

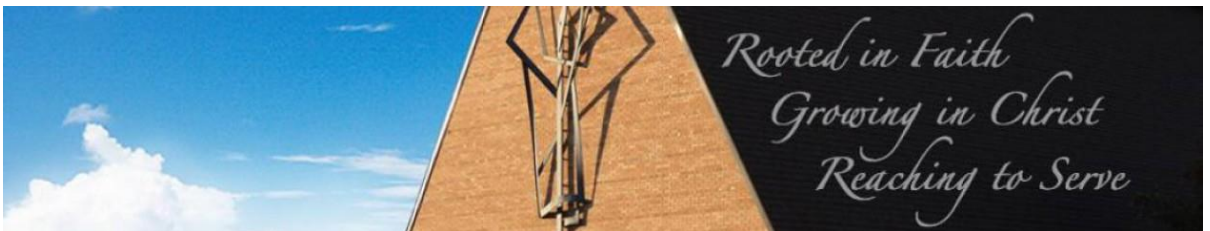
Second Sunday of Advent
December 8TH



Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Virginia, MN

Pastor Liz Cheney



Rooted in Faith
Growing in Christ
Reaching to Serve



The Second Sunday of Advent | words for the beginning
We can't go alone Ruth 1 | Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Ginny Ahrlin

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

Let us begin together. Let us begin arm in arm.

Let us begin by holding each other up, instead of tearing each other down.

Let us begin with words of peace.

Yes, let us begin with peace. Today we light the candles of hope and peace.

May these lights remind us of what could be.

May these lights mark a new beginning.

May peace flow like a river, and may it start with us.

Arm in arm, hand in hand, side by side.

May we begin again. Amen.

WREATH LIGHTING HYMN

Come Now, O Prince of Peace, VS. 1 & 2

ELW 247

CALL TO WORSHIP

In a world that is lonely,

we will save a seat for you.

In a world that is anxious,

we will light candles against the gloom.

In a world that is weary,

we will sing songs of joy and truth.

I am not alone.

We are not alone.

For here in this place, God is weaving us together.

Light the candles! Sing with joy!

We are a three-cord strand, not easily broken.

GATHERING SONG

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

ELW 254

CALL TO CONFESSION

Family of faith, one of the beautiful things about the prayer of confession is it is often a prayer we say together.

There are times when we close our eyes, bow our heads, and exchange private words with our Creator.

But there are other times when praying out loud as a community allows us to right our relationship with God and with one another as well.

This is one of those moments.

So as a community, please join me in our call and response prayer of confession.

Join me in speaking the truth of our lives. Join me in practicing grace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

I have tried to make my own way.

I have tried to lace my own shoes, to build my own house, to kindle my own faith.

I have said a thousand times, *“turn back,”* as if I am fine on my own.

But the days are long and I am forgetful. I need your help. Can you remind me?

We will remind you of this everlasting truth:

You are not alone. Where you go, God goes.

You are held in grace. Trust in this good news.

Thanks be to God! I remember. I believe.

Now we need your help. We, too, have tried to make our own way.

We have tried to lace our own shoes, to build our own houses, to kindle our own faiths.

We have said a thousand times, *“turn back,”* as if we are fine on our own.

But the days are long and we are forgetful. We need your help. Can you remind us?

I will remind you of this everlasting truth:

You are not alone. Where you go, God goes.

You are held in grace. Trust in this good news.

Thanks be to God! We remember. We believe.

Alleluia! Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: RUTH 1

¹In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. ²The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. ³But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, ⁵both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

⁶Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had considered his people and given them food. ⁷So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. ⁸But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. ¹⁰They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." ¹¹But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? ¹²Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a

husband tonight and bear sons, ¹³would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me." ¹⁴Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. ¹⁵So she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." ¹⁶But Ruth said,

"Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you!

Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge,
your people shall be my people, and your God my God.

¹⁷Where you die, I will die — there will I be buried.

May the LORD do thus and so to me, and more as well,
if even death parts me from you!"

¹⁸When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

¹⁹So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them; and the women said, "Is this Naomi?" ²⁰She said to them,

"Call me no longer Naomi, call me Mara,
for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me.

²¹I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty;
why call me Naomi when the LORD has dealt harshly with me,
and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?"

²²So Naomi returned together with Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, who came back with her from the country of Moab. They came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

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

PSALM The Psalm Reading for today comes from Luke 1:68-79

⁶⁸Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,
you have come to your people and set them free.

