

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27th, 2026

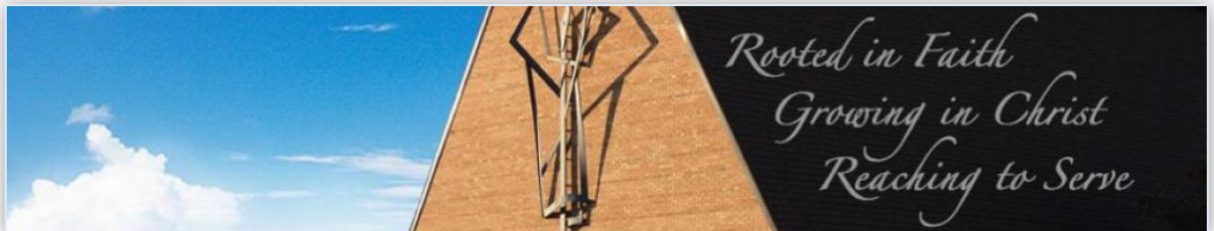
Season of Creation



Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Virginia, MN

Pastor Liz Cheney



PRELUDE

Mark Ongalo, Organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN

Let Streams of Living Justice

ELW# 710

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Water! Water! We praise you, O God, for water.

the rain that nourishes animals and plants, the water for drinking and bathing.

We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for our water stories—a flood that cleansed the earth,

the sea that drowned the enemy, a river that healed leprosy.

We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for water.

We remember the waters of Jesus—baptized in the Jordan River,

calming the Sea of Galilee, drinking from Jacob's Well,

healing at the pool of Bethesda, washing the disciples' feet.

We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for this font, for through this water

you have birthed us into the family of Christ, bathed us in forgiveness,

and enlivened us in the Spirit.

We praise you, O God, for baptism.

We praise you, O God, for baptism.

O God, you are the Ocean, sustaining this earth.

O God, you are the River, saving us from death.

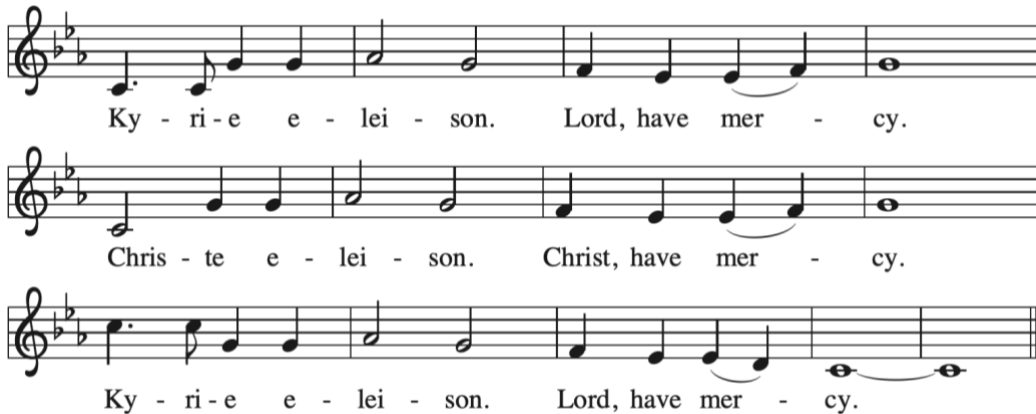
O God, you are the Fountain, granting us health and well-being.

We praise you, O God, today, tomorrow, forever.

Amen, and amen. **Amen, and amen.**



KYRIE



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

THIS IS THE FEAST

4
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu -

9
- ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1. Wor - thy is Christ, the

14
Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God

18
Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom and strength and hon - or, bles - sing and

21
glo - ry are his. This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

27
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2. Sing with all the

33
peo - ple of God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

37
Bles - sing, hon - or, glo - ry and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er, A -

41
- men. 3. For the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign,

46
Al - le - lu - ia. This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

52
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. **tacet al fine**

PRAYER OF THE DAY God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32.

Lector, Kristi Ongalo

Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

¹ The word of the LORD came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³ As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

²⁵ Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

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

PSALM 25 *As the Cantor leads, please sing the Psalm refrain below.*

Kristi Ongalo, Cantor



To you, O Lord I lift my soul, to you, I lift my soul.____

Music : Marty Haugen, © 1982, GIA Publications, Inc. Text: Refrain © 1969, 1981, 1997, ICEL; verses © 1982, GIA Publications, Inc.

SECOND READING Philippians 2:1-13

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ’s selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, ¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32. The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or

was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' ²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹ He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him."

