



# OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

138 3rd Street NW, Valley City, ND 58072

(701) 845 - 1328 | oursaviorsvc.org

DECEMBER 1ST, 2024 + 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP (\*please stand)

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:

**“My Lord, What a Morning”**

**#438**

### CHILDREN’S MESSAGE & ADVENT WREATH LITURGY

By the light of this 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.**

### ADVENT HYMN:

**“ Savior of the Nations Come” (v.1 )**

**#263**

**FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16**

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**"Advent Carol"**

**OSLC CHOIR**

**PSALM: 25:1-10** (*Read Responsively*)

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD, lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

<sup>10</sup>**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

**SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. <sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup>And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: (\*please stand)** "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.**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter...***Glory to you, O Lord.***

**GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36**

[Jesus said:] <sup>25</sup>"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." <sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig

tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>34</sup>“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup>like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.” The gospel of our Lord.

*Response: Praise to you, O Christ.*

## **SERMON**

### **HYMN:**

**“Wake, Awake for Night is Flying”**

**#436**

## **INSTALLATION OF PASTOR RICH KRAMER – SEE INSERT**

### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

### **THANKSGIVING FOR OFFERING AND PRAYER**

**(offering plates are located on the table at the back of the sanctuary)**

### **OFFERING HYMN:**

**“Wait for the Lord” (sing 3 times)**

**#262**

*Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.  
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!*

### **HOLY COMMUNION (p. 144)**

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.144)**

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy...we join their unending hymn:

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow’r and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

### **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 HYMNS**

**“Lamb of God”**

**p. 146**

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.*

**“People Look East” #249**

**“Light One Candle to Watch for the Messiah” #240**

**DISTRIBUTION**

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER (\*Please Stand)**

**p. 146**

**BLESSING**

God of endings and beginnings,  
God in the darkness and the light,  
God, our hope for the journey,  
bless and keep you now and forever.  
Amen.

**HYMN**

**“Christ be our Light”**

**#715**

**SENDING (p. 146)**

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

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# OUR SAVIOR'S

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Valley City, ND, 58072

Connect with us!  
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**Organists**  
Judy Karch and Tricia Lebahn

**Executive Committee**  
Margaret Dahlberg, President  
Travis Peterson, 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.**

**Today's Radio Broadcast** is in memory of Keith Olson, given by Cheryl Olson, Jeremy Olson and family, and Jeri Olson and family.

**We will once again enjoy the "Sounds of the Season" concerts** on Wednesdays during December (Dec 4, 11 and 18), from 12:10 - 12:50 in the church sanctuary. During this busy month, take time each week to relax over your lunch hour with some Christmas music. This year the programs will be streamed on Facebook, so you can listen from your workplace or home if you can't get to the church for the concert. Judy Karch will be the featured performer this Wednesday, 12/4. Bring your lunch or just come to listen to the music of the holiday season and enjoy provided refreshments.

**Property Manager Position at OSLC** After a number of years, Bobby Koeplin has decided to retire, effective Dec.31, 2024. We appreciate his dedicated service to Our Savior's. We are currently searching for a replacement. This position manages OSLC's apartments and parsonages, along with supporting the infrastructure needs of our church home. Please contact LouVay White, Margaret Dahlberg, or Pastor Nicholas if you would like more information.

**Beginning in January, we will use a slightly different offering envelope strategy.** If you currently receive offering envelopes in the mail, you will now receive them bimonthly (every 2 months) instead of monthly. If you give online but still receive envelopes in the mail, please let the office know if you would like to opt out of the envelope mailing.

**Get started with our new church directory!** Access the directory digitally through the app or online with your email, or fill out a hard copy submission form with your details. Sign ups are also available for hard copies of the directory which are now being distributed. Visit the Directory table for more information.

**St Catherine Church is holding their 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Christmas Eve Dinner** in their dining hall Dec 24<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm to 7pm. It is open to all. Desserts are welcome, no salads, please. For questions or to volunteer, please call Deacon Tom Vanorny at 701-210-0640. If you need transportation, call 845-0354 by 3:00 pm on Monday, Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>. **Donations can be mailed to St Catherine Church, attn: Christmas Eve Dinner, 540 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave NE, Valley City, ND 58072.**

**The Hi-Liner Food Pantry**, serving VCHS students and families, continues to collect donations in the tote near the welcome center. To donate to the Bridges Backpack Program, please make your check out to and mail to: **Bridges Backpack Program, Inc., 674 10th Ave SW, Valley City, ND 58072**. Suggested donations include: canned chicken or tuna, cereal, pancake mix, syrup, peanut butter, canned ravioli, Spaghetti O's, and granola bars.

