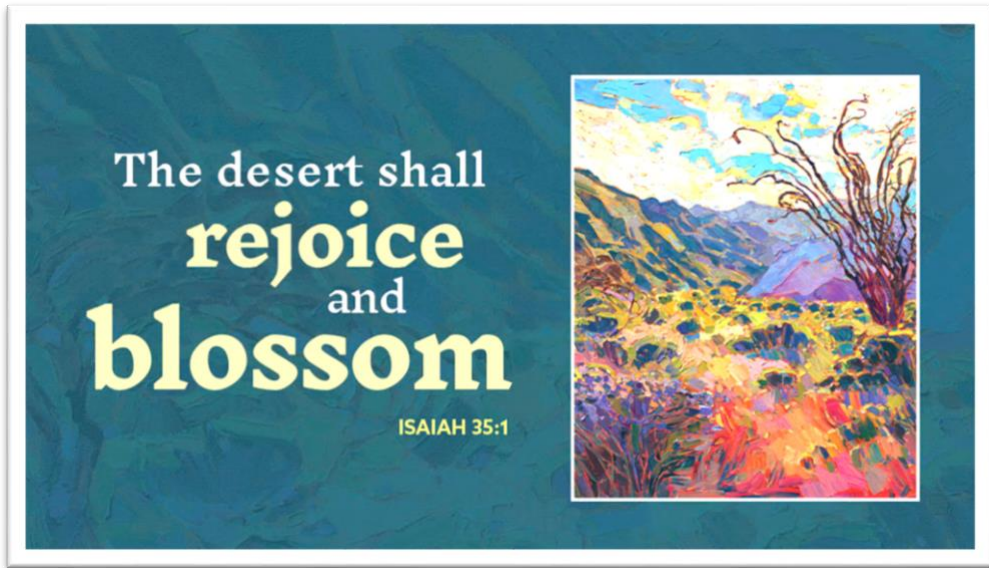


SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14th, 2025

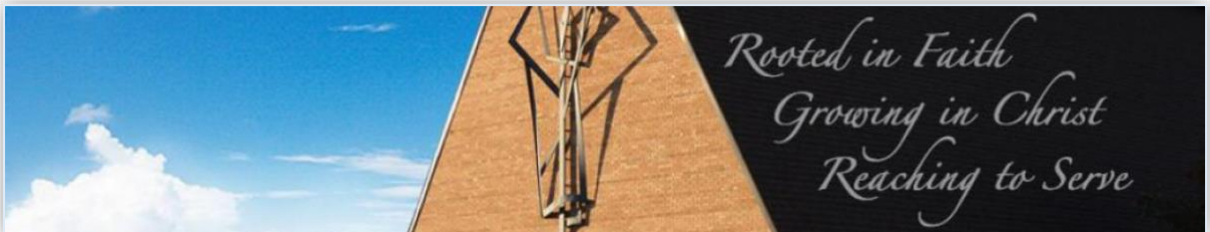
Third Sunday of Advent



Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Virginia, MN

Pastor Liz Cheney



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

ELW# 242

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God,

we confess that we look to ourselves

for the peace and security only you can provide.

We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.

We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake.

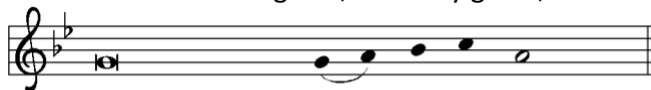
Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.

Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us,

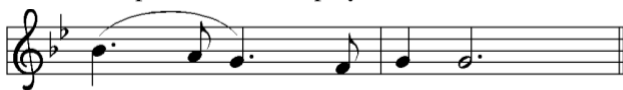
that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness.

