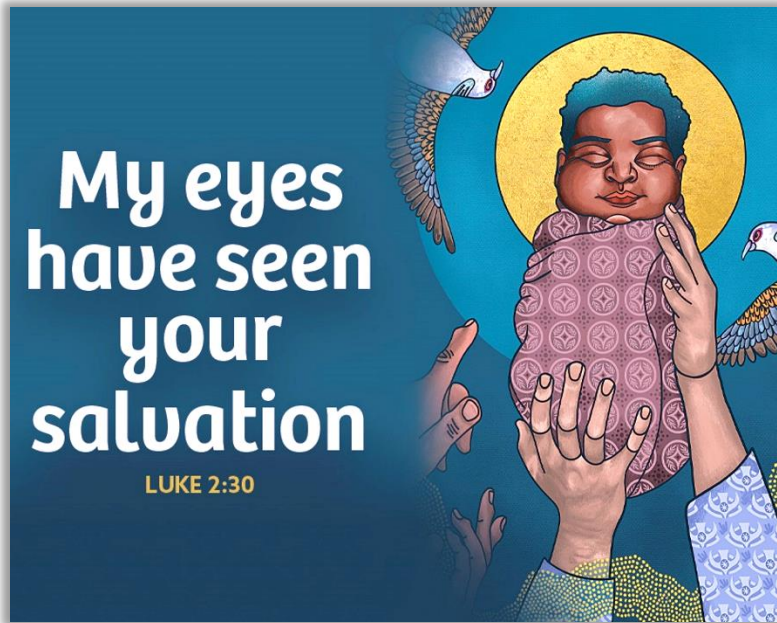


**Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025**

*Fourth Sunday after Epiphany*



**Our Savior's Lutheran Church**

Virginia, MN

Pastor Liz Cheney



## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## GATHERING HYMN

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

ELW 705

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. **Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.  
***Silence is kept for reflection.***

Merciful God,

**you speak blessing and compassion into the world.**

**Forgive us for the ways we act  
with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.**

**We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice;  
we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another.**

**Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp.**

**Show us your lovingkindness.**

**Restore our hearts and repair your world,  
that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.”

In † Christ, you are forgiven.

In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy,  
live anew as beloved children of God. **Amen.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

*When a Star is Shining*

ACS 915



1 When a star is shin-ing o - ver east - ern hills,  
2 Where the world is wait-ing for an un - known day,  
3 Lead us on, O Day - star, in the qui - et night;



when the air is si - lent, and the clam - or stills,  
where a voice for - got - ten cries, “Pre - pare the way!”  
guide us through the shad - ow with your gen - tle light;



when the night is wait-ing, and the old hopes rise,  
Where an earth - ly pow - er makes the heart turn cold,  
show us in a man - ger our re - demp - tion's sign;



then the time has rip - ened and the heart grows wise.  
there the gifts are of - fered— in - cense, myrrh, and gold.  
bring us to a morn - ing where the prom - ise shines.



Lead us on, lead us on, to a morn - ing where the



prom - ise shines. Lead us on, lead us on,



to a morn - ing where the prom - ise shines.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993  
Music: WHERE THE PROMISE SHINES, Bob Moore, b. 1962  
Text © 1995 GIA Publications, Inc., giasmusic.com. All rights reserved.  
Music © 2003 GIA Publications, Inc., giasmusic.com. All rights reserved.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** Almighty and ever-living God, your only-begotten Son was presented this day in the temple. May we be presented to you with clean and pure hearts by the same Jesus Christ, our great high priest, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4**

<sup>1</sup> See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup> he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 84**

<sup>1</sup> How dear to me is your dwelling,  
O LORD of hosts!

<sup>2</sup> **My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.**

<sup>3</sup> Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young,  
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my king and my God.

<sup>4</sup> **Happy are they who dwell in your house!  
They will always be praising you.**

<sup>5</sup> Happy are the people whose strength is in you,  
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

<sup>6</sup> **Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a place of springs,  
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.**

<sup>7</sup> They will climb from height to height,  
and the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

<sup>8</sup> **LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;  
give ear, O God of Jacob.**

<sup>9</sup> Behold our defender, O God;  
and look upon the face of your anointed.

<sup>10</sup> **For one day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.**

**I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**

<sup>11</sup> For the LORD God is both sun and shield, bestowing grace and glory;  
no good thing will the LORD withhold from those who walk with integrity.

<sup>12</sup> **O LORD of hosts,  
happy are they who put their trust in you!**

## SECOND READING: Hebrews 2:14-18

<sup>14</sup> Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, [Jesus] himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup> For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. <sup>17</sup> Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Refrain*



Lead us on, lead us on, to a morn-ing where the  
prom-ise shines. Lead us on, lead us on,  
to a morn - ing where the prom - ise shines.

**GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40.** The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>22</sup> When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), <sup>24</sup> and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup> “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.”

