

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

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NOVEMBER 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

All plans are subject to change. Watch weekly bulletins for updates.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 All Saints Sunday 8:30am Worship At Home w/ Facebook 11:00am Radio broadcast	2	3 9:00am Ministerial 11:00am Prayer & Communion in the Sanctuary	4 3:00pm Kids for Christ 6:30pm 7th Grade Confirmation	5	6	7 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
8 8:30am Worship At Home w/ Facebook 11:00am Radio broadcast	9	10 9:30am Text Study	11 No Kids for Christ 6:30pm 8th Grade Confirmation 7:00pm Council- Zoom	12	13	14 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
15 8:30am Worship At Home w/ Facebook 11:00am Radio broadcast	16	17 9:30am Text Study 11:00am Prayer & Communion in the Sanctuary	18 10:30am Rudolph Square 3:00pm Kids for Christ 6:30pm 9th Grade Confirmation 7:00pm Zoom Confirmation	19 9:30am Pastor's Conference- online	20 Pack Thanksgiving Food Basket at Faith Lutheran Church-evening	21 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
22 8:30am Worship At Home w/ Facebook 11:00am Radio broadcast 1:00-3:00pm Walk through wedding reception for Pastor Kyle & Pastor Sharayah	23	24 9:30am Text Study	25	26 Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28 7:30am Men's Bible Fellowship
29 1 Advent 8:30am Worship At Home w/ Facebook 11:00am Radio broadcast	30					

NOVEMBER WORSHIP



Worship from Home Continues

8:30 am on "Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Valley City, ND" 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.

Sunday In-person worship may resume, depending on COVID level risk in our community. In-person worship opportunities will be announced during Sunday Worship, posted on Facebook, and the put on the church sign.

November 1 is All Saints Sunday. At our morning worship service, we'll remember the saints who have gone before us in the faith. As you worship in your own home, you are invited to have a candle available to light in remembrance of the beloved saints.

November 8 Hear the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids, who remind us that the saint keep alert to God's ways of justice and love.

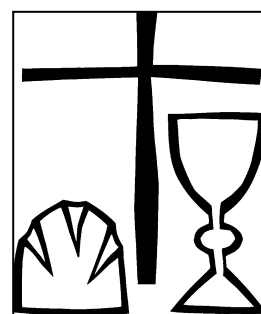
November 15 Hear the parable of the talents, calling all the saints to use our gifts, which we still have time, for the greater and common good.

November 22 is Christ the King Sunday. Our worship will include a journey through the church year, as we remember the love of Jesus that holds us through all the seasons of life.

November 29 is the First Sunday in Advent. This season, we'll remember that the saints are "Those Who Dream." Worship on this Sunday and "Keep Awake" to hope.



A Community Thanksgiving Service is scheduled for Sunday, November 22 at 4:00 pm at Connect Church in Valley City. Plans are for the service to also be available online through Connect Church. An offering for the Barnes County Food Pantry will be collected. Those who choose to attend are encouraged to wear masks and practice physical distancing.



Holy Communion Opportunities

A Short Service of Prayer & Communion will be offered on Tuesdays, November 3 and 17 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.

Your pastors are available to meet with you or your family to share Holy Communion. Please call us to schedule a time. You can meet us at the church or at your doorstep.

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.

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday | 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

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

Cell—840-4540

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.

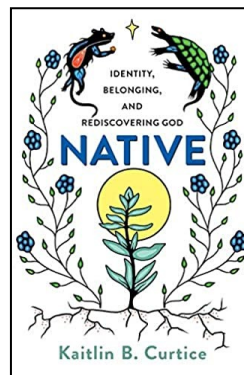


Olivewood Carvings for sale.

In November, a table with items will be set up outside of the church office for easy shopping. Stop by Monday-Friday, 8:00 am -3:00 pm to check them out.

Makes great gifts!

All money from the sales goes to the artists in Bethlehem.



