

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH, 2026

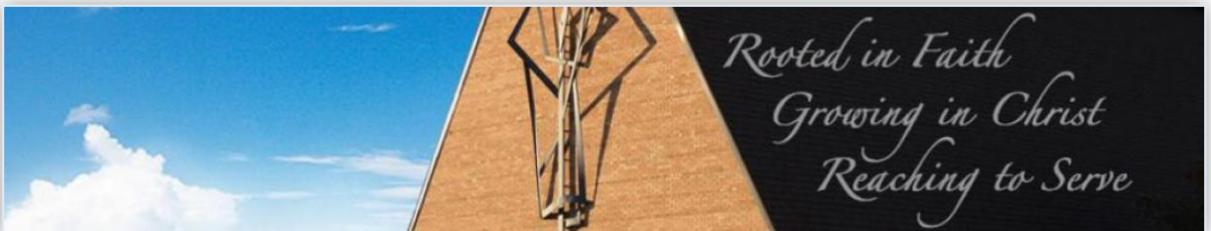
Creation in Christ Sunday



Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Virginia, MN

Pastor Liz Cheney



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth

ELW# 879

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

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu -
- ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1. Wor - thy is Christ, the
Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God
Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom and strength and hon - or, bles - sing and
glo - ry are his. This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2. Sing with all the
peo - ple of God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:
Bles - sing, hon - or, glo - ry and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er, A -
- men. 3. For the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign,
Al - le - lu - ia. This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. **tacet al fine**

PRAYER OF THE DAY O God, in whom we live and move and have our being, in Christ you created the worlds, and your Spirit breathes life into the universe. We praise you for your wondrous creation. Bless us and all your handiwork with your infinite light, and direct our lives to the care of this good earth, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING Genesis 1:1—2:4a

Lector, Judy Peliska

At the beginning of time, God the Creator, God the powerful Word, and God the life-giving Spirit form the earth and all its inhabitants. God sees that all this created work is good and then rests on the seventh day.

¹ When God began to create the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶ And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷ So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸ God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹ And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴ And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶ God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” ²¹ So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

²⁷ So God created humans in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” ²⁹ God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

^{2:1} Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. ² On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

^{4a} These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

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

PSALM Psalm 148 *Please respond with verses in bold print.*

¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.

² **Praise the LORD, all you angels;
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

³ Praise the LORD, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.

⁴ **Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.**

⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
who commanded, and they were created,

⁶ **who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;

⁸ **fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

⁹ mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;

- ¹⁰ **wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds;**
- ¹¹ **sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;**
- ¹² **young men and maidens,
old and young together.**
- ¹³ **Let them praise the name of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.**
- ¹⁴ **The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING Acts 17:22a, 24-28

In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the “unknown god” whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

^{22a} Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ²⁴ “The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

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: John 1:1-5. The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

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

SERMON

Pastor Liz Cheney



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 Starting with the first verse of the song below, *please sing 1 verse after each prayer petition.*

For the Wholeness of the Earth

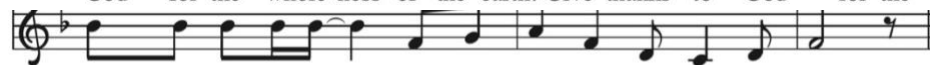
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1 We lift this prayer for the whole-ness of the earth. We lift this
2 We turn our lives to the whole-ness of the earth. We turn our
3 Give thanks to God for the whole-ness of the earth. Give thanks to



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:

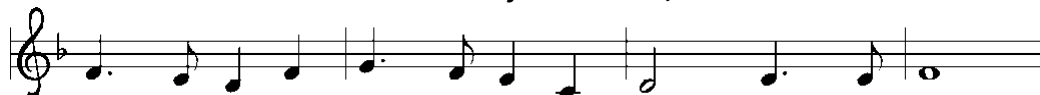
- + online links can be found by accessing our website at <https://www.oslcmn.com/>
- + Using the QR code found here:
- + Contacting the church office to set up regular automatic giving
- + Dropping off or mailing in your offering – *Thank you*



