

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
138 3rd Street Northwest
Valley City, ND 58072

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DECEMBER 2019



Tuesday, December 24-Christmas Eve

3:00 pm & 4:30 pm Festive Candlelight Worship






9:00 pm Contemplative Candlelight Worship

Wednesday, December 25-Christmas Day

10:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 1 Advent/Food Pantry Sunday 8:30am Worship-Choir 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship No Sunday School 11:00am Worship 2:00pm Community Service of Remembrance-Epworth United Methodist</p>	<p>2 9:30am Prayer 12:10pm Sr. High Lunch</p>	<p>3 9:00am Ministerial</p> 	<p>4 9:30am Bible Study 12:10pm Sounds of the Season 3:15pm Kids for Christ 6:00pm Supper 6:30pm Confirmation</p>	<p>5 APOC Board Meeting</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship</p>
<p>8 2 Advent 8:30am Worship-Choir 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship 9:45 am Sunday School, Choir 11:00am Worship</p> 	<p>9 9:30am Prayer 12:10pm Sr. High Lunch 5:00-7:00pm Community Closet Opening</p>	<p>10 9:00am Text Study</p>	<p>11 9:30am Bible Study 12:10pm Sounds of the Season 12:30pm Kids for Christ 6:00pm Supper 6:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Committees 8:00pm Council</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 Annual Reports due 5:00pm Wedding Rehearsal</p>	<p>14 7:30am Men's Bible 4:00pm Derek Kohler & Janna Strege Wedding</p>
<p>15 3 Advent/Abused Persons Outreach Collection 8:30am Worship-Choir 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Pizza Party 1:00pm Christmas Program in Sanctuary 2:00pm Worship at Legacy 3:00pm Worship at Sheyenne Care Center</p>	<p>16 9:30am Prayer 12:10pm Sr. High Lunch</p>	<p>17 9:00am Text Study</p>	<p>18 8:00am-1:00pm Blood Drive 9:30am Bible Study 10:30am Rudolph Square 12:10pm Sounds of the Season 3:15pm Kids for Christ 6:00pm Supper 6:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Sarah Circle</p>	<p>19 9:30am Pastor's Conference-Our Savior's Lutheran 11:00am-6:00pm Blood Drive 2:00pm Hannah Circle</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship</p>
<p>22 4 Advent 8:30am Worship 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship No Sunday School 10:00am Choir rehearsal 11:00am Worship-Choir</p>	<p>23 9:30am Prayer</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve Worship 3:00pm-Choir 4:30pm, 9:00pm</p> 	<p>25 Christmas Day Worship 10:00am</p> 	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship</p>
<p>29 1 Christmas 8:30am Worship 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship No Sunday School No Choir 11:00am Worship</p>	<p>30 9:30am Prayer</p>	<p>31 9:00am Text Study</p>				



Christmas Plants at Our Savior's

Share a poinsettia plant and help decorate the sanctuary of Our Savior's this Christmas. Complete the information below and return to the church office or offering **plate by Sunday, December 8.**

I wish to contribute a poinsettia plant:

Given by _____

In appreciation /honor of _____

In memory of _____

Please bring the plant to Our Savior's by the time of the Christmas worship services. You may pick up your donated plant following the Christmas Eve or Christmas Day worship. A list of those providing poinsettia plants will be included in the December 25 bulletin. Thank you.

Radio broadcast

Radio broadcast of the 8:30 worship is on Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. on KOVC 1490 AM. To sponsor a broadcast and/or reserve a sponsorship date for 2019, please contact the church office. The cost to sponsor a broadcast is \$100 and you may provide this gift in memory of or in honor of someone, an anniversary or another significant event. Your gift to this important ministry is appreciated.