⁶⁹**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of your servant David.**

⁷⁰Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,
⁷¹from the hands of all who hate us,

⁷²**to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember your holy covenant.**

⁷³This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:

⁷⁴to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship you without fear,

⁷⁵**holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

⁷⁶And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

⁷⁷**to give God's people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

⁷⁸In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

⁷⁹**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

A READING FROM ECCLESIASTES 4:9-12

⁹Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. ¹⁰For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. ¹¹Again, if two lie together, they keep warm; but how can one keep warm alone? ¹²And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

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

CHILDREN'S TIME

SERMON

Pastor Liz Cheney

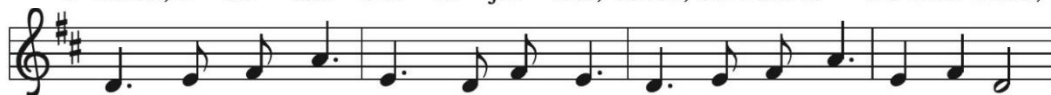
HYMN OF THE DAY

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper *join in verses 2 & 3

ACS 901



1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.
2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way.
3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with - in:
Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day.
come to bless with fire and fra - grance hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need.



seed of prom - ise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!
Christ, the morn - ing star of splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim.
In the lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view;



Like the soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.
Heav - en's em - ber fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.
Child who comes to grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a *with-us* God:

a God who walks with us in the valley, dances with us on the mountaintop,
sings with us through the night and rejoices in the morning.

We believe that this *with-us* God wired us for relationship,
saying to creation on the very first week, "Humans should not be alone."

Therefore, in an effort to be who God called us to be,
we strive to live like the Trinity— connected, united, and centered.

We believe in the power of community.
 We commit to learning each other's names.
 We choose to journey with each other, like Ruth with Naomi.
 And we remember that no one can go through life alone.
 Thanks be to God, for lighting our way.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(There will be no spoken response. There will be moments of silence between petitions. Use this time to add your own prayer request or lift up what is on your heart)

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 HYMN

We Are Waiting for Jesus

ACS 905



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
 2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.
 Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Text: John Helgen, b. 1957
 Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen
 Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God,
 you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us.
 We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.
 Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

pg. 191

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

Come to this Table. Come catch a glimpse of what could be.

Come end your waiting, for love is hovering close. This is what it's all about.

God is all around us.

So come. This good news is for you. All are welcome here.

COMMUNION HYMN

Christ Be Our light

ELW 715

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourishing God,

Sometimes we tell ourselves that too much has taken place to begin again.

We think the world is too far gone. We think we have made too many mistakes.

We tell ourselves that we couldn't possibly begin again.

But then we come to this Table and we get a glimpse of your kingdom.

We come to this Table and all are welcomed, all are seen, all are fed.

And just like that, we have hope. Just like that, we begin again.

Thank you for the gift of this fresh start. Thank you for planting hope deep in our bones.

Thank you for meeting us in ordinary bread and juice to remind us that it's never too late to build your kingdom here.

We are grateful.

We are *so* grateful. Amen.

BENEDICTION

As you leave this place, may you have the wisdom to lean on one other.

May you have the courage to hold onto hope, the compassion to do the good that is yours to do, and the confidence to trust that God sees you as a blessing.

For in a world full of dead ends, Advent invites us to begin again.

So start here. Start now.

Start with love and begin again.

In the name of Christ, our new beginning, go in peace.

SENDING SONG

All Earth Is Hopeful

ELW 266

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Ginny Ahrlin

WE HOLD IN OUR PRAYERS

Please pray for people in need of comfort, hope, healing, or safe transition: John W., Tanner 17yr old needs a heart transplant, Ross-(needs transplant of kidneys & pancreas), Joy T., Deb, Cliff, Margaret, Shannon P., Virginia H., Amanda, Svea, Jan, Nicole, Deb, Luddy, Bruce & family, Andrew T., Sharon P., Sue, Tyler, Gerilyn, Andrew, Alexandria, Courtney, people impacted by the flooding, the people of Guatemala, Jill & husband, Amelia, Archer, Kim, Gordy, Sarah, Nancy, Jarie, Thomas, Kathy M., Phyllis, Roya, Laurie, Amy, Colton, Wally, Deb, Adeline, Tedd, Ed & Karen, Ralph, Chuck, Sue, Mike, Matt. Call Ginny Ahrlin @ 218-749-0056, for prayer needs

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 8th St. South, Virginia, MN Church Office: 218-741-6207

Email: office@oslcmn.com

Online: www.oslcmn.com

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

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.