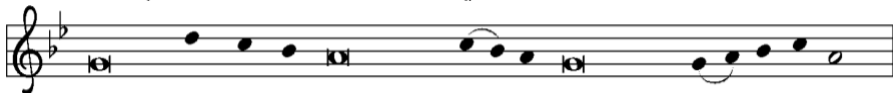
† You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior. **Amen.**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



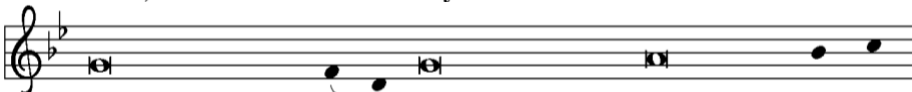
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



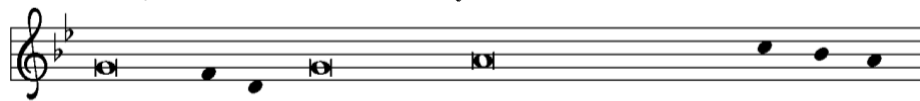
For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of



God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



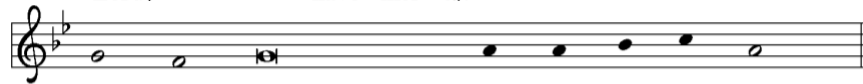
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; 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: Isaiah 35:1-10

Lector, Anna De Foe

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.]]

³ Strengthen the weak hands

and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.”

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,

and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert;
7 the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
8 A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
9 No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.
10 And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

PSALM: Psalm 146:5-10. *Please respond with the verses in bold print.*

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down. (Ps. 146:8)

5 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;
6 **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;**
who keeps promises forever;
7 who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.
The LORD sets the captive free.
8 **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;**
the LORD loves the righteous.
9 The LORD cares for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.
10 **The LORD shall reign forever,**
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.

7 Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. 8 You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. 9 Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! 10 As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11. The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Pastor Liz Cheney

HYMN OF THE DAY *Choir first, Congregation join second time through

Jesus, What a Wonderful Child

Jesus, Jesus, oh what a wonderful child

Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek, and mild

New life, new hope, to all he brings

Listen to the angels sing, "Glory, Glory, Glory,"

To the Newborn King

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 our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

* Respond after each prayer petition: *Pastor/Assistant, “God of Grace,” congregation, “hear our prayer.”*

SHARING THE PEACE The peace of Christ 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 Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

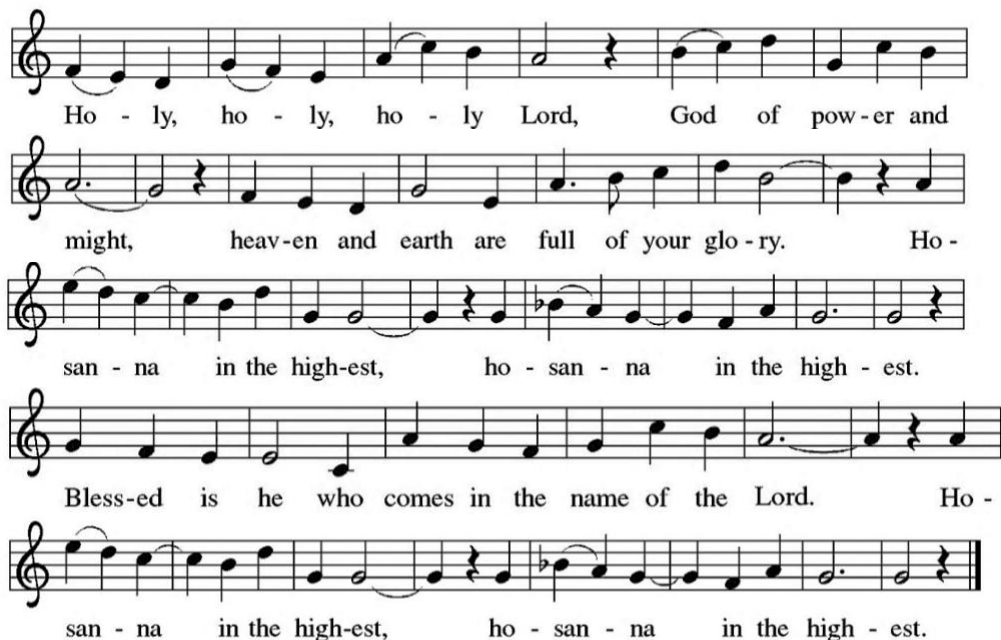
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

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.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW# 254
ELW# 264

TABLE BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. Amen.

