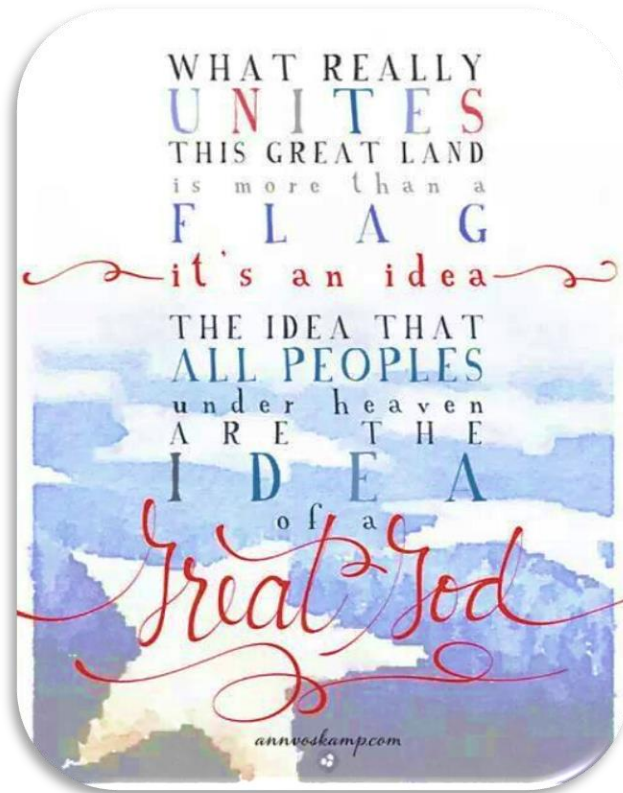


# American Voices Worship

July 7, 2024



Pastor Liz Cheney  
**Our Savior's Lutheran Church**  
Virginia, MN



## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**GATHERING**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.  
**Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READING Galatians 3:26-29**

<sup>26</sup> for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. <sup>27</sup> As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring,<sup>[k]</sup> heirs according to the promise.

**OPENING LITANY**

In the midst of celebration, we remember with sadness those who have died for our freedom.

**Lord, hear our cries.**

For all those who have given their lives so that we may have our freedom,

**Lord, hear our cries.**

For all those who struggle and strive against great difficulties,

**Lord, hear our cries.**

We praise God who has blessed us with freedom and peace.

**Let our lives be a blessing to others as we serve God in this world. AMEN.**

*Written by Nancy C. Townley, of the United Methodist Church, and adapted by Rev. Bonnie L. Wilcox*

**A quote from John Kennedy:**

So, let us not be blind to our differences--but let us also direct attention to our common interests and to the means by which those differences can be resolved. And if we cannot end now our differences, at least we can help make the world safe for diversity. For, in the final analysis, our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's futures. And we are all mortal.

**HYMN*****This is My Song*****ELW 887**

*[Written in 1934 by Lloyd Sontе (1912-1993) using the Finlandia Hymn melody composed by Jean Sibelius. It is sometimes called "A Song of Peace" which is taken from the second line of the song. It is a reminder of God's faithfulness to all people and all nations, whether they are faithful or not.]*

**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## WORD

### Voices of Native Americans

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 8** (Read responsively) **Translation by Nathan Nettleton, laughingbird.net**

Our LORD and ruler, all over the world the mere mention of your name sets hearts pounding!

**Your glory fills the universe!**

The gurgling of babies makes more sense than the clever arguments of your enemies. The innocent chatter of children silences the venomous talk of your opponents.

**When I gaze at your handiwork in the night skies— the moon, the stars, the milky way —the whole cosmos under your control;**

I can't help but wonder why you bother with us.

**Why do you care so much for mere human beings when we count for so little in the scheme of things?**

And yet, for reasons known to you alone,

**you created us almost on par with yourself and decorated us with the highest honors and glory.**

You have even entrusted us with power over your precious creation; you placed the future of all life in our hands:

**sheep and cattle; emu and kangaroo, insects, reptiles, birds, and sea creatures; air, land and water and the planet itself.**

Our LORD and ruler, all over the world the mere mention of your name sets hearts pounding!

### Words of Native Americans

**Quote by Chief Joseph, Nez Perce**

Treat all men alike. Give them all the same law. Give them all an even chance to live and grow. All men were made by the same Great Spirit Chief. They are all brothers. The earth is the mother of all people, and all people should have equal rights upon it.

**Reading from Black Elk, Oglala Lakota (Sioux)**

The first peace, which is the most important, is that which comes within the souls of people when they realize their relationship, their oneness with the universe and all its powers, and when they realize at the center of the universe dwells the Great Spirit, and that its center is really everywhere, it is within each of us."

**A quote by Geronimo, Apache**

There is one God looking down on us all. We are all the children of one God. The sun, the darkness, the winds are all listening to what we have to say.

