

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

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March 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

March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Food Pantry Sunday 8:30am Worship 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship 9:45am Sunday School, Choir 11:00am Worship	2 9:30am Prayer 12:15pm Sr. High Lunch	3 9:00am Ministerial 9:00am-1:00pm Good Samaritans	4 9:30am Bible Study 3:15pm Kids for Christ 5:30pm Lent Supper 6:30pm Lent Worship 6:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Armor of God Study	5	6	7 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
8 Daylight Saving Time Begins 8:30am Worship 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship 9:45am Sunday School, Choir 11:00am Worship-PreK-3rd grade Sunday School sing	9 9:30am Prayer 12:15pm Sr. High Lunch	10 9:00am-1:00pm Good Samaritans 9:30am Text Study	11 9:30am Bible Study 3:15pm Kids for Christ 5:30pm Lent Supper 6:30pm Lent Worship 6:30pm Confirmation 7:15pm Committees 8:00pm Council	12 12:00pm Chaplaincy Meeting	13	14 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
15 Abused Persons Outreach Collection 8:30am Worship 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship	16 9:30am Prayer 12:15pm Sr. High Lunch	17 9:00am-1:00pm Good Samaritans 9:30am Text Study 1:00pm Bible Book Club-Daniel	18 9:30am Bible Study 10:30am Rudolph Square 3:15pm Kids for Christ 5:30pm Lent Supper 6:30pm Lent Worship 6:30pm Confirmation 7:15pm Sarah Circle-Fireside Room 7:00pm Armor of God Study	19 2:00pm Hannah Circle	20	21 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
22 8:30am Worship 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship 9:45am Sunday School, Choir 11:00am Worship	23 9:30am Prayer No Sr. High Lunch	24 9:00am-1:00pm Good Samaritans 9:30am Text Study	25 9:30am Bible Study 3:15pm Kids for Christ 5:30pm Lent Supper 6:30pm Lent Worship 6:30pm Confirmation	26	27	28 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
29 8:30am Worship 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship 9:45am Sunday School, Choir 11:00am Worship 4:00pm Conference Meeting-Jamestown-Bishop Election	30 9:30am Prayer 12:15pm Sr. High Lunch	31 9:00am-1:00pm Good Samaritans 9:30am Text Study				

YOUTH DIRECTOR AND YOUTH ACTIVITY CALENDAR

March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday School 9:45-10:45am	2 Youth Director Office Hours 9:00-11:00am Senior High Lunch 12:15-12:35pm	3	4 Youth Director Office Hours 1-3pm Kids for Christ 3:15-5pm Lent Soup Supper 5:30pm Lent Worship 6:30pm Confirmation meets after worship until 8pm Sr High Youth Group 7:30-8:30pm	5	6	7
8 Sunday School 9:45-10:45am PreK-3rd Grade sing at the 11am worship service	9 Youth Director Office Hours 9:00-11:00am Senior High Lunch 12:15-12:35pm	10	11 Youth Director Office Hours 1-3pm Kids for Christ 3:15-5pm Lent Soup Supper 5:30pm Lent Worship 6:30pm Confirmation meets after worship until 8pm	12	13	14
15 Sunday School 9:45-10:45am	16 Youth Director Office Hours 9:00-11:00am Senior High Lunch 12:15-12:35pm	17	18 Youth Director Office Hours 1-3pm Kids for Christ 3:15-5pm Lent Soup Supper 5:30pm Lent Worship 6:30pm Confirmation meets after worship until 8pm Sr High Youth Group 7:30-8:30pm	19	20	21
22 Sunday School 9:45-10:45am	23 No Youth Director Office Hours No Senior High Lunch	24	25 Youth Director Office Hours 1-3pm Kids for Christ 3:15-5pm Lent Soup Supper 5:30pm Lent Worship 6:30pm Confirmation meets after worship until 8pm	26 Dinner and Devotions for Grades 11-12 12:15pm	27	28
29 Sunday School 9:45-10:45am	30 Youth Director Office Hours 9:00-11:00am Senior High Lunch 12:15-12:35pm	31				

Pre K - 6th Grade News!

- **SUNDAY SCHOOL** Our Sunday School PreK-3rd graders will be singing at the 11am worship service on Sunday, March 8th.
- **KIDS FOR CHRIST** Students in grades K-6 gather after school each Wednesday until 5pm. New students welcome! We grow together in faith all while learning how to be an amazing contributor to our community!
- **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** Save the date!! Vacation Bible School is set for **June 3-5th!** Youth entering kindergarten in August 2020 and 2021 are invited to join the "Pre-K Day Camp" and youth entering grades 1-6 in August 2020 are invited to join the regular VBS session. More info this spring!

