



OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

138 3rd Street NW, Valley City, ND 58072

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SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2025 + 14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (*please rise in body and/or spirit)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Merciful and loving God, **we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.**

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ☩ Jesus, your sins are forgiven! **Amen.**

HYMN:

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

#807

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

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, **you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Exodus 32:7-14

While Moses is on Mount Sinai, the people grow restless and make a golden calf to worship. Today's reading shows Moses as the mediator between an angry God and a sinful people. Moses reminds God that the Israelites are God's own people, and boldly asks for mercy for them.

⁷ The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸ they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' " ⁹ The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰ Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation." ¹¹ But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³ Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' " ¹⁴ And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

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

PSALM: Psalm 51:1-10 (read responsively)

- ¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
² **Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**
³ For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.
⁴ **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**
⁵ Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.
⁶ **Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.**
⁷ Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.
⁸ **Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.**
⁹ Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.
¹⁰ **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

The letters to Timothy and Titus are called the pastoral epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.

¹² I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³ even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those

who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: (*please rise in body and/or spirit)

p. 142

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 15th chapter...**Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-10

Jesus tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that their recovery brings joy in heaven.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. ⁸ "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

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

SERMON

HYMN:

"Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling"

#608

APOSTLE'S CREED (*please rise in body and/or spirit)

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, receive 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:

“As the Grains of Wheat”

#465

HOLY COMMUNION

p. 107

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.108

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 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. 112

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.114

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.

"O Christ, Our Light, O Radiance True" #675

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us” #789

POST COMMUNION PRAYER(*please rise in body and/or spirit)

p. 114

BLESSING

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

#779

SENDING

p.115

Go in peace. Do not lose heart. **Thanks be to God.**

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Executive Committee

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Tara Anderson, Vice President

Sarah Wangrud, 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.

Our radio broadcast today is given by Carol Hochhalter in honor of office staff.

We are looking for someone to staff the office Friday, October 10th from 9am to 1pm and Monday, October 13th from 9 to noon. Ann will be on vacation those days. No office work is required, simply answer the phone and be a presence in the building. You are free to read a book, work on crafts or any other activity during that time. Please call the office if you are able to help us out those days.

The Jamestown Area Grief Support Team is hosting a Widow's Retreat October 10-12, 2025 at Maryvale Retreat Center in Valley City, ND. This retreat is an opportunity for any woman who has experienced the death of her husband, whether recently or in the past, to explore and deal with her grief in a relaxing and supportive atmosphere. For more information or to receive a brochure and registration form, please call or text Carol at 701-320-3801. If leaving a voice mail message, be sure to include your name and mailing address.

A Letter to the Congregation: The Church Council met on August 13th and has made some decisions regarding the path forward for staff. A letter has been mailed to all member households. In it are details about discussion sessions and a congregation meeting to be held at 10:15 on September 21st, immediately after the worship service. A discussion session was held last Sunday and will be held again today during the Coffee and Fellowship following the service. If you are unable to attend the discussion sessions, questions regarding the letter should be directed to Margaret Dahlberg (840-1206).

The Hi-Liner Food Pantry, serving VCHS students and families, continues to collect food donations in the tote in the Gathering Room. 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**

Senior High Lunches are being offered once again on Fridays, in the dining hall downstairs. Any students with open campus privileges during their lunch break are welcome. The meal is free. Contact Leslie Rohde (815-685-6628) if you would like to help.

The Backpack Program/Hi-Liner Pantry is asking for donations of individually wrapped snack items such as granola bars, crackers, cookies and chip – things the counselors can quickly grab, as they have many kids that utilize these snacks at school. They are also planning to add a "snack stash" for Jefferson and Washington Elementary Schools. These items can be dropped off in the tub located in the Gathering Room.

Honey Sundays are September 28th and October 5th. People can fill out the form and bring it with payment (\$10/bottle) to the table set up in the Gathering Room area after the service or drop it off at the church office during the week between. All proceeds from the sales go to the youth at the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch.

We're continuing a practice at Our Savior's to be mindful of our prayer for one another. Each week, staff will be praying for, and congregation members are encouraged to pray for families of the congregation, by name. This week we pray for the Betty Dallmann, Ken & Ila DeKrey, Evelyn Delmore, Melissa & Gerry Didier, and Derrell Diegel families. *"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone" 1 Timothy 2:1*

The Congregational Life Committee is organizing a potluck brunch on September 21st, following the Special Congregational Meeting. It is in celebration of the new kitchen. Everyone is welcome and there will be a free will offering. Church committee leaders will be providing the food. Be sure to stop by and check out the beautiful new kitchen and enjoy great fellowship.

A look ahead at the week of September 14th, 2025 – September 21st, 2025

TODAY: 9:00 am | Worship
9:00 am | Facebook Worship Livestream
10:15 am | Coffee & Fellowship, Discussion Session
10:15 am | Sunday School
11:00 am | KOVC 1490 AM/96.3 FM Radio Broadcast
11:15 am | Worship at Messiah (Fingal)

MON: 6:30 pm | PEO

TUES: 9:00 am | Quilters
1:30 pm | Text Study

WEDS: 9:30 am | Bible Study
6:30 pm | Confirmation (at Faith)
8:00 pm | Sr High

FRI: 12:00 pm | Sr High Lunch

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

SUN (9/21): 9:00 am | Worship
9:00 am | Facebook Worship Livestream
10:15 am | Special Congregational Meeting, Pot Luck to follow
10:15 am | Sunday School
11:00 am | KOVC 1490 AM/96.3 FM Radio Broadcast
11:15 am | Worship at St Paul's (Kathryn)

