

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

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DECEMBER 2020



Our Mission:




We, Our Savior's family of believers, welcome all to share Christ's love, to grow in faith, and to live a life of service glorifying God.

Our Values:

- All Generations
- Neighbors – Near & Far
- Sharing Generously
- Rejoicing & Weeping Together

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:00am Ministerial 11:00am Prayer & Communion	2 3:00pm Kids for Christ-Zoom 6:30pm 7th grade Confirmation- Zoom	3 	4	5 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
6 2 Advent 8:30am Worship at Home w/Facebook 11:00am Radio Broadcast	7	8 9:30am Text Study	9 3:00pm Kids for Christ-Zoom 6:30pm 8th grade Confirmation- Zoom 8:00pm Council- Zoom	10	11 Newsletter Articles and Annual Reports Due	12 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
13 3 Advent 8:30am Worship at Home w/Facebook 11:00am Radio Broadcast 5:00-6:00 pm Hot Cocoa Drive-up	14	15 9:30am Text Study 11:00am Prayer & Communion	16 3:00pm Kids for Christ-Zoom 6:30pm 9th grade Confirmation- Zoom	17 9:30am Pastor's Conference - Zoom Blood Drive 1:30pm-6:00pm	18 Blood Drive 8:00am- 12:00pm	19 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
20 4 Advent 8:30am Worship at Home w/Facebook 11:00am Radio Broadcast	21	22 9:30am Text Study	23 No Confirmation	24 3:00 pm Worship at Home w/ Facebook 5:00 pm Radio Broadcast Office Closed	25 10:00am Worship at Home w/ Facebook 12:00pm Radio Broadcast Office Closed	26 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
27 1 Christmas 8:30am Worship at Home w/Facebook 11:00am Radio Broadcast	28	29 9:30am Text Study	30 No Confirmation	31 		



Advent & Christmas Worship

What does it look like to live as those who dream? The prophets, psalmists, John the Baptist, Mary, Elizabeth, Joseph, Simeon, Anna, the shepherds and the Magi—they were all dreamers. They received, discovered, and responded to God's dreams for the world. This theme is for the dreamers in all of us -- those who dream for a deeper connection with God and those who dream of a better world. It's for those who dream of comfort and those who have given up on their dreams. It's for those whose dreams have been crushed and those who show us that dreams take time. Come along for the journey as we seek and sow God's dreams for our world.

Worship at Home on Sunday Mornings

Find the full bulletin at www.oursaviorsvc.org or call the church office to be added to the weekly mailing list.

8:30 am on Facebook Live

11:00 am Radio Broadcast on KOVC 1490 am

Sunday afternoon the worship is posted on "OSLC Valley City" YouTube. You can watch it there anytime during the week.

*At this time, we continue to refrain from in-person worship. Decisions regarding resuming in-person worship will be re-evaluated based on our local COVID situation and state guidelines. Your church leadership cares about the safety and well-being of our church members and whole community.

Advent Text Message Devotion: Sign up to receive text message devotions during Advent.

Send a text to this number: 81010.

Send this message: @8g344a2.

MidWeek Devotion Videos are posted at 6:30 pm on Facebook and on "OSLC Valley City" Youtube Channel



