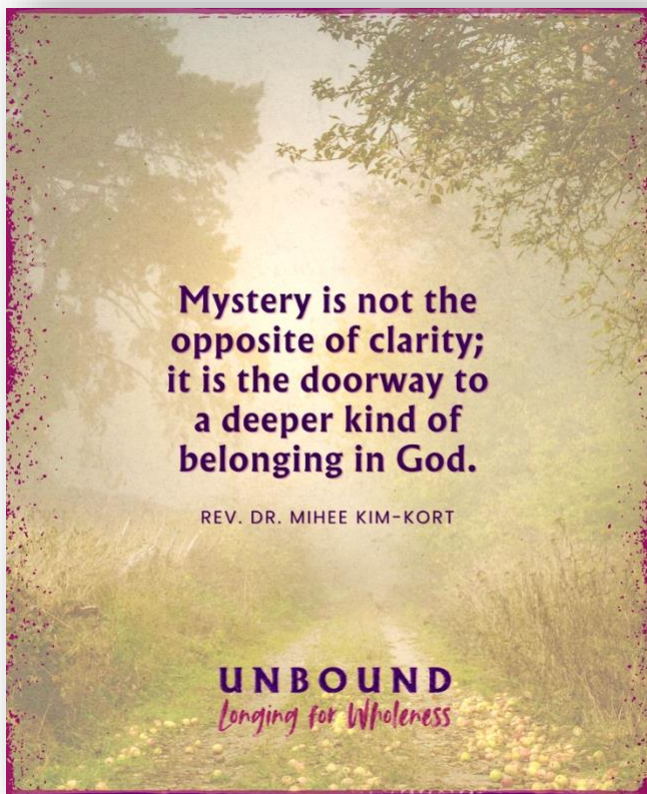


SUNDAY, MARCH 1ST, 2026

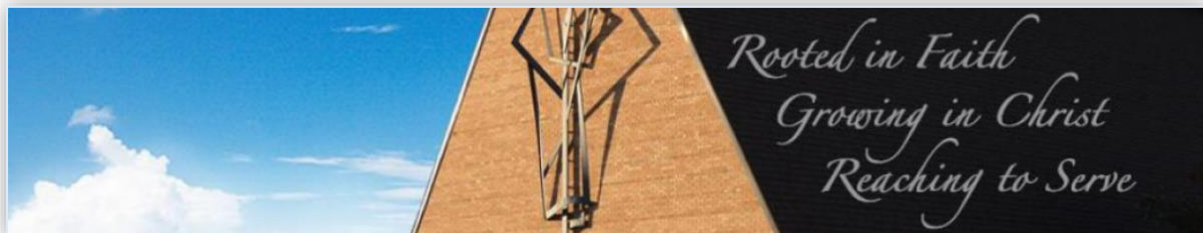
Second Sunday in Lent



Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Virginia, MN

Pastor Liz Cheney



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

What Wondrous Love Is This

ELW# 666

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sins to God and one another.

We confess to you, most loving God, the sins that both bind and scatter us.

We have knowingly believed dishonest words.

We have questioned your gracious power again and again.

We have given into temptation.

We have acted out of fear, placing blame on others yet holding ourselves apart.

In our disbelief and confusion we have hurt our neighbors and ourselves.

Gather us back to you.

Forgive us, free us, and make us whole for the sake of your son Jesus Christ. Amen.

Friends, beloved of God,

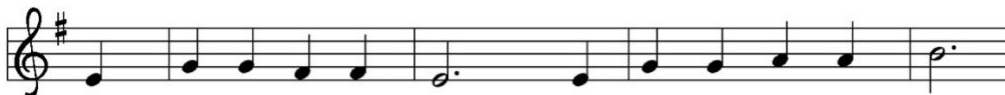
Jesus came not to condemn the world but that all might be saved through him.

In the name of + Christ your sins are forgiven.

