

# 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.*

# Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 24, 2023

11:00 a.m.

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

## AS WE GATHER

Soon and very soon our waiting and planning for Christmas celebrations will come to their close, and we will rejoice in Christ's coming to save us. Such waiting and planning for Christmas can also guide us as we prepare for Christ's final advent, His ultimate coming, when He returns on the Last Day. Until that glorious Day, when all portions of God's plan for our salvation will be accomplished, we are blessed with the peace "which surpasses all understanding" (Philippians 4:7). Such peace is an amazing gift that the Lord gave to the virgin Mary, the mother of our Lord, when she received God's Word from the angel Gabriel. According to God's own amazing plan, Mary would carry our salvation in her womb and then, some nine months later, deliver Him into the world He would die and rise again to save. "Let it be to me according to your word," she said, accepting the Lord's plan for her life (Luke 1:38). May we say the same today as we gather in the presence of our God.

## PRELUDE

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

setting by John Leavitt

## 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

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)

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight. (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

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

People: **Amen.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: The Sun of righteousness shall rise with shining beams of healing. Let us gather under the wings of God's mercy.  
Gracious God,

People: **we acknowledge that we are sinners and we confess our sins – those known to us that burden our hearts, and those unknown to us but seen by You. We know that before You nothing remains hidden, and in You everything is revealed. Free us from the slavery of sin; liberate us from the bondage of guilt; work in us that which is pleasing in Your sight; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Pastor: From the house of David, God raised up a mighty Savior.

People: **Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who comes to set us free.**

Pastor: Remembering the covenant, God delivered us from our enemies.

People: **Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who comes to set us free.**

Pastor: Before God we are holy and righteous, free to worship without fear.

People: **Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who comes to set us free.**

Pastor: With a heart full of mercy and compassion, God saves us and forgives us all our sins. Christ, the dawn from on high, shines upon us, and by the light of the Holy Spirit guides our feet into the way of peace.

People: **Amen.**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Pastor: Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him. *(Psalm 98:1)*

People: **He has remembered His love and His faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**  
*(Psalm 98:3)*

Pastor: “You will be with child and give birth to a Son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus.

People: **He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High”**  
*(Luke 1:31-32)*

Pastor: Four candles are ignited into flame as the mystery of Jesus unfolds.

People: **To the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

(Sung) We light the Advent candles  
Against the winter night  
To welcome our Lord Jesus,  
Who is the world's True Light;  
To welcome our Lord Jesus  
Who is the world's True Light.

Four candles burning brightly  
Announce that Christ has come.  
Prepare, my heart, believe it,  
And give the Christ child room;  
Prepare, my heart, believe it,  
And give the Christ child room.

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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you

**Pastor:** Let us pray

**People:** Almighty God, Judge and King, when the time had fully come, You sent Your Son, born of a virgin, for us and for our salvation. Come, Lord Jesus, with Your grace, to all the places of the world where people desperately need You. Come and give us the gift of Yourself; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## ✂ WORD ✂

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16

*“Your throne shall be established forever.”*

<sup>1</sup> After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup> he said to Nathan the prophet, “Here I am, living in a palace of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent.”

<sup>3</sup> Nathan replied to the king, “Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the LORD is with you.”

<sup>4</sup> That night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying:

<sup>5</sup> “Go and tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? <sup>6</sup> I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. <sup>7</sup> Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”’”

*(continued on next page)*

<sup>8</sup> "Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup> I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men of the earth. <sup>10</sup> And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning <sup>11</sup> and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

"The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you:

<sup>16</sup> Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

Psalm 89:1-5, 19-29

Pastor: I will sing of the LORD's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.

People: **I will declare that your love stands firm forever, that you established your faithfulness in heaven itself.**

Pastor: You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant, 'I will establish your line forever and make your throne firm through all generations.'"

People: **The heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones.**

Pastor: Once you spoke in a vision, to your faithful people you said:

People: **"I have bestowed strength on a warrior; I have exalted a young man from among the people.**



**Pastor:** I have found David my servant; with my sacred oil I have anointed him. My hand will sustain him; My hand will sustain him; surely my arm will strengthen him. No enemy will subject him to tribute; no wicked man will oppress him. I will crush his foes before him and strike down his adversaries.

**People:** **My faithful love will be with him, and through my name his horn will be exalted.**

**Pastor:** I will set his hand over the sea, his right hand over the rivers.

**People:** **He will call out to me, 'You are my Father, my God, the Rock my Savior.'**

**Pastor:** I will also appoint him my firstborn,

**People:** **the most exalted of the kings of the earth.**

**Pastor:** I will maintain my love to him forever, and my covenant with him will never fail.

**People:** **I will establish his line forever, his throne as long as the heavens endure.**

## **EPISTLE**

Romans 16:25–27

*("To the only wise God be glory forevermore.")*

<sup>25</sup> Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, <sup>26</sup> but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him-- <sup>27</sup> to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

**Lector:** This is the Word of the Lord.

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

## ANTHEM

"Mary Did You Know"

Buddy Greene

*Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Would one day walk on water?  
Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Would save our sons and daughters?  
Did you know that your baby boy  
Has come to make you new?  
This Child that you delivered  
Will soon deliver you.*

*Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Would give sight to the blind man?  
Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Would calm a storm with His hand?  
Did you know that your baby boy  
Has walked where angels trod?  
And when you kiss your little baby  
You've kissed the face of God.*

*The blind will see, the deaf will hear,  
The dead will live again;  
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak  
The praises of the Lamb.*

*Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Is Lord of all creation?  
Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Will one day rule the nations?  
Did you know that your baby boy  
Is heaven's perfect Lamb?  
And the sleeping Child you're holding  
Is the great I Am!*

*Please stand*

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

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

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

Luke 1:26–38

*(God reveals His eternal plan of salvation to the virgin Mary.)*

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

<sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

<sup>34</sup> "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup> The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

<sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For nothing is impossible with God."

