



# OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

138 3rd Street NW, Valley City, ND 58072

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JANUARY 26TH, 2025 + 3RD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

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## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (\*please stand)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. **Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Merciful God, **you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God. **Amen.**

### HYMN:

"Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

#886

### GREETING

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.**

### KYRIE (*Read Responsively*)

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;

for this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;

that we may live out truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;

for life and for love, for our work and our play, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word;

that you nourish our souls with your body and blood, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy. Amen.**

### HYMN OF PRAISE:

"Glory to God"

p. 139

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth...

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us Pray...Blessed Lord God, **you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **FIRST READING: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10**

<sup>1</sup> All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. <sup>2</sup> Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. <sup>3</sup> He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. <sup>5</sup> And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. <sup>6</sup> Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. <sup>8</sup> So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. <sup>9</sup> And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. <sup>10</sup> Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

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

### **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a**

<sup>12</sup> For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. <sup>14</sup> Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup> If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup> But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup> If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many members, yet one body. <sup>21</sup> The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." <sup>22</sup> On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup> and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; <sup>24</sup> whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, <sup>25</sup> that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup> If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. <sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. <sup>28</sup> And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup> Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup> Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31a</sup> But strive for the greater gifts.

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

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 4th chapter...*Glory to you, O Lord.*

**GOSPEL: Luke 4:14-21**

<sup>16</sup> When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: <sup>18</sup> “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, <sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” <sup>20</sup> And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup> Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

*Response: Praise to you, O Christ.*

**SERMON**

**HYMN:**

**“Christ, be Our Light”**

**#715**

**APOSTLE’S 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**

*Response: God of grace, hear our prayer.*

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**THANKSGIVING FOR OFFERING AND PRAYER**

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

**OFFERING HYMN:**

**“Create in Me a Clean Heart”**

**#186**

**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.*

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**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.

**DISTRIBUTION**

**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.*

**"One Bread, One Body" #496**

**"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" #843**

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

**p. 146**

**BLESSING**

The Spirit of the triune God † bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.  
**Amen.**

**HYMN**

**"The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve"**

**#551**

**SENDING (p. 146)**

Go in peace. Live in hope. **Thanks be to God!**

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LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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 given in loving memory of Gayle Hanson and to honor her birthday by her daughter, Brenda Hanson-Hull & son-in-law Jamie Hull.

**Our Savior's Congregational Annual Meeting:** Will be held today at 10:00 am in the sanctuary. Please grab a cup of coffee and join in the conversation.

**You are invited to join a Synod-Wide Bible Study on the Book of Ruth!** It is sponsored by the Eastern North Dakota Synod of the ELCA and will be held via Zoom. Facilitated by Dr. Michael Chan, it will be **Sunday afternoons 2:00 to 3:15 p.m., January 12 to February 2.** To join in, please go to: [www.eandsynod.org/events/synod-wide-bible-study](http://www.eandsynod.org/events/synod-wide-bible-study). Meeting ID is 820 8387 7755, Passcode is 731178. The book of Ruth is a remarkable narrative of loyalty, resilience, and faithfulness - and how God is present though it all.

**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.

**Do you enjoy visiting with people on an individual basis?** Are you comfortable at care facilities and in another's home? Do you like to talk....and listen? Not afraid to pray with someone? If you affirm any of these you could be part of a Caring Ministry Team at Our Saviors! This can be a great way you can have a positive impact on, and be Jesus' presence for, someone. Even a faint amount of interest counts. Guidance and training provided. Please contact, or talk with, Pastor Rich.

**Our church council has worked with the congregations in the Kathryn-Nome-Fingal parish** to help support their worship and ministry during this period when they are without a pastor. As of January 1, 2025, our pastors are providing pulpit support three Sundays per month plus visitation for members of the parish who are in care facilities. This means that, three Sundays each month, the pastor who preaches at our 9:00 service then drives to Kathryn, Nome, or Fingal to lead worship there at 11:15. We have a six-month trial contract so we can see how

this works for everyone involved; since we are blessed with two pastors at OSLC, it's great that we are able to share resources and support each other during this time of transition.

**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.

**Missionary Calendar and Radio Broadcasts**: As we begin a new year, please take a moment to sign up to sponsor days on the Missionary Calendar and/or a radio broadcast. Just give Ann in the church office a call. If you reserved radio broadcasts in previous years, please confirm that you would like to continue to do so in 2025.

**Altar Committee**: The Altar Committee is looking for a couple more volunteers who would set up communion for Sunday worship. Please contact Ruth Nathan for more information or if you would like to help out.

### **A look ahead at the week of January 26<sup>th</sup> – February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025**

TODAY:           9:00 am | Worship  
                      9:00 am | Facebook Worship Livestream  
                      10:00 am | Sunday School  
                      10:00 am | Annual Congregational Meeting in the Sanctuary  
                      11:00 am | KOVC 1490 AM/96.3 FM Radio Broadcast

TUES:             9:00 am | Quilters  
                      10:30 am | Staff Meeting  
                      1:30 pm | Pastors' Text Study

WEDS:            9:30 am | Bible Study  
                      6:30 pm | Confirmation  
                      8:00 pm | Sr High Group

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

SUN (2/2):        9:00 am | Worship  
                      9:00 am | Facebook Worship Livestream  
                      10:00 am | Sunday School  
                      10:00 am | Coffee and Fellowship  
                      11:00 am | KOVC 1490 AM/96.3 FM Radio Broadcast