Red Willow Bible Camp!

- **Red Willow Bible Camp** registration is open and the early bird specials are still in effect! All of the available camp dates are posted on the youth bulletin board outside the youth room. There are also pamphlets hanging there that are free for anyone to take! You can also go to redwillowbiblecamp.org to check out available dates and sign your child up for camp! Before registering, be sure to contact Kyla Fetsch as we have a certain way we register at OSLC. If you have any questions at all, please ask!

Jr & Sr High Update!

- **CONFIRMATION** Weekly confirmation class in March will be just a little different as we are in the season of Lent. During Lent, youth are welcome to join us for the soup supper at 5:30pm, then will attend worship at 6:30pm and meet afterward until 8:00pm. If you have any questions regarding confirmation, please contact the church office or Pastor Emmy.
- **SENIOR HIGH LUNCH** We enjoy lunch, prayer, and devotion each Monday that there is school. We are seeing about 60 awesome kids each week! Friends are always welcome! Please note, there will be no Senior High Lunch on Monday, March 23rd as there is no school that day.
- **SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP** Our awesome 10-12th grade youth group will meet on the **1st and 3rd Wednesdays in March (the 4th and 18th) from 7:30-8:30pm** in the new youth room. We have some great discussion, time to relax and hang out together, 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.
- **DINNER AND DEVOTIONS** On the Mondays that we don't have school, we do not have Senior High Lunch. However, on those weeks, I offer a Dinner and Devotions lunch on that Thursday for any juniors and seniors who would like to attend. The next Dinner and Devotions will be held on **Thursday, March 26th** at 12:15pm. Please let me know if you plan to attend! An RSVP is required for this event.
- **SUMMER YOUTH TRIP** The 2020 Summer Youth Trip is set for **July 13-14!** We will be taking a two day trip to Minneapolis where we will volunteer at a variety of places and share the love of God with others. We will also enjoy time together at Valleyfair! All youth currently in grades 7-12 are invited to join us and must sign up on the bulletin board in the Gathering Room to secure your spot. The first 40 youth to sign up will go! We are also looking for an adult chaperone, so if you are interested, let Kyla know.

My office hours are Monday 9-11am and Wednesday 1-3pm. However, please feel free to contact me anytime at kylaoslc@outlook.com or 840-4540.

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

WANTED!! SAVE THE DATE!!

Your household, decorator, furniture, children's clothing and toys for the annual TREASURE SALE to be held on FRIDAY, MAY 1 and SATURDAY, MAY 2. Remember your unwanted items will just so happen be someone else's treasure and will help the Women of Our Saviors treasury in the process! There will also be a Bake and Quilt Sale.

More information will be coming in the future. If you have any questions please give Jan a call—701-845-1808. HAPPY TREASURE HUNTING!!

Soup makers are needed for our Wednesday, March 26 and April 1 for our Lent Gatherings. If you are willing to make soup or want to know more, contact Ruth Larson at (701)845-4257.



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." – Margaret Mead (1901-1978), anthropologist

Check out the "Choosing to Participate" Exhibit located in the Large Dining Room throughout the month of March.

"Choosing to Participate" is a set of 11 posters designed to encourage dialogue, engagement, respect and participation in classrooms and communities. Developed for middle-school and high-school students, the posters are intended to inspire people of all ages to create positive social change. The posters present the experiences of individuals and communities, explore the history and impact of racism and prejudice, and encourage viewers to consider the consequences of everyday choices—to discover how "little things are big"—and to make a difference in their own communities.



The **2020 Missionary Calendar** is located above the information counter. Claim your 2020 date soon. 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 and sharing expertise.

Here's a story about how your support makes a difference:

Nine year old Jeremiah, from Tanzania, had a blockage in his intestines earlier this year. With no money for doctors the family didn't dare bring him to the hospital until severe infection overwhelmed him. Thanks to a "Charity Fund" provided by Global Health Ministries, Jeremiah went home healthy, after surgery and 6 weeks in the hospital. The total price...\$1,300. The total gift...life!

Easter Flowers

Help decorate the sanctuary of Our Savior's this Easter by sharing Easter lilies, azaleas, tulips.

Complete the information below and return the form to the church office or offering plate by March 29.