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

SERMON

Pastor Dorothy Sand

HYMN OF THE DAY

God Bestows on Every Season

ACS# 1069

1 God be - stows on ev - 'ry sense beau - ty as hope's
 2 Catch a fleet - ing glimpse of grace in an un - ex -
 3 Vi - brant pic - tures in our dreams, brushed with crys - tal
 4 In a burnt and black - ened field bro - ken ground be -
 5 God makes all cre - a - tion new, turn - ing back what

ev - i - dence: signs of what the earth will
 pect - ed place: just a taste, the small - est
 col - or schemes, van - ish from a wak - ing
 gins to yield ti - ny, frag - ile sprouts of
 peo - ple do, build - ing up what we de -

be just be - yond what we can see.
 crumb of the ban - quet yet to come.
 mind, leav - ing just a trace be - hind.
 green: hints of for - ests yet un - seen.
 stroy, sing - ing sor - row in - to joy.

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 Please sing a verse after each prayer petition.

For the Wholeness of the Earth

ACS# 1067

1 We lift this prayer for the whole-ness of the earth. We lift this
2 We turn our lives to the whole-ness of the earth. We turn our
3 Give thanks to God for the whole-ness of the earth. Give thanks to

prayer for the whole-ness of the earth. We lift this prayer for the
lives to the whole-ness of the earth. We turn our lives to the
God for the whole-ness of the earth. Give thanks to God for the

whole-ness of the earth. Can you feel it ris - ing in you?
whole-ness of the earth. Can you feel it spin - ning in you?
whole-ness of the earth. Can you feel it ris - ing in you?

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 – *Thank you*



OFFERTORY: CHOIR

Springs of Water

Music & Text: Marty Haugen, Refrain tr. from The Roman Missal; Refrain trans. © 1973, ICEL; verses © 1994, GIA Publications, Inc.

OFFERTORY

For the Fruit of All Creation, verse 2

ELW# 679

2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.

In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.

In our world-wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,

in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.

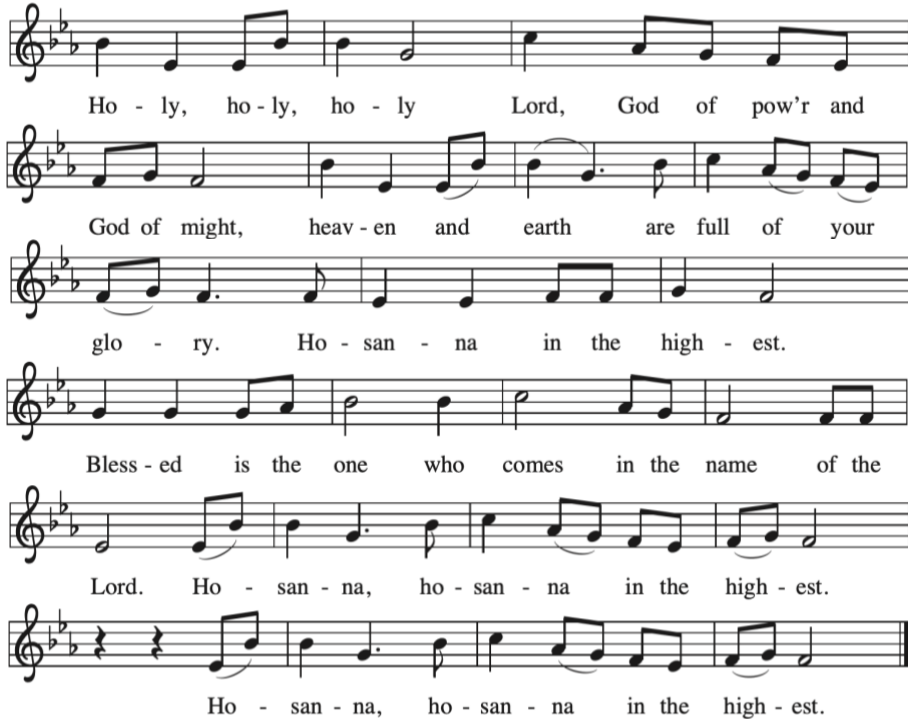
OFFERING PRAYER O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.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



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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