**HYMN**

***Many and Great, O God (Dakota tune)***

**ELW 837**

*[Words: Joseph R. Renville, 1842 (Wakantanka taku nitawa). Appeared in the Dakota Indian Hymnal, 1916; translated from Dakota to English by Philip Frazier, 1929. Music: LACQUIPARLE, American Indian tune, adapted by Joseph Renville (MIDI, score).*

## Voices Of Immigrants

### SCRIPTURE READINGS:

#### **Matthew 25:38,40**

"[Lord,] when did we see you a stranger and invite you in?" The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

#### **Matthew 2:13-15a**

Now after the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."<sup>14</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt,<sup>15</sup> and remained there until the death of Herod.

#### **Hebrews 13:2**

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unaware.

#### **Quote by: Manuel Vásquez**

Many of these immigrants interpret their journey across borders as a journey of conversion, as a journey of transformation, of religious growth. And they invoke saints along the way. They ask for God's help as they cross borders.

So these immigrants read their migration story as part of the divine story, where their lives are fitting as part of a mission that God has for them. A lot of the immigrants will tell you, 'Yes, I came to look for jobs. Yes, I came to give a better life for my children. And, you know, it's part of God's plan for me. I'm here because God has given me this message that I should come here and do this.'

#### **Bishop Oscar Romero**

The transcendence that the church preaches is not alienation; it is not going to heaven to think about eternal life and forget about the problems on earth. It's a **transcendence from the human heart**. It is entering into the reality of a child, of the poor, of those wearing rags, of the sick, of a hovel, of a shack. It is going to share with them. And from the very heart of misery, of this situation, to transcend it, to elevate it, to promote it, and to say to them, "You aren't trash. You aren't marginalized." It is to say exactly the opposite, "You are valuable."

#### **Poem *The New Colossus* by Emma Lazarus**

*[Poet Emma Lazarus' iconic poem, The New Colossus, was etched into the Statue of Liberty and ever since have bonded immigration and poetry]*

*Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,  
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;  
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand  
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame  
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name  
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand  
Glow world-wide welcome;  
her mild eyes command*

*The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.  
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she  
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

## Voices of Youth

### SCRIPTURE READINGS:

**Genesis 37:2; 39:1-4** *Joseph the son of Jacob was made overseer in the house of the Captain of the Guard in Egypt when he was just 17.*

This is the story of the family of Jacob.

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. (...) Now Joseph was taken down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. <sup>2</sup>The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man; he was in the house of his Egyptian master. <sup>3</sup>His master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD caused all that he did to prosper in his hands. <sup>4</sup>So Joseph found favour in his sight and attended him; he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had.

### **1 Timothy 4:12**

Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

## Words of Youth

*The Pioneer Press held an essay contest for Minnesota teens in 2010, asking them to answer this question: How do Teens Count in America? The best essays were printed in the April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010, edition of the newspaper. The following is an excerpt from one of the essays:*

### **From the essay of SADIE RAI ANDERSON, of Eveleth:**

To say I'm a white, 16-year-old Lutheran female of the middle class wouldn't be very accurate, because I'm so much more than that.

I'm a believer, and a skeptic. I'm a writer, editor and reader. I'm a student to some, a teacher to others.

I'm Irish, German, Norwegian, Czech, and Scotch, but I don't believe it's where you came from that defines you; it's where you are headed. I'm too many things to sum up in 200 words. I'm a citizen. I belong to my family, my town, my state, my country, and my world.

I am American, and I will wear it proudly on my sleeve.

I don't always agree with my nation, but I always respect it. My allegiances don't define me, but they help make me who I am. I want to travel the world, but I will always come home. I'm a valuable member of the community I serve, or at least I try to be. I'll do whatever I can to help as many people as possible, even if I fail a few times.

I will strive to be all I can. Because I am an American, and of that I am proud.

## Voices of Veterans

### SCRIPTURE READING:

#### **Matthew 5:38-45**

<sup>38</sup>"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' <sup>39</sup>But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; <sup>40</sup>and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; <sup>41</sup>and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. <sup>42</sup>Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

<sup>43</sup>"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' <sup>44</sup>But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup>so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous."

In war time, the smallest details and the most honest truths are spoken. We hear today from the letters of American service personnel who served our country in wartime. They are excerpts from Andy Carroll's book, *War Letters: Extraordinary Correspondence from American Wars, published in 2002:*

#### **Serving in World War II, Private Morton D. Elevitch, of Duluth, Minnesota, written November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1943:**

"For the Nth time, thanks for your package. Please don't send me any more underwear, socks or candy... This week they are teaching us to kill... I know how to break any hold or grip and throw a man flat on his face -- They even teach us how to scientifically stomp on a man.... Confidentially, I'm tired."