<sup>38</sup> "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

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

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

## HYMN

356      The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

## 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

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*

“O Come, O come, Emmanuel”

setting by John A. Behnke

*Please stand*

## OFFERTORY

383 A Great and Mighty Wonder

1 A great and mighty wonder,  
A full and holy cure:  
The virgin bears the infant  
With virgin honor pure! (Refrain)

4 Since all He comes to ransom,  
By all be He adored,  
The infant born in Bethl'em,  
The Savior and the Lord. (Refrain)

ref Proclaim the Savior's birth:  
“To God on high be glory  
And peace to all the earth!”

*Text: Public domain*

## ✠ 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, the very Word made flesh who came to dwell among us, fulfilling Your Word and bringing to earth the peace of heaven. 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 God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san - na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

## 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

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,

You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;

O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,

Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.



*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.*

## **DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**349      Hark the Glad Sound**

**855      For All the Faithful Women**

**1    For all the faithful women  
     Who served in days of old,  
     To You shall thanks be given;  
     To all, their story told.  
     They served with strength and gladness  
     In tasks Your wisdom gave.  
     To You their lives bore witness,  
     Proclaimed Your pow'r to save.**

**8    Mary, Mother of Our Lord  
     We sing of Mary, mother,  
     Fair maiden, full of grace.  
     She bore the Christ, our brother,  
     Who came to save our race.  
     May we, with her, surrender  
     Ourselves to Your command  
     And lay upon Your altar  
     Our gifts of heart and hand.  
     Luke 1:26–38**

*(continued on next page)*

**3 O God, for saints and servants,  
Those named and those unknown  
In whom through all the ages  
Your light of glory shone,  
We offer glad thanksgiving  
And fervent prayer we raise  
That, faithful in Your service,  
Our lives may sing Your praise.**

**Δ4 All praise to God the Father!  
All praise to Christ the Son!  
All praise the Holy Spirit,  
Who binds the Church in one!  
With saints who went before us,  
With saints who witness still,  
We sing glad Alleluias  
And strive to do Your will.**

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## 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 drawn 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*

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Pastor:** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, 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**

**362**    O Sing of Christ

## **POSTLUDE**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

setting by Austin Lovelace

Prepare for next weekend's worship by reading:

Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

Find a devotional guide on the readings at [www.chapelofthecross.org/walkingtogether](http://www.chapelofthecross.org/walkingtogether)

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## Serving at Chapel

Preacher:	Ellory Glenn	
Liturgists:	5:00 p.m.	Jacob Anderson
	8:30 a.m.	Brett Arrasmith
	11:00 a.m.	Theodore Laesch
Lectors:	8:30 a.m.	Jayme Zvirgzdins
	11:00 a.m.	Riane Cleveland
Acolytes:	8:30 a.m.	Anna Zvirgzdins
	11:00 a.m.	Nyla Hill
Soloists:	8:30 a.m.	Denise Koch
	11:00 a.m.	Mark Petersen
Instrumentalist:	Marilyn Kreitner, piano	
Organist & Accompanist:	Ryan Meyer	

## Chapel of the Cross - Lutheran

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[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	355-0688	<a href="mailto:pastorlaesch@chapelofthecross.org">pastorlaesch@chapelofthecross.org</a>
Ellory Glenn, Specific Ministry Pastor	369-8014	<a href="mailto:ellory.glenn@chapelofthecross.org">ellory.glenn@chapelofthecross.org</a>
Brett Arrasmith, Vicar	417-592-1854	<a href="mailto:vicar@chapelofthecross.org">vicar@chapelofthecross.org</a>
Ryan Meyer, Director of Music	839-0306	<a href="mailto:ryan.meyer@chapelofthecross.org">ryan.meyer@chapelofthecross.org</a>
Bill Rusnak, Director of Adult Ministry	200-9797	<a href="mailto:bill.rusnak@chapelofthecross.org">bill.rusnak@chapelofthecross.org</a>
Clifford Bischoff, Pastoral Assistant	921-1107	<a href="mailto:pastorbischoff@chapelofthecross.org">pastorbischoff@chapelofthecross.org</a>
Mary Laesch, Children and Family Ministry Coord.	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:

\*L.A.M.P. Lutheran Assoc. of Missionaries & Pilots

\*Lutheran Bible Translators

Concordia Seminary

Day 3 Seeds

Chapel Summer Camp

\* Helping Hands Food Pantry

Friend of Moms

Lutherans for Life

Apple of His Eye

Food for the Poor

KFUD Radio

*\* indicates special emphasis in 2023*

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