May God unbind your guilt and shame, lead you by the Spirit,

and bring you to wholeness in abundant life. **Amen.**

KYRIE



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.

2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.

3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.

Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.

Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

PRAYER OF THE DAY *Nicodemus/Mystery*

Living God, we come looking for signs of your heavenly kingdom.

When certainty binds our spirits, astonish us and confound our expectations.

Bring us through water and Spirit to trust that you speak of what you know;

Birth us into the mystery that you desire to give all eternal life.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a.

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

¹The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

^{4a}So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

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

PSALM: Psalm 121. Verses 1-5 will be sung by choir. Please sing the refrain below after each verse.

Refrain

Our help comes from the Lord, the mak-er of heav-en and earth.

1. I lift up my eyes to the mountains: from where shall come my help?
My help shall come from the Lord who made heaven and earth. (*refrain*)
2. May God never allow you to stumble! Let God sleep not, your guard.
Neither sleeping nor slumb'ring, God, Israel's guard. (*refrain*)
3. The Lord is your guard and your shade: and at your right side stands,
By day the sun shall not smite you nor the moon in the night. (*refrain*)
4. The Lord will guard you from evil; God will guard your soul.
The Lord will guard your going and coming both now and forever. (*refrain*)
5. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. (*refrain*)

Music: M.Joncas, R.Krisman, 1979. Text: Psalm 121, © 1963, The Grail, English Antiphon, M. Joncas, GIA Publications, Inc.

SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17.

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

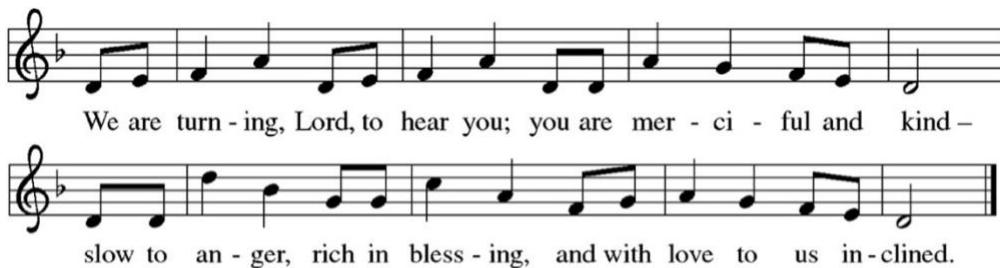
¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of

many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: John 3:1-17. The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

Pastor Liz Cheney

HYMN OF THE DAY

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

ELW# 325

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 As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

**Please respond after each petition: "Hear us, O God," (Pastor) "Your mercy is great," (Congregation).*

Concluding prayer: Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

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



CHOIR OFFERTORY

Lord Jesus, Think On Me

Text: Synesius of Cyrene, 375-430; tr. Allen W. Chatfield, 1808-1896, alt., Music arranged by David Johnson, 1983, GIA Publications.

OFFERING PRAYER **O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation.**

You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty.

Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also 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'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come a - gain.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

A - men, a - men, a - men.

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 the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy. All are welcome.

COMMUNION HYMNS:

Lamb of God, verse 2

2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer - cy now, we pray.

We Are Baptized

ELW# 451

Come to the Water of Life

ACS # 955

1 All who are thirst - y for mer - cy, all who are thirst - y for
 2 All who are thirst - y for heal - ing, all who are thirst - y for
 3 All who are thirst - y for beau - ty, all who are thirst - y for
 4 All who are thirst - y for jus - tice, all who are thirst - y for

love; all who are thirst - y for love, for mer - cy,
 touch; all who are thirst - y for touch, for heal - ing,
 truth; all who are thirst - y for truth, for beau - ty,
 peace; all who are thirst - y for peace, for jus - tice,

come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
 come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
 come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
 come: come to the Wa - ter of life.

