



OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

138 3rd Street NW, Valley City, ND 58072

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**AUGUST 16th, 2026, 9:30 am + 12th SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST**

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN

"Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

#886

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, **we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

KYRIE

p. 147

SONG OF PRAISE

p. 148

GREETING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of all peoples, **your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Isaiah 56:1,6-8

The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.

¹ Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come and my deliverance be revealed. ⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it and hold fast my covenant—⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. ⁸ Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel: I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

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

PSALM: Psalm 67:1-7 (read responsively)

¹ May God be merciful to us and bless us; may the light of God's face shine upon us.

² **Let your way be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.**

³ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

⁴ **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.**

⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

⁶ **The earth has brought forth its increase; God, our own God, has blessed us.**

⁷ May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

SECOND READING: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable so that, while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.

[Paul writes:] ¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a} God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. ²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION(*please rise in body or spirit)

p. 151

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 15:10-28

Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.

[¹⁰ [Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand:¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." ¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" ¹³ He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." ¹⁶ Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."]

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶ He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷ She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

"All are Welcome"

#641

APOSTLES' CREED(*please rise in body or spirit)

p. 105

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*Each petition concludes: "...God of Grace, **hear our prayer.**"*

The final petition:

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

THANKSGIVING FOR OFFERING

(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.)

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **Amen.**

OFFERTORY HYMN

"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending" v.1

#678

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

p. 129

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.**

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

p. 153

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast! **Amen.**

COMMUNION HYMNS

"Lamb of God"

p. 154

"Here is Bread" #483

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand" #773

BLESSING FROM THE TABLE

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen.**

BLESSING(*please rise in body or spirit)

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“Oh, Praise the Gracious Power”

#651

DISMISSAL

This worship is ended; Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news! **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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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 in memory of Judy Karch by her family.

We welcome Michelle Watne, Synod Lay Minister, who is leading worship for Pr. Jared, while he is away on vacation this week. Thank you, Michelle! We are grateful for your presence with us this morning.

Radio Broadcasts: There are currently many Sundays open after October to sponsor. Please contact the office if you would like to help with this important outreach ministry. 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.

WELCA is hosting a Potluck on August 30, after worship at around 10:30am. Bring a dish to share! Stay after the potluck for a large group game of Bunco! We will also be saying Farewell and Godspeed to Pr. Jared.

Faith Lutheran is hosting a "Back to School Luau" on Wednesday, August 19th from 5-7pm. The whole community is invite to attend. A meal of BBQ Pork Sandwich, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Watermelon, Ice Cream, and Beverages will be served, \$10 for adults, \$6 for children K-6, and Pre-K and under are free. A youth fundraiser, Cake Walk, will take place for \$1 per play. Hawaiian shirts and flip-flops are encouraged, Mahalo!

Community Closet - The set up time is on Sunday, August 16th from 7-9pm. Volunteers Needed on August 16 from 7-9pm, August 17 from 5-7, or 7-8pm. Volunteers will help sort donations, help distribute clothes, and clean-up after the distribution. Your time makes a big difference in the lives of others. The set up time is on Sunday, August 16th from 7-9pm.

August Noisy Offering will be received August 30 for Global Refuge. Search the car console and coach cushions for all your loose change. The children will collect the noisy offering after the children's message.

Blessing of the Backpacks - During the worship on August 30th we will bless teachers/professors, students, teachers aids, school staff/administrators and all those involved in education as they begin a new academic year. Everyone involved in education is invited to bring a backpack, briefcase, or any other bag that represents their role in education and learning

VCSU Fall Athletics Banquet at Our Savior's

The Service and Sharing Committee is excited to host the annual VCSU Fall Athlete Meal on Sunday, August 16th to welcome the Viking football and volleyball teams to Valley City. This is an event these teams look forward to every year and we are fortunate to continue offering it! Bill Poukka will cater the meal with desserts provided by the congregation. If you are willing and able to donate 1-2 dozen bars or cookies, please bring them to the downstairs kitchen by 4 PM on August 16. Thank you for your support!

VCSU Marketplace - Meet first year VCSU students!

Come join Pr. Jared at the **VCSU Marketplace on Tuesday, Aug 26, from 4:30–7:30 PM** as we welcome new and returning students to Valley City! This annual event gives students the opportunity to connect with campus and community organizations, and it's a wonderful chance for us to share the hospitality of Our Savior's. Friendly volunteers need to help greet students, visit with them, and invite them to worship. We'd also appreciate donations of homemade bars and other individually wrapped treats to share at our table. Please contact Janna Kohler or Pr. Jared to help. We hope you'll join us as we extend Christ's welcome to our neighbors on campus!

IN OUR PRAYERS:

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 Jared Carson, Curtis & Ardis Christianson, Ken & Karen Christianson, Connie Courtney and Gwen Crawford 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 August 16th to August 23rd, 2026.

TODAY: 8:45 am | Coffee and Fellowship
 9:30 am | Worship
 9:30 am | Facebook Worship Livestream
 11:00 am | KOVC 1490 AM/96.3 FM Radio Broadcast
 6:00 pm | Community Closet Set Up

MON : 5:00 pm | Community Closet
 6:30 pm | PEO

TUES: 9:00 am | Quilters
 12:00 pm | Jamestown Conference

WEDS: 9:30 am | Bible Study

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

SUN (8/23): 8:45 am | Coffee and Fellowship
 9:30 am | Worship
 9:30 am | Facebook Worship Livestream
 11:00 am | KOVC 1490 AM/96.3 F Radio Broadcast

