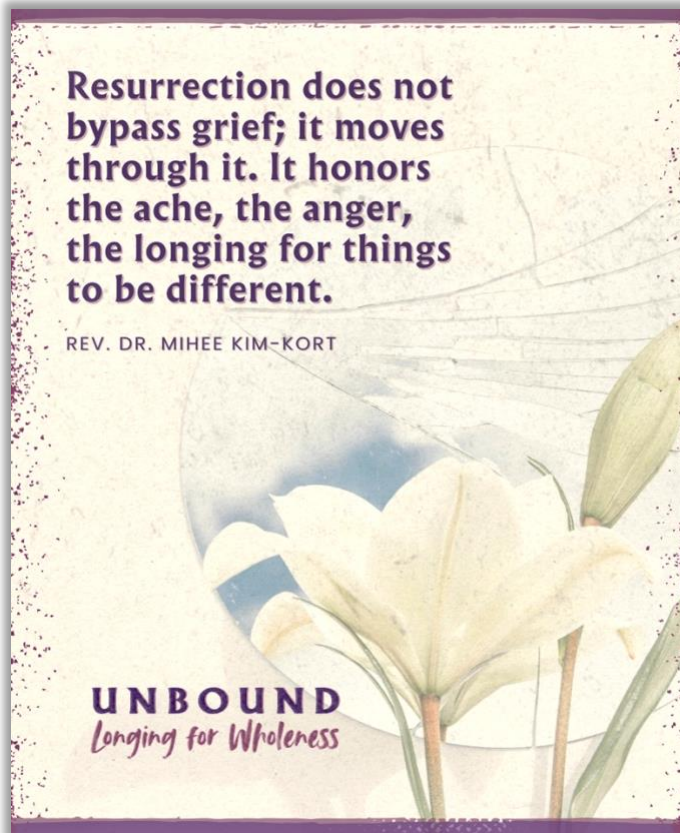


SUNDAY, MARCH 22nd, 2026

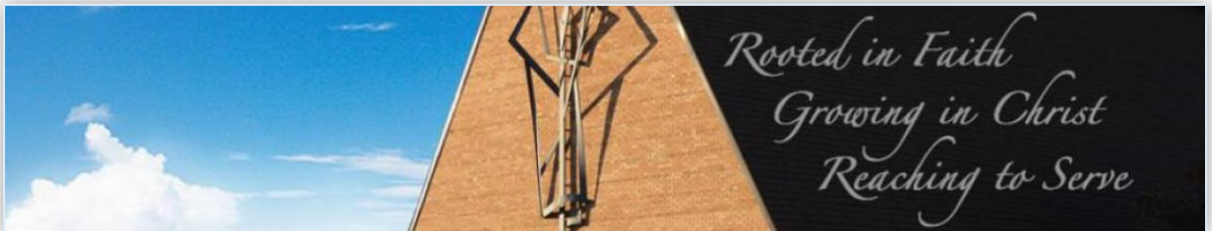
Fifth Sunday in Lent



Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Virginia, MN

Pastor Liz Cheney



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

ELW# 712

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,

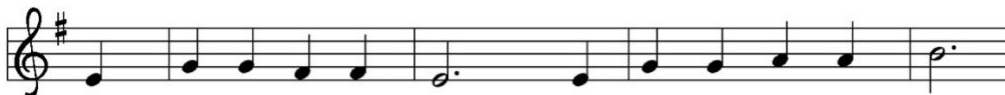
Jesus came not to condemn the world but that all might be saved through him.

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 *Lazarus/Authenticity*

God of the living and of the dead,

we know that you always hear us: in our grief, our reproach, and our longing.

Teach us to speak plainly to one another and to you.

Free us from the fears that tell us to hide ourselves away, blocking out light and life.

Unbind us to walk whole-heartedly with you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

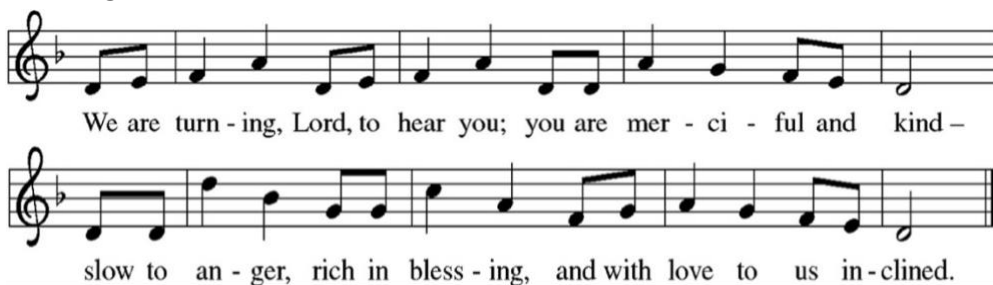
SECOND READING: Romans 8:6-11 *For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.*

⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -
slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

GOSPEL: John 11:1-45. The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." ¹¹After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹²The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow

disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Pastor Liz Cheney

APOSTLES 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.

