.m.

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

setting by John Leavitt

WELCOME

The congregation turns and faces the cross as the procession approaches the altar reminding us that Christ leads us into the presence of God.

✘ PREPARATION ✘

Please stand

ENTRANCE HYMN

357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

- 1** O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. (Refrain)

- ref** Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

- 2** O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. (Refrain)

- 4** O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. (Refrain)

- 5** O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. (Refrain)

- 7** O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. (Refrain)

Text: Public domain

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Leader: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins to God our Father, imploring Him in the name of our Lord Jesus

Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: **who made heaven and earth.**

Leader: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

People: **And you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Leader: Almighty God, merciful Father:

People: **I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You and for which I justly deserve Your punishment. But I am sorry for them, and repent of them, and pray for Your boundless mercy.**

For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being; forgive my sins, give me Your Holy Spirit for the amendment of my sinful life, and bring me to life everlasting. Amen.

Leader: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for His sake God forgives you all your 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.

People: **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Leader: Let us pray.

O Lord, let the lighting of these candles signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

“Advent Candlelight Carol”

arr. by Anna Page and Jean Shafferman

**Advent candle burning bright through the night,
Shine your light of hope telling people everywhere
Soon the Savior comes, soon He will be here!
People gather and prepare in the night with the light of hope.**

**Advent candle burning bright through the night,
Shine your light of peace telling people everywhere
Soon the Savior comes, soon He will be here!
People gather and prepare in the night with the light of peace.**

**Advent candle burning bright through the night,
Shine your light of love telling people everywhere
Soon the Savior comes, soon He will be here!
People gather and prepare in the night with the light of love.**

**Advent candle burning bright through the night,
Shine your light of joy telling people everywhere
Soon the Savior comes, soon He will be here!
People gather and prepare in the night with the light of joy.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Micah 5:2–5a

(Out of little Bethlehem will be born a ruler for God's people, a Good Shepherd, who will bring peace.)

² "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." ³ Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.

⁴ He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.

⁵ And he will be their peace.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 80:1-7

Leader: Hear us, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock;
you who sit enthroned between the cherubim,

People: shine forth before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.

Leader: Awaken your might; come and save us.

People: Restore us, O God; make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.

Leader: O LORD God Almighty, how long will your anger smolder against the
prayers of your people?

**People: You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have made them drink
tears by the bowlful.**

Leader: You have made us a source of contention to our neighbors, and our
enemies mock us.

**People: Restore us, O God Almighty; make your face shine upon us, that we
may be saved.**

EPISTLE

Hebrews 10:5–10

(Because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, we live.)

⁵ Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said:

"Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; ⁶ with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. ⁷ Then I said, 'Here I am--it is written about me in the scroll-- I have come to do your will, O God.' "

⁸ First he said, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them" (although the law required them to be made).

⁹ Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(8:30 a.m. only)

ANTHEM

“Magnificat”

Getty/Townend

*My soul will magnify the Lord.
I rejoice in God my Savior,
In the wonder of His favor.
For He has done great things for me;
He was mindful of His servant.
Every age shall call me blessed.
The Hope of Abraham come
In the giving of a Son;
For He who promised is mighty
In remembering His mercy.*

*My soul will magnify the Lord
For His grace to those who fear Him
Through every generation.
The proud He scatters to the wind
As the ruler's strength is broken,
And the rich are left with nothing.
The humble lifted high,
And the hungry satisfied;
Our Portion and our Treasure,
Our Hope and Help forever.*

*My soul will magnify the Lord.
I rejoice in God my Savior,
In the wonder of His favor.*

CCLI Song # 5567894 Keith Getty | Kristyn Getty | Stuart Townend

© 2008 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

For use solely with the SongSelect® [Terms of Use](https://www.ccli.com/terms-of-use). All rights reserved. www.ccli.com

CCLI License # 11301522

Please stand

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

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

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:39–45

(Even while in Mary's womb, the presence of Jesus caused Elizabeth and the baby in her womb to rejoice!)

³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!" ⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

HYMN OF THE WORD

356 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady."
Gloria!

2 "For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honor thee;
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored lady."
Gloria!