"Native" Book Discussion is happening this month watch the bulletin for date and time.

Native is about identity, soul-searching, and the never-ending journey of finding ourselves and finding God. As both a citizen of the Potawatomi Nation and a Christian, Kaitlin Curtice offers a unique perspective on these topics. In this book, she shows how reconnecting with her Potawatomi identity both informs and challenges her faith. She encourages us to embrace our own origins and to share and listen to each other's stories so we can build a more inclusive and diverse future.

You are welcome to come whether you've read the book or not. Excerpts of the book will be shared, to spark our conversation.

THANK YOU

- Thank you "For School's Sake" donations of masks, snacks, and bottled water, which were shared with Valley City schools.
- Thank you for your regular offerings that support our general budget.
- Thank you for donations to the Missionary Calendar that shares God's love with neighbors around the globe.
- Thank you for your radio broadcast sponsorships.
- Thank you for extra donations to the "Roof, Roof" Flat Roof project. We are nearly half way to our \$105,000 goal.



Thanksgiving Food Baskets

Our Savior's is again partnering with local congregations to provide Thanksgiving Food Baskets for households in our community. We need your help:

Volunteers to assist with packing the boxes are also needed for the evening of Friday, November 20th. Call the church office to sign up, so that we can get you details.

Financial donations for this project are needed. It's our goal to raise at least \$1,000 to cover our share of the cost.

Your donations of any size are so appreciated!

Here's how you can give:

MAIL

Offering & Donations for special projects 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. You can earmark donations for the "General Fund," "Capital Campaign-Roof Project," or the Thanksgiving Food Baskets. 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 of convenience!



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

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.

Thanks for your 2020 support. Let's fill up the calendar in 2020!



November Bible Reading Challenge!

Each day, during the month of November read one chapter from the book of **PROVERBS**. (Okay, you'll have to read 2 chapters on November 30th) The book of Proverbs is filled with wisdom for "on-earth-as-it-is-in-heaven everyday living." Each chapter is filled with nuggets to inspire you to live in greater love for your neighbors, yourself, the world, and God. Amidst the challenges of this life, we do well to stay attuned to God's Word and God's ways for us.

Whether you accept the challenge and read along or don't, you can check out the church Facebook page each day for "A Proverb for the Day."

LET'S CELEBRATE!



No Foolin' Pastor Kyle and Pastor Sharayah got married on April 1, 2020, and now we are celebrating with them! **You are invited to a walk-through reception in their honor on Sunday, November 22**

We're planning to make this a safe experience for all involved. You'll have a chance to greet Pastor Kyle and Pastor Sharayah, leave them a note, and pick up a treat to go. Masks are encouraged and physical distancing will be followed.

In an effort to limit the number of people here at one time due to social distancing, **please come at the time assigned to your last name.**

- 1:00-1:30 pm Last Names A-E
- 1:30-2:00 pm Last Names F-K
- 2:00-2:30 pm Last Names L-R
- 2:30 - 3:00 pm Last Names S-Z

Please bring a favorite recipe to share with the couple. Recipe cards are available outside the church office or use your own.

In lieu of a congregational or individual gift, the couple invites you to consider a donation to the Women of Our Savior's. Later this year, these gifts will be distributed by the Women of Our Savior's to deserving causes and organizations within our state and community. To donate, please send a check made to "Women of Our Savior's" to Treasurer, LouVay White, at 2451 118TH AVE SE, Valley City, ND 58072 or drop off at the church.

