

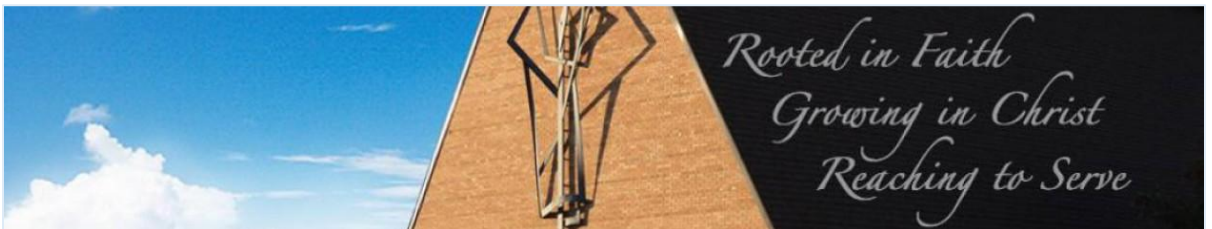
**SUNDAY, SEPT. 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**  
*Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*



**Our Savior's Lutheran Church**

Virginia, MN

Pastor Liz Cheney



## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## GATHERING HYMN

*God's Work, Our Hands*

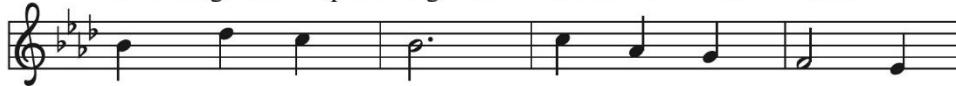
ACS 1000



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,  
 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,  
 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,  
 4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,  
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,  
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,  
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,  
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,  
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,  
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.  
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.  
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.  
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,  
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,  
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,  
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987

Text © 2019 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Music © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
our maker, our helper, and our keeper. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin  
in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful and loving God,

**we are your stiff-necked people.**

**We trample on the needy.**

**We grumble about your grace to others.**

**We turn away from the poor.**

**Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.**

**Rejoice over us as ones who were lost  
and have been found. Amen.**

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.

Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.

You who were lost have been found.

In the name of † Jesus, your sins are forgiven! **Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

<sup>15</sup> "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. <sup>16</sup> If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. <sup>17</sup> But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup> I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup> I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, <sup>20</sup> loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

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

## PSALM: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

<sup>1</sup> LORD, you have searched me out;

O LORD, you have known me.

<sup>2</sup> **You know my sitting down and my rising up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.**

<sup>3</sup> You trace my journeys and my resting-places  
and are acquainted with all my ways.

<sup>4</sup> **Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,  
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.**

<sup>5</sup> You encompass me, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.

<sup>6</sup> **Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**

<sup>13</sup> For you yourself created my inmost parts;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

<sup>14</sup> **I will thank you because I am marvelously made;  
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.**

<sup>15</sup> My body was not hidden from you,  
while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.

<sup>16</sup> **Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your book;  
my days were fashioned before they came to be.**

<sup>17</sup> How deep I find your thoughts, O God!  
How great is the sum of them!

<sup>18</sup> **If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand;  
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.**

## SECOND READING: Philemon 1-21

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To our beloved coworker Philemon, <sup>2</sup> to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house: <sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup> I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, <sup>5</sup> because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. <sup>7</sup> I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

<sup>8</sup> For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, <sup>9</sup> yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. <sup>10</sup> I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup> Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. <sup>12</sup> I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. <sup>13</sup> I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, <sup>14</sup> but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. <sup>15</sup> Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him

back for the long term, <sup>16</sup> no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup> So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. <sup>18</sup> If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. <sup>19</sup> I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. <sup>20</sup> Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. <sup>21</sup> Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Congregation:*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Repeat alleluia*

*Cantor Only:*

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

**GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33.** The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>25</sup> Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup> “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup> Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup> For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup> Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup> saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ <sup>31</sup> Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup> If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. <sup>33</sup> So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

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

**CHILDREN’S SERMON AND SERMON**

*Pastor Liz Cheney*

**BIBLE PRESENTATION**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Jesus Loves Me!*

**ELW 595**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world...

*\*Response after each petition: (Pastor or Worship Assistant) "God of grace" (All) "Receive our prayer."*

**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



### SPECIAL MUSIC

*O God, You Search Me*

*OSLC Choir*

*Words and Music Bernadette Ferrell*

**OFFERING PRAYER** Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**LORD'S PRAYER** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

pg. 191

**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

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy. All are welcome.