<sup>33</sup> And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup> so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

<sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup> At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup> When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**SERMON**

**Pastor Liz Cheney**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

**ELW 631**

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

**pg. # 105**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. We begin with the refrain from Let Justice Roll Like a River. The refrain will be sung after each petition ending with *Let Justice Roll*. Let us sing and pray...



Let jus - tice roll like a riv - er, and wash all op -  
pres-sion a - way. Come, O God, and take us,  
move and shake us; come now, and make us a - new,  
that we might live just - ly like you.

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

### SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please share a sign of God's peace with one another.

**OFFERING** Thank you for your continued financial support of OSLC! Whether you join us in person or online, the ministry & missions of Our Savior's depend on faithful giving. You can give the following ways:

+ online links can be found by accessing our website at <https://www.oslcmn.com/>

+ Using the QR code found here:

+ Contacting the church office to set up regular automatic giving

+ Dropping off or mailing in your offering



### OFFERING PRAYER

**God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.**

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### LORD'S PRAYER

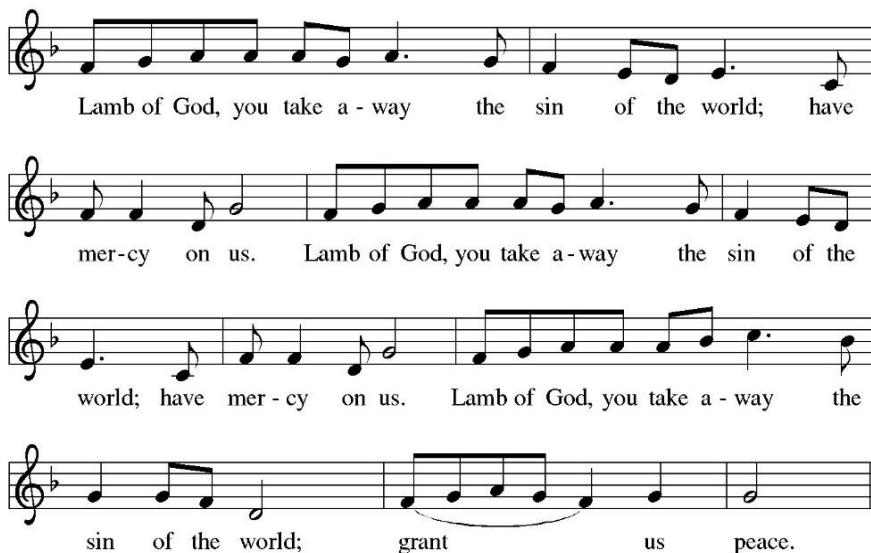
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

### LAMB OF GOD



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.

### COMMUNION HYMN

*Bread of Life from Heaven*

ELW 474

### TABLE BLESSING

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.

### BLESSING

The Spirit of the triune God ✠ bless you with joy,  
anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN

*Shine, Jesus, Shine*

ELW 671

**DISMISSAL** Go in peace. Live in hope. **Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

Jennifer Fredrickson

## **WE HOLD IN OUR PRAYERS**

Please pray for people in need of comfort, hope, healing, or safe transition: Lorraine M., Eric, Kyle, Pr. Art, Bob D, Mark O., Janet, John W., Ross-(needs transplant of kidneys & pancreas), Joy T., Deb, Cliff, Margaret, Shannon P., Amanda, Jan, Nicole, Deb, Luddy, Bruce & family, Andrew T., Sharon P., Sue, Gerilyn, Andrew, Alexandria, Courtney, Jill & husband, Amelia, Archer, Jarie, Phyllis, Wally, Deb, Adeline, Tedd, Ed & Karen, Ralph, Chuck, Sue. *Please keep Marlene Kauppinen in your prayers, at the sudden loss of her daughter. Call Janet Heglund @ 218-749-6143 for prayer needs- the prayer chain leader January through June.*

***If you are in need of any pastoral care or if you or someone you know would like a visit, please call Pastor Liz Cheney at 218-780-8907 or the church office at 218-741-6207.***

### **CONTACT US**

OSLC, 1111 8<sup>th</sup> St. South, Virginia, MN Church Office: 218-741-6207

Email: [office@oslcmn.com](mailto:office@oslcmn.com)

Online: [www.oslcmn.com](http://www.oslcmn.com)

[www.facebook.com/oslcmn](http://www.facebook.com/oslcmn)

YouTube Page "Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Virginia MN Office"

### **OFFICE HOURS**

Office Admin hours are 9am - 5pm, Tuesday - Friday.

There will be times we're away from the office doing errands, for this reason, please call ahead if you plan on coming to the church or need assistance!

### **PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS**

Pastor Liz will be here Tues. - Thurs. & off Fridays.