OFFERTORY

For the Fruit of All Creation, verse 2

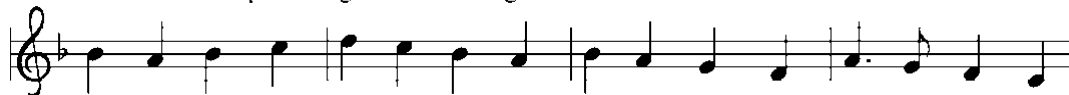
ELW# 679



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

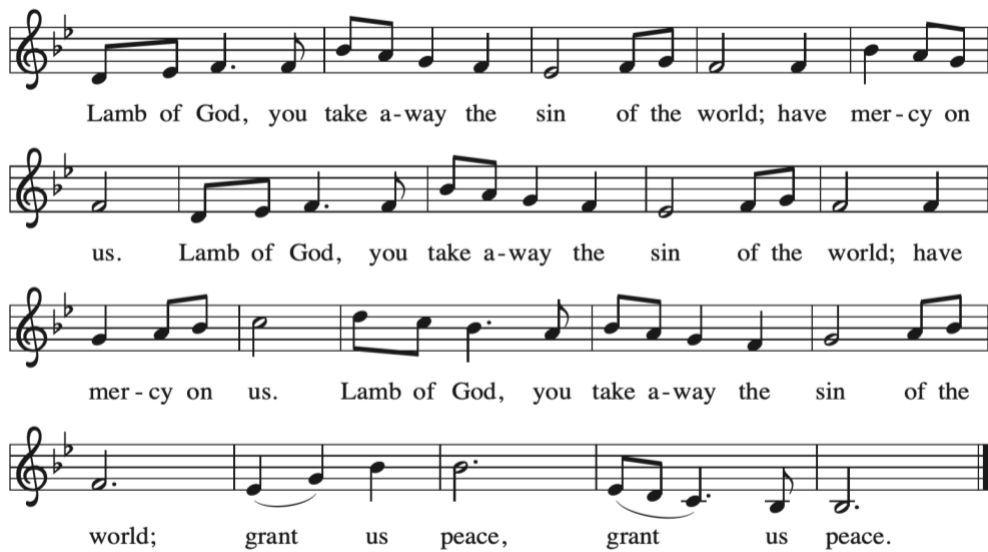
LORD'S PRAYER Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.



Blest Be the Tie That Binds
Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

ELW# 656
ELW# 808

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

Let All Things Now Living

ELW# 881

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Flourish with creation. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Jennifer Fredrickson, Pianist

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Living Water
 Season of Creation 2026

Immersion in Living Water
 EZEKIEL 47:9, 12

WE HOLD IN OUR PRAYERS

Please pray for people in need of comfort, hope, healing, or safe transition: Butch, Tom, Gordy, Paul, Jean, Ron, Dan, Fred, Megan, Ellen, Steven, Gary, Chuck, 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
Address: OSLC, 1111 8th St. South, Virginia, MN 55792
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



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS, SUNDAY, SEPT. 6TH, 2026

Creation in Christ Sunday

VLM NEWS Camp staff will be @ OSLC for a listening session of all area churches for ideas in camp programming etc.. We need your voice if you have been to camp, sent your children, or were a VLM delegate. VLM would love to have your input. The session is **Tues., Sept. 15th 6pm with Coffee An.'**

WELCA NEWS * An All-Women's **General Meeting** will be Sunday, **Sept. 20th** after worship in the Fireside Room. *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** is being planned with a quilters corner, bake shop, coffee & lunch by youth, and crafters can reserve a table to sell their handmade items - talk with Pastor Liz if interested. It takes place **Oct. 24th**.

GIFT FOR PR. LAURA @ MLC There is a small basket in the Fellowship Hall with hearts to write your name, name of family, or a farewell wish on it that will be sewn on a stole for Pr. Laura @ Messiah Lutheran. She will be working as *Asst. to the Bishop* at the Synod office.

BOOK STUDY GROUP! Join us as we study a wonderful classic titled, "*Falling Upward.*" We will meet on **Sept. 10th & 24th at 12pm** in the Fireside Room.

WELCA & Fun-Duh-Mentals BIBLE STUDY The WELCA Study will be held **Sept.15th @ 1pm**, and Fun-Duh-Mentals Bible Study will be **Sept. 15th @ 4pm**. Both studies are open & do not require you to be familiar with Bible Studies!

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.

<u>UPCOMING @OSLC</u>	<u>TUES. SEPT. 8</u>	<u>WED. SEPT. 9</u>	<u>THURS. SEPT. 10</u>	<u>FRI. SEPT. 11</u>	<u>SAT. SEPT.12</u>
<u>MON. SEPT.7</u> 10:30AM AA 2 PM ORGAN PR. 6PM SCOUTS 7PM NA	9:30AM WELCA MTG- FIRESIDE 10:30AM AA 2 PM ORGAN PR.	9AM QUILTING 10:30AM AA 12-3PM C.CLOSET 2 PM ORGAN PR. 5:30PM ALANON	10:30AM AA 12PM BOOK STUDY 2:30PM TOPS 3:30PM COUNCIL MTG 6PM CUB SCOUTS 7PM NA W.WING	10:30AM AA 7PM NA W.WING	9AM – 11:30AM OSLC FREE COMMUNITY BREAKFAST, AND COMM. CLOSET 10:30AM AA

All Children,
Students & Teachers:
Join us Sunday
Sept. 13th for
Blessing of the Backpacks
as you start the new year!



FREE
COMMUNITY
BREAKFAST
SAT. SEPT. 12
9AM-11:30AM



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.