Christmas Worship at Home

Christmas Eve, December 24

3:00 pm Facebook Live

5:00 pm Radio Broadcast on KOVC 1490 AM

Available Thursday evening on "OSLC Valley City" YouTube

Christmas Day, December 25

10:00 am Facebook Live

12:00 pm Radio Broadcast on KOVC 1490 AM

Available Friday afternoon on "OSLC Valley City" YouTube

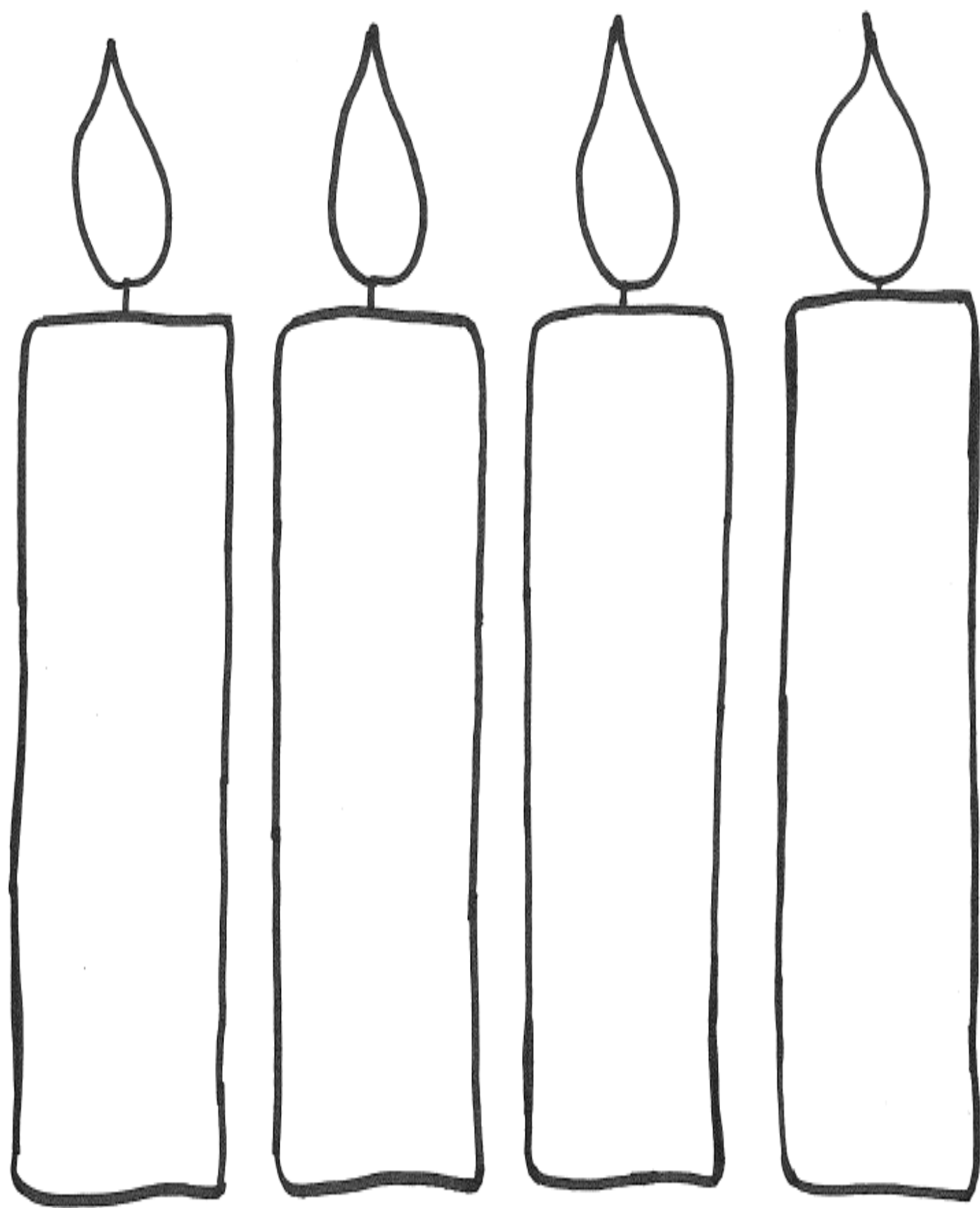
*In-person Worship opportunities may be announced in mid-December.



Holy Communion Opportunities

A Short Service of Prayer & Communion will be offered on Tuesdays, December 1 and 15 at 11:00 am. We'll spread out in the sanctuary, for a short spoken service. To ensure the safety of all, those who attend are asked to wear masks.

If you feel led to share Holy Communion on your own in your own home during this pandemic time, you are welcome to do so. If you'd like, pick up an "Communion at Home" order of service from the information counter or contact the church office to have one mailed to you.