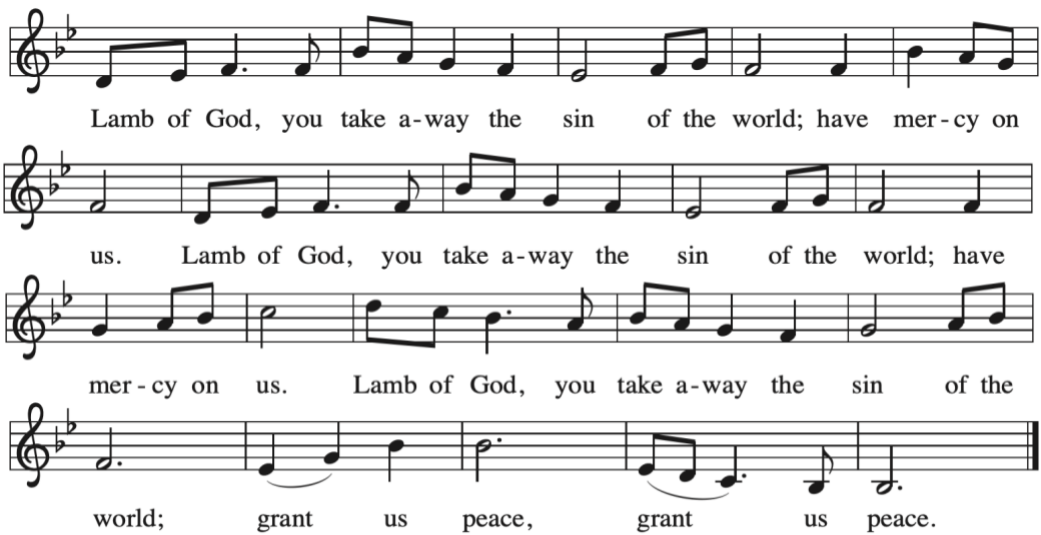
LORD'S PRAYER Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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 The gifts of creation for God's beloved creatures.

Come and share. All are welcome.



Oh, Worship the King

ELW# 842

How Marvelous God's Greatness

ELW# 830

TABLE BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING Creator God bless you and keep you. Creating Christ shine through you with grace and mercy. Creative Spirit nourish you and give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Crashing Waters at Creation

ELW# 455

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Flourish with creation. **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: Scooby, Pr. Dorothy, Butch, Tom, Gordy, Paul, Jean, Dan, Fred, Megan, Ellen, Steven, Gary, Chuck, Ron, Nadia, Mary, Ruth, Hudson, Wilson, Logan, Nel, Jim, Kyle, Cliff, Ryan, Alexandra W, Dan, Leslie, Shannon, Dale, Adeline, Sue, Jim, Wendy, Fred, Harry, Scooby, Larry, Caleb, Jake, Laurie, Mike, Tedd, Matthew, Rick & Betsy, Gordon, Ross, Anna, Archer, Sharon, Mary, Debbie, Leanne, Addy, Deb, Kyle, Gerilyn, Wally, Ralph, Sue.

***Call the church office or Pastor if you have a prayer need: we can 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: Mark Ongalo, Jen Fredrickson, Anna & Jim De Foe



LECTORS FOR OCTOBER
4 OCT. JOHN ELOFSON
11 OCT. CHRIS CULBERT
18 OCT. MARY TROUTWINE
25 OCT. CONFIRMATION STUDENTS



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS, SUNDAY, SEPT. 27th, 2026

WELCA NEWS *The area **WELCA Fall Gathering** is here **Thurs., Oct. 8th**. Registration is at **9am**, with a silent auction, lunch, Habitat for Humanity presentation, worship & communion. Auction proceeds go to the LSS Youth Foyer. **RSVP is preferred by Oct. 1st**, childcare available- call the church office.

WELCA FALL FEST New this year: **If you create handmade crafts, you are invited to reserve a table at the Fall Fest to sell your items, register with Pastor Liz!** Also included will be the Quilter's Corner, Bake Shop, Coffee & Lunch by Youth. It will take place Saturday, **Oct. 24th 9am-2pm**.

LIFT ADULT STUDY This is an **open invitation to all** for the Adult Bible Study taking place during LIFT. Dinner is at 6pm, a short Worship to follow, then the Study (6:45). Gethsemane Lutheran will host for 9/30, 10/7, 10/21 and OSLC will host for 10/28, 11/4, 11/11, 11/18.

BOOK STUDY GROUP! Join us as we study a wonderful classic titled, *"Falling Upward."* Our next meeting is on **OCT. 15TH, @ 12pm** in the Fireside Room (then Oct. 29th).

BIBLE STUDY The WELCA Bible Study will be this **Tues., Oct. 6th & 20th @ 1pm** in the Fireside Room. Also, Fun-duh-mentals Bible Study takes place **Oct. 6th & 20th at 4pm** in the Fireside Room.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS Pastor will be blessing your animals- present or at home- on **Sunday, Oct. 4th** as we continue to celebrate our Season of Creation – mark the date! *If your pet is sick, shy or cranky around other animals, bring a picture of them to worship for the blessing!*

WORSHIP SPONSORSHIP Today's Livestream is sponsored by **Tom Klabecek, in loving memory of wife Jarie. Thank you for your support.** To sponsor Livestream & TV Broadcasts in honor of a person or special event (wedding annivers., birthday, graduation etc..) or in memory of a loved one, you may do so in any amount- It helps maintain our sound/camera equipment.