Blood Drive at Our Savior's Lutheran Church

8:00am-1:15pm

On

December 18, 2019

&

11:00am-6:00pm

on

December 19, 2018

To sign up Call Liz Marthaler

At

490-2439

Members of the January Our Savior's Servants

Darin & Julia Anderson
David & Sue Carlsrud



Jimmy & Tara Altringer
Bob & Dr. Misty Anderson
Mark & Karen Askerooth
David & Heide Beierle
Wanda Bjerke
Dalene Brock
Lowell Busching
Ken & Karen Christianson
Annie Corbin
Paul & Tanya Diegel
Donna Ekern
Scott Engler
Arlene Flatlie
Eric Fretheim
Kyle & Jessica Gregerson
Don & Dawn Knutson
Dustin & Nikki Nielsen
Doug & Violet Quick
Dewey & Kristi Schweitzer
Maureen Svihovec
Aarika Thornton
Jason Thornton
Mark & Andrea Winter
Jeff & Julie Wurzer

Thank You to November Our Savior's Servants and their Coordinators: Kristi & Todd Kohler & Pat & Monte Johnson

Flower Committee:

Rosalyn Bruhschwein & Mary Creviston

Thank you to our faithful ushers, who assist us every Sunday morning.

13th Annual "Sounds of the Season" Series



If you like to listen to Christmas music during the holiday season, you now have another opportunity to listen on Wednesdays in Advent beginning December 4th during the noon hour. These listening opportunities will be held in the sanctuary of Our Savior's Lutheran Church located at 138 3rd St. N.W. in Valley City from 12:10 p.m. to 12:55 p.m. giving listeners time to pick up a sandwich or other type lunch and make their way to the church. Depending on the featured performer, the length of the performance may be altered a few minutes.

Wednesday, December 4th, will feature Faye Bubach. Wednesday, December 11th, will feature Beth Quick Berge, and Wednesday, December 18th will feature Cyndi Hill and Erik Johnson.

So bring your lunch if you haven't had it yet or enjoy provided refreshments if you have had lunch and enjoy the "Sounds of the Season".

The public is invited to attend any or all of the sessions in this Christmas Holiday music series.



December Faith Practice Opportunities

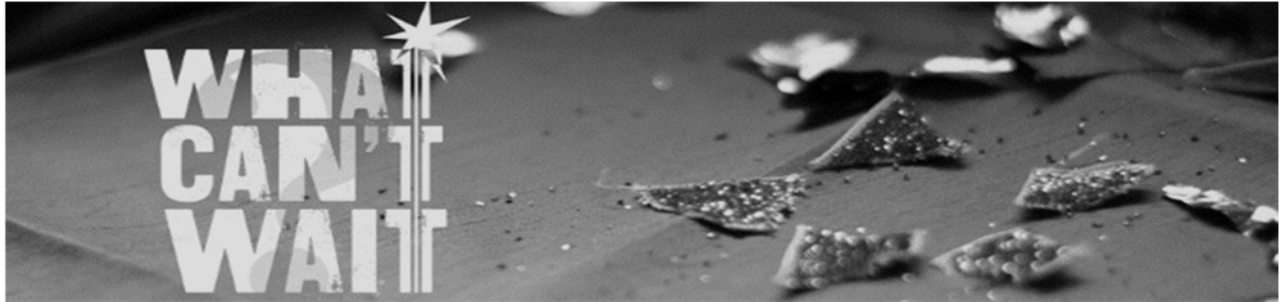
Men's Bible Fellowship – Saturday Mornings at 7:30 a.m. Enter through the Gathering Room doors. Read and discuss Bible passages, while finding supportive and thoughtful conversation.

Prayer Group – Monday at 9:30 am in the Church Library. Gather for a time of silence, reflection, and prayer, followed by coffee and conversation. No need to be intimidated; you won't be forced to pray outloud! Come, check it out.

Wednesday Bible Study – Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. in the Gathering Room. During December we'll explore Advent Themes of HOPE and PEACE. Plan for a JOYFUL White Elephant gift exchange on December 18th.

Nooma Video & Conversation – Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the Youth Room Space (across the hall from the pastors' offices). Watch a short, thought provoking video and share your reflections with one another.

No Bible Book Club in December, but we plan to be back in January!



Recently, I've had many conversations with people about waiting. You wait for news from family. You wait for a surgery. You wait for a phone call. Sometimes, waiting is the hardest part, because we feel like we are not in control. Waiting often brings wonder and worry.

