

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

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July 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

July 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
8:30am Worship at Home with Face book live 10:00am In person Worship 11:00am Radio broadcast		9:00am Text Study	1	2	3 Office Closed Building Closed	4 Building Closed
5 8:30am Worship at Home with Face book live 10:00am In person Worship 11:00am Radio broadcast	6	7 9:00am Text Study	8 6:30pm Out door Worship At Pastor Kyle's 1305 Chautauqua Blvd	9	10	11 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
12 8:30am Worship at Home with Face book live 10:00am In person Worship 11:00am Radio broadcast	13 7:00-8:30pm Youth Service Night for Youth Entering 8-12 at OSLC	14 9:00am Text Study	15 Newsletter Articles Due 7:00pm Council	16	17	18 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
19 8:30am Worship at Home with Face book live 10:00am In person Worship 11:00am Radio broadcast	20	21 9:00am Text Study	22 6:30pm Out door Worship At Pastor Kyle's 1305 Chautauqua Blvd	23	24	25 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
26 8:30am Worship at Home with Face book live 10:00am In person Worship 11:00am Radiobroadcast	27 7:00-8:30pm Youth Fun Night for Youth Entering 5-7 at OSLC	28 9:00am Text Study	29	30	31	

YOUTH DIRECTOR AND YOUTH ACTIVITY CALENDAR

July 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Youth Director Office Hours 9:00-11:00am	2	3	4
5 Family Faith Walk Week 5	6	7 Youth Director Office Hours 9:00-11:00am	8 Youth Director Office Hours 9:00-11:00am	9	10	11
12 Family Faith Walk Week 6	13 Youth Service Night for Youth Entering Grades 8-12 at OSLC 7-8:30pm (Since we can't go on our summer trip we will bring the trip to us!)	14 Youth Director Office Hours 9:00-11:00am	15 Youth Director Office Hours 9:00-11:00am	16	17	18
19 Family Faith Walk Week 7	20	21 Youth Director Office Hours 9:00-11:00am	22 Youth Director Office Hours 9:00-11:00am	23	24	25
26 Family Faith Walk Week 8	27 Youth Fun Night for Youth Entering Grades 5-7 at OSLC 7-8:30pm (Join us for various outdoor games and activities!)	28 Youth Director Office Hours 9:00-11:00am	29 Youth Director Office Hours 9:00-11:00am	30	31	

VBS information coming soon!
Tentative dates of August 10-11 have been set! Watch for an email from Kyla!

Youth Summer Fun!

- **Youth Fun Nights!** I am now able to host youth activities, keeping social distancing in mind of course.
 - **Monday, July 13th at OSLC from 7-8:30pm**—Youth entering grades 8-12 can join me for a Youth Service Night! We may not be able to go on our summer youth trip, but we can bring the service to us!
 - **Wednesday, July 22nd at OSLC from 7-8:30pm**—Youth entering grades 5-7 can join me for a Youth Fun Night! We will play various games and do some fun activities!
- **VBS!** Yes! We are going to host a modified version of what is always an AMAZING VBS EVENT! Tentative dates of **August 10th and 11th** have been set, but watch your email for more information coming soon!
- **Family Faith Walks** I would like to challenge all of us to complete four Family Faith Walks listed below in July! Watch for a Family Faith Walk Facebook video each Sunday as well as youth Facebook devotions on Monday and Thursday!