- 3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."
Most highly favored lady,
Gloria!
- 4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
"Most highly favored lady."
Gloria!

Text: Public domain

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Sermon notes:

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.

OFFERING

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

setting by Anna Laura Page

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.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

In the Lord's Supper we receive Christ's body and blood in and with the bread and wine. The two great blessings of the Lord's Supper are the forgiveness of sins and strength to live an improved Christian life. In response to the Lord's command we are to examine ourselves privately prior to partaking of the Sacrament. There are three basic questions on 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 truly sorry for my sins? 2) Do I believe Jesus Christ is my Savior? 3) Do I promise with God's help to live a Christian life? If you agree with the above statement, we invite you to the Sacrament.

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

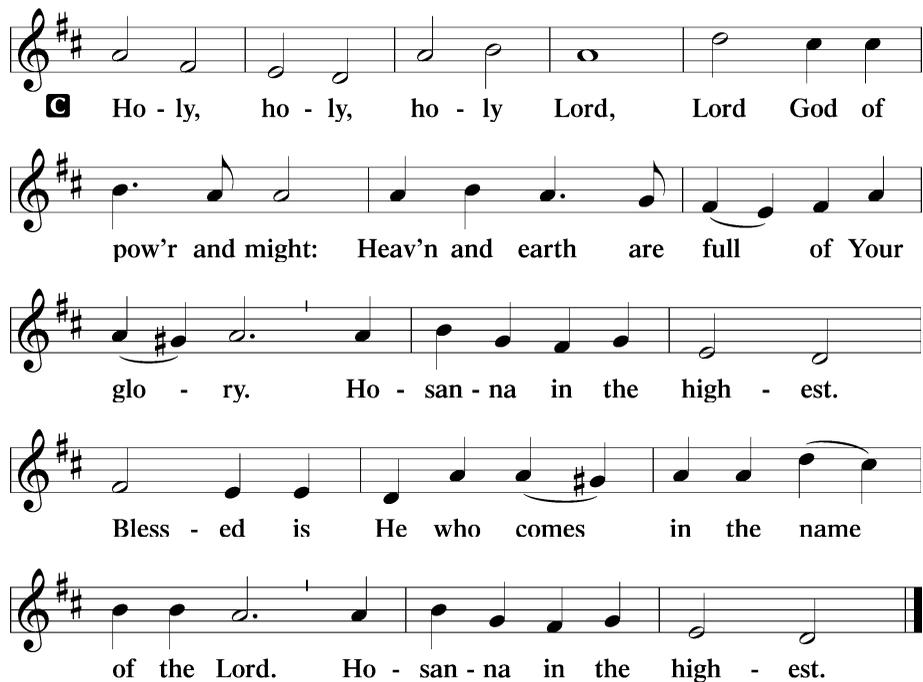
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

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

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, born of the Virgin Mary in the little town of Bethlehem brought peace and joy into this tumultuous world by His preaching, miracles, death, and resurrection. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
glo - ry. 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



C 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, grant us peace.

A "continuous communion table" will be the method of distribution this day. Communicants will come forward down the center aisle at the direction of the usher. You will receive the wafer from the pastor at the center and then proceed to the right or left (depending on which side of the church you are sitting) to receive the wine. You will then return to your pew. As is our custom, communion will be brought to people in the pews who have difficulty walking to the chancel. If you wish to take communion in the pew, please raise your hand when the communion assistant comes down the aisle. Also young children will receive a word of blessing.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

384 Of the Father's Love Begotten

- 1 Of the Father's love begotten
 Ere the worlds began to be,
 He is Alpha and Omega,
 He the source, the ending He,
 Of the things that are, that have been,
 And that future years shall see
 Evermore and evermore.**

- 2 Oh, that birth forever blessèd,
 When the virgin, full of grace,
 By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
 Bore the Savior of our race,
 And the babe, the world's Redeemer,
 First revealed His sacred face
 Evermore and evermore.**

- 3 This is He whom seers in old time
 Chanted of with one accord,
 Whom the voices of the prophets
 Promised in their faithful word.
 Now He shines, the long-expected;
 Let creation praise its Lord
 Evermore and evermore.**

- 4 O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him;
Angel hosts, His praises sing.
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him
And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Ev'ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.
- Δ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore. Amen.