WOMEN OF OUR SAVIORS - (WELCA)

Women of Our Saviors (WELCA) is a part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. All women of our church are considered members and are encouraged to participate in any way they are able. We use "Our Hands to do Gods Work" in many ways. We support the mission of Lutheran World Relief projects and hold fund raisers to support many local, state and worldwide programs and projects. We come together for study, support and action. Currently there are two circles who meet for fellowship and study. In non-covid times, there is a Bible Study that meets on Wednesday mornings. Leadership for Women of Our Saviors meets as an executive board four times a year. We are presently seeking new board members. One of these current board members (LouVay White, Carol Foth, Rhonda Knodle, Kara Kramin, Lori Thompson, Joann Nathan, Ethel Gusaas, Nancy King, Sandy Ley, Jean Vrem or Jan Stowman) would be happy to tell you more on what being a member of the Women of Our Saviors board would entail.

SPECIAL EVENTS

In normal years, Women of Our Saviors has two special events so that we have funds to help with church projects and to give to many worthwhile charities and local, state and worldwide programs and projects. Of course, this has not been a normal year and our spring special event of our Treasure, Bake and Quilt sale did not happen. If our Fall Event of our Lefse Sale and Bake and Quilt Sale will happen at all, it will have to happen differently. Watch for details of a covid-free event.

PRISON MINISTRY YARN PROJECT

Chaplain Mark Haines of the James River Correctional Center was grateful for the bags of yarn that our quilters group donated this fall. The supplies were running low in May and the men were worried. He reassured them saying, "God will provide". And God did!



GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

The need for Lutheran World Relief quilts and kits has never been greater. On August 4, 2020, three 40' shipping containers filled with humanitarian aid that included thousands of handmade quilts and baby care items were destroyed in the explosions of a ship at the port of Beirut, Lebanon. The total value of the lost shipments was approximately \$624,000. The loss of more than 22,000 quilts, sewn by individuals and members of Lutheran congregations across the U.S. could mean a bitter winter for thousands of refugees. In addition, the shipping containers held 100 cartons of kits filled with school supplies, 300 cartons of personal care kits and 125 cartons of baby care kits.

Even in these COVID-19 times when most activities have been at a standstill, members of Our Saviors Lutheran have been meeting in small COVID-19-safe groups quilting and assembling Lutheran World Relief Kits. In fact, a record number of personal care kits were assembled. The totals for quilts and kits sent in 2020: Personal Care, 572; Baby Care, 60; School, 180 and 65 quilts. In addition to the quilts sent to LWR, many quilts are given locally to those in need. A huge thank you to all who helped in any way. A special thank you to James Jensen for loaning the trailer that transported our 66 boxes to Fargo on October 15. We don't rest on our laurels but are already thinking of 2021 shipments. Here's how you can help. **We are going to feature Baby Care Kits in November and December. Items needed for this kit:**

light weight cotton t-shirts (onesies can be used)	cloth diapers
long sleeve gowns or sleepers	socks
diaper pins or large safety pins	hand towels, dark color
bath size bars of soap, in original wrapper	jacket, sweater, or sweatshirt w/hood
receiving blankets-medium weight, cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn (36" square and 52" square)	

Leave your donations in the bassinet! Gently-used thrift store finds are great! Sizes 6-24 months may be used. Flannel sheets may be used to make the diapers. Hand towels and bath towels for personal care kits may be things you have extra of in your home and are always needed. We are able to order some items in bulk, so monetary donations and grant monies from Thrivent are always appreciated. Good Samaritan Quilters meet on Tuesdays and more helping hands are needed. You need not be a quilter as there is a need for other things like ironing and cutting. If knitting or crocheting is a skill you have, there are jobs for you too. If you have any questions on any of these needs or would like to volunteer, you may contact Jan Stowman, [840-1808](tel:840-1808).



It takes many hands to get 66 boxes of Lutheran World Relief kits and quilts sent to shipping headquarters in Minneapolis. Thanks to James Jensen for his help and his trailer in getting this load of world relief to Fargo. Helping to load in Valley City are James, Pastor Emmy and Lori and Gary Thompson. Unloading at Midwest Motors in Fargo was James, John Thompson and Kara Kramin and Casey and Jan Stowman.

