



OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

138 3rd Street NW, Valley City, ND 58072

(701) 845 - 1328 | oursaviorsvc.org

FEBRUARY 1ST, 2026 + 4TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, [☩] one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters. **Amen.**

Mighty God, lover of justice, **you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God.** Amen.

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in [☩] Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

"Oh, Praise the Gracious Power"

#651

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.
And also with you."

KYRIE

p. 147

HYMN OF PRAISE

p. 148

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has "wearied" Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.

¹ Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ² Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the LORD has a case

against his people, and he will contend with Israel. ³ “O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.” ⁶ “With what shall I come before the LORD and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” ⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 15:1-5 (read responsively)

¹ LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?

² **Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right, who speak the truth from their heart;**

³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴ **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD. They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.

¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” ²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. ²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 5th chapter...**Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying: ³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

This is the gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN

“Let Streams of Living Justice”

#710

OFFERING PRAYER

God of majesty, **no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

OFFERING HYMN

“Give Thanks”

(see insert)

THANKSGIVING FOR OFFERING AND PRAYER

(offering plates are located on the table at the back of the sanctuary. The offering plates are brought forward during the singing of our offering hymn.)

APOSTLES CREED (*please rise in body and/or spirit)

p. 105

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Merciful God, receive our prayer.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

HOLY COMMUNION (Sung)

p. 152

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.153

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

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, 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. 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. 154

*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.*

*"Taste and See" #493
"Let Us Break Bread Together" #471*

DISTRIBUTION

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

Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise \pm bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN:

"To Be Your Presence"

#546

SENDING

p. 155

Go in peace. Do justice. Love Mercy

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.

Today's Radio Broadcast is given by Gigi and Tom Goven in memory of their mother, Carol.

Could you spare some time on Fridays to help with the Senior Lunch Program? Dessert—cookies, bars, brownies etc. for 90 are also needed. There is a sign-up sheet on the Information Counter. A thank you for your help is a free lunch that day! *11:45-1:30. Help as needed and Kitchen clean up *Providing treats (Please indicate how many)

The Missionary Calendar for 2026 has been posted. Be sure to stop by and sponsor a special day.

Radio Broadcasts in 2026 are available to sponsor. Please contact Ann in the office if you would like to help with this important outreach ministry. There are currently many Sundays open to sponsor. If you have a special Sunday in mind, please reserve it as soon as possible to ensure it is available. The cost to sponsor each Sunday broadcast is \$100.

Congregation-Wide Devotion

A new Congregation-wide Devotion has started using the book, "Praying the names of God: for 52 weeks", by Ann Spangler. In January and February, you can join the Wednesday Bible Study in-person or online to explore 5 of these names. Or you can use the resource for personal devotion throughout the year. (Zoom Mtg info: www.zoom.us/join, Meeting ID: 882 0486 0202, Passcode: 636901).

The 2nd Annual Klub Dinner at Trinity Lutheran Church, here in Valley City, will be held Saturday, February 14th, from 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm. All are welcome! Proceeds from this event will go towards Trinity Lutheran Church Ministries. See posters around the church for more details.

Burning of the Palms in preparation for Ash Wednesday will be at 3:30 on Tuesday, February 17th. Meet in the Gathering Room to determine the best outdoor location complete the process.

Epworth United Methodist Men's French Toast Brunch will be held Sunday, February 22nd, from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. Proceeds will be used to support Epworth's Youth Ministries. See posters around the church for details.

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**

Treasure Sale Donations: Please remember as you begin your spring cleaning that the WELCA ladies are having their annual treasure sale in early May. Items can be brought anytime, as we have storage space available. Holiday, household, children's toys and other gently used items are welcome. No adult clothing, please. Contact Ann in the office, LouVay White or Jan Stowman with any questions.

Former members of the congregation, Gary and Kathy Riedman, ask for your prayers as Gary enters hospice care in Fargo.

Red Willow Summer Camp is now open! Go to www.redwillowministries.com for details. Contact Kyla Fetsch with further questions.

Ann needs to take a week off, February 20th to the 26th, for a family member's medical procedure. Please contact the office if you are able to answer phones and be a presence in the building from 9am to 1pm on those days.

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 Susan Lloyd, Bob & Bev Loken, Richard Lorenz, Ryan Lorenz and Patricia Loven 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 February 1st to February 8th, 2026.

TODAY:	9:00 am Worship 9:00 am Facebook Worship Livestream 10:15 am Sunday School 11:00 am KOVC 1490 AM/96.3 FM Radio Broadcast
TUES:	9:00 am Quilters 9:00 am Ministerial Meeting 12:30 am Staff Meeting 1:30 pm Text Study
WEDS:	9:30 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Confirmation 8:00 pm Sr High Group
FRI:	12:00 pm Sr High Lunch
SAT:	7:30 am Men's Bible Fellowship
SUN (2/8):	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 F Radio Broadcast