#### **From a letter to Yank magazine, published April 28<sup>th</sup>, 1944, Corporal Rupert Trimmingham, from Brooklyn, New York, and an immigrant from Trinidad, via Wales:**

"Myself and eight other Negro soldiers were on our way from Camp Claiborne, La., to the hospital here at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. . . We could not purchase a cup of coffee at any of the lunchrooms around there. . . As you know, Old Man Jim Crow rules. But that's not all; 11:30 a.m. about two dozen German prisoners of war, with two American guards, came to the station. They entered the lunchroom, sat at the tables, had their meals served, talked, smoked, in fact had quite a swell time. I stood on the outside looking on. . . Are we not American soldiers, sworn to fight for and die if need be for this our country?"

#### **From a 2:00 am letter written during the Civil War from Army Nurse Clara Barton. Ms. Barton was the founder of the American Red Cross:**

". . .the acres of little shelter tents are dark and still as death, no wonder, for as I gazed sorrowfully upon them, I thought I could almost hear the slow flap of the grim messenger's wings, as one by one he sought and selected his victims for the morning sacrifice. . . Oh, northern mothers, wives and sisters . . . would to Heaven that I could bear for you the concentrated woe which is so soon to follow. . ."

#### **From Private Timothy G. Robinson, of Hoyt Lakes, Minnesota, in 1968:**

"Remember when we were kids on Easter the girls would be all dressed up in new hats, pretty dresses. . . and us boys with new shoes and shirts, and off to church we would go, and after, come home to look for our Easter baskets. What good times. I hope God will bring me back home so that I may marry the girl I love, which will be in March if things go OK. Then, I can watch my kids get all dressed up and head for church and live that day over again. Holidays [here] are no different than any other day. Every day is Monday in Vietnam."

**PRAYERS**

God of all, you lavish your creative energy on all creation, giving an abundance of natural beauty and resources.

**Lord, may we always remember that this earth is yours and we are its caretakers. Guide us that we may use what you have given us with care and thanksgiving.**

God of life, you shower our world with mercy, love and acceptance, and you teach us the ways of justice.

**Lord, may we always remember that justice is more than law. Give us wisdom to act out of courage, knowledge, and love.**

God of variety, you fill our world with people from all races and cultures, blessing us with diversity and strength.

**Lord, make us alive to the subtleties of prejudice which make us unaware of our blindness. Open our hearts and minds that we may rejoice in our diversity and our commonalities.**

God of creativity, you continue to send innovators, artists, scientists, poets, teachers, farmers, factory workers, business leaders, social workers and all of those who labor each day for the good of their families, communities, and this nation.

**Lord, let us not neglect the ideas, energy and vitality that are for the good of all people. Empower us to share our gifts in order to make a difference in the world.**

God of our past, you give us a heritage to learn from and remember. As we worship today we give thanks for those who have gone ahead of us.

**Lord, blessed are the peacemakers, those who seek equality, those who point toward your kingdom. May we hear their words and be inspired to once again be your people here on earth, being salt and light to a world in need. In Jesus' name we pray, 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 and missions of Our Savior's depend on faithful giving.

- + online links can be found by accessing our website at [www.oslcmn.com](http://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

**JULY'S PRAYER RITUAL**

You are invited into a prayerful space to reflect on our own citizenship and our interdependence with all God's creation. There are slips of paper in the pews. Write a prayer for the world, for peace, for justice, for creation, for yourself as a citizen of this time and place. Place your prayer in the prayer wall as you offer it to God.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### 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.

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION** Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come as you are! All are welcome.

**HOLY COMMUNION** *At Our Savior's, Holy Communion is for all who want to experience God's grace and Jesus' love through the bread and wine/juice: regardless of whether you're visiting or here to stay, regardless of age, regardless of where you come from, what you've done or not done, or who you are. Jesus is the host of this meal and invites you to join the feast.*

### COMMUNION HYMN

*I am the Bread of Life*

ELW 485

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love. Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore. Amen.

### SENDING

**BLESSING** *Written by Nancy C. Townley, an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church.*

God of fireworks and good works, bless us this day as we go from this place. May our celebrations be joyous and memorable, and may our service to others reflect your love and peace. **Amen!**

### HYMN

*Eternal Father, Strong to Save*

ELW 756

### POSTLUDE

**Kristen Weikum**

*"We finally meet one another,  
not in our agreements or disagreements,  
but at the foot of the + cross,  
where God is faithful,  
where Christ is present with us,  
and where, by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
we are one in Christ."*

*-Reverend Mark Hanson, previous Presiding Bishop*






## Announcements

### 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

### July 7th, 2024

**YOUTH GROUP FUN NIGHT!** Join us this Wednesday, July 10<sup>th</sup> for an evening of fellowship together with snacks, games, a worship time – and, provided there isn't rain, a bonfire! All in our own beautiful courtyard! This event is actually for EVERYONE to participate in - the young and young at heart.  Hope to see you there!