**COMMUNION HYMNS****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, grant us peace.

*O Jesus, I Have Promised***ELW 810***I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light***ELW 815****TABLE BLESSING**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

**BLESSING**

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN***Take My Life, That I May Be***ELW 583****DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Do not lose heart. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE***Kristen Weikum, Organist*

## WE HOLD IN OUR PRAYERS

The recent shootings in Minneapolis have left our communities shaken. We grieve the violence, the lives harmed, and the ripple effects of fear and trauma. As faithful people, we must speak clearly: one person's violent actions do not negate the sacred worth of all people. Our call is to grieve with survivors and the families of victims, while we resist stigma, affirm the dignity of every person, and continue proclaiming that all lives are holy and beloved.

Please pray for people in need of comfort, hope, healing, or safe transition: Please pray for the families and friends of the children and adults lost in Minneapolis, and for all the children impacted by the shooting. Matthew, Bill, Mark, Dena, Jeff & family, community members with cancer: Dan, Gary, Steve, Jan. Rick & Betsy, Gordon, Ross (post-transplant surgery), Doug, Doris, Shari, Anna, Jeanette, Aaron, Shawn, Nicole, Gayla-heart, Sarah, Brandy, Rick, Janet, Tom, Lynn M., Archer, Sharon, Mary (lung & bone cancer), Debbie (community, cancer), Leanne, Addy, Deb, Cliff, Lorraine M., Eric, Kyle, Pr. Art, Bob D, Mark O., Janet, John W., Luddy, Gerilyn, Phyllis, Wally, Tedd, Ralph, Chuck, Sue.

***Call Janet Heglund, the prayer chain leader @ 218-749-6143 for prayer needs.***

***Or Ginny Ahrlin @ 1-218-749-0056, the text prayer chain leader.***

***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) Website: [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 ADMIN HOURS: CLOSED MONDAYS & HOLIDAYS.**

**OPEN TUESDAY- FRIDAY, 9AM - 5PM.** 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



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

# Community Closet Challenge

**Thank you for participating in our challenge, it's been helping!**

We're listing affordable items in the bulletin for what works best in the Community Closet, and what is most needed for the week.

Our part of the challenge will be finding where these items are on sale & listing them in the bulletin, and your part of the challenge can be deciding what's easiest for you to donate.

The weekly **closet challenge** items will cost \$10.00 and under.

- 1. SPAGHETTI SAUCE \$1.67 @ WALMART**  
5 for \$8.35
- 2. SMALL MILK JUGS \$1.66 AT SUPER ONE**  
5 for \$8.30
- 3. CHEESE SLICES OR BLOCKS FOR \$1.97 EACH @ WALMART**  
5 for \$9.85
- 4. 9OZ LUNCH MEAT IN CONTAINERS @ WALMART, \$3.67 EA.**  
2 for \$7.52

*You're always welcome to shop at your favorite store,*

*and buy the food & brands you prefer if it's more convenient.*

*Items that are always in need, regardless of our challenge list are:  
**peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti sauce in jars, shampoo & bodywash.***

*Thank you for helping!*





## ANNOUNCEMENTS, SEPTEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2025

**WELCOME BACK SUNDAY!** Join us today during worship for “*Backpacks, Bibles and Back to School Blessings!*” And stay for a special project after worship in the Fellowship Hall.

**SAVE THE DATE!** Choir practice will be **Wednesday, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> at 4pm**. Calling all singers: current, past, and NEW choir members!

**CLOTHES SORTING!** Come join us **Tues. Sept 9<sup>th</sup> & Thurs. Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> from 11am -2pm** in the west wing. We’ll have the coffee on for you!

**LIFT BEGINS SEPT. 17<sup>TH</sup>!** All youth grades 3-12<sup>th</sup> are invited- we have a group for all ages & Confirmation. Dinner is at 6pm, Worship is at 6:30 and Groups start at 6:45. The first quarter is held at Messiah Lutheran Church. You’re welcome to join us when you’re able– please see Pastor Liz for more info.