TABLE BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION Heavenly Father, You have met us at this table with Christ's body and blood that we might rejoice together in the bread you provide and never be thirsty again. Send us now into the world as signs of your unbound presence, seeking the wholeness of the kingdom of God, and inviting all who hunger to come and see your glory. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

BLESSING May God who seeks you by night and by day, in death and in life, open your senses to the mystery of God's grace, enfold you through water and Spirit in Christ's love, and give you confidence in the Spirit's power to unbind and grant new life.

May the Holy Trinity, + Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Mother and Father of us all, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Blessed Assurance

ELW# 638

DISMISSAL Go in peace forgiven, whole and free. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Mark Ongalo, Organist

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WE HOLD IN OUR PRAYERS

Please pray for people in need of comfort, hope, healing, or safe transition: Dawn, Dan, Pete, Shannon, Pastor Ellen, Dale, Adeline, Sue, Jim, Wendy, Fred, Harry, Scooby, Larry, Caleb, Pete, Jake, Laurie, Mike, Matthew C, 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. *Please pray for the wife & sons of "Cody" who was in his 30's and passed away this week. Please pray for Richard Starich and sons at the passing of wife, mom, Phyllis Starich. Her funeral will be held here this Thursday at 11am.*

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 Onqalo, Jen Fredrickson, Anna & Jim De Foe

March Lector Schedule



MAR. 1- ANNA DE FOE

MAR. 8- JOHN ELOFSON

MAR. 15- MARY TROUTWINE

MAR. 22- SHELLEY SVATOS

MAR. 29- KEVIN BROWN



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



ANNOUNCEMENTS SUNDAY, MARCH 1ST, 2026

LENT WORSHIP Mid-week Lenten Soup Supper & Worship continues. The dates for Lent this year are: **3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25**. *Soup will be served at 5:30pm and worship will start at 6:15. Sign-up sheets to bring a soup and/or bread are on the kiosk.*

FINNS VS. IRISH - PURPLE VS. GREEN! This is a special fundraiser dinner for the pipe project and will include corned beef & cabbage stew, and Finnish meatballs, desert. Wear green... or wear purple, and come for the fun! **Tuesday, March 17th 5:30pm-7:30pm.**

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES There will be three sessions held on Wednesdays, 4-5:30pm, **March 18th, 25th & April 1st**. Please contact Pastor Liz to sign up!

WELCA LOVE OFFERING February is the month for WELCA's **Annual Love Offering** Campaign. There will be labeled envelopes provided in the narthex for you to give to WELCA and the many ministries within our church and our community they provide for.

ANNUAL CLOTHING & USED-A-BIT SALE **MEN: IF YOU HAVE 2 OR 3 OF EVERY TOOL IN YOUR GARAGE, BRING A FEW TOOLS FOR THE SALE & WRITE A SUGGESTED PRICE ON THEM FOR US!** If you have **clothing, kitchen items** to donate, please leave them on the back left table in the Fellowship Hall so we know they're for the sale. Sorting will take place **Mondays, 1-3pm**. If organizing is your gift, you're welcome to volunteer with us on the west wing! The sale is Friday, Apr.17th 8:30am-2pm, & Saturday, Apr.18th 8:30-12p.

NEW COUNCIL OFFICERS: John Elofson is President, Jim Fisher is Vice President, Ron Hindt is Council Secretary, and Chris Culbert is Treasurer. Members: Gloria Gagnon, Nina Kampf, Pat Meinzer, Mark Ongalo, Dan Peliska, and Dennis Pernu.

WORSHIP SPONSORSHIP

Today's Livestream is sponsored by **Butch & Sharon Panula in honor of their 54th wedding anniversary. Congratulations, and thank you for sponsoring today!** To sponsor Livestream & 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.

