



OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

138 3rd Street NW, Valley City, ND 58072

(701) 845 - 1328 | oursaviorsvc.org

DECEMBER 22ND, 2024 + 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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:

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

#265

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE & ADVENT WREATH LITURGY

By the light of this candle, we receive your peace now. May it be a peace which surpasses our understanding because it makes no sense at all. Despite our circumstances, may your love illuminate our pathways. May Jesus walk with us in the hills and valleys of our lives. And when we find our way, may we send up a light for others to follow. You have called us favored ones and so we are. Amen.

ADVENT HYMN:

“ Savior of the Nations Come” (v.3)

#263

FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ^{5a} and he shall be the one of peace.

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Mary, Did You Know?”

OSLC CHOIR

PSALM: Luke 1:46b-55 (*Read Responsively*)

^{46b} My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, ⁴⁷ my spirit rejoices in ¹ God my Savior,

⁴⁸ **for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed:**

⁴⁹ you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.

⁵⁰ **You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.**

⁵¹ You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit,

⁵² **casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.**

⁵³ You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ **You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy,**

⁵⁵ the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children forever.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; ⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷ Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’ (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

⁸ When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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 1st chapter...**Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-55

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my

Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.” ⁴⁶ And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

Response: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN: “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” #254

BAPTISM OF FRANKIE SLOANE STEARNS p. 227

BAPTISMAL HYMN: “Jesus Loves Me!” #595

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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. 145)

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.

"Away in a Manger" #277

"Eat this Bread" #472

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

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

#290

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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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 Lloyd & Erna Anderson's anniversary, given by their family.

The pink rose on the altar today is given in honor of Frankie Sloan Stearns by her parents, Kelli and Ty Stearns, Grandparents Brian and Lori Heath, John Stearns, Mary Stearns and Great-grandparents Phyllis Hook and Brenda Stearns.

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. **Bobby has put together an operations manual to guide the new person when they assume this role.** Please contact LouVay White, Margaret Dahlberg, or Pastor Nicholas if you would like more information.

Use of Lower Level the kitchen and lower level gathering space is inaccessible and under construction. OSLC is currently able to host coffee and bars only in the Gathering Space and limited to 50 people until construction is completed.

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.

St Catherine Church is holding their 52nd Annual Christmas Eve Dinner in their dining hall Dec 24th, 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 23rd. **Donations can be mailed to St Catherine Church, attn: Christmas Eve Dinner, 540 3rd 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.

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.

Sponsorships of Radio Broadcasts: It is time to sign up for sponsorships of 2025 worship broadcasts on KOVC. Please contact Ann Ripplinger in the office to reserve your special dates. We thank all of you in advance who give to support this mission.

Sunday Worship Greeters needed: There is a sign-up sheet on the counter near the Missionary Calendar bulletin board in the hallway. If you are interested, please stop by and sign up.

Christmas Eve Services this year will be at 3 pm and 5pm and the Christmas Day Service will be at 10:00 am

A look ahead at the week of December 22nd – December 29th, 2024

TODAY: 8:05 am | Choir Rehearsal
 9:00 am | Worship
 9:00 am | Facebook Worship Livestream
 10:00 am | Coffee & Fellowship
 11:00 am | KOVC 1490 AM/96.3 FM Radio Broadcast

MON – WEDS: Church Office is closed, limited building hours. Please contact the Pastors for access.
 Building will be open 1 hour before each service on Tuesday and Wednesday.

TUES: 3:00 pm & 5:00 pm | Christmas Eve Worship
 3:00 pm | Facebook Worship Livestream

WED: 10:00 am | Christmas Day Worship
 10:00 am | Facebook Worship Livestream

SAT: 7:30 am | Men's Bible Fellowship

SUN (12/29): 8:05 am | Choir Rehearsal
 9:00 am | Worship
 9:00 am | Facebook Worship Livestream
 10:00 am – 10:45 | Coffee & Fellowship
 11:00 am | Baptism with Reception to Follow in Gathering Room
 11:00 am | KOVC 1490 AM/96.3 FM Radio Broadcast