YOUTH DIRECTOR AND YOUTH ACTIVITY CALENDAR

November 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	<p>3</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 12:05-12:35pm until they're gone! :-)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Youth Director Office Hours 10:00am-12:00pm</p> <p>Kids for Christ—After school—5pm</p> <p>Confirmation—7th Graders 6:30-8:00pm</p> <p>Senior High Youth Group 7:30-8:30pm</p>	5	6	7
8	9	<p>10</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 12:05-12:35pm until they're gone! :-)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Youth Director Office Hours 10:00am-12:00pm</p> <p>No Kids for Christ</p> <p>Confirmation—8th Graders 6:30-8:00pm</p>	12	13	14
15	16	<p>17</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 12:05-12:35pm until they're gone! :-)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Youth Director Office Hours 10:00am-12:00pm</p> <p>Kids for Christ—After school—5pm</p> <p>Confirmation—9th Graders 6:30-8:00pm</p> <p>Senior High Youth Group 7:30-8:30pm</p>	19	20	21
22	23	<p>24</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 12:05-12:35pm until they're gone! :-)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Youth Director Office Hours 10:00am-12:00pm</p> <p>No Kids for Christ</p> <p>Confirmation—Zoom Meeting 6:30-8:00pm</p>	26	27	28
29	30					

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.) The first day of Sunday School is being planned to take place sometime after Christmas. If you have any questions regarding Sunday School or your family did not receive a letter regarding the online registration, please contact SS Superintendent, Katie Sather at oslcsundayschool@outlook.com.
- **KIDS FOR CHRIST** We meet Wednesdays after school until 5pm. All youth in grades K-6 are invited to sign up and join us! Parents are responsible for transportation. All OSLC families received an email from Kyla with a link to a Sign Up Genius where youth can sign up to attend each week. Only 15 spots are available each week so let Kyla know if your child wishes to attend or if you have any questions. The sign up is now available for November and December. There will be no Kids for Christ on November 11th or 25th. I'm excited to be sharing God's love with our youth and am enjoying our time together!
- **BIBLE SUNDAY** Thank you to everyone who participated in our "Drive Thru Bible Sunday!" Youth from our PreK and 3rd grade SS classes received a bible and a blessing. If you were not able to attend, please pick up your child's bible and bookmarks from the church during office hours: Monday—Friday, 8am-3pm or contact Kyla to make other arrangements.

Jr & Sr High

- **CONFIRMATION CLASS** Confirmation is held from 6:30-8:00pm each week and done in small groups. 7th grade meets on the 1st Wednesday of the month, 8th grade on the 2nd Wednesday, and 9th grade on the 3rd Wednesday. The 4th Wednesday is a Zoom class for those unable to attend on their designated week. Adventure Nights will be planned accordingly throughout the year. If you have any questions regarding confirmation, please contact the church office or Pastor Emmy.
- **CONFIRMATION SUNDAY** On Sunday, October 25th we celebrated our 10th graders as they were confirmed in a special worship service for them and their families. Congratulations to all of you! We are so proud of you and are excited to have you as the newest "adults" at Our Savior's!
- **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 12 boxes of brownie mix are being made each week and we are serving approximately 100 youth! 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** All 10th-12th graders are invited to join us on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month from 7:30-8:30pm in the youth room. We will have some great discussion, time to relax and hang out together, and enjoy some yummy snacks! Friends are welcome to attend as well. Due to the size of the space we will be in, only 15 youth will be able to attend each time, so please be sure to RSVP to Kyla if you plan to attend or with any questions.

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 October Council Meeting

The Council met via Zoom.

Capital Campaign/Flat Room Project: The Capital Campaign Fund has a current balance of \$54,919.82. About 2/3 of the flat roof project is complete. The project has experienced some delays. Due to a clogged roof drain, there has been some damage to ceilings and walls, with Pastor Kyle's office receiving the worst damage. Bids for those repairs are being sought.