<p>Family Faith Walk—Week 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go on a walk and look for signs of Independence Day. What does freedom mean to us? How has Jesus set us free? With freedom comes responsibility. What responsibilities do we have in our country? What responsibilities do we have as citizens of God's kingdom? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.—Romans 6:22 • Braid red, white and blue thread or ribbon to make a freedom bracelet. Use it as a reminder that God has blessed us with two kinds of freedom—we live in a free country and through Jesus we are free from slavery of sin. 	<p>Family Faith Walk—Week 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On a sunny summer day, take a walk on a nature path and look for ways that summer is bursting forth in joy. What is your favorite season? Why? What is your favorite thing about summer? How does summer sing of God's splendor? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy.—Psalm 96:12 • Have a "Celebrate Summer" party! Stay outside on a beautiful evening until the sky is full of stars. Grill favorite foods, play yard games, and end the evening with a prayer under the stars, thanking God for the summer.
<p>Family Faith Walk—Week 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Walk" the roads of those less fortunate in your community and share the love God has given you. Learn about the needs in your community and talk to someone about how you can be of help. (ex: food pantry) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.—1 John 3:18 • Put your plan for extending God's love into the community into action by volunteering and helping out where you can. Youth could do extra chores to earn money to donate to a chosen charity! 	<p>Family Faith Walk—Week 8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk outside on a rainy day. If the weather is warm, walk without rain gear. How does it feel to walk in the rain? Why is rain good? Imagine a world without rain. What would happen? Jesus tells us that He is the water that keeps us from being thirsty. When we drink of the forgiveness Jesus offers, we will thirst no more! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind.—Jude 12b • Make a list of things we can do to offer spiritual water—the love of Jesus and His forgiveness—to others.

I hope this finds all of you doing well and enjoying the beautiful summer weather. My office hours in July will be Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9-11am, but feel free to reach out anytime by email at kylaoslc@outlook.com.

Blessings, Kyla Fetsch—Director of Youth Ministries

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

kylaoslc@outlook.com

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



We want to be in contact with you!

Each Wednesday the church sends out a weekly email.

If you aren't getting it, check your junk or spam mail.

And – make sure to get your email to the church office at oslcvalleycity@msn.com



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

Subscribe to the “OSLC Valley City” for weekly devotions and Sunday Worship posted by Sunday afternoons.



Great Plains Food Bank will be at United Epworth Methodist Church on June 23, 10:00am-1:00pm.



Members of the August Our Savior's Servants

Larry & Carol Foth...845-4029

Daniel & Shari Larson...701-490-2889

Beverly Anderson

Jeremy & Rebecca Baumgartner

Doris Blume

Jennifer Cabezas

Connie Courtney

Connie Dahl

Dale Hanson

Keith & Kay Johnson

Nathan & Nicole Johnson

Jessica Kaber

Nancy King

Edith Klein

Natalie Severson

Phillip & Beverly Krentz

Mike & Kathy Lentz

Teri McClaffin

Keith & Cheryl Olson

Eric Randa

Michael & Maureen Rueckert

Steve Sather

Jordet Schwehr

Jill Taylor

Thank you to the June Our Savior's Servants and their Coordinators: Matt & Kyla Fetsch, Ross & Caron Berg

Altar Committee Members:

Eileen Maresh & Mavis Dilts

Flower Committee Members:

Nancy King

Thank you to our ushers who serve us every Sunday.

The 2020 Missionary Calendar is located above the information counter. Claim your 2020 dates. 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 expertise

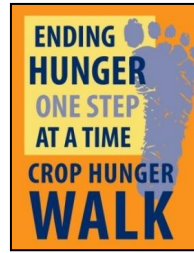


News from Global Health Ministries

We continue to work at home with our partners and respond to their needs for supplies and credible information in this challenging time. We have sent COVID-19 response kits or grants with PPE to several countries as funds have become available and/or in-country sourcing is found. Recently GHM began sponsoring local production of PPE kits in Tanzania to meet healthcare needs and generate income for those who have lost their jobs because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Although GHM's warehouse has been closed to volunteers since early March, **packing containers has hardly missed a beat.** This is certainly a tribute to ceaseless efforts and long hours by our staff and volunteers working from home. Three more miracles have kept the shipping ministry rolling amidst the "shutdown".

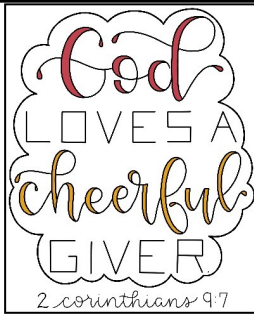
1. As the shutdown began, GHM's warehouse was full of inventory ready to ship. Staff alone could pack a container for Zimbabwe, because our supplies were ready after months of volunteer labor.
2. Next, as the shutdown occurred, two 53' truck-loads of donated supplies (including over 10,000 N95 masks) became available. Unlike most donations, these supplies came pre-sorted and ready to be shipped! We are shipping these to our partners by ship and air now.
3. In April, with many bare shelves in our warehouse, Madagascar requested 40 exam tables and furnishings for rural clinics. Miraculously, these became available during the shutdown at no cost to GHM! These filled much of a container shipment that have gone out.