*Join us this afternoon for the
Choralaire's Annual Christmas Concert*



TODAY AT 2:00 PM
Here at Our Savior's
Lutheran Church.

*If you're able to, please bring
cookies to share after the concert
with coffee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
The Second Sunday of Advent
December 8, 2024

LEFSE MAKING! You are invited to join us on **FRIDAY, DEC. 13TH** starting at 9:30am to make Lefse in our church kitchen. There are proper tools, etc., available but if you have any Lefse making tools at home bring them along. This is a wonderful Christmas tradition!

CHORALAIRES **Join us for their concert here today at 2pm. We need Christmas cookies!** If you can donate a dozen or two, label them for the concert and leave them in the kitchen! We host Coffee & cookies after the event.

ESCAPE ROOM Join us **WEDNESDAY, DEC. 11TH at 6:00pm-8pm!** We will once again host this fun event with a Christmas story theme. We are looking for volunteers to help decorate. Contact Tamera if want to be involved with this fun event.

SING AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE & POTLUCK **SUNDAY, DEC. 15TH at 5pm.** Invite family and friends to this Magical Tradition at OSLC! If you would like to experience something nostalgic this holiday season, we will be singing Christmas songs and hymns, and enjoying a wonderful meal together ~

BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE More than half of Americans polled say they will be experiencing a much more lonely and sad Christmas this year. Christmas brings with it mixed feelings of sadness & grief and can be disheartening for a lot of people who are missing loved ones. This Worship Service is for those who want to simply worship God and thank God for the gift of Jesus in a meaningful & peaceful way. Join us at Gethsemane Lutheran on **WED., DEC. 18TH at 6:30pm.**

CHRISTMAS BASKETS Thank you for donating toward the Annual Thanksgiving Baskets! We are again collecting for Christmas and will be distributing the baskets on Friday, Dec. 20th 11am. Sheets are on the kiosk to sign up to donate food items.

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.

RADIO/LIVESTREAM SPONSORSHIP **This week's broadcast is sponsored by Ed Gorny, in memory of Vickie's 71st Birthday.** 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 in full for \$90 or shared/partial at \$45. This supports our tech & sound equipment. **Sign up on the sheet provided on the bulletin board by the fountain.**

****ADVENT CALENDARS ARE IN THE NARTHEX WITH A FEW NEW HANDOUTS UNDER THE MONITOR SCREEN FOR YOU TO TAKE HOME, ALONG WITH THE NEW "CHRIST AT HOME" DEVOTIONALS.***

EVENTS & MEETINGS THIS WEEK

12/08 2PM TODAY, CHORALAIRES CONCERT AT OSLC!
12/10 9:30AM WELCA BOARD MTG
12/10 5:30PM FUN-DUH-MENTALS BIBLE STUDY
12/11 9AM QUILTING
12/11 6-8PM ESCAPE ROOM @OSLC!

12/12 10AM COUNCIL MTG
12/14 9AM-12PM FREE COMMUNITY BREAKFAST
12/15 5PM SING AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE & POTLUCK DINNER

LECTOR SCHEDULE

DECEMBER:

1st – Kevin Brown
8th – Kristi Ongalo
15th – Shelley Svatos
22nd – Judy Peliska
24th – Christmas Eve @ 4pm – Contact
Pastor Liz if you would like to read
29th – Roberta Palen



THANK YOU
For supporting
our Youth with their
Wreath Fundraiser!

**CHRISTMAS NATIVITY
ESCAPE ROOM**

**OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN
DEC. 11th, 6 - 8 PM**

**Sing Around
The Christmas Tree**
With A Potluck Dinner
Sunday
December 15th
5pm

**FREE
COMMUNITY
BREAKFAST !**

**SATURDAY
DEC. 14
9AM – 12PM**

**OSLC Christmas Eve
Candlelight Worship Service**
Dec. 24th, 4:00PM

**Blue
CHRISTMAS**
Service of Remembrance

AN ADVENT SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND HOPE
Will be held at Gethsemane on Wed., Dec. 18th
6:30 p.m.

This service is a time to get away from the rush to Christmas, to share the meaning of Christmas, remembrance of loved ones and the hope we have, as we look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus, God's Son.

Sometimes this service is called *Blue Christmas* or *The Longest Night*. We will share music, prayers, and times of silence. This time of year is difficult for many of us and it is good to be together, *finding hope and comfort in knowing we are not alone.*

**Christmas
Food Baskets**

Sign up for Christmas
Basket giving on the
narthex kiosk. Baskets will
go out Dec. 20th @ 11am.