**FIRST LIFT IS OPEN TO ALL** Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> LIFT is for all ages as Pr. Taryn Montgomery from the synod will be here sharing the Generosity Project with us. Dinner is first at 6pm – at Messiah Lutheran. Join us for this special night for adults and children.

**PHOTO DIRECTORY** The photography dates are **Oct. 6, 7, 8 from 2-8PM**. Using the past bulletin inserts (also provided in the narthex on a table) you may sign up online Monday – Friday. In addition, there will be a table with a sign-up sheet in the narthex on Sundays only if you prefer.

**WELCA FALL FEST** Join us on **Saturday, Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>** for our Annual Fall Festival in the Fellowship Hall. There will be quilted items for sale, a Bake & Sweet Shop, Kids’ Corner, etc.

**THRIVENT CARD NEED** If you are not a full member of Thrivent, you can become an Associate Member who isn’t invested in their services, pay \$25, and still get the \$250 grant cards for church ministries. Ask Pastor Liz about participating in our Community Closet or Community Breakfast this way!

**WORSHIP SPONSORSHIP** If you’re interested in sponsoring Livestream and local TV Broadcast 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 help keep our new sound system up to date for Livestream and local broadcast. Sign up on the kiosk.

**FURNACE/PIPE PROJECT:** A special thank you to all who have responded to our need for furnace pipe repairs at Our Savior’s. Every gift toward this project is appreciated. If you would like to give toward the project specifically, we have included a QR code here for your convenience. Alternatively, we have paper pledge sheets in the office for you.

Thank you~





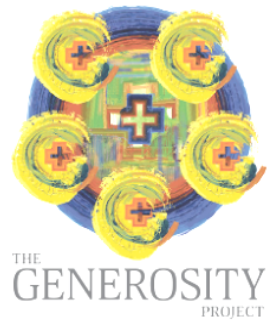
Wednesday,  
September 17  
6:00 - 8:00pm  
Messiah Lutheran  
Church

**New this year - All Church Living in Faith Together!**

People of all ages are invited to gather for an intentionally intergenerational evening of learning and faith formation - this includes YOU!

We hope you will join us for dinner, worship, and a time of learning together.

On Wednesday, September 17, all are invited to join us as we welcome Pastor Taryn Montgomery, NEMN Synod Minister for Discipleship and Christian Community as she introduces us to **The Generosity Project**:



*"The Generosity Project is an intergenerational, household-focused approach to stewardship. Its goals are to connect generations, create centers for the faith practice of generosity, and grow in God's grace generation to generation."*

Living in Faith Together, the shared faith formation program between Gethsemane, Our Savior's, and Messiah, resumes **September 17<sup>th</sup> at Messiah Lutheran Church!!**

Our Junior High youth group is now open to students in **grades 3-6!** Confirmation continues as a two year program for youth in **grades 7 & 8, with a few 9<sup>th</sup> grade students** joining us, and the Senior High youth group is for those who have **affirmed their baptisms - 12<sup>th</sup> grade!**

Registration is LIVE - even if you registered last year, we need you to fill out a registration form!

Register Here: <https://forms.gle/aHRqdEyDcBypU69w8> OR us QR code



**L.I.F.T. Wednesday Evening Schedule**  
6:00-6:30pm Dinner (All are welcome!)  
6:30-6:45pm Worship with Holy Communion  
6:45-7:50pm Youth Group & Confirmation  
7:50-8:00pm Closing and Announcements



<b>Fall L.I.F.T. Schedule</b>
September 17
September 24
October 1
October 8
October 22
October 29

**THIS WEEK @ OSLC:**

- 9/8 6PM BOY SCOUTS
- 9/9 9:30AM WELCA BOARD MTG, CLOTHES SORTING @ 11AM – 2PM
- 9/10 9AM QUILTING, 11AM COUNCIL MTG, 12-3PM C.CLOSET, 4PM CHOIR
- 9/ 11AM CLOTHES SORTING UNTIL 2PM

9/13 COMMUNITY BREAKFAST 9AM-11:30AM

\*SANCTUARY: ORGAN PRACTICE 1PM- WED., THURS., FRI.