BLESSING OF THE QUILTS AND QUILTERS' RECOGNITION

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



OFFERTORY

Mark Ongalo

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.

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 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.

Come to the Table**ELW# 481*****I Am the Bread of Life*****ELW# 485****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***You Are the Way*****ELW# 758**

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: Ron, Dan, Jim, Cliff, Ryan, Alexandra W, Luke, Dawn, Leslie, Shannon, Pastor Ellen, Dale, Adeline, Sue, Jim, Wendy, Fred, Harry, Scooby, Larry, Caleb, Jake, Laurie, Mike, Matthew, Marge, Dana, Doug, Bill, Mark, Dena, Jeff, Steve, Rick & Betsy, Gordon, Ross, Doris, Shari, Anna, Jeanette, Aaron, Shawn, Nicole, Gayla, Sarah, Brandy, Janet, Tom, Lynn M., Archer, Sharon, Mary, Debbie, Leanne, Addy, Deb, Lorraine M., Eric, Kyle, Pr. Art, Bob, John, Gerilyn, Wally, Tedd, Ralph, Chuck, Sue.

Please pray for the Tokarczyk family at the passing of Larry's brother. Please pray for Kay and family at the passing of Bruce Rent. His funeral service will be here this Friday, March 27th with visitation at 10am, service at 11am, and lunch to follow.

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

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.

Holy Week Schedule

PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP

Mar. 29th, 9:30am

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 2nd, 6pm

GOOD FRIDAY ECUMENICAL WORSHIP

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

EASTER BREAKFAST

Served by Youth 8am-9:30am

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

APRIL 5TH AT 9:30AM



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, MARCH 22nd, 2026



ALL WOMEN OF THE CHURCH – Today, WELCA invites you to an open meeting in the Fellowship Hall. We'll have coffee & cake in recognition of our quilters & gather for the meeting-we'd like your input for future WELCA ministry ideas, etc..

EASTER BASKETS We're collecting food for 10 Easter meal baskets for people (as we do at Christmas). The sign-up sheets are on the glass cabinet in the narthex to donate food items- thank you!

LENT WORSHIP Our last Lenten Soup Supper & Worship will be this Wednesday, **3/25**. *Soup will be served at 5:30pm and worship will start at 6:15. Join us for this contemplative Worship Service.*

LENTEN LECTIO DIVINA SERIES You are welcome to come for this series on the spiritual practice of meditating and praying over scripture. Kristi Ongalo will lead the series. This is a time set aside in quietness for you to take in the scriptures and care and compassion of God. It will be held in the Fireside Room, **Thursday, Mar. 26th, 4-5pm.**

GARAGE CLEAN-UP **Tomorrow-March 23rd** - We need a few people here **at 4:30pm** to mark things in the garage to be kept or thrown away for the clean-up. We'll load things up from 6-7pm.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES There will be two sessions held on Wednesday, **March 25th & April 1st 4pm-5:30pm.** Please contact Pastor Liz to sign up! *First Communion for class attendees will take place Maundy Thursday, April 2nd during worship.

THRIVENT GIVING Thrivent *Choice Dollars* is a grant program that supports nonprofits organizations, and Thrivent members can give a small share from investments to this program, and decide where their share will go. Until the end of March you can choose to give your Choice Dollars to OSLC if you desire-contact the local office for instructions. It's yet another easy way to give!

ANNUAL CLOTHING & USED-A-BIT SALE If you have **tools, clothing, home décor and 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 8:30-12pm.

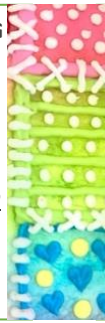
COUNCIL OFFICERS: John Elofson is President, Jim Fisher is Vice President, Ron Hindt is Council Secretary, and Chris Culbert is Treasurer. Members: Gloria Gagnon, Nina Kampf, Pat Meinzer, Mark Ongalo, Dan Peliska, and Dennis Pernu.