WOW! Thank you to all who participated in the CROP Hunger Walk this May. Your walking, prayers and donations make a difference. Our local CROP Walk raised \$6,047.77. Twenty percent of the funds are donated to the Barnes County Food Pantry. The remaining eighty percent supports hunger ministries around the globe through church world service. They'll help people like Ismael and his neighbors in Dajabón, Dominican Republic who aren't getting enough to eat. They can't afford to buy fish and recent droughts have made it difficult to grow crops. Your CROP Hunger Walk supports the Fish Training Center where Ismael is learning about fish farming. When he completes the course, he'll be able to set up his own pond and train his neighbors on how to do the same. It's a guaranteed supply of affordable nutrition for his family!



Christ In Our Home daily devotional booklets (in regular and large print) for July, August and September are now available. Pick up your copy today and begin the daily practice of bible reading and reflection.



A BIG THANK YOU to all who have shared offerings through mail, dropping them off, and online giving. Even when we are unable to meet in person for worship, our ministry continues to happen. Your ongoing financial and prayer support is so appreciated. Thank you!



This month, we are expecting to complete the Flat Roof Project over the Gathering Room, Office, and Main Hallway. Along with some rain in June came some drips that showed this project really does need to happen. The total cost of the project is estimated to

be \$105,000. **Donations above and beyond your regular offering are needed for this project.** Donations in support of this project should be directed the "Capital Campaign – Roof Fund." Thanks "fur" your generosity.

MAIL

Offering can be sent to the church at 138 3rd St, NW, Valley City, ND 58072

GIVE ONLINE

Our Savior's Lutheran Church is now able to accept gifts to our ministry online through Credit or Debit Card. There are two ways:

1. Visit our website www.oursaviorsvc.org and click on "Give Online." You can make a one-time gift or create an account to set up on going giving.
2. Apps make life easier. With the GivePlus Mobile app, you can use your smartphone to give anywhere, anytime. Make a one-time gift or set up recurring donations. Set up an account or give as a guest. Securely and conveniently manage donations from your phone. To give through our mobile app, download the free GivePlus app from the App Store or Google Play.

Please note: You'll be given the option to add small percentage to your gift to offset the service fees. Please consider selecting this option. Consider it the small fee



A Prayer to Be Freed from the Tizzies*

*A tizzy is "a state of frenzied excitement or distractions, especially over some trivial matter" (Websters New Unabridged Dictionary)

Dear God,
You who did not invent tizzies,
Be with me when I get caught
In the wild worrying of my mind,
And the needless scurrying around
In my fearful heart.

Trip me up when I fret and stew
So I can see the trap of tizzies,
With their schemes to keep me
Bunched up in stress and strain.

Let me fall headfirst into the truth
Of your never-ending presence,
Wrap your kind arms around me
And calm my doubts and fears.

Shout loudly in my spiritual ear
When my nerves get knotted,
And my mind feels cramped,
And my stomach screams.

It may be difficult,
But do try to get my fully attention,
Because tizzies are not healthy,
And they definitely chase peace
Out the front door of my heart.

Dear God, you did not invent tizzies,
I did,
And only I can send them on their way,
And I will,
If you strengthen me
To let go of my anxious hold on what is nonessential.

By Joyce Rupp in "Out of the Ordinary, Prayers, Poems, and Reflections for Every Season"



Highlights from the June Congregation Council Meeting

The Council met via electronic (Zoom and phone) means for our June meeting.

Capital Campaign/Flat Room Project: The current balance in the Capital Campaign fund is \$21,677.50. This includes the \$10,000 from the Farm Fund. Mike Lentz reported the flat roof project is on schedule for July start.

