



# OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

138 3rd Street NW, Valley City, ND 58072

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SEPTEMBER 21ST, 2025 + 15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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## 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:

**"Son of God, Eternal Savior"**

**#655**

### 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

God among us, **we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **FIRST READING: Amos 8:4-7**

*Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.*

<sup>4</sup> Hear this, you who trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, <sup>5</sup> saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier and practice deceit with false balances, <sup>6</sup> buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and selling the sweepings of the wheat." <sup>7</sup> The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

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

### **PSALM: Psalm 113:1-9 (read responsively)**

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD; praise the name of the LORD.

<sup>2</sup> **Let the name of the LORD be blessed, from this time forth forevermore.**

<sup>3</sup> From the rising of the sun to its going down let the name of the LORD be praised.

<sup>4</sup> **The LORD is high above all nations; God's glory above the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup> Who is like the LORD our God, who sits enthroned on high,

<sup>6</sup> **but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth?**

<sup>7</sup> The LORD takes up the weak out of the dust and lifts up the poor from the ashes,

<sup>8</sup> **enthroning them with the rulers, with the rulers of the people.**

<sup>9</sup> The LORD makes the woman of a childless house to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah!

### **SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-7**

*The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.*

<sup>1</sup> First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, <sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup> This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup> For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, <sup>6</sup> who gave himself a ransom for all —this was attested at the right time. <sup>7</sup> For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

*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 16<sup>th</sup> chapter...**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **GOSPEL: Luke 16:1-13**

*Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.*

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. <sup>2</sup> So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.' <sup>3</sup> Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup> I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' <sup>5</sup> So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' <sup>6</sup> He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' <sup>7</sup> Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' <sup>8</sup> And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. <sup>9</sup> And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes. <sup>10</sup> "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. <sup>11</sup> If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup> And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? <sup>13</sup> No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

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

## **SERMON**

### **HYMN:**

**"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"**

**#678**

### **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.*

"We Give Thee but Thine Own" #686

"As Saints of Old" #695

### 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

"Rise Up, O Saints of God!"

#669

### SENDING

p.115

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

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**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 James & Becky Verwey to support the outreach of the broadcast.

**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.

**We are looking for someone to staff the office on Monday, October 13<sup>th</sup> from 9 to noon.** Ann will be on vacation that day. 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.

**Special Meeting today after the worship service** regarding the path forward for staff. Please grab a cup of coffee and a treat and join us in the sanctuary.

**The Congregational Life Committee is organizing a potluck brunch** 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.

**Tricia Lebahn has retired as Our Savior's Choir Director.** We thank her for her 24 years of dedicated service in that capacity.

**Trinity Lutheran Church is presenting their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Murder Mystery Theater:** "Evil Never Dies" on October 5<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. Join them for an afternoon filled with suspense and dessert. Call 701-845-3837 to make your reservation. A free-will offering towards the WELCA Triennial Convention will be taken. See posters around Our Savior's Church for additional information.

**We begin a Stewardship emphasis in worship** on Sunday, September, 28<sup>th</sup>. Our theme for a number of weeks will be: What We Can Do: Responding to God's Generosity. Join us each Sunday as we think about what *is possible* for us to do for our community, the world, and our neighbors, in Jesus' name.

**Pastors attended the Fall Theological Conference for the Eastern North Dakota Synod** in early September. It was good to connect with colleagues as well as synod staff and leadership. Our speakers, Deacon Colleen Bernu and Pastor Beth Pottratz, offered presentations and led dialogue on the theme "Living Interconnected: Theology of the Cross in this Time of Disconnect." We were reminded that the church is called to bring Jesus' love into the world, not in a dominating or domineering

way, but in a humble spirit that reflects Jesus' message of through and compassion.

**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 28<sup>th</sup> and October 5<sup>th</sup>.** 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 Paul & Tanya Diegel, Mavis Dilts, Dallas & Kristen Dockter, Bradley Edin and Pat & Kathy Eddinger families. *"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone" 1 Timothy 2:1*

**A look ahead at the week of September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025 – September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

TODAY: 9:00 am | Worship  
9:00 am | Facebook Worship Livestream  
10:15 am | Sunday School  
10:15 am | Coffee & Fellowship, Special Congregational Meeting  
11:00 am | Celebratory Brunch in the basement immediately following the meeting  
11:00 am | KOVC 1490 AM/96.3 FM Radio Broadcast  
11:15 am | Worship at St Paul's (Kathryn)

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

WEDS: 9:30 am | Bible Study  
6:30 pm | Confirmation (at Faith)

FRI: 12:00 pm | Sr High Lunch

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

SUN (9/28): 9:00 am | Worship  
9:00 am | Facebook Worship Livestream  
10:15 am | Coffee & Fellowship  
10:15 am | Sunday School  
11:00 am | KOVC 1490 AM/96.3 FM Radio Broadcast