Join us for backpacks, bibles & back to school blessings **TODAY!**

Use this convenient QR Code to contribute to OSLC.  
 Thank you for being a part of the ministries of Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

**L.I.F.T.**  
LIVING IN FAITH TOGETHER

DINNER AT 6:00  
 WORSHIP @ 6:30  
 GROUPS @ 6:45

**STARTS SEPTEMBER 17TH !**

**OSLC Choir**  
 Please join us for  
 a time of devotion, learning  
 & singing together!  
 Wed. Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>  
 @ 4:00pm

**Coming Soon!**  
**CHURCH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY**  
 Please plan to be part of our New Directory!  
 It won't be complete without you!  
 Each "family" photographed receives a free 8x10 portrait AND a free directory!  
 Our Photography Dates are:  
 Monday - Wednesday, October 6 - 8

Sign up online Monday – Friday with the information on your insert or sign up after worship in the Narthex

**Welca Fall FESTIVAL!**

**AT OUR SAVIOR'S SATURDAY, OCT. 18 9AM - 2PM**

Gift & Decor Shop  
 Quilt Shop  
 Bake & Sweet Shop  
 Kid's Corner  
 Snack Shack provided by Youth

**FREE! Community BREAKFAST**  
 2ND SATURDAY 9:00 – 11:30AM

**Community CLOSET**  
 WEDNESDAYS 12PM - 3PM  
 2ND SATURDAY 9AM - 11:30AM

AUGUST LECTORS

3<sup>RD</sup> – JEN FREDRICKSON  
 10<sup>TH</sup> – SHELLEY SVATOS  
 17<sup>TH</sup> – KEVIN BROWN  
 24<sup>TH</sup> – NINA KAMPF  
 31<sup>ST</sup> – JUDY PELISKA



## HEATING SYSTEM PIPE REPAIR PROJECT

In Minnesota, we all know heating a building is crucial, and our church is an important spiritual home to us all! We have to replace underground pipes that supply water to our heating system to above grade in the church. The

Congregation voted yes at the special meeting for this much needed project on Aug. 17th. It will start at the end of September in the West Wing. You are invited to prayerfully consider how you may be able to contribute to this project- in case you didn't receive a letter with the pledge sheet or contribution info in it, you can always cut out & use the one below, or use your phone camera to open the QR code that directs you to the church e-giving platform to give toward the heating/pipe project. Any and all giving is a blessings, no matter the size, and is much appreciated. Thank you for considering ~

I/We pledge the following:

A one time gift of \_\_\_\_\_ . You can expect this gift approx./by\_\_\_\_\_.

A one time gift of \_\_\_\_\_ given in 2 installments on approx. dates:\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

A one time gift of \_\_\_\_\_ given in 3 installments on approx. dates:\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Giving \$\_\_\_\_\_ per week -or- month for 12 months.

Pledged by: \_\_\_\_\_.

You can bring your contribution/pledge to the OSLC office in an envelope, or we will provide one for you there to label and seal.

We are trying to get as many pledges done by Sept. 15th, 2025, so we can provide an approximate pledge total to the bank. \*Pledging assists the church in obtaining better financing terms from the bank or financial institution.



## GOD PAUSE FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2025

Luke 14:25-33 (NRSV)

[Read Luke 14:25-33 on biblegateway.com](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2014%3A25-33&version=NRSV)

<sup>25</sup>Now large crowds were traveling with him; and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup>"Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup>For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup>Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup>saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' <sup>31</sup>Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

**Devotion** We are confronted in this gospel reading by a rather direct question from Jesus. What difference does the cross make in your life? Have you noticed the prolific presence of crosses people either wear as jewelry, have on T shirts, or in the tattoo ink on their skin? Sometimes I wonder if those displaying this most central symbol of the Christian life have any idea of what it points to, what it means, or the reality of the Good News it holds for all who profess to follow Jesus and the way of the cross. How does the cross affect how you live your life each day? Do you keep it in mind when you plan the percentage of your financial resources that will be used for the benefit of others? Does the cross inform your attitude toward neighbors, colleagues, friends, or family? And if so, what difference does it make?

**Prayer** Dear Jesus, lift high your holy cross before our eyes. Help us to be your humble servants bringing your love into the lives of all I touch this day. Amen.

*Janice Bornhoft '84 M.Div.Retired, Mounds View, MN*