**The Community Closet** will have an opening on Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup> from 5-7p.m. Volunteers are needed to help set up on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6 p.m. and to help take down on Monday beginning at 7p. No need to sign up, just show up. Any and all help is appreciated.

**Coffee and Fellowship Hosts**: Hosts are needed for our fellowship times following worship on Sunday mornings. Hosting can be as simple as making sure the coffee is on and running and providing a light treat. You can sign up on the clipboard on the counter in the Gathering Room and be in touch with Pr. Nicholas with questions.

**Vitalant Blood Drive - Sponsored by OSLC**: Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup> from noon - 6:00 p.m. and Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. – noon, at the Americinn (280 Wintershow Road). Contact Vitalant at (877)258-4825 code to register to donate. Volunteers are needed to serve as hosts/receptionists. Contact Ruth Larson at 840-2913 to volunteer.

### **A look ahead at the week of December 1st – December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

TODAY:           9:00 a.m. | Worship  
                      9:00 a.m. | Facebook Worship Livestream  
                      10:00 a.m. | Coffee & Fellowship, Welcome Pastor Rich Kramer  
                      11:00 a.m. | KOVC 1490 AM/96.3 FM Radio Broadcast

TUES:             9:00 a.m. | Good Samaritan Quilters  
                      1:30 p.m. | Pastor's Text Study

WED:             9:30 a.m. | Bible Study  
                      12:10 – 12:50 | Sounds of the Season concert

SAT:               7:30 a.m. | Men's Bible Fellowship

SUN (12/8):      8:05 a.m. | Choir Rehearsal  
                      9:00 | Sunday School Christmas Program/Worship  
                      9:00 a.m. | Facebook Worship Livestream  
                      10:00 a.m. | Coffee & Fellowship  
                      11:00 a.m. | KOVC 1490 AM/96.3 FM Radio Broadcast

## **INSTALLATION OF PASTOR RICH KRAMER**

R: Christian friends, today we give thanks to God for the ministry that God has given to the people of Our Savior's Lutheran Church. We ask God's guidance as this new part of the journey, this interim time, begins. Let us pray together.

**C: Gracious God, you have blessed and sustained us for many years and have given us this life together in the Christian community of this congregation. Be with us now, we pray, as we enter this in-between time. Bless us and guide us as we prepare for the next stage in this congregation's life. Give us courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and service to others, through Jesus the Christ. Amen**

K: I have been chosen by your leaders as your interim pastor, to be God's servant among you during this special time until you call your next pastor. I pledge to you my commitment as a minister of the Gospel among you: I will pray for you, listen to you, assist you in the tasks of this transition period, encouraging and challenging you as we move through this time together.

**C: And we, the people of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, receive you as a servant of God and pledge our partnership as we continue to use the gifts God has given us, in the many ministries of the Gospel in this place: in worship, education, witness, service, and stewardship.**

K: May God bless us and lead us as together we embark on this interim journey. And may we view this time as a time of learning and growth as God's Spirit instructs us and prepares us for the future mission and ministry of the church in this place.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

R: Our Executive Council has met with Pastor Rich Kramer and we have agreed to an interim time of ministry for our congregation. We now publicly recognize this ministry among us and heartily welcome him/her in our midst.

Pastor Rich, in the presence of this congregation, will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility and promise to discharge your duties in harmony with the constitutions of the church; will you preach and teach in accordance with the Holy Scripture and the Confessions of the Lutheran Church; will you love, serve, and pray for God's people; will you nourish them with the Word and Holy Sacraments, leading them by your own example in the use of the means of grace, in faithful service and holy living?

K: I will and I ask God to help me.

R: And you, people of God, will you receive this messenger of Jesus Christ, sent by God to serve God's people with the Gospel of hope and salvation? Will you regard him as a servant of Christ and a steward of the mysteries of God? Will you pray for him, help and honor him for his work's sake, and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

**C: We will.**

R: By your statements of commitment and the affirmation of this congregation, we welcome you as interim pastor of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**