Text: Public domain

935 Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord

- 1 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of His Word;
In God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.
- 2 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His name!
Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.
- 3 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might!
Pow'rs and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

(continued on next page)

**4 Tell out, my soul, the glories of His Word!
Firm is His promise, and His mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and forevermore!**

Text: © 1962, renewed 1990 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: Chapel of the Cross no. VVPKL-GBOIT-LYVDV-EKAFZ

SILENT PRAYER

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

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank and praise You that You have again refreshed us with the gift of Your holy body and blood in this comforting sacrament. Bless our participation that we may depart from Your presence with peace and joy in the knowledge that we are reconciled to God. We ask this in Your name. Amen.

Please stand

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank You for feeding us with spiritual food, the body and blood of Christ. All who come to You will not hunger, all who believe in You will not thirst. Empowered by this sacrament, send us back into the world to do the work You have given us to do: to share the gospel and be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

362 O Sing of Christ

1 O sing of Christ, whose birth made known

The kindness of the Lord,
Eternal Word made flesh and bone
So we could be restored.
Upon our frail humanity
God's finger chose to trace
The fullness of His deity,
The icon of His grace.

2 What Adam lost, none could reclaim,

And Paradise was barred
Until the second Adam came
To mend what sin had marred.
For when the time was full and right
God sent His only Son;
He came to us as life and light
And our redemption won.

3 He came to that which was His own,

But He was not received;
Yet still through Him God's glory shone,
And some His name believed.
To these He gave the right to be
The heirs of heav'n above,
Born not of human ancestry
But born of God in love.

(continued on next page)

**4 Lord Jesus Christ, You deigned to dwell
Among us here on earth
As God with us, Emmanuel,
To bring this holy birth.
Though rich, You willingly became
One with our poverty,
That we might share Your wealth and name
For all eternity!**

Text: © 1996 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: Chapel of the Cross no. VVPKL-GBOIT-LYVDV-EKAFZ

POSTLUDE

Festive Toccata on “Veni Emmanuel”

setting by Ryan Meyer

Prepare for next weekend's worship by reading:
Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:22-40

*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
Hymns used by permission. OneLicense.net #A-725523 Lutheran Service Builder License no. VVPKL-GBOIT-LYVDV-EKAFZ.*

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 1. Copyright © 2021 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Serving at Chapel

Preacher:	Theodore Laesch	
Liturgists:	5:00 p.m.	Adam Rouse
	8:30 a.m.	Ellory Glenn
Lectors:	8:30 a.m.	Bill Westbrook
Acolyte:	8:30 a.m.	Audrey Runser
Singers:	8:30 a.m.	Matt McEuen
Instrumentalists:	Marilyn Kreitner, piano	
	Lynda Christian, oboe	
	Jonah Meyer, percussion	
Organist & Accompanist:	Ryan Meyer	

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 KFUE 850 AM Sundays at 4:00 p.m.
Live internet streaming at www.chapelofthecross.org Sundays at 8:30 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	355-0688	pastorlaesch@chapelofthecross.org
Ellory Glenn, Specific Ministry Pastor	369-8014	ellory.glenn@chapelofthecross.org
James Marriott, Pastoral Assistant - Youth	(972) 741-5978	james.marriott@chapelofthecross.org
Ryan Meyer, Director of Music	839-0306	ryan.meyer@chapelofthecross.org
Bill Rusnak, Director of Adult Ministry	200-9797	bill.rusnak@chapelofthecross.org
Clifford Bischoff, Pastoral Assistant	921-1107	pastorbischoff@chapelofthecross.org
Mary Laesch, Children and Family Ministry Coord.	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:

*Day 3 Seeds	*Christian Friends of New Americans	*Food for the Poor
Helping Hands Food Pantry	Concordia Seminary	Friend of Moms
Sidewalk Sunday School	Lutherans for Life	KFUE Radio
Chapel Summer Camp	Apple of His Eye	Hope Center for Families

** indicates special emphasis in 2021-2022*

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