During the season of Advent 2019, as a congregation we will be invited to think about **"What Can't Wait?"** Consider these words from Lisa Gwynn Garrity:

***Advent is a season of waiting, but is idle waiting what God wants of us?** In preparation for the coming Messiah, we wonder together – what things can't wait? What demands our immediate attention? What requires our work and preparation? What is it that God can't wait for? Is it our praise, reconciliation, and proclamation? Is it the end of suffering, isolation, and fear? This Advent, we invite you to join us in imagining, prioritizing, and preparing. As we wait, what can't wait?*

For followers of Jesus, waiting need not bring idleness. We pray. We trust in Jesus. We fiercely love people around us. We embrace gifts of grace even in anxious times. With Jesus, hope, peace, joy, and love can't wait.

In addition to exploring "What Can't Wait?" in our Sunday morning worship, there are other ways for you to ponder this question. Pick up an Advent Calendar on the information counter. Begin or enhance your daily devotion practices, with these reflections. This is a great resource for individuals or families. Alternatively, check out the "Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Valley City, ND" Page on Facebook for daily reflections in December.

We will continue with a Holy Experient during Advent. You'll notice a change in our worship space during Advent and Christmas. In addition to greenery and holiday decor, we'll temporarily remove the communion rail and pull the altar forward. God is not sitting behind a wall somewhere, but present and active in this world. Let's see how this small tweak in our worship space, enhances our experience of worshiping Jesus. Your feedback and questions are welcomed.

Blessed be these Advent days to you. May the Holy Spirit be alive in our community, drawing us closer to Jesus and widening our love for one another and the world around us.

As we wait, what can't wait?

-Pastor Emmy Swedlund



Highlights from the November Congregation Council Meeting

Building Project Report: Architect concepts for the kitchen and northwest corner of the building and updated cost estimates were shared with the Council. The Building Project subgroup will further share information and seek feedback from the congregation

Constitution Update: The first reading of the updated constitution was held at the special congregation meeting on November 3rd. The constitution will now need to be approved at the annual meeting in January 2020.

Christmas Worship Services: Worship times were set for Christmas Eve at 3:00, 4:30, and 9:00 p.m. and Christmas Day at 10:00 a.m.

Electronic Giving: The council discussed offering credit/debit card giving through the congregation's website. Possible service providers are being explored.

Deaths: Mona Hennel, Florence Powell

Weddings: Gabriel Brooks & Madison Peltier

New Members: Alan & Darlene Windingland, Stephanie & Kyle Roelfsema, Parker, Riley

Confirmands: Adam Bitz, Brinklyn Johnson, Paige Kaber, Samantha Schlotman, Bryn Didier, Cloe Hatten, Tarissa Severson, Maggie Dockter, Rachel Beierle, Dane Lebahn, Brynn Hagen, Dylann Diegel, Faith Orner, Tucker Orner

A copy of unapproved meeting minutes are posted near the information counter.



Thank you for your ongoing financial support of the ministry of Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Your financial support creates opportunities for people of all ages to be encouraged in their faith. Sunday School students meet to learn the stories of Jesus. Communion is shared on Sundays, and Wednesday, and at other times out in the community. Ministries like the Chaplaincy Program at the Sheyenne Care Center receive support.

As of the end of October, our income towards the general budget was \$270,652.28. Thank you for your generous support. Reminder: our general budget for 2019 is \$351,750.

In addition to general fund offerings, donations may also be designated for special ministries, including:

Missionary Calendar

Radio Broadcast

Building Fund

Parsonage Debt Reduction

Thank you for your ongoing support of our ministry together through prayers and sharing of time, talent, and treasure.



First Sunday, December 1– Donate to the Barnes County Food Pantry. Especially needed are peanut butter, jelly, cereals, and canned fruits or vegetables.

Third Sunday, December 15 – Donate to the Abused Person's Outreach Center. Especially needed are personal care items, paper towels, diapers, and wipes.

Volunteers to deliver for the Backpack Food Program are needed during the month of January.