BLESSING May God who comes among us, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Christ, Be Our Light

ELW 715

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Keep awake. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Kristen Weikum, Organist

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WE HOLD IN OUR PRAYERS

Please pray for people in need of comfort, hope, healing, or safe transition: Dale, Adeline, Sue, Jim, Wendy, Fred, Harry, Scooby, Larry, Caleb, Pete, Jake, Laurie, Mike, Matthew C, Mark O., Marge, Dana, Doug, Matthew, Bill, Mark, Dena, Jeff & family, Dan, Steve, Rick & Betsy, Gordon, Ross (post-transplant surgery), Doris, Shari, Anna, Jeanette, Aaron, Shawn, Nicole, Gayla-heart, Sarah, Brandy, Rick, Janet, Tom, Lynn M., Archer, Sharon, Mary, Debbie, Leanne, Addy, Deb, Cliff, Lorraine M., Eric, Kyle, Pr. Art, Bob D, John W., Gerilyn, Phyllis, Wally, Tedd, Ralph, Chuck, Sue. *Pray for Cathy and family at the passing of her husband, Gary. Please keep Liz K. and family in prayer at the passing of her husband, Harry.*

Call the church office if you have a prayer need and we will send it to the prayer chain if you desire. 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 Office: 218-741-6207 Email: office@oslcmn.com
OSLC, 1111 8th St. South, Virginia, MN
Website: www.oslcmn.com www.facebook.com/oslcmn
YouTube Page "Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Virginia MN Office"

OFFICE ADMIN HOURS:

CLOSED MONDAYS & HOLIDAYS. OPEN TUES.- FRIDAY, 9AM-5PM

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS Pastor Liz is here Tues.-Thurs. & does visits etc., Mon. & Fri.
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, Jen Fredrickson, Anna & Jim De Foe



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEC. 14th 2025, THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

YOUTH GIFT WRAPPING FUNDRAISER Today the Youth will be wrapping presents for you during worship. If you brought presents for them to wrap, bring them to their table before worship starts. Your wrapped gifts will be ready for you to pick up after the service! Suggested donation: \$5.00/gift.

SING AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE Join us **this afternoon at 5pm** for a potluck dinner- after, we will be singing our favorite Christmas Hymns together around the Christmas Tree! Family & Friends are invited.

CHRISTMAS BASKETS The lists for Christmas Baskets are on the kiosk for you to sign up. We thank you for the wonderful response for Thanksgiving! **During this time, the Worship Assistant clipboards will be on the glass cabinet in the narthex.*

ADVENT SERVICE THIS WEEK The Blue Christmas Service of Remembrance is **Wed., Dec. 17, 6:30pm at Gethsemane Lutheran Church**. **Thanks to all who brought in works of art to be displayed at our Visual Arts Advent Worship last Wednesday; the service was very well received.*

CHRISTMAS EVE This service will begin at 4 p.m. Wed., Dec. 24th. **Please plan on arriving at 3:30** to hear our choir sing special music, and to find a seat and get a candle for the service. The choir will also lead the congregation in familiar Christmas carols during that time. All are welcome!

ANNUAL REPORTS For anyone leading a ministry at OSLC, reports are due this week (except financials). The 2 ways that work best to send your report to the office are:

- You can simply write it out in the body of an email and send it, or,
- Write & save it as a "Word" Document - the form you would type it in on your computer, do not save as PDF - and email the Word Document (exception being financials/spreadsheets).

This allows us to fix spacing/make the report more readable. The church email is: office@oslcmm.com.

