



OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

138 3RD ST. NW, VALLEY CITY, ND 58072 | (701) 845 - 1328 | OURSAVIORSVC.ORG

DECEMBER 3RD, 2023 + 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"COMFORT NOW"

10:30am

"Music by the Choir"

CALL TO WORSHIP

A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

Lift up your voice with strength, heralds of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the people:

"Here is your God!" His arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together.

Justice and righteousness will fill the land, and all will live in peace and safety.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation. **Amen.**

Long-expected God, enfold us in your loving arms as we prepare to confess our sin and receive your forgiveness...

Everlasting God...**we confess that we are often complacent when we are called to actively seek your face. We have turned away from your comfort, hope, and peace time and time again. We thought that we could go our own way and that we did not need you. We are focused on what we can get, instead of what we can give. We have been too concerned about what others will think of us. We have refused your blessing in favor of going our own way. We have missed out on opportunities to carry you to our neighbors and friends. We have made a mess of our lives and of our world. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.**

Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all. **Amen.**

HYMN:

"Hark, the Glad Sound!"

#239

GREETING (p. 203)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray...**Thank you, loving God, for speaking tenderly to us, your people. Open our eyes that we may behold your glory. We stand before you as a human family; may we all see your glory together. The kingdom of God is now at hand. Make us harbingers of your good news in this Advent Season. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE & ADVENT WREATH LITURGY

By the light of this second candle we receive your comfort now. By your Spirit, may all of the pain and sorrow that we carry be shouldered by this beloved community. We are not alone, for you are with us and we are with one another. Through the power of mutual aid, we have everything that we need. Our peace comes through our willingness to share the abundance that you have given to us. In Christ Jesus, we pray. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1 – 11

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Response: The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

8:30am**"Music by the Choir"****PSALM: Psalm 85:1 – 2, 8 – 13 (Read Responsively)**

¹You have been gracious to your land, O Lord; you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

²**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins.**

⁸I will listen to what the Lord God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

¹²The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness shall go before the Lord and shall prepare for God a pathway**

Response: The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" v.1****#257**

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

GOSPEL READING: Mark 1:1 – 8

The Holy Gospel according to Mark 1: 1- 8. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Response: This is the gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN:

"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

#256

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – APOSTLES' CREED (p. 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 THE PEOPLE

SHARING OF THE PEACE

THANKSGIVING FOR OFFERING AND PRAYER

OFFERING HYMN:

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

#294

HOLY COMMUNION (p. 206)

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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING (p.206)

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and all places....we praise your name, and joint their unending hymn:

SANCTUS (p. 207)

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (p.207)

LORD'S PRAYER (p. 208)

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.

COMMUNION HYMN (p. 208)

“Lamb of God”

- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
 you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray.
- 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.
- 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
 eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION

POST COMMUNION PRAYER (p. 208)

BLESSING (p. 209)

HYMN:

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

#264

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OUR SAVIOR'S

LUTHERAN CHURCH

138 3rd St NW
Valley City, ND, 58072

Connect with us!

oursaviorsvc.org

Church Office Phone: 701-845-1328

Facebook: @OurSaviorsValleyCity

YouTube: "OSLC Valley City"

TikTok: @oursaviorsvcnd

Pastor Kyle Symanski
(708)476-8712

klsymanski@gmail.com

Organists

Judy Karch and Tricia Lebahn

Office Coordinator

Brenda Skramstad

oursaviorsvc@outlook.com

Executive Committee

Mike Strom, President

Margaret Dahlberg, Vice President

Tara Anderson, Secretary

Janet Brown, Treasurer



GIVE ONLINE

We, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, welcome all to share Christ's love, grow in faith, and to live a life of service glorifying God.

The Christmas Story Study | Sundays (12/3, 12/10 & 12/17) at 9:40 a.m. in the Conference Room – Dive deeper into the characters and events of the Christmas story each Sunday in Advent in between worship services. Grab your coffee and treats and gather in the conference room for this time of growth and reflection.

16th Annual "Sounds of the Season" Brown Bagger Series listen to Christmas music on your lunch hour from 12:10-12:50pm. So, bring your lunch if you haven't had it yet or just come to listen to the music of the holiday season and enjoy provided refreshments. Wednesday, December 6th features performer is yet to be determined. Wednesday, December 13th, will feature Faye Bubach. Wednesday, December 20th will feature Beth Quick Berge. These listening opportunities will be held in the sanctuary of Our Savior's Lutheran Church located at 138 3rd St. N.W. in Valley City.

