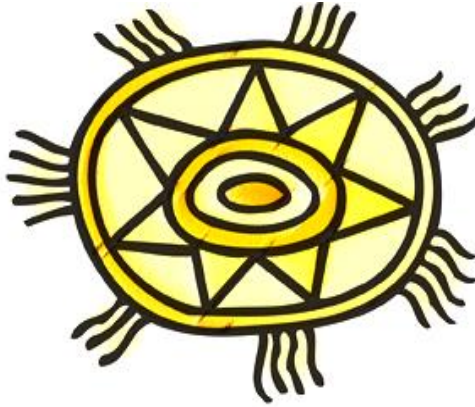


**SUNDAY, JANUARY 4TH, 2025**

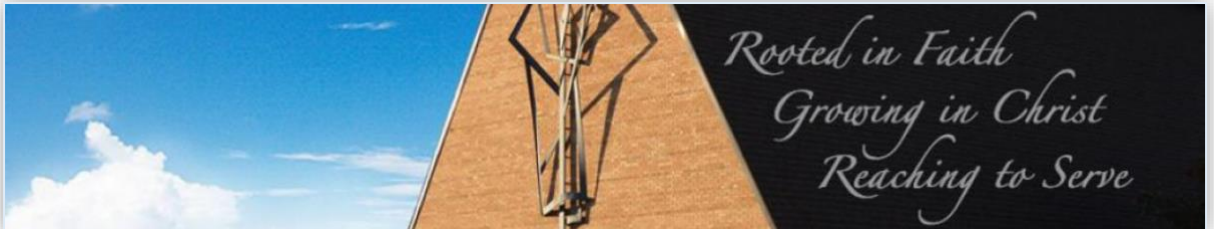
*Epiphany of Our Lord*



**Our Savior's Lutheran Church**

Virginia, MN

Pastor Liz Cheney



## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OPENING HYMN

*Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

ELW# 310

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Reconciling God,

**we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair.**

**We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love;**

**we have not always recognized your presence among us;**

**we have not always embraced your message of peace.**

**We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear.**

**We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge;**

**our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones;**

**our reluctance to embody your good news.**

**Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.**

God's grace upon grace flows over you. † Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.

Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad! **Amen.**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



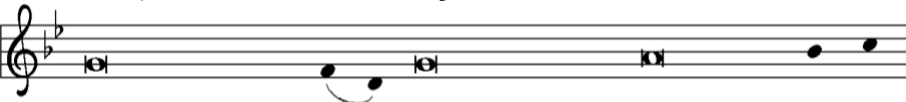
Lord, have mer - cy.



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.



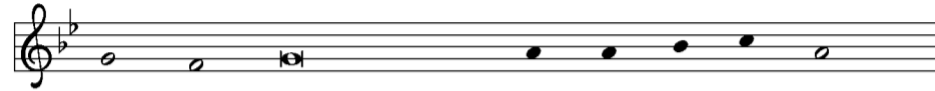
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



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** O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6**

*Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.*

<sup>1</sup> Arise, shine, for your light has come,

and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup> For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples,

but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

<sup>3</sup> Nations shall come to your light

and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup> Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together; they come to you;

your sons shall come from far away,

and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.

<sup>5</sup> Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice,

because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you;

the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

<sup>6</sup> A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

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

**PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14. *Please respond with the verses in bold print.***

*All kings shall bow down before him. (Ps. 72:11)*

<sup>1</sup> Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;

<sup>2</sup> **that he may rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;**

<sup>3</sup> that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

<sup>4</sup> **Let him defend the needy among the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

<sup>5</sup> May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

<sup>6</sup> **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.**

<sup>7</sup> In his time may the righteous flourish;

and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

<sup>10</sup> **May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,  
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**

<sup>11</sup> May all kings bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.

<sup>12</sup> **For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,  
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**

<sup>13</sup> He has compassion on the lowly and poor, and preserves the lives of the needy.

<sup>14</sup> **From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,  
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

**SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12**

*What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.*

<sup>1</sup> This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, <sup>2</sup> for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you <sup>3</sup> and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup> a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup> In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and

prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup>that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ <sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

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 2:1-12. The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.*

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they

were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### SERMON

*Pastor Liz Cheney*

### HYMN OF THE DAY

*The First Noel*

ELW# 300

### APOLSTLES CREED

pg. 105

**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

*When a Star Is Shining*

ACS# 915

**\*We will start with singing the *Refrain* below, and repeat after each petition.**

#### *Refrain*

Lead us on, lead us on, to a morning where the promise shines.

