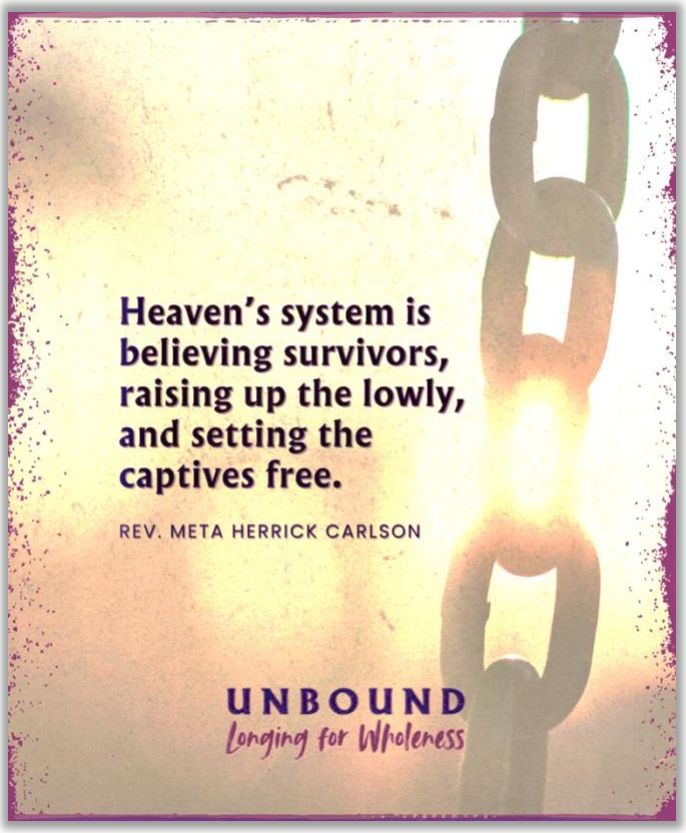
**SUNDAY, MARCH 8th, 2026**

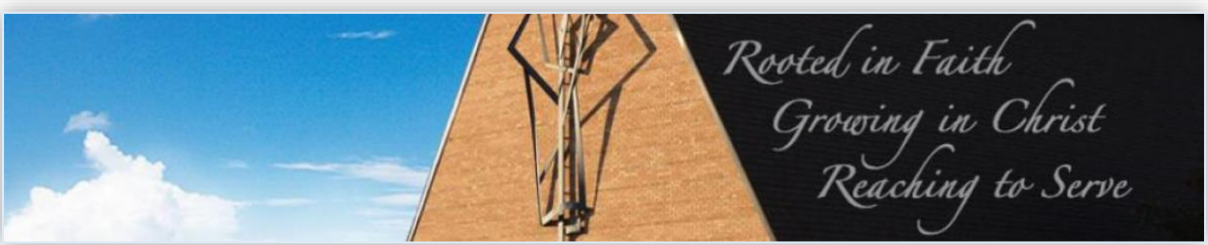
*Third Sunday in Lent*




**Our Savior's Lutheran Church**

Virginia, MN

Pastor Liz Cheney



**PRELUDE** ***Mark Ongalo, Organist***

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING HYMN** ***As the Deer Runs to the River*** **ELW# 331**

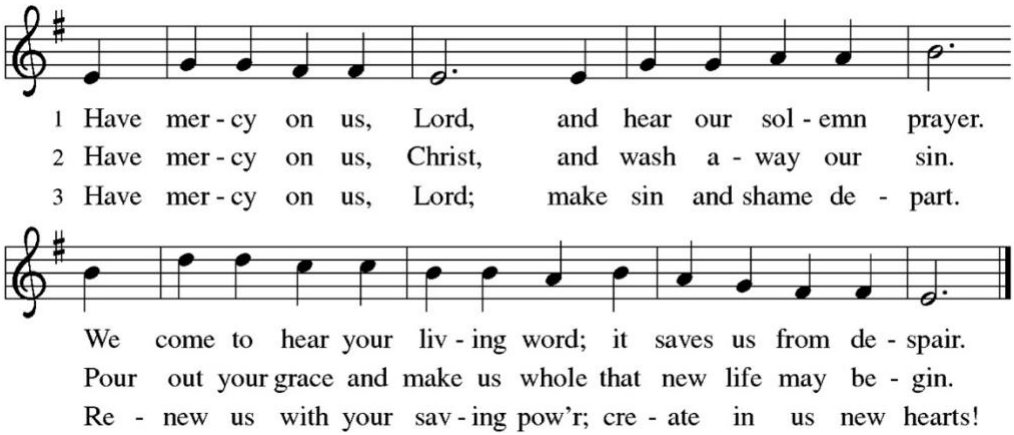
**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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**