In-Person Worship: With the County still in the Yellow Risk Level, we continue with no regular in-person worship at this time.

Sunday School & Confirmation: Regular in person Sunday Schools on hold until at least January. A drive through Bible pick up for PreK and 3rd Graders was held October 18th. Modified Confirmation and Kids for Christ activities are happening on Wednesday, with small groups and COVID procedures in place. Nine 10th grade students affirm their baptism on Sunday, October 25 at 1:00 pm. A "reception-in-a-bag" will be shared with each family to celebrate at home following the service.

God's Work. Our Hands. We had great participation in collecting bottled water, individually packaged snacks, and facemasks for our local schools in the "For School's Sake Project."

Transitions in the Congregation:

Deaths: Deaths: Larry Hetland-member, Nathaniel Haws-non member, Carole Flatau-non member.

New Members: Travis and Kaleen Peterson, Sullivan, Sawyer, Turner.

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

GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES... an update

Mid October Global Health Ministries (GHM) held a virtual conference called COVID-19 Lessons & Innovations from Around the World. The 3 one hour sessions are all available to view at <https://www.ghm.org/conference-2020>. Here's a review of session one.

The first hour of the virtual conference featured health leaders from Madagascar, Nigeria and Tanzania, all countries where GHM is working.

Madagascar has been hit hard, losing two presidents of the Malagasy Lutheran Church to COVID. Madagascar has also seen a rise in malnutrition because when people get sick with COVID it is hard for them to raise the crops for their food. They have also seen domestic violence increase and overall, more insecurity and mental health issues.

Initially in Nigeria the people did not believe how deadly the coronavirus is, and then when they saw people dying of it, they were afraid to go to clinics/hospitals for well-check care, such as immunizations and prenatal care, etc. All the countries stated that it has been detrimental to their economies.

These countries have established campaigns via radio and TV, but rural folks often don't have access to those mediums, so pastors are often the main communicators.

These countries have a thread bare infrastructure, a lack of water to wash hands. And how to quarantine in a 1 room house with 5 family members? There are no ventilators, no stimulus checks and no government support. The situation is dire.

The top 3 priorities for developing countries are 1) education, 2) getting ready for the next wave of COVID, 3) continuing with the partnerships that have been established like that of Global Health Ministries who continues to bring a modicum of hope to these areas.



The In-Between Time

It seems to me that we are “in-between times.” We are in between the glory of fall and the heart of winter. We are in-between life before the COVID Pandemic and what life will be like when a vaccine is readily available. How are you doing in this “in-between time”? In-between times bring unique challenges, especially to those of us who like certainty. When we are in-between times, it’s hard to settle in and make plans. It’s easy to get anxious and short with one another. We might find ourselves a little grumpy, remembering what used to be and looking with longing about what could be to come.

When it comes down to it, being a follower of Jesus is about living in-between times. We are in-between when Jesus came and when he will come again. For centuries, the church has proclaimed, “Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.” As I learned in seminary, we trust that Jesus Christ is with us NOW, even though his ways are NOT YET fully among us. Faith isn’t ultimately about having everything figured out; Faith is ultimately about living in hope.

In Romans, Chapter 8, the Apostle Paul encourage us to remain hopeful in this in between time:

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Frederick Buechner reflects on hope in Jesus:

For Christians, hope is ultimately hope in Christ. The hope that he really is what for centuries we have been claiming he is. The hope that despite the fact that sin and death still rule the world, he somehow conquered them. The hope that in him and through him all of us stand a chance of somehow conquering them too. The hope that at some unforeseeable time and in some Unimagined able way he will return with healing in his wings.

So, beloved people of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, remain steadfast in hope. Continue to cling to the promise made in baptism, that you are marked with the cross of Christ forever. Forever Jesus loves you. Forever Jesus loves the world. Live in the hope of Jesus’ love.

In His Grip, Pastor Emmy Swedlund