COVID-19 & Resuming In-Person Gatherings: The Council adopted at COVID-19 Pandemic Plan related to church building use and worship. Values of consideration of others, simplicity, and adaptive leadership guided the formation of the document. Following the ND Smart Restart Guidelines, we are agreed that we are in phase 3 of our pandemic plan, allowing for small groups and in person worship to resume with physical distancing. The Council agreed to continue the 8:30 am worship service to be recorded for Facebook/YouTube and Radio and offer one in person worship service at 10:00 am, beginning on June 21. This is a fluid situation and the executive committee has authority to make changes in response.

Paycheck Protection Program: The PPP has been extended to 24 weeks to file to use the funds received. It is a loan and the amount remains the same, what we originally filed for, just longer time to utilize the funds. We expect to use our funds up by the end of July and will then work together to file for the \$35,000 loan forgiveness.

New Phone System: Along with internet upgrades, the Property Committee is getting quotes for a new phone system for the church.

Transitions in the Congregation:

Deaths: Mary Casperson, Dennis Maresh

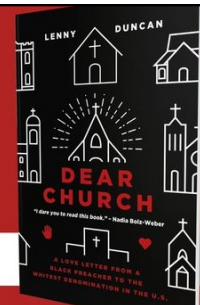
A draft of the full meeting minutes are posted on the bulletin board outside of the pastors offices or can be requested by emailing oslcvalley-city@msn.com.

DEAR CHURCH:

A Love Letter From a Black Preacher To The Whitest Denomination In The U.S.



By LENNY DUNCAN



Over the past weeks, racism, white supremacy, and systems of injustice have once again come to the forefront of our national and theological dialogues. For too long we have ignored these issues within the church for lots of reasons – they're too political, too difficult, too hard to hear...

As Our Savior's, our mission as God's people is one that calls us to grow in faith constantly, sometimes by stepping out of our comfort zones and our world view into the wide welcome that God has in mind for this world. In the coming months, we hope to do some of that hard work together.

This month, you are invited to read and reflect on Pr. Lenny Duncan's book, Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S (see the bio below). Call the church office to reserve your free copy of Dear Church to read throughout July. Then, on a date to be named in August, join in conversation with your church community and pastors about the book, our faith, and our calling to embody God's vision for this world.

If you have questions or to reserve your copy of Dear Church, call the church office at 845-1328.

Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S: Lenny Duncan is the unlikely of pastors. Formerly incarcerated and homeless, he is now a black preacher in the whitest denomination in the United States: The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Shifting demographics and shrinking congregations make the all headlines, but Duncan sees something else at work—drawing a direct line between the church's lack of diversity and the church's lack of vitality. The problems the ELCA faces are theological, not sociological. But so are the answers. Part manifesto, part confession, and all love letter, Dear Church offers a bold new vision for the future of his denomination and the broader mainline Christian community of faith. Dear Church rejects the narrative of 'church decline' and calls everyone—leaders and laity alike—to the front lines of the church's renewal through racial equality and justice. It is time for the church to rise up, dust itself off, and take on forces of this world that act against God: whiteness, misogyny, nationalism, homophobia, and economic injustice. Duncan gives a blueprint for the way forward and urges us to follow in the revolutionary path of Jesus.

Return to Worship Guidelines

As we return to worship in in-person formats this coming month, we are thankful for your church leadership who have done hard, thoughtful work on how to make our time together as safe as it can be. As we begin to come together in groups and in community again, we encourage you to abide by these guidelines as we continue to care for our neighbors near and far. We are grateful for the patience and grace you have shown through this process.

This represents our leadership's best attempt to guide our way back to communal gathering in the building, and we will relax these guidelines gradually even as we continue to monitor public health statements and are aware of the possibility that, in the case that new waves of infections emerge, we may have to tighten the restrictions again.