Have an Advent Wreath in your home this year! Find four candles. (They don't have to match.) Each week, sit down to light the candles and pray these prayers. Alternatively, use the candle shape on the back of this page. Either cut them out and place in your window or in a special place in your home or make creases in the paper so that it can stand up on a table. You could even the decorate the candles. We'd love to see you and the advent wreath in your home. Email a picture to rev.emmy@gmail.com so we can share them on our church Facebook page.



A Prayer for Hope

To hope is to wait
for something.
Hoping and waiting
are the same.
When we hope, we wait.
When we wait, we hope.
May God be with us we
wait and hope for Jesus.



A Prayer for Peace

Peace on Earth begins in
our hearts,
or between two people.
We pray for peace
in our families.
We pray for peace
in our homes.
We pray for peace
between all.
Let peace for the world
begin in our hearts.
No peaceful act is too
small to start changing
the world.



A Prayer for Joy

Joy is a smile
that begins deep within.
It rises and rises.
We smile and laugh.
To have joy means to be
happy and to have what
we need.
Thank you, God, for joy.



A Prayer for Love

God, you ask us
to love you.
Please help us to love
you more every day.
God, you ask us to love
our neighbors.
Please help us to love
our neighbors more
every day.
God, you ask us to love
you and love our
neighbors.
Help us to do both of
those things, more and
more each day.
By loving God,
we love our neighbors.
By loving our neighbors,
we love God.

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

Volunteers are needed for the December Blood Drive.

The Our Savior's Lutheran Church blood drive is scheduled for December 17th from 1:30-6:00 and December 18th from 8:00-Noon.

Volunteers are needed to help with

- (a) calling to schedule appointments and
- (b) acting as receptionists for the event itself.

To sign up to donate or volunteer, please contact Ruth Larson at 701-845-4257



December Bible Reading Challenge

Beginning December 1 read one chapter of the book of Luke in the Bible each day. There are 24 chapters. On Christmas Eve you will have read an entire account of Jesus life. Will you join the challenge?

Poinsettia Plants to decorate at Christmas may be shared with the church. **If you wish to share a plant in honor or memory of someone, please let the church office know in writing by December 10th** by emailing oslcvalleycity@msn.com or getting a note to the church office. Drop plants off at the church any time before Christmas Eve. They may be picked up the week after Christmas. Acknowledgment of plants shared in honor or memory of loved ones will be shared in our Christmas Day bulletin.



Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday | 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

Please enter through the West door. If you need a handicap accessible entrance, please call the church, so that we can have the North doors open for you.

Contact Information

Church Office

845-1328

oslcvalleycity@msn.com

Pastor Emmy Swedlund

Cell – (701)552-2419

rev.emmy@gmail.com

Pastor Kyle Symanski

Cell - (708)476-8712 (YES! It's 708)

klsymanski@gmail.com

Youth Director, Kyla Festch

Cell—840-4540

kylaoslc@outlook.com

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

Like us on Facebook at “Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, Valley City, ND” for ongoing ministry updates, reflections, and worship opportunities.

Find us on YouTube at “OSLC Valley City” for weekly devotions and Sunday Worship posted by Sunday afternoons.



Drive-up Hot Cocoa &

Christmas Light Scavenger Hunt

Sunday, December 13 from 5:00-6:00 pm

Drive up next to the north door at the church parking lot anytime between 5:00– 6:00 pm. Pick up FREE hot cocoa and a Christmas Light Scavenger Hunt. Then, enjoy a drive around town enjoying your cocoa and the lights in our community. All ages are invited to the participate in this socially distant fun.