Call @ 218-780-8907

or email at [lizcheney44@gmail.com](mailto:lizcheney44@gmail.com)

### **STAFF**

**Pastor:** Rev. Liz Cheney

**Secretary:** Colleen Brown Jacobson

**Bookkeeper:** Carole Rutka

**Custodian:** Steve Gagnon

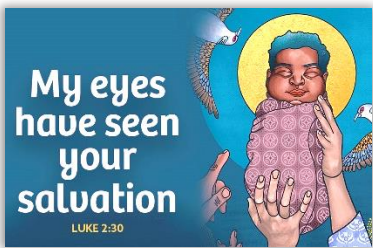
**Musicians:** Kristen Weikum, Mark Ongalo, and Ginny Ahrlin



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.





## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### *Fourth week of Epiphany*

### February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

**LIFT CONFIRMATION** Lift will meet again this Wednesday, **Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>, 6-8pm**, at Messiah Lutheran.

**TASK FORCE TEAM** We are building a team to look into the **sanctuary windows** and take the next steps for a springtime project. Quotes will be requested from three different local contractors. Please see Pastor Liz or Mark Ongalo if you are interested in serving on this Task Force team.

**CLOTHING SALE SET:** We are collecting clothes & gently used household items for our Annual Clothing Sale April 25<sup>th</sup> & April 26<sup>th</sup>. Please bring items to the back of the Fellowship Hall and leave them on a table on the left. Please make sure your items are clean! Thank you~

**CLOTHES SORTING** If you are good at organizing, come help sort clothes that have been collected for our upcoming sale in April. Sorting will be on **Monday at noon!** Come anytime and stay as long as you like! Thank you for your help ~

**CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS** The Annual Contribution Statements were mailed last Wednesday, and will arrive at your house the beginning of this week. If you require a second copy, or have any questions or concerns, stop by the church office Tuesday and a copy can be printed for you immediately.

**RADIO BROADCAST** The council made a decision in the fall to discontinue this service in 2025. We know this decision and change comes with a variety of thoughts and feelings. The decision was made in prayer and discernment. We are happy to assist anyone with accessing the livestream on their computer, laptop, smart phone or smart tv. Call the church office to schedule an appointment.

**WORSHIP SPONSORSHIP** If you are interested in sponsoring a Sunday Worship in honor of someone, or a special event (wedding anniversary, birth of children, baptism date) or in memory of a loved one who has passed, you may do so any amount you choose from \$25 - \$100. The funds will be used to keep our new sound system and electronic equipment up to date and functioning. We need to continue to update other microphones and add additional items that will continue to enhance and expand the experience of worship. **THE SIGN-UP SHEET WILL NOW BE LOCATED ON THE KIOSK – NEW LOCATION!**

### **EVENTS & MEETINGS THIS WEEK**

- 2/3 6PM BOY SCOUTS MTG FELLOWSHIP HALL
- 2/4 1PM WELCA BIBLE STUDY FIRESIDE ROOM
- 2/5 9AM -2PM QUILTING FELLOWSHIP HALL
- 2/5 11AM FINANCE MEETING FIRESIDE ROOM
- 2/6 12:30PM PEO MTG FIRESIDE ROOM
- 2/8 9AM – 12PM FREE COMMUNITY BREAKFAST
- 2/9 10:45 ADULT FORUM, KRISTI ONGALO



### **LECTOR SCHEDULE**

**FEBRUARY 2025**

KEVIN BROWN FEB. 2<sup>ND</sup>  
JUDY PELISKA FEB. 9<sup>TH</sup>  
JEN FREDRICKSON FEB. 16<sup>TH</sup>  
KRISTI ONGALO FEB. 23<sup>RD</sup>



# Community CLOSET

OUR SAVIOR'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1111 8TH ST. S. VIRGINIA



WEDNESDAYS  
12PM - 3PM

AND 2ND SATURDAY  
EVERY MONTH  
9AM - 12PM

*clothing for all ages*  
*food pantry items*  
*limited household*  
*goods*

Our West Wing *Community Closet* is opening on February 5<sup>th</sup> for the first time to the public.

Please help us spread the word. Want to help? Here is how you can:

- 1) Volunteer to work a day in the closet (every Wednesday and Second Saturday) Sign up sheet on Kiosk in Narthex.
- 2) Bring clothing, shoes, household items, personal hygiene products, bedding, pillows, food pantry items, books, movies, puzzles.
- 3) Post flyers around town.

The community closet is for anyone in need of clothing, food, personal or household items. All items are FREE.

In February we will be collecting personal hygiene items such as:

- \* Soap
- \* Shampoo
- \* Toothpaste
- \* Deodorant
- \* Wash Cloths
- \* Towels
- \* etc...

ITEMS CAN BE DROPPED OFF IN THE  
CHURCH OFFICE OR IN THE WEST  
WING CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE  
LEFT, NEXT TO THE NURSERY.

**FREE COMMUNITY  
BREAKFAST !**



**SATURDAY  
FEB. 8<sup>TH</sup>  
9AM - 12PM**