I wish to contribute a Easter plant:

Given by _____

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Please bring the plant to the church by 9am Saturday April 11th. You can pick them up following the 11am Easter worship service. A list of those providing Easter plants will be included in the April 12th bulletin.



Highlights from the February Congregation Council Meeting

Bishop Election: No names were submitted by the congregation for candidates for our Eastern North Dakota Synod Bishop. The pastors were authorized to submit names on behalf of the congregation. A meeting of Jamestown Conference Churches will be held on March 29 at 4:00 pm in Jamestown to determine which names will be submitted to the synod for this process. Our Savior's can send council members and representatives to this meeting.

Easter Worship: Easter morning worship will be at 8:30 and 11:00 am. Due to small attendance previous years, we will not have 7:00 am sunrise service.

Capital Campaign: The council agreed to hire Pastor Blair Anderson with New Horizons Congregational Consulting to lead our capital campaign. He comes highly recommended. Pastor Blair will coordinate 80-100 volunteers from our congregation in an effort to meet our \$600,000 goal towards building maintenance and improvements. He will begin working with us soon, so that we might have a commitment Sunday in May. Opening a new Capital Campaign 2020 account was authorized for the purpose of this project.

Transitions in the Congregation:

Deaths: Pearl Langemo (non-member), James Riden

Opportunities for you to Growing in Faith

Monday Morning Prayer Group meets at 9:30 am in the Library, located off the back of the sanctuary. Enjoy a chance for silent prayer, a devotion, and lifting up of prayers for our community.

Wednesday Bible Study meets at 9:30 am in the Gathering Room. In March, we'll start exploring "Qualities of Discipleship" including perseverance; learning and devotion; the faith to take risks; the ability to work with others; and humility. Come when you can.

Armor of God Bible Study meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month from 7:00-8:00 pm in the church library (just off the back of the worship space). Get the book "Armor of God" by Priscilla Shirer and come for this informal Bible Study.

Saturday Morning Men's Bible Fellowship meets at 7:30 am in the Gathering Room. Come for encouraging conversation and Bible reading.

Bible Book Club meets monthly. Join us March 17th at 1:00 pm in the Gathering Room for conversation on the Old Testament Book of Daniel. A reading guide is available on the information counter. Read the book in advance or simply come and sit in on the conversation.

Christ in our Home Daily Devotions are available at the church. Pick up a FREE copy and enrich your life with regular Bible reading, reflection and prayer.

Member's of April Our Savior's Servants

Videlle & Doug Hamilton 840-4628

Eileen & Dennis Maresh 845-4636

Don & Mitzi Beutler

Darren & Paige Bjornson

Janet Brown

Derrick Fretheim

Roger Haga

Brian & Lori Heath

Kelli Heath

Beth Holden

Phyllis Hook

Kevin & Kathy Jacobson

Howard Langemo

Sue Lloyd

Robert & Beverly Loken

Tom & Stacey Machart

Matt & Lacie Maresh

Lucile Riden

Jerome & Edie Schmidt

Rev. Emmy & Searle Swedlund

Thank you to our February Our Savior's Servants
and their Coordinators:

Ruth Larson (Interim), Dale Hildebrant

Altar Committee Members:

Edith Klein, Nicole Johnson

Flower Committee Member: Ethel Gusaas,

Lenore Lebahn

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

Food Pantry Sunday-March 1

There are many items that the Food Pantry is in need of each month. Some examples are: diapers, soap, shampoo, paper products, and snack foods. These items, along with your other generous donations each month are greatly appreciated.

A Servant Group Coordinator is needed for the month of February. If you are interested in becoming a coordinator for a servant group, or are not connected to a group and would like more information, contact Ruth Larson at 845 – 4257.

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)476-8712

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

Let Me Know...

Changes in Address or phone? Please let us know in the Church Office.

Do you want your newsletter sent to you by email?

Just give Brenda a call 845-1328 or email

oslcvalleycity@msn.com

Thank you

Have you heard about...

Website, book, or podcast recommendations from one of your pastors to help you grow in your faith. This month, I want to lift up the teachings and values of our wider church, the ELCA. Last year, Our Savior's did the hard work of naming our core values. The ELCA as a whole does the same thing, not releasing one line value statements, but instead larger teaching documents known as Social Statements.