YOUTH DIRECTOR AND YOUTH ACTIVITY CALENDAR

December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<p>1</p> <p>Youth Director Office Hours 10:00am-12:00pm</p> <p>Tasty Tuesday! All students grades 9-12 are invited to grab a brownie from Kyla in the OSLC parking lot from 12:05 until they're gone! :-)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Youth Director Office Hours 10:00am-12:00pm</p> <p>Kids for Christ via Zoom 3:30-4:30pm</p> <p>Confirmation—7th Graders 6:30-8:00pm via Zoom</p> <p>No Senior High Youth Group</p>	3	4	5
6	7	<p>8</p> <p>Youth Director Office Hours 10:00am-12:00pm</p> <p>Tasty Tuesday! All students grades 9-12 are invited to grab a brownie from Kyla in the OSLC parking lot from 12:05 until they're gone! :-)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Youth Director Office Hours 10:00am-12:00pm</p> <p>Kids for Christ via Zoom 3:30-4:30pm</p> <p>Confirmation—8th Graders 6:30-8:00pm via Zoom</p>	10	11	12
13	14	<p>15</p> <p>Youth Director Office Hours 10:00am-12:00pm</p> <p>Tasty Tuesday! All students grades 9-12 are invited to grab a brownie from Kyla in the OSLC parking lot from 12:05 until they're gone! :-)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Youth Director Office Hours 10:00am-12:00pm</p> <p>Kids for Christ via Zoom 3:30-4:30pm</p> <p>Confirmation—9th Graders 6:30-8:00pm via Zoom</p> <p>No Senior High Youth Group</p>	17	18 Last Day of School before the Christmas Break	19
20	21 Youth Director Office Hours 10:00am- 12:00pm	<p>22</p> <p>Youth Director Office Hours 10:00am-12:00pm</p>	<p>23</p> <p>No Kids for Christ or Confirmation</p>	24	25 Merry Christmas!	26
27	28	<p>29</p> <p>No Youth Director Office Hours</p>	<p>30</p> <p>No Youth Director Office Hours No Kids for Christ or Confirmation</p>	31		

Pre K - 6th Grade

- **SUNDAY SCHOOL** Sunday School registration is still open and available online to those wishing to sign up in PreK through 6th grade. (Our PreK class consists of youth who will enter kindergarten August 2021.) More information will be available sometime after Christmas. If you have any questions regarding Sunday School, please contact SS Superintendent, Katie Sather at oslsundayschool@outlook.com.
- **KIDS FOR CHRIST** To help flatten the curve, we are going to shift to Zoom for Kids for Christ during the month of December. A link will be emailed out to our families and all youth in grades K-6 are welcome to join us for games and fun December 2, 9, and 16. There will be no Kids for Christ on December 23rd or 30th or January 6th. Information regarding Kids for Christ after that will be provided in the first part of January when we have had time to re-evaluate.

Jr & Sr High

- **CONFIRMATION** During the month of December, confirmation will be held via Zoom from 6:30-8:00pm each week. The schedule will remain the same. 7th grade will meet on the 1st Wednesday, 8th grade on the 2nd Wednesday, and 9th grade on the 3rd Wednesday. Zoom meeting information will be emailed out to families closer to that time. If you have any questions regarding confirmation, please contact the church office or Pastor Emmy.
- **TASTY TUESDAY** With Senior High Lunch still on hold, we are really enjoying our Tasty Tuesday event! Each Tuesday, youth in grades 9-12 are invited to grab a fresh baked brownie and a bible verse or inspirational message from Kyla in the OSLC parking lot from 12:05-12:35pm until gone. :-). It has been an absolute privilege to see these amazing kids again and provide a sweet treat for them each week! Currently 16 boxes of brownie mix are being made and we are serving more than 120 youth each week! God's love and presence is here!!! What an amazing way to share His love with so many youth in such a quick time! Drive by and check it out sometime!
- **SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP** Senior High Youth Group will not be meeting in December or on January 6th in an effort to help flatten the curve. This will be re-evaluated after that time and information regarding Senior High Youth Group will be shared.

Opportunity for All!

- **ADVENT DEVOTIONS** Throughout the season of Advent I will be sending out daily Advent Devotions through text! This opportunity is open to all ages! To receive these devotional texts, simply send a text to this number: 81010 with this message: @8g344a2

(If you have any trouble joining the group, contact Kyla and she can also add you.)

My office hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10am-12pm. However, please feel free to contact me anytime at kylaoslc@outlook.com or 840-4540.

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



**Highlights from the November
Congregation Council Meeting**
The Council met via Zoom.

Capital Campaign/Flat Roof Project: The main portion of the flat roof projected completed. A&R Roofing will come back to finish the flashing, down spouts, and other finishing details. Arrangements regarding water damage inside the building are still being worked out.