Food is housed at Epworth United Methodist. On Wednesdays, volunteers deliver to Head Start and get boxes ready for area schools. On Thursday, boxes are delivered to Washington, Jefferson, St. Kate's. New volunteers are welcome; we'll get you trained in on what needs to happen.



**Lutheran
Social
Services**
of North Dakota

Learn more about our partner in ministry at www.lssnd.org.

Restorative Justice: “Are you interested in helping victims of crime find peace and justice? Would you like to learn more about serving justice-involved youth—holding them accountable while providing them an opportunity to make things right? Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota is looking for passionate individuals who want to help people impacted by crime in their communities by facilitating face-to-face meetings between youth who cause harm and those who experience it firsthand. Please call Elizabeth Raile, Restorative Justice Team Lead, 701-271-3252 or email LSSRJ@lssnd.org for more information.”

Abound Counseling has a satellite office at Faith Lutheran in Valley City and therapists come several days a week; other days clients are seen using technology, the tele-health network. Mental health services are insurance-eligible for most people, and there is a care fund for those who are in between insurance coverages or can't afford their deductible. To book an appointment call (701) 223-1510 or email abound@lssnd.org. There is also a Farm-to-Farm Therapy program that confidentially and easily connects farmers and ranchers to a therapist with a farming background via tele-health.

A Dove Award was presented to Our Savior's Lutheran Church for our ongoing support to LSS of ND. From the award: “For centuries, the dove has been recognized as a sign that God is ever present. Before there were compasses, it is told that travelers looked to doves for direction. In grateful recognition that, like a dove, you have helped people find their way, we thank you.” Our Savior's has been blessed to be a blessing!



Christmas Eve Worship

3:00 and 4:30 p.m. Festive Candlelight Worship: It's a worship filled with joyful songs, Silent-night, and candle-light to celebrate the coming of Christ.

9:00 p.m. Contemplative, Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion: Come for cozy, reflective worship as we sing beloved carols and ponder the mystery of God with Us in Jesus Christ. Receive Jesus' presence through the gift of Holy Communion.

Christmas Day Worship

10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion – We're keeping the Christ in Christmas. Will you join us? With the dawn of a new day, we worship Jesus, the new born king. Christ the child was born for you!

Sunday, December 29 – Christmas Worship continues at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.



Community Service of Remembrance Sunday,

December 1 at 2:00p.m. Epworth United Methodist Church 680 8th Ave. SW. Together, we give thanks and remember the lives of those family, friends, and loved ones who have joined the great company of saints this past year. All are welcome, especially those who have mourned losses within the past year, to surround themselves in prayer and the comforting embrace of God's love and peace.



Prayer requests from our Missionaries Willie and Anne Langdji, ELCA Regional Representatives in Western Africa:

The rains have been very strong this year which has led to challenges for farmers and also flooding in every country in the region we visit. The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic is trying to address some internal challenges. Several countries in the region we cover continue to experience violent conflicts: Cameroon, Nigeria and CAR. The situation in the part of Cameroon where Willie's family is from is particularly worrisome, with increasing violence. Many people have died, been injured, lost their homes or been forced to flee. South Sudan is also still dealing with armed conflict and violence. The Ebola crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo is not something we are directly involved with, but we also pray for the people there who are struggling. The Lutheran Church in Rwanda just celebrated their 30th anniversary with events and international visitors. We give thanks for their ministry in Rwanda.

The 2019 Missionary Sponsorship Calendar is on the bulletin board across from the church office. For \$25 you can sponsor a day. Many dates are still available. Claim a date and make your donation.

Caregiver Support Program

Are you caring for a loved one who is age 60 or older? Are you a grandparent, aunt, or other relative who has stepped in to raise grandchildren? If so, you are not alone. The North Dakota Family Caregiver Support Program can help you locate community services; information and respite care to help support you in your care-giving role. Because you care -take care of yourself. Find out more about the Family Caregiver Support Program by contacting Nicole Johnson at the South Central Human Service Center at (701)253-6396 or toll free at 1-855-462-5465. This program is provided free of charge and is supported by the North Dakota Department of Human Services.