WORSHIP SPONSORSHIP Today's Livestream is sponsored by **Tom Klabecek in loving memory of wife, Jarie.** *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. *Your support is appreciated ~*

THIS WEEK @ OSLC

3/22. 9:30AM WORSHIP, CAKE FOR QUILTERS, WELCA OPEN INVITE
3/23 1-3PM WELCA SORTING
2:30 PM ORGAN PRACTICE
4:30-7PM GARAGE SORT/CLEAN UP (JOIN US ANYTIME!)
3/24 2:30PM ORGAN PRACTICE

3/25 9AM-2PM QUILTING
12-3PM C. CLOSET,
2:30PM ORGAN PR.
4PM CHOIR
5:30 SOUP SUPPER
6:15 LENT WORSHIP



ALL LADIES OF OSLC

YOU ARE INVITED FOR CAKE IN RECOGNITION OF THE QUILTERS, AND AN OPEN MEETING WITH WELCA TODAY TO SHARE FRESH MINISTRY IDEAS! JOIN US AT THE DECORATED TABLES BY THE TV IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.



VLM CAMP EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITES

VLM IS IN NEED OF A YEAR ROUND FOOD SERVICE DIRECTOR, SUMMER KITCHEN HELP, MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT, AND SUMMER COUNSELORS (+18YO)

WWW.VLMCAMP.ORG/EMPLOYMENT

VLM WORKDAY IS MAY 16TH

WE SPONSOR A CABIN: IF INTERESTED IN HELPING FOR A FEW HOURS, TALK TO TOM OR JACKI WITTY

WE ARE COLLECTING BIBLES FOR AN AREA MINISTRY IN 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!

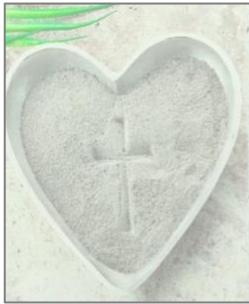


COMMUNITY CLOSET PANTRY

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. MILK, 32OZ CONTAINERS @ SUPER ONE
\$1.66 EA/ 6 FOR \$9.96
2. MANDARINS, 3LB BAG @ ALDI
\$2.89/3LB BAG, CAN BE SPLIT UP AMONG PEOPLE/FAMILIES
3. BABY CARROTS, 1LB BAG @ ALDI
\$1.09 EA/9 FOR \$9.81
4. NATURAL PEANUT BUTTER, GREAT VALUE BRAND @ WALMART
\$1.98/16OZ JAR, 5 FOR \$9.90
5. JELLY OR PRESERVES, GREAT VALUE BRAND @ WALMART
\$1.98 – 2.66 DIFFERENT VARIETIES~

thank you



Our Savior's Last Lent Soup Supper & Worship

Soup at 5:30 pm
Worship at 6:15 pm
Wednesdays March 25th



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

Thursday, March 26th 4pm-5pm

Come as you are able. Come as you are.

QUILTERS RECOGNITION TODAY!



ANNUAL CLOTHING & USED-A-BIT SALE!

SALE

CLOTHES HOUSEHOLD AND TOOLS

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

SUPPORTS OUR PANTRY & AREA NONPROFITS

L.I.F.T.

LIVING IN FAITH TOGETHER

THE FIRST SESSION, APRIL 15TH, WILL BE HELD AT GELC THEN AT OSLC FOR APR. 22, 29, & MAY 6, 13.

Join us for the Spring Session of LIFT!

**3-6th Grade Youth Group
Confirmation**

**Sr. High Youth Group
new! Adult Bible Study!!**

Schedule

6:00pm – 6:30pm: Dinner

6:30pm: Worship with Communion

6:50pm – 8:00pm: Groups

All adults are invited to this 5-Week, letionary based Bible Study. No preparation or homework required! Bring your questions & curiosity!

[Read John 11:1–45 on biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com)

11 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." ¹¹After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹²The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." ²⁸When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now

Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" ³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Devotion The Gospel of John is known for the "I am" statements of Jesus proclaimed throughout the book. There are a total of seven and each of them reveals the eternal power of Christ. Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life" to this grieving community. They do not yet know the depth of Christ's power and yet it reveals itself in this story. Death does not have the final say. We see Lazarus resurrected and a community forever changed. We are forever changed by the life-giving power of Christ's resurrection and the promise of eternal life. We are living witnesses to the resurrection. We see God's love poured out for us in the story of Lazarus, in the life and witness of Christ, and in our daily lives as the community of Christ.

Prayer God eternal, enfold us in your loving embrace of promise and hope. Amen.

Ashley Wheeler, Associate Director for Candidacy and Vocational Formation, Luther Seminary