Tuesday, March 17th
5:30 - 7:30pm

Purple vs Green Meal and entertainment

Serving **Finnish Meatballs & Corned Beef and Cabbage stew**

Free Will Offering

Proceeds go to the Pipe Project

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
1111 8th St S Virginia

<p><u>THIS WEEK @ OSLC</u></p> <p>3/1 9:30AM WORSHIP ADULT FORUM-THRIVENT</p> <p>3/2 1-3PM WELCA SORTING 2:30 PM ORGAN PRACTICE 5:30PM TOPS W.WING 6PM BOY SCOUTS</p>	<p>3/3 1PM WELCA BIBLE STUDY 2:30PM ORGAN PRACT. 4PM FUN.D.MENTALS BIBLE STUDY</p> <p>3/4 9AM-2PM QUILTING 11AM FINANCE MTG 12-3PM C. CLOSET, 2:30PM ORGAN PRACT.</p>	<p>4PM CHOIR 5:30 SOUP SUPPER 6:15 LENT WORSHIP</p>
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THIS WEEK FOR THE COMMUNITY CLOSET PANTRY

Below are the following challenge food items for the pantry. You can buy what you desire and at the store that is most convenient for you; we just provide examples of most commonly needed items and give examples of spending \$10 or less.

We appreciate all donations!

1. *YOGURT CUPS @ WALMART
\$2.26 FOR 4PK*
2. *SAUSAGE LINKS @ WALMART, GREAT VALUE BRAND
\$2.42 FOR 12OZ PACKAGE LINKS*
3. *GREAT VALUE COMPLETE PANCAKE MIX @ WALMART
\$1.98/ BOX*
4. *PEARL MILLING SYRUP @ SUPER ONE
\$2.99 EA*
5. *LYNDAN HASHBROWN PATTIES @ SUPER ONE
\$2.99 FOR 10CT BOX*



WE ARE GOING TO COLLECT BIBLES FOR A MINISTRY IN THE AREA THROUGHOUT MARCH

IF YOU HAVE ANY EXTRA BIBLES AT HOME THAT ARE IN FAIRLY GOOD SHAPE, YOU CAN DROP THEM OFF ON A PEW BY THE OFFICE- ANY VERSION IS OK. THANK YOU!

Our Savior's Lutheran First Communion Classes

THREE SESSIONS: WED., 4:00-5:30 PM
MARCH 18TH, 25TH & APRIL 1ST

Please contact Pastor Liz
to sign your child up for classes.

First Communion celebration will take place
on Maundy Thursday, April 2nd
during the 6pm worship service.

LENTEN LECTIO DIVINA SERIES

Focus: The Presence of Place

What is Lectio Divina? Lectio Divina is a contemplative spiritual practice that invites participants to experience the presence of God and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit through quieting, meditation on scripture, visualization, and prayer. Lectio Divina is a practice of the heart – time set aside to rest in contemplation and breathe in the care, compassion, and grace of God.

**Session Details: Facilitator- Kristi Ongalo. At Our Savior's in the Fireside Room, 4-5pm.
Thursdays: March 12th, March 19th, and March 26th.**

While I am offering three sessions, participants are under no obligation to attend the first one or, indeed, all three. This is a free, no-obligation gift.

Come as you are able. Come as you are.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP Mar. 29th, 9:30am

MAUNDY THURSDAY April 2nd, 6pm OSLC

GOOD FRIDAY ECUMENICAL WORSHIP,

Apr. 3rd: 12pm at Hope Presbyterian Church Virginia
and 6:30pm at Messiah Lutheran Church Mt. Iron.

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP, April 5th, 9:30am

Easter Breakfast will be served by Youth 8am-9:30am

**FREE
COMMUNITY
BREAKFAST
SAT. MAR. 14
9-11:30AM**



QUILTING
RECOGNITION
DAY IS
MARCH 22ND



**ANNUAL CLOTHING &
USED-A-BIT SALE !**

FRIDAY & SAT.
APR. 17 & 18
DOORS OPEN 8:30AM

SUPPORTS OUR PANTRY & AREA NONPROFITS