For Your Information

Church Office Hours

Monday-Friday 8:00 am-3:00 pm

Church Building Hours

Monday-Thursday 8:00 am-5:00 pm

Friday 8:00 am-3:00 pm

Saturday-Sunday 8:00 am- 12:00 pm

Phone Numbers

Church Office 845-1328

Pastor Emmy Swedlund Cell – (701)552-2419

Pastor Kyle Symanski Cell-(708)467-8712

If we do not answer, please leave a message so that we can get back to you.

**YOUTH DIRECTOR AND
YOUTH ACTIVITY CALENDAR**

December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 No Sunday School	2 Youth Director Office Hours 9:00-11:00am Senior High Lunch 12:15-12:35pm	3	4 Youth Director Office Hours 9:00-11:00am Kids for Christ 3:15-5pm Confirmation Supper 6:00 Confirmation Class 6:30-8pm Senior High Youth Group 7:30-8:30pm	5	6	7
8 Sunday School 9:45-10:45am	9 No Youth Director Office Hours Senior High Lunch 12:15-12:35pm	10	11 No Youth Director Office Hours Extended Kids for Christ 12:15-5pm Confirmation Supper 6:00 Confirmation Class 6:30-8pm	12	13	14
15 Sunday School 9:45-10:45am Sunday School Pizza Party at 12:00 Sunday School Christmas Program at 1pm	16 Youth Director Office Hours 9:00-11:00am Senior High Lunch 12:15-12:35pm	17	18 Youth Director Office Hours 9:00-11:00am Kids for Christ Christmas Party! 3:15-5pm Confirmation Supper 6:00 Confirmation Class 6:30-8pm Senior High Youth Group Christmas Party! 7:30-8:30pm	19	20	21
22 No Sunday School	23 No Youth Director Office Hours No Senior High Lunch	24	25 No Youth Director Office Hours No Kids for Christ No Confirmation Merry Christmas!	26	27	28
29 No Sunday School	30 No Youth Director Office Hours No Senior High Lunch	31				

Pre K - 6th Grade News!

- **SUNDAY SCHOOL** Mark your calendars for the annual Christmas program on Sunday, December 15th. A pizza party will be had at 12pm and the program will follow at 1pm. Thank you to all those who volunteer to make our Sunday School program a success! Please note that there is no Sunday School on December 1st, 22nd, or 29th.
 - **KIDS FOR CHRIST** Students in grades K-6 gather after school each Wednesday until 5pm. December 18th we will be having our annual Christmas party! More information to follow through email. New students are always welcome to join us!
- ⇒ In the new year Kids for Christ will be set up a little differently! We will start with all of the students together, and then break up into two groups: K-3 and 4-6. This will allow for more age appropriate activities for all! If your student is interested in signing up, please contact Kyla. Please note, there will be no Kids for Christ on December 25 or January 1st. We will resume on January 8th. Merry Christmas!

Jr & Sr High Update!

- **CONFIRMATION** Confirmation classes are in full swing on Wednesday nights! We enjoy supper together at 6:00pm and class from 6:30-8:00pm. Please note, there will be no confirmation class on Wednesday, December 25th or January 1st. If you have any questions regarding confirmation, please contact the church office or Pastor Emmy.
- **SENIOR HIGH LUNCH** We are seeing some awesome kids and having a BLAST every week! We enjoy lunch, prayer, and devotion each Monday that there is school during the school year. As of right now we are seeing about 55-65 kids each week! So awesome! Friends are always welcome! Please note, there will be no Senior High Lunch on Monday, December 23rd or 30th as there is no school those days. Enjoy your Christmas break!
- **SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP** We are having so much fun with our new youth group for grades 10-12! This group meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month from 7:30-8:30pm in the new youth room. The dates for December are the 4th and 18th. We have some great discussion, time to relax and hang out together, play games, and enjoy some yummy snacks! Friends are always welcome to attend as well. No RSVP needed, just come as you are and enjoy some time together. We will have a Christmas party on the 18th! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kyla.