ELCA social statements are teaching and policy documents that provide broad frameworks to assist us in thinking about and discussing social issues in the context of faith and life. They are meant to help communities and individuals with moral formation, discernment and thoughtful engagement with current social issues as we participate in God's work in the world. Social statements also set policy for the ELCA and guide its advocacy and work as a publicly engaged church. They result from an extensive process of participation and deliberation and are adopted by a two-thirds vote of an ELCA churchwide assembly.

I encourage you to engage with these teaching documents, as we do the work of being a church called into the world. You can find them at:

<https://www.elca.org/socialstatements>

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 2020 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.

First Communion



As part of our tradition at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, all 5th grade students have the opportunity to grow in their faith and participate in learning around Holy Communion, and also to partake in their First Communion during a worship service. We are excited to celebrate these important milestones with you and your family, and invite you to these exciting opportunities:

On Sunday, April 5th, from 4:00-5:45 p.m., 5th grade students and their parent (s)/an important adult in the student's life will meet at the church in the Gathering Room. Together, we'll explore Bible stories and learn about what Communion means, practice receiving communion and even taste the bread and wine, and we'll finishing by baking bread, which we will be used at the Maundy Thursday Worship Service.

We will celebrate First Communion on **Thursday, April 9th, as part of the 6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship Service.** At that service, we'll pray for the youth receiving communion, and students and their families will be the first to receive Communion that evening.

We're looking forward to celebrating this event with you. If you have any questions, please reach out to Pr. Emmy or Pr. Kyle at the church office.

March 8th





LENT 2020

Mighty Stories: Encountering God's Life-Giving Grace

*Join us this Lent as we encounter God's Life-Giving Grace
through stories of rebirth, renewal, and resurrection.*

Lent Sundays – 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. (Broadcast on KOVC 1490 @ 11:00 a.m.)

March 1st – Creation
March 8th – Noah and the Great Flood
March 15th – Deliverance at the Red Sea
March 22nd – Valley of the Dry Bones
March 29th – Deliverance from the Fiery Furnace

Lent Wednesdays – Fellowship and Soup Dinner at 5:30 p.m., Worship at 6:30 p.m.

March 4th – Jesus is Tempted in the Wilderness
March 11th – Nicodemus comes to Jesus by Night
March 18th – Samaritan Woman at the Well
March 25th – Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind
April 1st – Mary, Martha, Jesus, & Lazarus

Holy Week

Palm Sunday – April 5th

Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Palm Sunday Breakfast supporting the Youth Group

Maundy Thursday – April 9th

Worship and First Communion Celebration – 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday – April 10th

Worship – 6:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday – April 12th

Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Dear church,

As we begin yet another Lenten journey, it is important to remember what it is this “journey” we are taking is all about. The idea of calling Lent a “journey” can itself like a cliché, but it is indeed a journey. Too often for us, this journey of Lent becomes only about giving something up and coming to church on Wednesdays as well as Sundays. But it is so much more than that. Lent is a time set aside specifically for us to focus on things that sometimes get lost in our day to day lives, and to walk alongside Jesus on his journey to the cross.

On Ash Wednesday we began our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust and ash, we acknowledged that we all will die and return to the earth. At the same time, the ashes placed on our heads traced the same life-giving cross marked on our foreheads at baptism.

These seemingly juxtaposed ideas of life and death bookend our Lenten journey. Just as we did at the end of February, we will again confront our mortality on Good Friday when once again death will be at the focal point of our worship. And yet, in the midst of the pain and anguish of Good Friday, we look to the life giving cross. It is the same one marked on our heads at baptism and in the own ashes that we will return too, a reminder that God is stronger than even the power of death, a truth that we anticipate celebrating on Easter Sunday.

As Pr. Emmy and I thought about the shape and focus of our time together in Lent, we couldn’t help but get caught up in these themes of life and death, rebirth and renewal. And so this year, we are trying a new thing, a “Holy Experiment”, and shaping our worship and reflection around these ideas and the mighty stories in the bible that proclaim that promise.

On Sundays we will hear some selections from some of the great bible stories, the one’s traditionally read at the Vigil of Easter, and focus on the promises and signs made to God’s ancient people, and what those promises might mean for us today.

And on Wednesday evenings, we will engage with the gospel stories that chronicle Jesus’ ministry until his last days. During our worship, we will hear these stories told by many voices, and will reflect on their powerful message of renewal in song, story, and silence.

We are excited to take this journey with you. On this journey I expect that we will be challenged, and also that we will grow together, but I would have it no other way. May our 40 days be blessed, dear people, as we prepare for the heartache and the joy of the cross to come.

Pastor Kyle Symanski