In-Person Worship/Pandemic Plan: The council reviewed our pandemic plan to ensure it aligned with state recommendations. We will continue to refrain from in-person worship at this time, but the Executive Committee will review plans in early December.

Christmas Worships: Worship at Home Services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will be held on Facebook Live, Youtube, and through the Radio Broadcast. Possible in-person worship opportunities, either indoor or outdoor will be determined by early January.

Transitions in the Congregation:

Deaths: Jim Flynn-non member, Gary Schlagel-non member.

Confirmands: Ethan Bear, Michael Beutler, Mitchell Broadwell, Will Eggert, Teddy Hochhalter, Tucker Johnson, Caleb Kocka, Chase Kunze, Cierra Pabst.



Giving
Opportunities

Thank you for your faithful financial support of Our Savior's Lutheran Church. You are blessed to be a blessing. The generosity of this congregation is amazing.

Please consider a year end gift to your church in one or more of the following areas:

General Fund

Capital Campaign-Roof Fund

Missionary Calendar

Radio Broadcast (2021 Dates now available.)

Parsonage Debt

Offerings and donations can be dropped off or mailed to the church at 138 3rd St NW.

Gifts can be given online at www.oursaviorsvc.org.

The 2020 Missionary Calendar is located above the information counter. Donations of \$25 a day support our missionaries, Willie and Anne Langdji, serving as ELCA Representatives in Western Africa. They provide support to churches, schools, and medical centers in that region, including our partner synod in the Central African Republic. Donations also support Global Health Ministries, a Twin Cities based organization that supports medical centers around the world, through shipping supplies, sharing resources.



Please pray for the newly elected president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic, Rev. Joseph Ngoe and reelected Vice President, Rev. Rachel Doumbaye. The churchwide assembly was a challenging one during difficult times for the church, the country and the world.

“When the Lord restored the captives of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, ‘The Lord has done great things for them.’ The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad.” – Psalm 126:1 – 4

What does it look like to live as those who dream? How can we embody and bring forth God’s dreams? How do we dream of a better world when our current one feels harrowing and disorienting?

Together, we will dive into these questions and wonderings more fully during the month to come.

For the second Advent and Christmas season in a row, we are the beneficiaries of the thoughtful and wonderful work of our friends at Sanctified Art, a small group of imaginative folks who craft and create worship themes for churches throughout the year. Last year during this festive season, we centered ourselves around the theme of “What Can’t Wait?” We were called to an active waiting, of seeing God draw near to this world through each of us in tangible, simple ways.

This year, we join the prophets, psalmists, John the Baptist, Mary, Elizabeth, Joseph, Simeon, Anna, shepherds, angels, and the Magi in dreaming about the possible future – not just our own, but the one God envisions for this world. As we’ll hear over the course of the next weeks, each of them received, discovered, and responded to God’s dreams for this world in diverse and powerful ways.

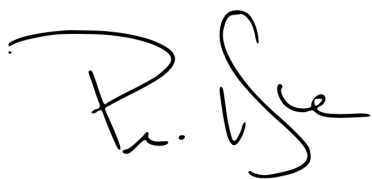
My guess is that our dreams have taken the shape of wishing for a “return to normal” over the past months, and it has become more and more difficult to think about anything else. But in Advent, we are invited into the mystery and awe of God’s dreams and we pray that they might shape our reality, both present and future.

Our hope is that this Advent and Christmas, different though they are sure to be from any before, is that we all might have permission to dream again – bigger and outside of ourselves – for a deeper connection with God, our neighbors, and for a better world.

This year is for those who dream of comfort and for those who have given up on their dreams. This year is for those whose dreams have been crushed and for those who have shown us that dreams take time.

Together, we will seek and sow God’s dreams for our world and, hopefully, experience God’s hope, peace, joy, and love along the way.

So in the immortal worlds of Aerosmith – dream on.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Lee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a stylized "Lee".

Pastor Kyle