Lead us on, lead us on, to a morning where the promise shines.

**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.

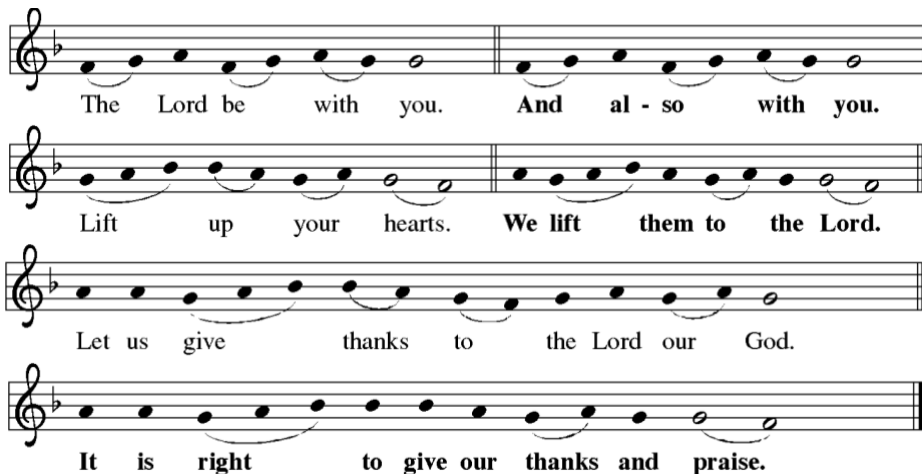
**OFFERING** Thank you for your continued financial support of OSLC! Whether you join us in person or online, the ministry & missions of Our Savior's depend on faithful giving. You can give the following ways:

- + 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



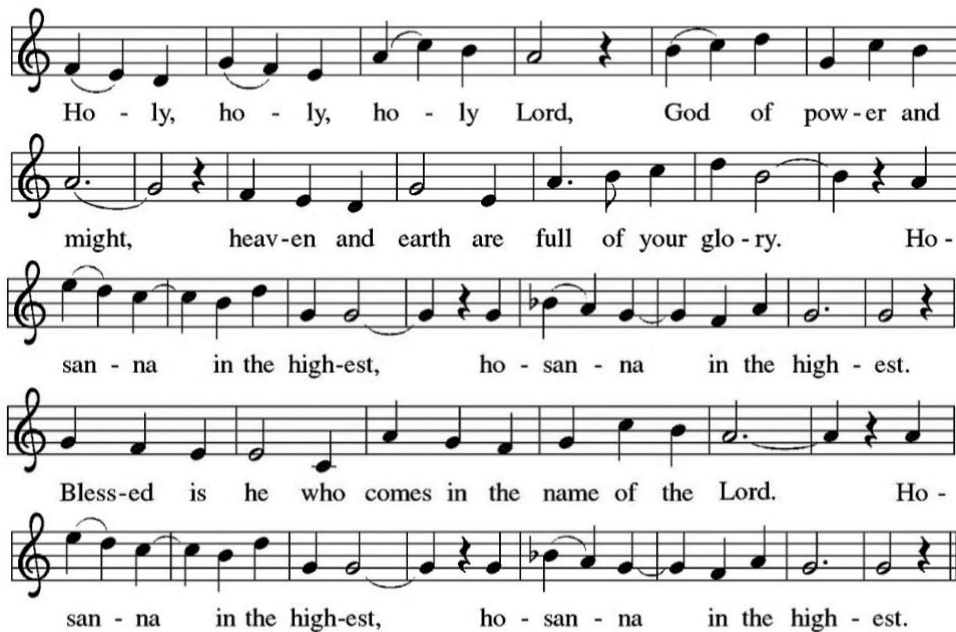
**OFFERING PRAYER** God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. Amen.

## 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** God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

**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.

***In a Lowly Manger Born*****ELW# 718*****I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*****ELW# 815****TABLE BLESSING**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. Amen.

**BLESSING** The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, ✠ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN*****Bright & Glorious is the Sky*****ELW# 301**

**DISMISSAL** Glory to God in the highest! **And peace to God's people on earth!**

Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE*****Kristen Weikum, Organist***

## WE HOLD IN OUR PRAYERS

Please pray for people in need of comfort, hope, healing, or safe transition: Shannon, 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.