**VBS ANNOUNCEMENT** We are currently open for registration! Go to our website for the links, or check your weekly email for the links to register. We are looking for people 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up, all adult ages, who would like to help by being an “Assistant River Guide.” There are many ways you can help with VBS – from decorating before VBS starts (if you can't be here during the actual VBS), crafts, playing guitar for the opening/closing songs, helping with dinner, games, reading during story time. The VBS “River of Life” will be held **August 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>**. *Watch the bulletin for upcoming planning meetings*



**ORGANS IN REVUE** This is the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Summer Recital Series in the Northland, and we are blessed to have organists who perform from Our Savior's Lutheran. The Recitals are every Wednesday (except July 3<sup>rd</sup>) at 12 noon, and most places provide a light lunch after for a \$10 donation. The recitals are approximately 30 minutes and are free and open to the public. Donations can be given for the Claribel Hamilton Organ Scholarship Fund. *The next recital is Wednesday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 12pm @ Hibbing High School.*

**WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS** This work belongs to **all of us**, as ministers of the congregation ~ prayerfully consider how you might be able to sign up and assist. *Your presence makes a difference in creating a wonderful worship service for all.* There are different opportunities: **servicing communion, being a lector, ushering or greeting.** The sign-up sheets are located on the kiosk in the narthex.

**TECH TEAM** Are you more of a “behind the scenes” person? If you're comfortable recording nature, or your children/grandchildren with a phone, using a computer, or using the options on a smart tv, it may be in your skillset to join us! Let Pastor, Dan Peliska, John Elofson or Colleen know if you think you could serve occasionally. There are small tasks that only take a minute or two before or after the service.

**RADIO SPONSORSHIP** Today's broadcast is sponsored by the Hansen Family Produce Stand, in thanks to OSLC. 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, and/or the tech equipment, you may do so in full for \$90 or shared/partial at \$45. **Sign up on the sheet provided on the bulletin board by the fountain.**

**FRESH PRODUCE** The Hansen Country Produce Stand is finally here! And YFC youth will be selling more peaches Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

## EVENTS & MEETINGS TAKING PLACE IN CHURCH THIS WEEK:

- 7/8 5:30PM-7PM LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES MTG, FELLOWSHIP HALL  
7/9 9:30AM WELCA BOARD MEETING, FIRESIDE ROOM  
7/9 10AM COUNCIL MEETINGO  
7/9 5:30PM-7PM FUN-DUH-MENTALS BIBLE STUDY, FIRESIDE ROOM  
7/10 9AM – 2/3PM QUILTING, FELLOWSHIP HALL  
7/10 6PM-8PM YOUTH GROUP FUN NIGHT FOR **ALL AGES**, HERE AT OSLC  
7/13 9AM-12PM FREE COMMUNITY-WIDE BREAKFAST @ OSLC

## UPCOMING!

7/31 FUN NIGHT @ OSLC, and 8/28 @ GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN



## VLM Camp Hiawatha & Camp Vermilion

**REGISTER FOR SUMMER CAMP !**

**(800) 331-5148**

**Online: [vlmcamps.org](http://vlmcamps.org)**

**CAMPERSHIPS AVAILABLE WHEN YOU REGISTER YOUR CHILD - LET VLM KNOW YOU ARE WITH OSLC**

Join us for  
**SUMMER FUN NIGHTS**  
6-8pm

COME JOIN US

MESSIAH JUNE 26TH	OUR SAVIOR'S JULY 31ST	GETHSEMANE AUGUST 28TH
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## ORGANS IN REVUE SUMMER RECITAL SERIES 40<sup>TH</sup> YEAR ANNIVERSARY!

All recitals are at 12pm, Wednesdays, and are free. *Donations are accepted for the Claribel Hamilton Organ Scholarship fund.* A lunch is usually served after for \$10.

**JULY 10**-Tom Hamilton, Hibbing High School (*no recital July 3*)

**JULY 17**-Lanae Ronchetti, St. Jame's Episcopal Church, Hibbing

**JULY 24**-Amy Szumal, Faith United Lutheran Church, Iron

**JULY 31**-Brian Kapp, Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, Hibbing

*\*More to come. At OSLC: Kristen Weikum, Aug. 14*

**YOUTH GROUP WEDNESDAYS**  
6-8PM  
JUNE 5TH  
JULY 10TH  
AUG. 7TH

All Ages are invited  
Come join the Youth for  
games, snacks, a bonfire  
& short worship time  
in the OSLC Courtyard!

**Vacation Bible School**  
Gethsemane, Messiah, and Our  
Savior's Lutheran Churches

**RIVER OF Life**

August 4th - 7th  
5 - 8 pm  
Includes Dinner!  
at Our Savior's