My office hours are Mondays and Wednesdays from 9-11am. However, please feel free to contact me anytime at kylaoslc@outlook.com or 840-4540.

God's Blessings,
Kyla Fetsch, Director of Youth Ministry



Eastern North Dakota Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

FARM CRISIS LETTER FROM BISHOP BRANDT

Dear Friends in Christ,

This has been a year when across much of Eastern North Dakota Synod, the rains were either too early or too late; too much or too little. Combined with a weak market and tariffs, our farmers and ranchers are facing another challenging year. As I drive this synod and beyond, everywhere I look, I see crops in the field waiting to be harvested. Now, as if an uncooperative planting season, low commodity prices and tariffs weren't stressful enough, the fall harvest is bringing challenges which I have never witnessed in my lifetime. As I write, North Dakota is in the midst of an early snowstorm. Harvest will be delayed, diminished, or devastated.

I cannot imagine the emotional strain and anxiety being born by our farmers/ranchers and their families. Depression will be a reality for many. Suicide rates could climb. Feelings of failure and anxiety about the future are rampant, especially when families are managing Century Farms. All these challenges, especially the current rain and snow, will put stress on our rural communities.

What can we do? Eastern North Dakota Synod is organizing a Faith and Farm Coalition. This group is dedicated to providing resources and ideas for supporting farm and ranch families. Stay tuned. In the meantime, I urge you to raise awareness in your congregation. Let people know how they can get a hold of a pastor and/or counselor. Learn more about what hurts our farmers and ranchers. Reach out to your neighbors who farm, raise livestock, run grain elevators, own farm implement dealerships, or depend on farm income to sustain their local businesses and offer them your support and assistance.

There is also a great resource available from our partners at Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota. Visit <https://www.lssnd.org/farmstress>. The information on this site is available in a great pocket-sized handout; copies of that can be requested through saraH@lssnd.org

Together, let us pray:

Gracious God, O God, The rain and snow is falling. The costs are up and the prices are down. For many, the payments are due and there's no money in the account. Lord, use us so that those who are struggling don't feel alone or feel like failures in their efforts to steward your creation. We know there are those who feel the harder they work, the worse it seems to get. Strengthen those who have lost laughter, joy or hope. Hold our farm families close as we do our best to know and act according to your will in the days ahead. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

In Christ,
Bishop Terry A. Brandt



**Lutheran
Social
Services**
of North Dakota



Eastern North Dakota Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Wearing out your bootstraps? You don't have to go it alone.

In North Dakota we expect a lot from our bootstraps.

Farmers and ranchers learn early on how to troubleshoot almost any foreseeable challenge and to take care of our own problems.

But sometimes life throws more at us than even the strongest bootstraps can support. It's not because we're weak or whiny. It's because we are human and life is just plain tough sometimes.

Everyone – whether they show it or not – can feel sad or frustrated or overwhelmed, and it doesn't mean they are failures. Those feelings are just information, like a temperature gauge or "check engine" lights. It's a cue that something needs to be corrected before it can be up and running again.

WHERE TO GET HELP:

NDSU Extension

- resources for dealing with farm/ranch stress
www.ag.ndsu.edu/farmranchstess

U of M Extension Financial Counseling

- 1-800-232-9077
- 1:1 help for farmers who have financial difficulties
- Financial analysts: 12 retired bankers, farm business management instructors
- Free and confidential

Abound Counseling at LSSND

- offers in-person and telehealth counseling services
- 1-701-223-1510

First Link Help Line

- call 2-1-1

National Suicide-Prevention Hotline

- 1-800-273-8255

Dedicated Farm Counselor/Therapist

- Ted Matthews - 320-266-2390
- Meets with farmers and farm families 1:1
- no insurance, no paperwork
- No charge; funded by MN Legislature

MN Farm and Rural Helpline

- 833-600-2670
- Free, confidential, 24/7

ND Agriculture Department Credit Counseling Services

www.nd.gov/ndda/content/credit-counseling

For non-emergency situations, speak with your health care professional about mental-health services in your area.