- If you are at high risk of severe infection, vulnerable, or if you have a temperature and flu-like symptoms, you are encouraged to stay home.
 - We will continue to offer Facebook Live worship at 8:30 a.m., along with our broadcast on KOVC 1490 AM/96.3 FM at 11:00 a.m. for those who are not able or comfortable, for whatever reason, to gather in person.
- We encourage good hand hygiene, washing often for at least 20 seconds, and we will make hand sanitizer available at several locations.
- We encourage face coverings, though we do not require them at this point, recognizing that they are especially helpful for moments when social distancing becomes difficult and are a way of caring for our neighbors.
- We will reduce risk of contamination by:
 - Not shaking hands or hugging during the sharing of the peace (a simple verbal greeting, wave, or bow is encouraged). We will also refrain from hugs and handshakes as we enter and leave the building, and yes, even in the parking lot.
 - Asking you to place your offering in offering plates at the entrance of the sanctuary
 - Pre-placing bulletins in the pews and asking you to sit where there are bulletins
 - Taking special sanitation measures when preparing and serving Holy Communion, including those involved wearing masks.
 - For the time being, we will refrain from communal singing. We will have the hymns played instrumentally or sung by a song leader, and invite the congregation to participate through prayerful listening and reflection.
- We will promote social distancing by:
 - Not waiting in receiving or greeting lines
 - Sitting in family groups spaced out by every other pew.
 - Reducing movement through the sanctuary during worship
- We will refrain from gathering for a coffee fellowship time on Sundays and other fellowship/food shared in the building
- We will follow these same guidelines for special services in the church as well, including funerals and weddings. Decisions on whether these services will be open to the public will be determined on an individual basis and in conversation with state and local guidelines.

Thank you for your flexibility in this and for being a community built on relationships of grace.

"People can plan what they want to do, but it is the Lord who guides their steps." – Proverbs 16:9

There are many things that I have bought throughout the course of my life that have been frivolous purchases. Clothes, games, decorations, knick knacks...any number of things, all of which I didn't need or never ended up using. This year's frivolous purchase award goes to my 2020 day planner. I bought it with the hopes of keeping my schedule straight, only to have it sit collecting dust on my office desk and become totally obsolete.

We have tried our best dear church, to go with the flow – to do our best with our current reality and create meaningful worship and prayerful opportunities for our church community. At times it has gone well, and at other times....not so much. And we thank each and every one of you for the grace and generosity with which you have navigated the past months.

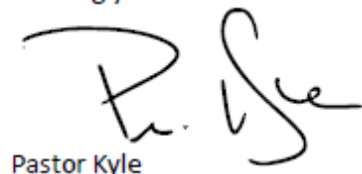
With each day comes new possibilities and no matter how bad we want to, even our best laid plans can, and just might, go up in smoke. And so as we shift into yet another phase of worship and what it will look like, I ask that you remain gentle with us and with each other as we try to figure this whole thing out.

For July and August, it is our hope to offer several worship opportunities:

1. **Worship on Facebook Live at 8:30 a.m., uploaded to YouTube on Sunday afternoons, and broadcast on KOVC 1490 AM/96.3 FM at 11:00 a.m.** This will be our primary mode of worship and will feel familiar to many of you. There will be a full liturgy and hymns, readings and a sermon. We are thankful for those who have sponsored ALL OF OUR radio broadcasts for this 2020 year. We value this gift of ministry so much and are close to having new internet capabilities that should fix (hopefully!) patchy and sometimes glitchy broadcasts. If this at home worship is working for you, we encourage you to use this as your worship opportunity.
2. **Sundays at 10:00, we will gather in the sanctuary** at church for those of you for whom worshipping at home, for whatever reason, is not working. This service will look and feel different than perhaps what we are used to, but will offer us a chance to worship in community, centered in prayer and scripture. **Sunday July 5th and Sunday July 19th we will offer Holy Communion** in a way that allows us to maintain social distance and respect physical boundaries. Holy Communion dates for Sunday worship in August will be announced later.
3. **Wednesdays July 8th and July 22nd at 6:30 p.m., we will offer outdoor worship with Holy Communion** in Pastor Kyle's backyard (1305 Chautauqua Blvd.) Bring a lawn chair, spread out, and enjoy the sun and fresh air as we gather for a short service of prayer and sacrament. In the case of inclement weather, we will not gather for service.

As with all things these days, these dates and opportunities are subject to change. If there are changes, we will be sure to share the information widely. But in the meantime, we hope and pray that these opportunities might offer us a chance to step, slowly and safely, out of this forced hibernation. And when the plans change, because they will, we remember that God promises to be with us, even until the end of the age.

Wishing you all a blessed and restorative summer,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Kyle", written in a cursive style.

Pastor Kyle