



OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

138 3rd Street NW, Valley City, ND 58072

(701) 845 - 1328 | oursaviorsvc.org

SEPTEMBER 20th, 2026, 10 am + 17th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN

"Take My Life, That I May Be"

#583

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

"Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading" (Vs. 1-3)

p. 401

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, **enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10-4:11

¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴ And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east

wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹ But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰ Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?"

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

PSALM: Psalm 145:1-8(read responsively)

¹ I will exalt you, my God and king, and bless your name forever and ever.

² **Every day will I bless you and praise your name forever and ever.**

³ Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised! There is no end to your greatness.

⁴ **One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.**

⁵ I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your marvelous works.

⁶ **They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts and I will recount your greatness.**

⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

⁸ **The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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 sixteenth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸ When evening came, the

owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³ But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius?' ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

#588

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

"We Give Thee but Hine Own" (Vs. 1)

#686

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"
"Will you Let me Be Your Servant" #659
"Shine, Jesus Shine" #671

p. 154

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

"Rise Up, O Saints of God!"

#669

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 Given by Faye & Bob Bubach in memory of the closing of Trinity Lutheran of Griswold.

Radio Broadcast Sponsorship - Dec. 27, 2026 is available, or reserve a Sunday in 2027. Cost: \$100. Contact the church office to sponsor.

Help with Worship

We are looking for, greeters, song leaders, and an additional pianist to assist with worship. Interested? Contact the church office.

September & October Leadership During our transition, we are grateful for the many voices leading us in worship.

Sept. 27 - Pastor JoAnne Moeller

Oct. 4 - Pastor Kerry Boese

Oct. 11 - Pastor JoAnne Moeller

Oct. 18 - Alan Olson (No Communion)

Oct. 25 - Confirmation Sunday, with Lay Minister Michelle Watne.

10th Grade Confirmation Students:

Oct. 7 & 21 - Senior High Youth Group, attendance required

Oct. 18 - Rehearsal and Pictures

3:30 pm - Ice Cream Sundaes

4:00 pm - Pictures

4:30 pm - Confirmation Rehearsal

Oct. 25 - Confirmation Sunday

7-9th Grade Confirmation - Wednesdays | 6:30 - 8:00 pm | optional light supper @ 6:00 pm. Sept. - Oct. classes will be held @ Faith Lutheran

8th-12th Grade Youth –interested in attending the **2027 National Youth Gathering** in Minneapolis, June 28-July 27

Informational meeting: Sunday, Sept. 27 | 7:00 pm @ Faith.

Senior High Youth Group

Grades 10-12 | 1st and 3rd Wednesdays | 7:30-9:00 pm

Meet in the youth room. Join Spond: SSSZZ for reminders and upcoming activities.

Senior High Lunch - Mondays at noon.

We welcome 70-80 students each week for food and fellowship. Adults interested in volunteering can contact Kyla.

Students: Join Spond: HQIKQ for weekly menu updates.

NEW! GATHER- College-Aged Youth Group

GATHER is a new faith community for college-aged young adults, led by Pastor Bryce and Kyla. Gather meets two Sundays each month, rotating between Our Savior's and Epworth.

Kickoff: Sunday, Sept. 20 – Join us for conversation and Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream.

Good Samaritans Quilters - Used sheets and fabric needed. As you clean closets or downsize, please keep our quilters in mind. Used sheets (now white please) and cotton fabric are especially appreciated. the quilters are asking, as you clean closets and downsize, to keep them in mind.

Property Committee

Staff Custodial Position Opening – Contact the Property Committee for a full job description and more information.

OSLC Apartment Available: Contact Paul for more information.

Respiratory Clinic - Tuesday, October 20th | 9:30AM-10:00 AM | Our Savior's Lutheran Church

City-County Health will offer **influenza and COVID-19 vaccinations**. High-dose and conventional flu vaccines will be available for ages 6 months and older. Sign up for a slot on the clipboard located on the information counter. **Sunday clinics no longer offered.**

Community Announcements – Widow's Retreat | October 9-11, 2026 @ Maryvale Retreat Center, Valley City. The Jamestown Area Grief Support Team is hosting a Widow's Retreat. to register or learn more, call or text Carol at 701-320-3801 or Eileen at 701-269-4521.

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. To that end, be alert and preserve in praying for all the Lord's people.” (Ephesians 6:18). This week we hold the people of Our Savior's in prayer, as well as those concerns close to our hearts: R. Jon Fitzner; Arlene Flatlie; Lawrence & Karen Formo; Larry & Carol Foth; and Diane & Paul Fritchie and their families.

This Week: **September 20-27**

TODAY: 9:00 am | Coffee Fellowship
9:00 – 9:45 am | Sunday School
10:00 am | Worship
11:00 am | Radio Broadcast
6:30 pm | GATHER @ Epworth United Methodist Church

MON: 12:10 pm | Sr. High Lunch

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

WED: 9:30 am | Bible Study
6:30 pm | 7th-9th grade Confirmation @ Faith Lutheran

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

NEXT SUN: 9:00 am | Coffee Fellowship
9:00 – 9:45 am | Sunday School
10:00 am | Worship
11:00 am | Radio Broadcast

Office and Building Hours
Monday – Friday | 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Sunday | 8:00 am – after worship

For needs outside office hours, including emergencies requiring a pastoral visit, contact the church office or Tara Anderson at 701-740-4849.