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Fall Festival
OCTOBER 24th 9am - 2pm

Quilter's Corner
quilts, aprons,
tote bags, table
runners, pot
holders, and
more!

**Handmade
craft
vendors!**
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN A BOOTH
FOR YOUR HOMEMADE PRODUCTS
CONTACT LIZ 218-780-8907

BAKE SALE
GIFT BASKETS
FOR RAFFLE

**COFFEE
AND LUNCH**
(for purchase)
to support
our youth

Proceeds go to support local charities, the community closet and our youth!

your pets need a blessing too

To start our *Season of Creation*, we are giving thanks for all that God has given us, and your pets are an important part of God's creation! You can bring your pet for Pastor to bless Sunday, Oct. 4th.



UPCOMING @OSLC MON. SEPT. 28 10:30AM AA 2 PM ORGAN PR. 6PM SCOUTS 7PM NA	TUES. SEPT. 29 10:30AM AA 2 PM ORGAN PR.	WED. SEPT. 30 9AM QUILTING 10:30AM AA 12-3PM C.CLOSET 3PM CHOIR 5:30PM ALANON 6PM LIFT @ GELC	THURS. OCT 1ST 10:30AM AA 2:30PM TOPS 7PM NA W.WING	FRI. OCT. 2ND 10:30AM AA 7PM NA	SAT. OCT. 3RD 10:30AM AA
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Choir is back !

PRACTICE WILL BE
WEDNESDAYS @ 3PM
FOR MORE DETAILS
PLEASE SEE JIM DE FOE.
YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN US!



FREE
COMMUNITY
BREAKFAST
OCTOBER 10TH
9AM-11:30AM



LIFT ADULT BIBLE STUDY

6 PM DINNER
6:30 WORSHIP
6:45 SMALL
GROUP
7-8 PM CLASS



WEDNESDAYS
DURING LIFT

You get a sneak peek at one of the passages for Sunday!
You model life-long learning for our youth!
You're a part of our churches collaborative work!



Unit 1 @ Gethsemane 9/30, 10/7, 10/21
Unit 2 @ Our Savior's 10/28, 11/4, 11/11, 11/18

Unit 3
12/2 - Messiah
12/9 - Our Savior's
12/16 - Gethsemane

Please register before 9/23
<https://forms.gle/FXnd4QgJEyNkb3wh7>



L.I.F.T. resumes **Wednesday, September 23**
with dinner and mini golf for all!
Join us at Greens on Fourteenth
6-8pm

Nightly Schedule
6-6:30 Dinner
6:30-6:45 Worship
6:45-7:05 Small Groups for all
7:05-7:55 Learning Groups

Youth Group - Grades 3-6
Confirmation
Sr. High Youth Group - Confirmed - 12
Adult Bible Study

COMMUNITY CLOSET PANTRY

Below are the following challenge items for the pantry.

You can buy what you desire & at the store that is most convenient for you; we just provide examples of most needed items for the week and give examples of spending \$10 or less.

We appreciate all donations!

1. SPAGHETTI SAUCE @ WALMART
24OZ JAR, \$1.97 EA.
2. JELLY @ WALMART, VARIOUS TYPES
18OZ JARS, \$1.98-\$2.53 EA. (WE HAVE ENOUGH PEANUT BUTTER AT THE MOMENT)
3. HEARTY SOUP @ WALMART
18OZ CANS, \$1.74-\$1.82 EA.
4. TUNAFISH @ WALMART
\$.96 FOR 5OZ CANS

THANK
YOU

[Read Matthew 21:23-32 on biblegateway.com](#)

²³When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?"

²⁴Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Devotion

In the first part of the gospel reading Jesus catches the religious leaders in their own trap. They want to know how Jesus dares to be so uppity as to teach and preach without their stamp of approval. And besides, he seems to speak for God instead of citing the proper authorities. Jesus just leaves them puzzled, but the people sensed that he spoke with the voice of God. The people could feel God asking them to trust God's love and grace, so they followed. Jesus' teaching didn't fit some safe pattern that the religious leaders expected. God's love is like that. It doesn't fit safe patterns, but it is abundant and free, and it comes to us out of pure grace. God asks us to trust this extravagant, forgiving grace as we love God, God's good creation, and all of God's people.

Prayer

Extravagant God Thank you! Amen.

Terrance L. Stratton '73 M.Div, '93 D.Min.Retired, Trego WI