***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](mailto:office@oslcmn.com)  
OSLC, 1111 8<sup>th</sup> St. South, Virginia, MN  
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 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](mailto: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

*January 4th, 2025, Epiphany of Our Lord*

**ADULT FORUM** We will be having an Adult Forum after worship today! Rose will be here to discuss her work counseling youth – grab a coffee and a treat and join us to learn more about her work in the area.

**LIFT PROGRAM** Youth LIFT resumes **Wed., Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> 6pm – 8pm**, with an **All-Church event** at Gethsemane Lutheran with Bishop Amy Odgren leading a study “Who is my Neighbor, Who is the ELCA, and Who is the Synod.” This evening and the study are **for adults and the youth**, join us.

**ANNUAL MEETING** Our Congregational Annual Meeting will be held **Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>** after worship in the Fellowship Hall. Preliminary reports are available in the office.

**COMMUNITY CLOSET & BREAKFAST** We’re resuming regular hours this week, on **Wednesday, Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>**, 12pm-3pm. We have groups from Messiah Lutheran, Gethsemane Lutheran, and Faith United that take turns helping ~ if it’s something you think you could spend 1-3 hours helping with now and then, sign up in the narthex and join us! Our next Free Community Breakfast will be **Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup>**, 9am – 11:30am.

**CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS** These will be mailed the third & fourth week of January. If you should need one for taxes before then, just call the office and Colleen will get one ready for you to pick up.

**VLM CAMP** You are invited to Voyageur’s Lutheran Ministry Annual Meeting taking place at Messiah Lutheran Church, Saturday, Feb. 12<sup>st</sup> at 10am, be a little early to register.

**WORSHIP SPONSORSHIP** The Livestream is sponsored by Tom Klabecek, in memory of his wife Jarie. To sponsor Livestream or local TV Broadcasts in honor of a person or special event (wedding annivers., 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. The next big update will take place at our Annual Meeting on Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>. Work is underway!*



## 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.



### THIS WEEK @ OSLC

- 1/04 ADULT FORUM AFTER WORSHIP
- 1/06 1PM WELCA BIBLE STUDY-FIRESIDE RM  
4PM FUN-DUH-MENTALS BIBLE STUDY
- 1/07 9AM QUILTING  
11AM FINANCE MTG FIRESIDE RM  
12PM-3PM COMMUNITY CLOSET  
4PM CHOIR PRACTICE  
6PM-8PM LIFT & ALL CHURCH @  
GETHESEMANE LUTHERAN
- 1/10 9AM-11:30AM FREE COMMUNITY  
BREAKFAST & COMMUNITY CLOSET

## FUNDRAISERS FOR THE YOUTH MISSION TRIP THIS SUMMER:

### ALL OF JANUARY:

Superbowl Sub Sales: Starting on Sunday, Jan 4<sup>th</sup>, through Sunday, January 25, the youth will be selling Subs! Pick up will be Superbowl Sunday after worship!

### FEB., 21-22 BAKE-A-THON & COFFEE AN':

The youth will be staying up all night baking! They will be baking communion bread and yummy treats! They will be asking if you might pledge their bake-a-thon and then support their coffee an' (and bake sale) at

### Winter L.I.F.T. Schedule



- January 7
- January 14
- January 21
- January 28
- February 4
- February 11
- February 22<sup>nd</sup> Fun Day

all three churches on Sunday, Feb 22.



### FUN-DUH-MENTALS BIBLE STUDY

Book of Joshua

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday @ 4:00 pm

January 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>

**Community CLOSET**

WEDNESDAYS  
12PM - 3PM

EVERY 2ND SATURDAY  
9AM - 11:30AM

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, 1111 8<sup>th</sup> ST. S. VIRGINIA, MN

**OUR NEXT COMMUNITY BREAKFAST IS SAT. JAN. 10 9-11:30AM**

## 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~

## THIS WEEK FOR THE COMMUNITY CLOSET PANTRY

Consider meal ideas such as:

- Spaghetti sauce, noodles & frozen vegetables
- Peanut butter, jelly & bread
- Mashed potatoes in the box & a pkg of chicken
- Pancake box mix, syrup & a can of fruit

We will start making new challenge lists next week!



**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, January 7, all are invited to join us as we welcome Bishop Amy Odgren, NEMN Synod Bishop as she leads us in exploring the ELCA, Synod and our winter theme "who is my neighbor?"

**Wednesday,  
January 7th  
6:00 - 8:00pm  
Gethsemane Lutheran  
Church**