**PRAYER OF THE DAY** *Samaritan Woman/Relationship*

**God of spirit and truth, we thirst to know and to be known, no longer fragmented but whole.**
**When we are bound by believing we cannot share anything in common,**
**stay with us and reveal our shared longings, that we might rejoice together.**
**For you are the one we seek, the one we ask others to come and see.**
**In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

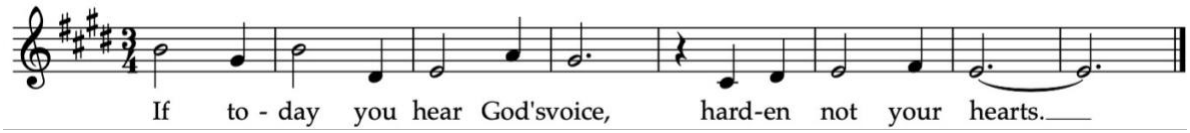
**FIRST READING:** Exodus 17:1-7. *Lector, Anna De Foe*

*Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people.*

1 From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as
the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to
drink. 2 The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them,
"Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" 3 But the people thirsted there for water,
and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and
our children and livestock with thirst?" 4 So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do for this
people? They are almost ready to stone me." 5 The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people
and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the
Nile and go. 6 I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water
will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of
Israel. 7 He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD,
saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

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

**PSALM:** Psalm 95. ***Cantor will sing vs. 1-3. Please sing the refrain below after each verse***. *Cantor, Kristi Ongalo*




1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us.
   Let us come before God giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. **(*refrain*)**
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us,
   for this is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand.
   **(*refrain*)**
3. O that today you would listen to God's voice!
   "Harden not your heart as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert
   when your ancestors put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work." **(*refrain*)**

*Music by Michel Guimont. © 1994, GIA Publications, Inc.*

**SECOND READING:** Romans 5:1-11. *Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners.*

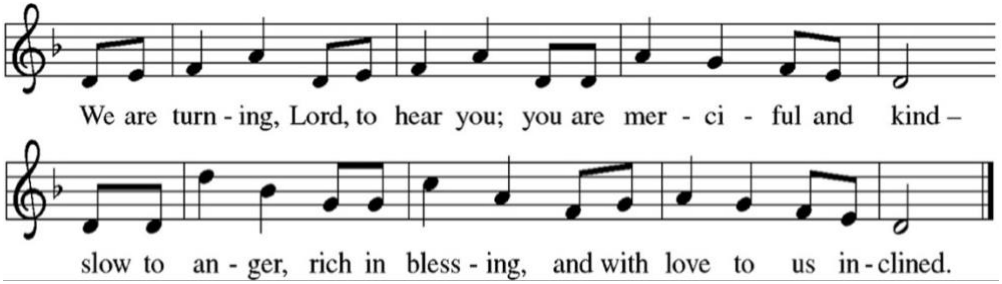
1 Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through
whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing
the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction
produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope
does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit
that has been given to us.

6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Indeed, rarely will
anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to
die. 8 But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. 9 Much more

surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. 11 But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**




**GOSPEL:** John 4:5-42. The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony leads many to faith.*

5 [Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son
Joseph.6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was
about noon.

7 A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." 8 (His disciples
had gone to the city to buy food.) 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a
drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus
answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you
would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." 11 The woman said to him, "Sir, you
have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? 12 Are you greater than our
ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" 13 Jesus said to
her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but those who drink of the water that I
will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water
gushing up to eternal life." 15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be
thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

16 Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." 17 The woman answered him, "I have
no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' 18 for you have had five
husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" 19 The woman
said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. 20 Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you
say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." 21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe
me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in
Jerusalem. 22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the
Jews. 23 But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in

spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. [24] God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." [25] The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." [26] Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

[27] Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" [28] Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, [29] "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" [30] They left the city and were on their way to him.

[31] Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." [32] But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." [33] So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" [34] Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. [35] Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. [36] The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. [37] For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' [38] I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

[39] Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." [40] So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. [41] And many more believed because of his word. [42] They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

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**

**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.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

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

Concluding prayer: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **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:

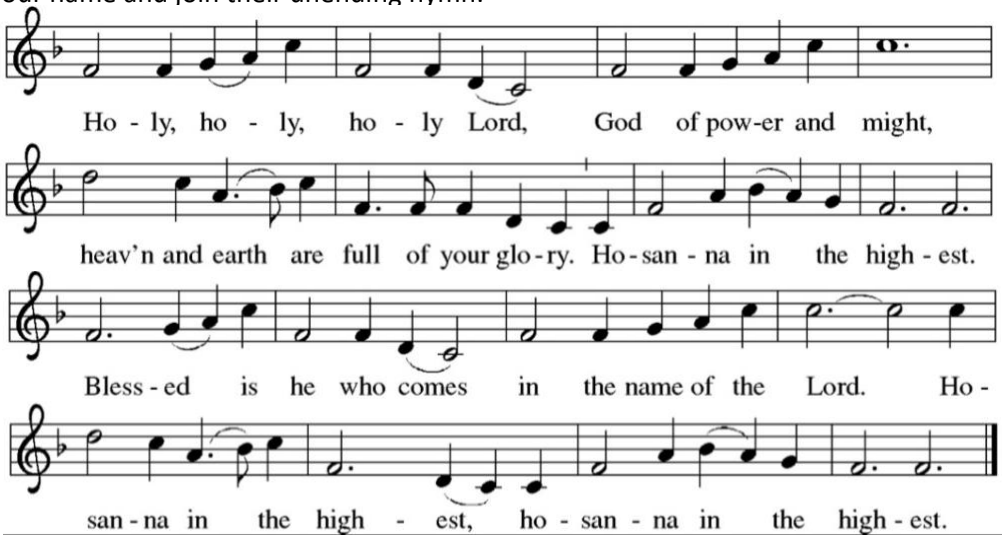
+ online links can be found by accessing our website at **https://www.oslcmn.com/**
+ Using the QR code found here:
+ Contacting the church office to set up regular automatic giving
+ Dropping off or mailing in your offering

**OFFERTORY** ***Blessings*** ***Kristi Ongalo***

*Text: Laura Story © 2011, New Spring Publishing Inc. a Division of Brentwood Benson Publishing.*

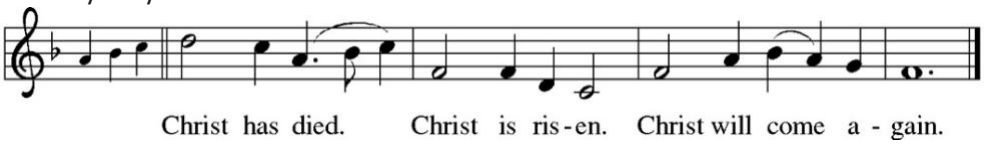
**OFFERING PRAYER O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. 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:



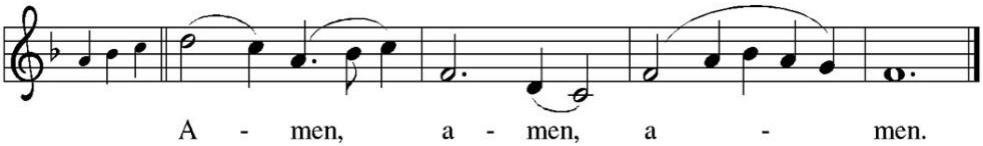
Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.
Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise 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:




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.**

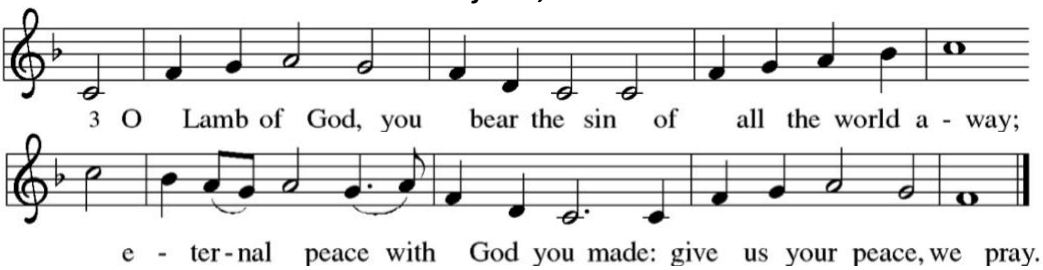
With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.




**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 3***




***Come to the Table*** **ELW# 481**

***O Bread of Life from Heaven*** **ELW# 480**

**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** ***Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer*** **ELW# 618**

**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: Bruce, Ryan, Luke, Dawn, Dan, Pete, Leslie, Shannon, Pastor Ellen, Dale, Adeline, Sue, Jim, Wendy, Fred, Harry, Scooby, Larry, Caleb, 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 family of Cody Siebert & the police dept. he served on~ he passed away suddenly last week. Please pray for Richard Starich and family at the passing of wife & mom, Phyllis Starich.*

***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 SUNDAY

MARCH 8th, 2026

***THANK YOU TO ALL THE LADIES WHO DECORATED AND SERVED AT THE FUNERAL SERVICES THIS WEEK. A LOT OF WORK, BUT A LOT OF THANKFUL FAMILIES - YOUR SERVICE IS APPRECIATED~***