A GREAT WAY TO SUPPORT OUR MINISTRIES If you are a Thrivent member, or become an Associate Member, you can get an Action Team giftcard to use for the Community Breakfast and/or Community Closet pantry. You are eligible to get 2 cards a year to support these ministry projects. Let Nancy Fisher know if you would like to do this. Call her at 218-750-2729, or visit with her on Sundays.

WORSHIP SPONSORSHIP To sponsor Livestream or local TV Broadcasts in honor of a person or special event (wedding anniversary, birthday, etc..) or in memory of a loved one, you may do so in any amount- It helps maintain our sound/camera equipment. See the kiosk/glass cabinet in the narthex to sign up.

FURNACE/PIPE PROJECT: *Thank you for your continued support of this project as we move toward our next payment. At our Annual Meeting on Jan. 18th we will have an update. Work is underway!*

A graphic with a teal background and white text. It features a QR code and a stylized orange thermometer. The text reads: "WANT TO GIVE SPECIFICALLY TO OUR HEATING & PIPE PROJECT? We've created a new QR code to give electronically toward this project through our giving app. It's a quick way to give & makes a big difference. Every gift helps - together, we can do this! Check out the 'update board' in the narthex to see where we're currently at."/>

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Check out the 'update board' in the narthex to see where we're currently at.

THIS WEEK @ OSLC:

12/14 WORSHIP 9:30AM, YOUTH GIFTWRAP EVENT
11AM COUNCIL MTG
5PM SING AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE
AND POTLUCK DINNER
12/15 6PM BOY SCOUTS
12/16 1PM WELCA BIBLE STUDY
4PM FUN.DUH.MENTALS BIBLE STUDY
*ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

12/17 12-3PM C. CLOSET
4PM CHOIR PRACTICE
6:30PM ADVENT SVC OF REMEMBRANCE @
GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN
12/18 10:30AM LSS MTG FIRESIDE RM
12/21 9:30AM WORSHIP WITH CHILDREN'S
PROGRAM
12/24 4PM CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP WITH CHOIR
HYMN SING AT 3:30PM

*SANCTUARY: ORGAN PRACTICE WILL NOW BE 2:30PM M, T, W



Community Closet Challenge

Thank you for participating in our challenge, it's a big help!

We're listing affordable items in the bulletin for what works best in the Community Closet Food Pantry, 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 **pantry challenge items will cost \$10.00 and under.**

- 1. PRAIRIE FARMS MILK, HALF GALLON SIZE @ SUPER ONE**
\$1.99/EA, OR 5 FOR \$9.95
- 2. PROGRESSO HEARTY SOUPS @ SUPER ONE \$1.99 EA, OR HEALTHY CHOICE 2 CANS FOR \$3**
5 FOR \$9.95, OR 6 FOR \$9
- 3. BIRD'S EYE FROZEN VEGGIES, PEAS, CORN, MIXED @ SUPER ONE**
4 FOR \$5, OR 8 FOR \$10
- 4. GREAT VALUE COMPLETE PANCAKE MIX @ WALMART**
\$1.98 EA, 5 FOR \$9.90
- 5. GREAT VALUE 12OZ UNCOOKED BREAKFAST SAUSAGES @ WALMART**
\$2.42 EA, 4 FOR \$9.68



*You're always welcome to shop at your favorite store,
and buy the food & brands you prefer if it's more convenient.*

Aldi's is a great place to purchase peanut butter & jelly, for example.

Items that are always in need, regardless of our challenge list are:

Tuna pouches & cans, peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti sauce in jars, shampoo & bodywash.

Thank you for helping!

THRIVENT CARDS FOR MINISTRY

If you are a Thrivent member and would like to be a part of an ActionTeam to get a gift card for purchasing food for the Community Breakfasts and the Community Closet, let Nancy Fisher know. It's very easy to get on the Thrivent website to get the card. You are eligible to get 2 cards a year. If you would like to do this, call Nancy at 218-750-2729 or see her in church!

Thank you for helping the church feed many people in our community~