The Community Closet will be having an opening from 5 - 7 p.m. on Monday, December 11th. Volunteers are needed to help set up on Sunday, December 10 from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. and to clean up on Monday, December 12th at 7:00 p.m.

OSLC and the Kiwanis Club Valley City are sponsoring a 'Giving Tree' to help families in Barnes County. To participate, take a tag off the Giving Tree located in the gathering area at OSLC. Purchase the items, wrap them, put the tag back on the gift and return to OSLC by December 15th. These gifts will then be distributed to local families before the holidays. With questions, contact Tara Anderson 701-740-4849 or Allison Swenson 701-367-5117.

Our Savior's is hosting a Vitalant Blood Drive at the AmericInn on December 18th from 1:45 to 6:00 and December 19th from 8:00 to 12:30. Volunteers are needed to donate and to serve as receptionists. To schedule an appointment, one can go to <http://www.vitalant.org>. To volunteer as receptionists, please call Ruth Larson at 845-4257.

Want a quick and easy way to support the mission and ministry of OSLC? Visit oursaviorsvc.org and click the blue "GIVE" button or, call or stop by the church office to complete a Simply Giving Form to set up a recurring donations to OSLC today. Recurring gifts allow us to share God's love with neighbors near and far week in and week out. Thank You!

Our Savior's Lutheran Church Sunday School Christmas Program is December 10th at 10:30am- "See the Christ in Christmas."

Please join us for these Advent and Christmas opportunities:

12/10 @ 10:30 a.m. - Sunday School Christmas Program

12/20 from 5 - 7 p.m. - Christmas Light Scavenger Hunt and Cocoa Drive Thru

12/24 @ 9:30 a.m. - Casual Christmas Eve Worship. Wear your ugly sweaters, pajamas or both and enjoy a fun, family service with hot cocoa and Holy Communion.

12/24 @ 3 and 5 p.m. - Traditional Christmas Eve Worship

12/25 @ 9:30 a.m. - Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion

12/31 @ 9:30 a.m. - Worship with Holy Communion

Community Christmas Eve Dinner St. Catherine's Church-December 24 @ 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Dinner will be served from 5:30pm to 7pm. All are welcome as well as your desserts. For questions or to volunteer please call: Jessica Storhoff at 701-845-0354. If you need transportation: Call 845-0556 from 1 PM to 4 PM only on December 24. Financial Donations can be mailed to: St. Catherine Church
Attn: Christmas Eve Dinner 540 3rd Ave NE Valley City, N.D. 58072

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. To that end, be alert and persevere in praying for all the Lord's people." (Ephesians 6:18). This week we hold these people of

Our Savior's in prayer, as well as those concerns close to our hearts: Cameron Lentz; Mike & Kathy Lentz; Ryan & Missy Leroux, Mackenzie, Lexi, Bailey; Sandy Ley; Jarrod & Danielle Lindemann, Oakely, Cru, Indee, Wrenley; Susan Lloyd; Robert & Beverly Loken.

December 3-10

TODAY 8:30 a.m. Worship
8:30 a.m. Facebook Live
9:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
9:30 a.m. Sunday School-Christmas Program Practice
10:30 a.m. Worship
11:00 a.m. Radio Broadcast
MON: 11:50 a.m. Sr. High Lunch
TUES: 9:00 a.m. Ministerial meeting
9:00 a.m. Quilters
1:30 p.m. Text Study
WED: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study
12:05 p.m. Christmas Music
6:30 p.m. Confirmation @ Our Savior's Lutheran
SAT: 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Fellowship
NEXT SUN: 8:30 a.m. Worship
8:30 a.m. Facebook Live
9:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship/Sunday school
10:30 a.m. Worship-Sunday School Christmas Program
11:00 a.m. Radio Broadcast

Mission Support

January-October 2023

Year To Date Income	\$265,475.23
Year To Date Expense	219,705.00
YTD Income over Expense	45,770.23
A week of OSLC ministry:	\$7,116.00
General Fund Offering:	\$14,792.13

2021-2024 Growing in Grace Capital Appeal



\$830,680.00 Total Pledged
By 125 Households
through June 4, 2023

\$726,767.02 Total Given
through November 27, 2023