**LENT WORSHIP** Mid-week Lenten Soup Supper & Worship dates for are: **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.*

**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, **Thursdays, March 12th, 19th and 26th, 4-5pm.**

**PURPLE VS. GREEN!** No, we're not talking football! Finns & Irish, St. Urho & St.Patrick ☘ Join us for a special fundraiser dinner for the pipe project that will include corned beef & cabbage stew, Finnish meatballs, and desert. Wear green, wear purple, or both, and come for the food, stay 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! First Communion for attendees will take place Maundy Thursday, April 2nd during worship.

**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, 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.

**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 **Tom Klabechek 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.

**THIS WEEK @ OSLC**

**3/8 9:30AM WORSHIP**
**3/9 1-3PM WELCA SORTING**
**2:30 PM ORGAN PRACTICE**
**6PM BOY SCOUTS**
**3/10 9:30AM WELCA MTG**
**FIRESIDE RM**
**2:30PM ORGAN PRACT.**
**3/11 9AM-2PM QUILTING**
**12-3PM C. CLOSET,**
**2:30PM ORGAN PRACT.**
**4PM CHOIR**
**5:30 SOUP SUPPER**
**6:15 LENT WORSHIP**
**3/14 9-11:30AM COMMUNITY**
**BREAKFAST & CLOSET OPEN**

QUILTING RECOGNITION DAY IS MARCH 22ND

## 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 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.

## 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. *REGANNO 12OZ FARFALLE NOODLES @ ALDI'S*
   *$1.09 EA, 9 FOR $9.81*
2. *SPAGHETTI SAUCE @ ALDI'S*
   *$1.85/EA, 5 FOR $9.25*
3. *PEANUT BUTTER 18OZ @ ALDI'S*
   *$2.19 EA, 4 FOR $8.76*
4. *JOAN OF ARC CANNED BEANS @ SUPER ONE (KIDNEY, CHILI, BLACK BEANS)*
   *$1.25 EA, 8 FOR 10*
5. *RED GOLD BRAND CANNED TOMATOES/TOMATO SAUCE @ SUPER ONE*
   *$1.25 EA, 8 FOR 10*
6. *KRAFT SLICED, BLOCK OR SHREDDED CHEESE @ SUPER ONE*
   *4 FOR $11*

**WE ARE GOING TO COLLECT BIBLES FOR AN AREA MINISTRY THROUGH 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!

THIS SATURDAY/SUNDAY

2AM FORWARD TO 3AM

MARCH 8TH

**GOD PAUSE FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026. JOHN 4:5–42 (NRSV)**

*Read John 4:5–42 on biblegateway.com*

5So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son
Joseph. 6Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was
about noon. 7A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." 8(His
disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) 9The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a
Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with
Samaritans.) 10Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you,
'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." 11The
woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living
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again, 14but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I
will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." 15The woman said to him,
"Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw
water." 16Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." 17The woman answered him, "I
have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; 18for you have had
five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" 19The
woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. 20Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain,
but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." 21Jesus said to her, "Woman,
believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in
Jerusalem. 22You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the
Jews. 23But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in
spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. 24God is spirit, and those who
worship him must worship in spirit and truth." 25The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is
coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." 26Jesus said to her,
"I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

27Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one
said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" 28Then the woman left her water jar
and went back to the city. She said to the people, 29"Come and see a man who told me everything I
have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" 30They left the city and were on their way to
him. 31Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." 32But he said to them, "I
have food to eat that you do not know about." 33So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one
has brought him something to eat?" 34Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent

me and to complete his work. [35]Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. [36]The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. [37]For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' [38]I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." [39]Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." [40]So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. [41]And many more believed because of his word. [42]They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

**Devotion.** An important theme that is brought to our attention in this gospel reading is that of living water. As the people of Exodus cried out for water, they were given something to drink that sustained their physical bodies for a short time. But here Jesus looks at the vulnerable woman in front of him and offers her living water. The symbolism of this exchange cannot be lost on us, as it wouldn't have been lost on the early community. The kingdom of God stretches beyond the moment. It includes history and future and invites us into a sense of justice that is cosmic in scope. But this cosmic nature never fails to account for the immediate pain and needs of the communities at the margins, those most vulnerable in the story. It is they that recognize Christ for who he is, and it is to them that the message of Christ's kingdom is given and received most readily.

**Prayer** Fill us with your living water. Put to right all that is wrong in this world, God. Reveal to us the members of our community that need our support; show us how to act for your justice and your righteousness in our everyday lives. Amen.

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